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OCTOBER 1996



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PUNISHMENT**

**BLACK CHOPPERS
OVER PITTSBURGH**

**ANOTHER BOMB,
ANOTHER BARRACKS**

**SOF IN AFRICA'S
BLOODY TRIANGLE**

**AMERICA'S
SECRET FORCES
IN PANAMA**

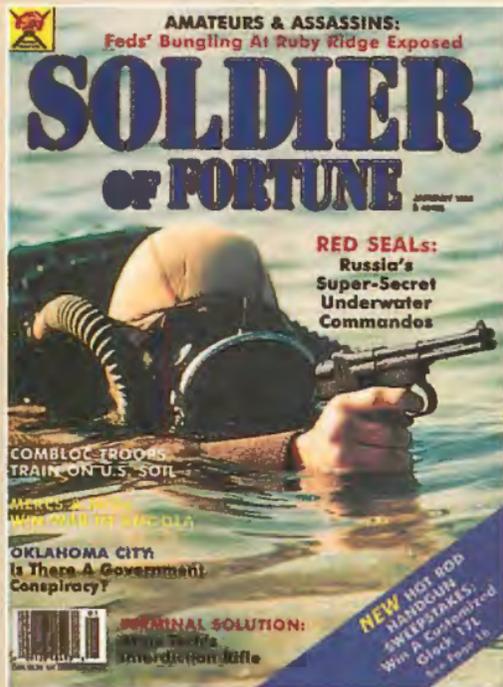
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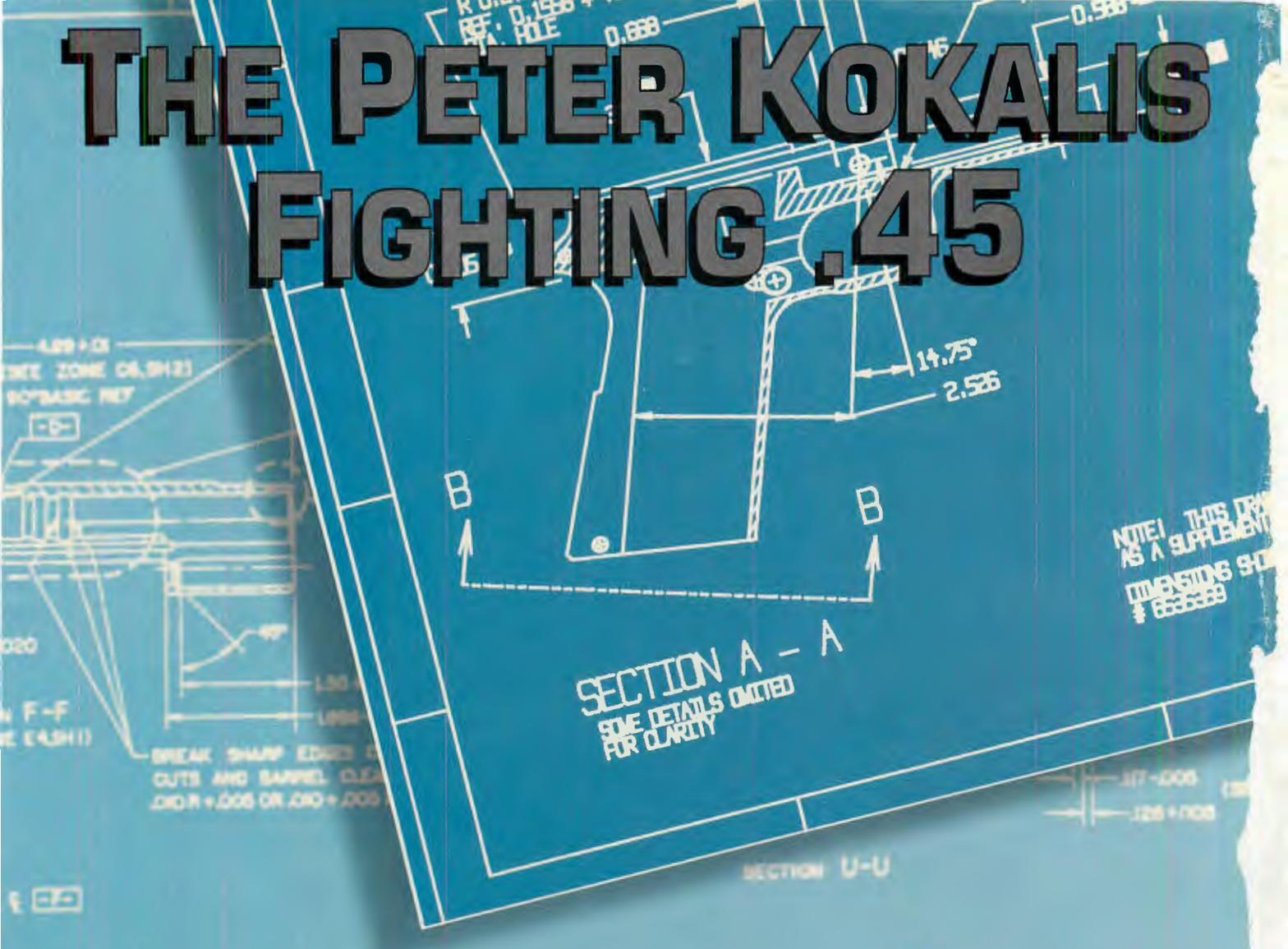
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

Dole And The Gun Vote

by Robert K. Brown

At this writing a Senate committee is looking into allegations that associates of the President of the United States have been involved in drug smuggling. That news follows Secret Service disclosures that as many as 40 White House staffers have "illicit drug histories." And that news follows a long shopping list of other odorous items that starts with the president dodging the draft, using drugs himself and being tight with convicted felons, as well as being on the periphery of a number of questionable deaths. Nonetheless, the most recent polls show that women in growing numbers favor the Democrats and that among all voters Bob Dole is trailing by 20 percent.

As contrasted with Clinton, Dole is an example of what an American should be. Dole has spent his life doing correct and ethical things for his family, his community and his country. He is a bonafide war hero and someone as removed from drugs and dishonesty as possible. So why is Dole floundering while Bill and Hillary seem to be headed for another no-holds-barred, four-year stint of trashing the Second Amendment and the rest of the Bill of Rights?

One of the main reasons is that few on our side — including Bob Dole — seem to be able to figure out the difference between friend and foe. Dole said the Assault Weapons Ban was a silly law and wasn't worth fighting for. Dole, who has a long history of fighting for the Second Amendment, probably thought he was trying to find common turf for compromise. Of course he should have kept his mouth zipped.

In 1992 I had a conversation with Jeb Bush who was speaking to me on

behalf of his father's re-election campaign. I told him that gun owners did not like his father's actions regarding gun ownership. He said to me: "Where else are the gunny's going to go?" I told Jeb Bush that we might opt to not vote. Needless to say, a large contingent of us went hunting instead of polling.

That failure to vote against Bill Clinton, added to the shooters and hunters whose votes were flushed for Ross Perot, assured that a draft dodger with a murky past, and a worse future (and a *feminazi* wife), was elected president. It was a fluke of history, that could be repeated.

Now, in 1996, as we face what is probably the most decisive election in the history of gun ownership, the NRA has apparently decided that in reprisal for his waffling on the Assault Weapons Ban, gun owners don't need to backstop Dole against Clinton. NRA chief lobbyist Tanya Metaksa said that NRA members won't be active campaigners for Dole.

As an elected member of the NRA Board, I take strong exception to both her statement and with the decision not to endorse Bob Dole's candidacy. I wasn't asked for my opinion, but if I had been I would have said that the NRA is confused — perhaps terminally — about the matter of friend and foe.

Simply not voting or yanking a lever for the Libertarians or Ross Perot is the same as voting Democratic. If the Clintons are re-elected, and bring with them a Democratic House of Representatives, we can say goodbye forever to most private gun ownership in America. If you don't vote for Dole in '96 you might as well go hunting because that — and your weapons — may be illegal come '97! ✖



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FEATURES

BLOODY TRIANGLE

Al J. Venter

If you're a "Club Med" kind of tourist, avoid Uganda: Civil war, tribal genocide, and AIDS make it a dangerous place. Mercenaries and Western oil companies, however, see Central Africa as ripe with opportunities. 32

DESERT SWARM

Richard L. Sherrow

Members of Arizona's "Viper Team" might have violated gun laws, and certainly committed *felony stupid*, but they weren't terrorist bombers. And mainstream journalists even admit they were duped by a publicity-seeking ATF. 36

WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY — AND HE IS US

James L. Pate

The Army lied to the people of Pittsburgh in June. Fifty commandos who dropped from Black Hawk helicopters into the sleeping city were not

"Green Berets" on routine "urban-warfare training." They were Delta Force operators — freed by President Clinton from concerns about *domestic military intervention*. 38

HELL ON WHEELS

James L. Pate

Amazingly, a DIA alert days before the 25 June blast in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, is ignored in the Pentagon. *SOF* asks, "If the secretary of defense isn't going to take responsibility for troops' safety, who is?" 40

SOUTH-OF-THE-BORDER SPECOPS

Dr. Tom Marks

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THE FLAME THAT FLICKERED AND DIED

Col. Michael E. Haas (Ret.)

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Mountains, the CIA secretly trained rugged Tibetan tribesmen for guerrilla war back home against Communist Chinese invaders. In this late-1950s *shadow war*, the CIA's covert air force took the lead against the Red Threat. 46

ALL MOUT AND NO MISSION

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Politicos talked tough this summer, saying Bosnia Serb President Karadzic and Gen. Mladic should be arrested on war-crimes charges. On the ground, however, NATO troops lack clear guidance for that risky op. 51

CLINTON'S WAR ON THE CONSTITUTION

Larry Pratt

Throughout history, tyrants kept the *peasants* in line by keeping them *weaponless*. The executive director of Gun Owners of America examines our yuppie president's many victories in his war on the 2nd Amendment. 54



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Al J. Venter



WACO: THE FINAL VERDICT

James L. Pate

"The president should have accepted the resignation of Attorney General Reno." Here's the Congressional report the Administration would prefer you *didn't* read. David Koresh was at fault at Waco, to be sure — but there's plenty more blame to go around. 56

LETHAL LEVERS

Peter G. Kokalis

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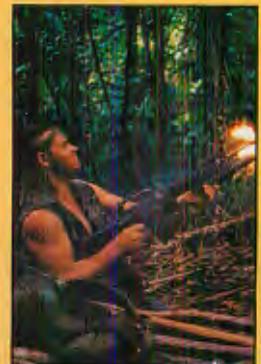


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AP/Wide World

COVER

U.S. Army Special Forces soldier gives suppressive fire with M16 in immediate-action drill during team's jungle training in Panama. The future of U.S. military forces in that Central American nation is a subject of concern for the two governments. Story begins on page 42.



Bill Gentile/Zuma

BULLETIN BOARD

FBI AGENTS TO BE INDICTED?

Three agents of the Federal (or in this case "Feral") Bureau of Investigation are targets of indictment, Department of Justice sources involved in the federal grand jury investigation of the Randy Weaver tragedy told *Soldier Of Fortune* in late July. The three agents are Larry Potts, Dick Rogers and Lon Horiuchi.

Horiuchi is the Hostage Rescue Team sniper who, acting on unconstitutional, shoot-to-kill rules of engagement, shot Vicki Weaver in the head as she stood holding her baby in the window of an open kitchen door that she was holding for her husband Randy, who'd just been shot without warning by an FBI agent, possibly Horiuchi. Horiuchi twice pleaded the Fifth under questioning by Congress.

Rogers is the former HRT commander who was in charge in the Weaver case, and also at the Branch Davidian debacle in Waco eight months later. Potts was Rogers' boss at FBI headquarters, and a friend and confidante of FBI Director Louis Freeh, who was promoted to assistant director even after Freeh became aware of allegations that Potts, Rogers and Horiuchi had lied repeatedly in an attempt to cover-up their allegedly criminal conduct in the Weaver case.

No word yet on whether other agents implicated for official lies or otherwise trying to cover up their crimes in the Weaver case will be indicted, such as Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Special Agent Herb Byerly; or Deputy U.S. Marshals Larry Cooper and Art Roderick.

— JLP



Rob Krott

Baltic Clams: Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott, left, assists Petty Officer Andres Ambros, commander of the Estonian Special Operations group, in examining two former-Soviet TM-46 anti-tank mines dozed up by a construction crew working along the Estonian coast.



Sam Katz

SOF staffer Col. Alex McColl presents Omega Group jump wings to Brigadier H.R.H. Prince Abdullah, commander of the Royal Jordanian SF, at the DZ in Jordan after a "Wings of Peace II" jump. As a follow-on to his participation in "Wings of Peace I," McColl jumped with Steve Hartov's "Airborne Operations Group." In conjunction with celebrations of the 50th year of Jordan's independence, the first jump was in Jordan on 3 June, the second in Israel with the IDF Airborne on 9 June.

A third "Wings of Peace" jump tour is on for May '97. For further information write AOG, Dept. SOF, 200 E. 10th St., Suite 475, New York, NY 10003; phone: 201-986-0120. Hartov is author of *The Heat of Ramadan* and *The Nylon Hand of God*, two excellent espionage novels, set in the Middle East.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD BIOHAZARDS

While fellow Marines were conducting real-world noncombatant evac ops in the Central African Republic and Liberia, a highly specialized team of nuclear-biological-chemical defense Leathernecks was training to thwart international terrorist attacks

that use chemical agents and biological weapons as their primary weapon. Labeled the Chemical/Biological Incident Response Force or CBIRF, this unique team was devised by Corps' Commandant General Chuck Krulak.

With 350 Marines and Navy corpsmen extensively trained in treating victims of chemical and biological weapons, the Corps can now instantly respond to any NBC threat or incident at any American facility worldwide, including embassies, consulates or military bases, or which threat-

ens U.S. interests in some other way.

Based at Camp Lejeune, the force is assigned to the 2nd Surveillance, Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group. At a recent exercise in Lejeune's complex MOUT facility, the vehicle of Lieutenant General Charles Wilhelm, CG of Atlantic Marine forces, was caught in an attack by a mob of unruly, rock-throwing civilians (played by Marines) attempting to get closer to the actual incident for a look-see. One large rock shattered a window on the general's car, but the general was not displeased: He considered the assault quite realistic and chalked up the broken window to

good training.

The CBIRF has geared up with German-built Fox NBC recon vehicles as were used in the Gulf War, and is directly linked to the Electronic Reachback Advisory Group (ERAG). ERAG comprises a team of the best medical experts and scientists in the world, there for the Marines with technical advice once the Leathernecks are on the scene of an attack or NBC incident.

CBIRF can handle some 25 different biological hazards such as anthrax, and all major chemical weapons including mustard and Sarin. — BN

FORGOTTEN HOLOCAUST

From 1931 until the war ended in 1945, Imperial Japan was responsible for the deaths of some 17 million people. The stories of sanctioned bayonet practice on prisoners, live burials, ritual cannibalism of downed Allied airmen, tens of thousands starved to death as slave labor, medical experiments and horrors such as the rape of Nanking were told at the War Crimes Trials in 1945 — but for cultural and business reasons have since been suppressed in Japan and

ACQUIRING NEW ID

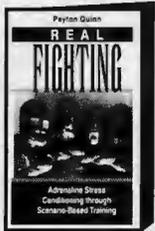
How to Easily Use the Latest Computer Technology to Drop Out, Start Over, and Get On with Your Life

by Ragnar Benson

Traditional new ID books – most of which were written 10 or 15 years ago – fail to take into account the way that computer technology has changed the process of obtaining new ID. If you expect to start fresh by using the old “dead-baby’s-birth-certificate” routine, you’re in for a rude awakening. Everyone knows that trick, including the Social Security Administration, driver’s license bureaus, passport offices and child-support enforcement offices. What you need is a new plan that not only avoids the high-tech traps that these agencies use to detect attempts to get new ID, but one that also puts computer technology to work for you . . . making your own identity documents on your home computer. In this comprehensive escape plan, Ragnar shows you how. *For academic study only.* 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, illus., 152 pp. **\$20.00**

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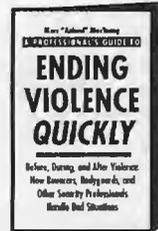
REAL FIGHTING
Adrenaline Stress Conditioning through Scenario-Based Training
by Peyton Quinn

Techniques learned in the dojo rarely work in a real fight. Here the author of *A Bouncer's Guide to Barroom Brawling* offers a practical solution. Learn how to control the rush of adrenaline into your system and harness it effectively to shut down the bully's antics or pound him into the pavement when all else fails. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 200 pp. **\$19.95**



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by Evan Marshall and Ed Sanow
This long-awaited sequel to *Handgun Stopping Power* gives the very latest results of hundreds of actual shootings involving every major handgun caliber, including the hot new .40 S&W. Also covers exotic ammo street results, the controversial Strasbour Tests on live goats, the Fuller Index for predicting stopping power and much more. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 384 pp. **\$39.95**



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How Bouncers, Bodyguards, and Other Security Professionals Handle Ugly Situations
by Marc "Animal" MacYoung

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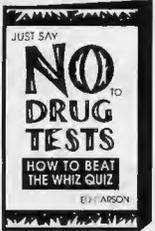


SHOOTING FOR KEEPS
Point Shooting for Close-Quarter Combat with Col. Rex Applegate

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FEDZ IN THE NEWS

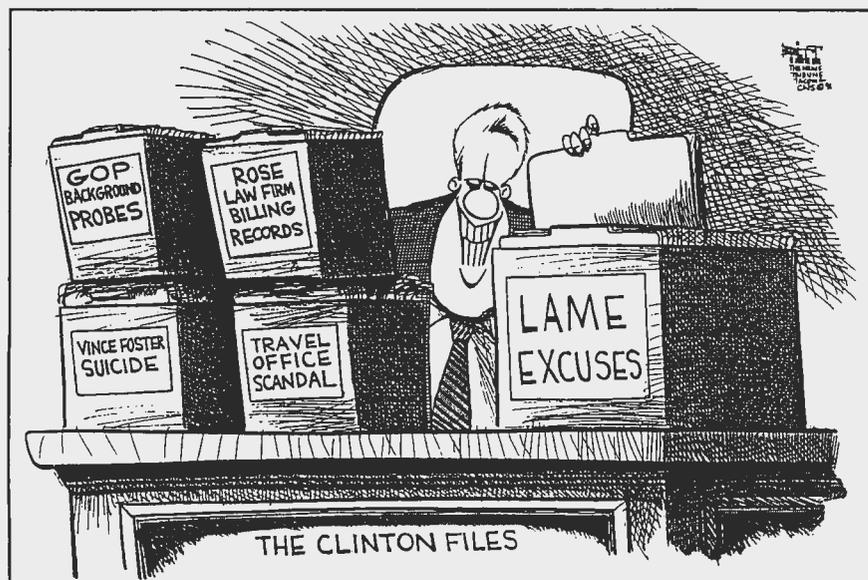
A dummy training bomb was left in a briefcase at Macomb, Mich., Community College by a BATF instructor who had been teaching an

INSIDE ELECTIONS G-2

Knowledge is power: Knowing your adversary's strategy is the beginning of your own, and for this reason *SOF* is making available, @ \$10 to cover our photocopying costs of the set, two volumes of the Dem's election strategy manuals, *Voter Registration* and *Getting Out the Vote*. This set of insider-only strategy manuals was created with some \$10 million of the \$34 million provided by the AFL-CIO via a "tax" on member locals whether or not they agree with Clinton's socialist, anti-gun and anti-hunting policies. See how the opposition intends to get left-wingers in the House and Senate. Send to Election Manuals, Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306.

JOHN JORDAN HONORED

The National Conference of Rhode Island and Southeastern New England (formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews) announced its annual Humanitarian Awards, and the winner of the non-profit award was *SOF*'s friend John Jordan, president of Global Operation Fire Rescue Services Inc. Moved by the horrifying images of war-torn Bosnia, Jordan set in motion an initiative to supply volunteer firemen, medics and equipment for besieged Sarajevo, and then spend a great deal of time there putting it to use and training the locals. *SOF* has been pleased to do what we could to help by getting fire equipment — and helping smuggle it in past Serb gunners. This is the 44th year the Conference has cited community leaders and outstanding citizens for "promoting understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures."



United Nations and preventing the world body from serving as a base for terrorist and intelligence operations against the U.S."

ASAP also sponsors quarterly conferences in Washington, D.C. which are video-taped and offered for sale. The spring get-together focused on the U.N.'s military agenda and its aspirations to create an international standing army and levy a world tax. The June conference delved into U.N. plans to establish an international criminal court and offered a revealing, behind-the-scenes account of what really happened at the recent U.N. conference on Human Settlements (i.e. how cities should spend their money).

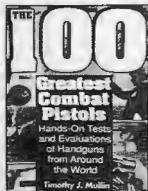
Tax-deductible subscriptions to *The ASAP Report* are \$25 a year. Checks should be made payable to: Citizens

IED/EOD seminar: The campus was evacuated for two hours while police bomb techs disposed of the training aid. Some college trustees want to ban the ATF from campus ... sources report several machine guns belonging to the Los Angeles ATF office have turned up missing (wonder if they checked the local colleges) ... two BATF agents assigned to recent the church arson investigations have been pulled off the job because they had attended the "Good Ol' Boys Roundup" ... former Secret Service agent (presidential detail) Randolph Espinosa has been meted 16 months in the slam for selling baseballs and other souvenirs with fake presidential signatures; his scam fell apart when a disgruntled collector noticed the signature alleged to be Jacqueline Kennedy's was misspelled on a baseball. ...

SHOOTING SHOW MOVES

The Johnny Rowland *Shooting Show* is now seen Sunday evenings on Telstar 401, Channel 18 at 8 p.m. Eastern time. As many of you know, *The Shooting Show* is the number one gun TV show worldwide, featuring everything from machine guns to blackpowder, and also discusses issues surrounding gun ownership and use.

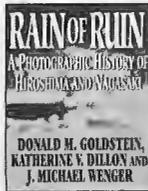
In addition to his *Shooting Show*, Rowland's outfit also has a nationwide radio call-in talk show broadcast on the American Freedom Network (Galaxy 6, Ch. 14, 5.8 audio), Sundays at noon to 1:00 p.m. Eastern time, called *Thinking Right*, and *The Gospel Show* on Sunday mornings from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Eastern time, via Telstar 401, Ch. 3. ✕



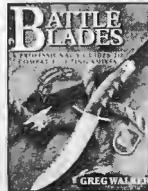
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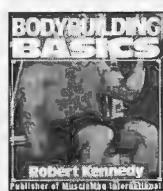
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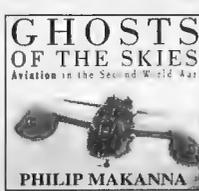
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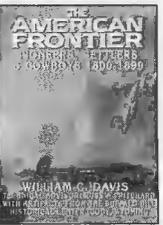
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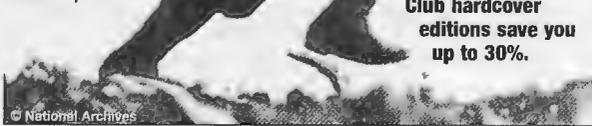
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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

PILLSBURY DOUGHBOY AND THE MARLBORO MAN

One of the White House's very few chances to seize the moral high ground, after Dole said he was not sure nicotine was addictive, fell by the wayside when someone dug up a 1988 speech by then-presidential candidate Al Gore to a crowd of "backy farmers in Greenville, N.C.:

"Throughout most of my life, I raised tobacco. I want you to know that with my own hands, all of my life, I put it in the plant beds and transferred it. I've hoed it. I've dug it in, I've sprayed it, I've chopped it, I've shredded it, spiked it, put it in the barn and stripped it and sold it."

Gore's sister, who unlike other democrats must have inhaled, died of lung cancer.

A reformed smoker, Dole had earlier noted, he had "a lot of trouble stopping" smoking, but that government rules aren't the answer. "Are we going to regulate everybody's adult life? I mean adults ought to be free to make choices. I'm not advocating that anybody do anything except stop, S-T-O-P, and don't start if they're young," Dole said.

Noted Dole spokeswoman Christina Martin, "This is the ultimate highlighting of the hypocrisy of the Clinton-Gore campaign."

FOWL PLAY LEADS TO FILEGATE

One of the more egregious abuses of power to come to light in the Clinton White House has been the discovery of hundreds of FBI files on Republicans ... salted away in the White House by a resident dirty trickster, Craig Livingstone, whose titular title was "Chief of Whitehouse Security."

Livingstone's mix of personal ambition and partisan politics has raised GOP concerns that Filegate — requesting hundreds of FBI files on Republicans and keeping them in the White House — was not simply a bureaucratic snafu, but rather the groundwork for an organized dirty tricks campaign, which accidentally came to light. After examining Livingstone's own personnel file, House Government Reform Chairman Bill Clinger (R-Pa.) wrote Clinton, "I question what in Mr. Livingstone's background qualified him for the highly sensitive position of director of White House security."

Since Livingstone got caught pretty much red-handed, he became a pari-



ah and had to go ... and now nobody will admit to hiring him. In what columnist Bill Safire called the "immaculate hiring," the company line at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue is that Livingstone was hired by — yup, you guessed it — Vince Foster.

And what were the unique qualifications Craig Livingstone brought that convinced the White House to hire him? Livingstone's resume boasted of campaign schemes he concocted (under the job title "senior consultant to counter-event operations" [i.e. the schmuck who figures out how to screw up the opposition's rallies, etc.]), saying he successfully deployed several of the infamous Pinocchio and Chicken George media events designed to embarrass President Bush. Livingstone later was to tout his "sound political skills" when applying for the even more sensitive job: in charge of the "football" or codes for launching a nuclear attack.

THE FUHRMAN DEFENSE

Los Angeles Detective Mark Fuhrman provided O.J. Simpson's lawyers with a built-in defense against Fuhrman's testimony: evidence that could indicate he was no more than a rogue cop lying to convict someone he did not like.

The same angle is being used by the White House — in lieu of anything better — as a defense against explosive accusations by former White

House FBI insider Gary Aldrich's book *Unlimited Access*. The premise that for two years the ever-alert Clintonistas never noticed an FBI agent at the White House who was a liar, dedicated only to framing the president he was supposed to be protecting, is a little hard to swallow. Such a condition would represent a significant security breakdown, by the White House staff, Secret Service and even FBI higher-ups. And it would seem logical that somewhere during his exemplary 30-year career, there would have been signs he was a rat.

And such a premise is even more hard to swallow in light of confirmation — under oath — by fellow FBI agent Dennis Sculimbrenne. In a *Wall Street Journal* article, Aldrich charged, among other things, that Clinton aides ducked their own security checks, while ordering politically motivated checks of others — and that it was Hillary Rodham Clinton who ordered the hiring of Filegate figure Craig Livingstone. Sculimbrenne told the Senate Judicial Committee, "Everything in the article, I would confirm as being true." Under oath.

Somebody's lying. We wonder who. But we have an idea how to get at the truth. Next time Hillary wants to have a seance with the dead, perhaps she could visit with Vince Foster, and see if he remembers the Livingstone hiring differently than does she. ✕

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FULL AUTO

Enhancing The M16

by Peter G. Kokalis

The H&K MP5 submachine gun has dominated the law-enforcement and military special operations arenas for several reasons. Not the least of which is the fact that Heckler & Koch has wisely marketed it as a "system."

was recently adopted by several elite special operations units.

Reed has designed a rail assembly that replaces the standard handguards on the M16/AR-15 series. The Knight's Armament Company (KAC)

The list of accessories that can be attached to these rails is wide ranging and impressive. It includes both standard and flip-up emergency iron sights, scopes, reflex sights such as the popular Aimpoint 5000 and Comp red dot sights, starlight telescopic sights, small night-vision devices, both visible and infrared laser aiming modules, a vertical foregrip, bipod, quick-detachable mounting bracket for the M203 40mm grenade launcher, quick-detachable sound suppressor, police flashlights and the KAC "Masterkey" breaching weapon (a modification of the Remington Model 870 shotgun). Small night-vision devices, such as the ITT Pocketscope, can be mounted directly behind daylight sighting systems (i.e., the Aimpoint 5000) to enhance subdued-light performance.

As accessories are added to the system, or repositioned, the battle-sight setting of the Aimpoint 5000 or Comp (and similar reflex sights) and laser aiming modules can be confirmed without firing. Simply adjust the point of aim of the red dot until it is just above the front sight post while aiming through the system's flip-up rear sight.

Installation of the Rail Interface



This M4A1 carbine has been equipped with a KAC RIS to which has been attached an Aimpoint 5000 and vertical foregrip. Note right-side handguard section on the RIS and the KAC flip-up rear sight attached to the upper receiver's Picatinny rail.

courtesy of Knight's Armament Company

There are three different buttstocks, a wide variety of trigger assemblies, several muzzle attachments including sound suppressors, forearm configurations that include lights and a number of different optical devices that can be attached to the receiver. You can tailor the MP5 to meet your tactical team's specific MENS (Mission Essential Need Statement).

More recently, a number of tactical operations teams have started to look at the .223 carbine (either the M16/AR-15 series or the Steyr AUG) as a substitute entry weapon to replace the 9mm Parabellum submachine gun. Both the weights and envelopes of these caliber 5.56x45mm weapons can closely approximate the submachine gun. While there may be valid arguments against the employment of the 5.56x45mm round in CQB (Close Quarters Battle), this option seems to be of increasing attractiveness to many agencies.

But, how do you turn the M16 series rifle or carbine into a weapons system? C. Reed Knight, Jr. (Dept. SOF, Knight's Armament Company, 7750 9th Street S.W., Vero Beach, FL 32968; phone: 407-562-5697; fax: 407-569-2955) is a major player in the field of special operations equipment. His sound suppressors and the SR-25 sniper rifle he manufactures are the stuff of legends in my loop. The SR-25

Modular Weapons System (MWS) is based upon a Rail Interface System (RIS) composed of four parallel accessory mounting rails (configured to MIL-STD-1913) located in four quadrants at 90 degrees to each



M4A1 carbine with a KAC flip-up rear sight and Trijicon ACOG optical sight attached to the upper receiver's rail. The KAC RIS is fitted with an infrared laser aiming module, flashlight and vertical foregrip. Note KAC flash hider attached to the muzzle which permits installation of their quick-detachable sound suppressor.

courtesy of Knight's Armament Company

other around the barrel. The RIS provides precise indexing points for the attachment of a wide variety of tactical accessories.

System is no more difficult than removing the original handguards and substituting the RIS. The RIS can be installed on all of the modern M16

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

Top Government Officials Amazed

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

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

Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

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

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

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

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

Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

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

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

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



Official SEAL SCARS-CFC
Creator Jerry Peterson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free Special Report Reveals GUN AND KNIFE Fighting Secrets

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

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

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

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1-800-600-1420

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

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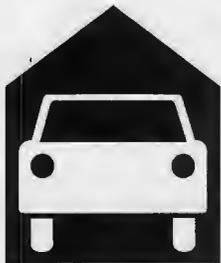
An adaptation of the original TASER, the **AT-1** uses a blast of compressed air to propel tiny darts to the target. A T-Wave electrical charge (that will penetrate 2 inches of leather clothing) immediately causes the target to lose control of his neuromuscular system, incapacitating him in a split second.

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models: M16A1 with conventional round handguards, M16A2 and M16A3 (produced in small numbers and differing from the M16A2 only by virtue of full-auto capability instead of three-shot burst) rifles, the semiautomatic-only AR-15A2s, the M4 and M4A1 carbines (both carbines have removable carrying handles on top of Picatinny rails, but the A1 version has full-auto instead of three-shot-burst) and the so-called Colt "law enforcement upper receiver" which has a removable carrying handle and 16-inch heavy barrel (the M4 carbines have thinner, stepped barrels to accept the M203 40mm grenade launcher). Note that when a Rail Interface system is added to an M16A2 rifle with a flat-top upper receiver and removable carrying handle, the current U.S. Army nomenclature changes to M16A2E4. At this time, the M16A1, M16A2 and M16A3 designations refer only to rifles with integral carrying handles. Likewise, when an RIS is installed on any of the two M4 carbines, their model designation changes to M4E2.

The RIS upper assembly contains the right and left sections as well. After the upper assembly is installed, in the same manner as an issue handguard, a lock screw which secures the RIS to the forward handguard retaining cap must be tightened. All four of the rails are covered with handguard sections that can be removed by depressing a spring lock and sliding the handguard section either rearward (the top handguard section) or forward (the bottom, right and left handguard sections). The handguard sections are tight to prevent rattling and thus position disclosure. The RIS lower assembly contains an aluminum heat shield. The rails are of the so-called Picatinny-type. The RIS and all accessories utilizing KAC mounts attach to the weapon without the use of tools.

The individual rails of the RIS contain a series of precision recoil grooves along their entire length. The odd-numbered grooves of each quadrant rail are sequentially numbered, from front to rear. The numbers carry a letter prefix: "T," "B," "R," and "L" for top, bottom, right and left, respectively. These numbers and prefixes assist the operator in remounting equipment in the same location.

Each rail contains three threaded holes of standard camera tripod size (1/4"-20 TPI) for the attachment of standard camera/video accessories. Thus, an M16 equipped with the bulky and heavy AN/PVS-4 night vision device could be mounted on a camera tripod for added stability.

The RIS and its heat shield provide

Continued on page 76

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Despite military's 36% reduction since 1989, staff (desk) assignments have *increased* for officers. Studies show that 10 years ago 60% of troops held *non-combat* support jobs; today it has risen to 70%.

Military nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) specialists now train big-city police, firemen and EMTs for terrorism like Tokyo subway's 1995 nerve-gas attack. U.S. Congress earmarks \$150 million from Pentagon budget and \$85 million from Department of Energy for NBC training and equipment.

2

RUSSIA

President Yeltsin's pre-vote cease-fire with Chechen rebels, complete with a staged partial "pullout," ends soon after re-election. Russian parliament and Washington call for a halt of the new offensive in the breakaway republic. Russian army commander in Chechnya vows to wipe out rebels. Deputy commander of Interior Ministry troops is killed near Grozny by antitank mine.

Chechen rebels suspected in bombings of Moscow buses and subway. Heavily armed troops guard mass-transit networks.

16

6

BALTIC STATES

NATO leaders inform Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania they likely will not be accepted for full membership in 1997, but could receive higher status in its "Partnership for Peace" program. Baltic leaders fear renewed Russian hostility.

7

MEXICO

Hundreds of army troops, dismounted and in Humvees, search for guerrillas armed with AK-47s after an ambush and armed-propaganda incidents in Guerrero, impoverished state on Pacific coast.

Armed and well-equipped Mexican smugglers intimidate southwestern Texas ranchers on the Rio Grande. Crime gangs buy abandoned land to establish remote, cross-border "corridors" for movement of drugs and illegal aliens.

5

EGYPT

In first Arab League summit in 6 years, held in Cairo, 21 nations condemn Syria and (Persian) Iran for international terrorism and undermining regional stability. League criticizes Israel's new hard-line government but rejects a Syrian call for halt to normalization efforts with Jerusalem.

1

7

10

IRAQ

Baghdad refuses U.N. inspectors' entry into three Republican Guard bases. AAA crews track U.N. helicopter during flight over one base. Security Council declares Iraq in "flagrant violation" of Gulf War cease-fire. Fifty-four U.N. arms inspectors withdraw from country.

15

14

11

LEBANON

Prime Minister says Iran-backed *Hezbollah* is weakening nation by fighting Israel and operating schools and hospitals independently of Beirut government.

12

ANGOLA

Marxist government and Unita negotiate status of wealthy Lunda diamond mines occupied by Savimbi's rebels for much of civil war.

15

NICARAGUA

Bands of rearmed *Contras* kidnap 51 election officials, raid a village, and seize a radio station in anti-government incidents. One Contra leader is tracked down and killed by troops.

17

3

3

FRANCE

French citizens are urged to leave Algeria as Islamic insurgents (who had beheaded 7 kidnapped French monks) derail a train and clash with troops. At least 200 rebels and 50 Algerian soldiers killed.

New aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* will launch in 1999 with no air cover: Budget cuts cause 3-year delay in development of Rafale interceptors replacing aging jets.

Corsican separatists threaten attacks on mainland. France's conservative government refuses to negotiate, vows crackdown.

4

BOSNIA

NATO military leaders suggest IFOR troops will have to remain in Bosnia past Clinton's one-year deadline. British officials agree to stay only if U.S. remains. Western European Union leaders reject any idea of a non-U.S. Bosnia op.

9

SRI LANKA

Some of the heaviest fighting in 13-year war with northern separatists erupts: 500 or more government troops dead; coastal garrison nearly overrun; suicide speedboats carrying explosives destroy gunboat. Hundreds of Tamil Tiger rebels killed.

2

TURKEY

Conservative Islamic-led government takes power for the first time in 73 years. Welfare Party's anti-Western rhetoric yields to promises of maintaining democracy and Western ties. Opposition party and secular military leaders seen as moderating influences. Fighting against PKK (Kurdish) rebels spills into northern Iraq where Turkish jets bomb a rebel camp.

8

14

COLOMBIA

Soldiers fire tear gas in clashes with highland peasants who grow coca plants. Clinton administration angrily cancels U.S. visa of President Samper for complicity in cocaine trafficking.

9

13

BURUNDI

Hutu rebels offer \$1,000 for the head of every American killed in neighboring Rwanda. Meanwhile, Hutus kill hundreds of Tutsis in refugee camps here.

17

SIERRA LEONE

Peace talks in Ivory Coast deadlock on the issue of South African mercs (Executive Outcomes) who saved the government from defeat and forced the rebels on the defensive. Rebels want the mercs withdrawn prior to any agreement, but the government fears fighting might then resume.

16

CANADA

Canadian Major Tony Seward is sentenced to three months in prison because soldiers under his command killed a 16-year-old Somali prisoner while on peacekeeping mission in 1993.

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.

ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

A GUN LIKE NO OTHER

Over the years, center-fire pistols with 9mm/.38 bores have spit more lead than all others combined, and within this bore size there have probably been more different rounds designed than any other nominal caliber. But this has been small bene-



fit except to barrel-blank makers, as few of these rounds interchanged.

Now comes the Medusa revolver, specifically (and very cleverly) engineered to fire almost any "straight" cased .38/9mm pistol or revolver round that one is likely to encounter in whichever of the planet's armed trash pits he may find himself.

The Medusa gun barrel is made by Wiseman-McMillan with nine lands and grooves and a .356 bore, with a right-hand twist of one in 14. The frame is investment-cast and all parts are hand-built and fitted, on a semi-custom production basis, in the Texas factory. The SA trigger pull is 4 pounds, the DA pull 11-12. Standard barrel lengths are 2-1/2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 inches, with any reasonable length available on a custom basis. Standard finish is matte oxide blue, with virtually anything available on a custom basis, including colors or cammo Teflon.

We can't think of any theater in the world where *some* sort of 9mm/.38 round would not be commonly available to shoot in this remarkable weapon, as it shoots more than two dozen without modification. Thirty-eights? Try S&W, Short/Long Colt, ACP/Super, .38 special, .357 Magnum and probably some not yet invented. Wonder nines? Try Parabellum, Bergmann/Largo, Steyr, Browning Long and short, Ultra and so on. This wheel gun is hungrier than a skim-milk calf and will digest virtually anything you feed it: If you find a 9mm/.38 round it won't shoot, that round probably belongs in a collector's vault anyway.

Already the rage in Europe and destined to become a favorite of those who prowl backwaters having uncertain ammo supplies, the Medusa is produced by Phillips & Rodgers, Inc. Dept. SOF, 100 Hilbig, Suite C, Conroe, TX 77301; phone: 800-682-2247. They also supply conversion cylinders for the New Model Ruger and S&W 686, plus .45 and .50 AE conversions.

THE WINNER OF OUR DISCOUNT TENT

How many tents do you know that can be put up and left for 10 years (you know, like you do the Christmas lights)? How many tents can you crawl on top of when erected, without causing leaks in fabric or seams? How many tents do you know that never suffer mildew damage? That have outstanding UV protection? That are available opaque or translucent, in many colors? That are waterproof, not just water repellent? That are cleanable with soap and water without damage? That have continuous welded seams? That aren't stiff when cold? That don't smell when hot? That meet California fire marshal requirements and other pertinent codes? We've only found one, the indestructible (14-oz./yard) Hercules tent we were sent for test by CanDoo.

Leave it to some web-footed Oregon boys to come up with a hard-use tent that can be left up for a decade without leaking or rotting, that a couple of rednecks can put up in an hour, and that stands free with no annoying interior poles. Snow load? Well, about all you want: By the time you got enough snow on this tubular frame and tentage system to collapse it, the snow cave would probably stand under its own weight. Light snows, of course, slide off like rain.

The CanDoo tents are available in a wide variety of colors and design options: In essence, CanDoo can make you any kind of tent you want, except a bad one. And you can pay a lot more than these top-quality tents cost, and only get a conventional canvas tent that wouldn't last two years if left in the weather continuously. Options? Everything from front porches to windows to floors and stove jacks: CanDoo is a small enough company to do custom work ... and big enough to get



the job done. Their line is highly recommended to anybody who doesn't like to live in a leaking tent, and doesn't want to buy a tent every few years. Many are bought for semi-permanent storage structures. Canopies, too. We predict their innovations will stand the tent industry on its ear. The Hercules, laminated vinyl-synthetic fabric is incredible stuff: you can think of the CanDoo tent as a Quonset hut you roll up and carry away.

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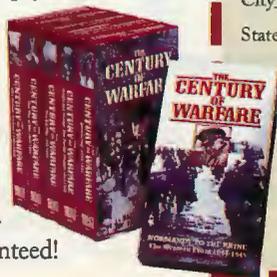
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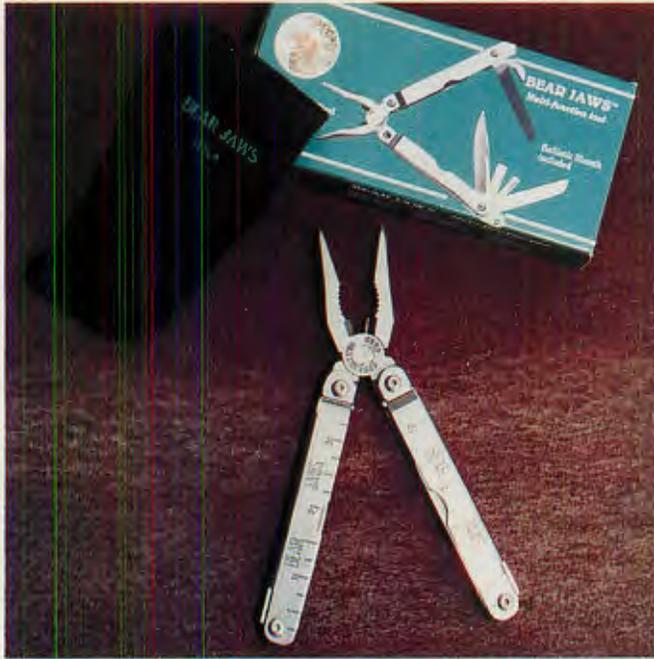
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BEAR JAWS

The American penchant for good tools has borne fruit again with the Bear Jaws multi-function tool, recipient



of the Best Innovative Design Award at the '96 Blade show. Inspirational influence of the gran'pappy of them all — Tim Leatherman's Pocket Survival Tool — is evident, but MGC's Bear Jaws tool incorporates a number of features many will consider to be improvements. Direct comparisons are rude, of course, but we never claimed to be polite and direct comparisons of similar designs are inevitable: Compared to the original Leatherman, the folding handles of the all-stainless Bear Jaw are made from heavier stock; the various blades are retained by Torx screws so the user can do a certain amount of re-arranging or readily replace a damaged blade or tool, or simply tighten anything that

works loose. Even the pliers head will readily tighten or take down with the right implement, as it is a telescoping screw and not merely a spun rivet.

The basic arrangement of the Bear Jaws is that of a Leatherman tool inside-out. This means that the various blades and tools may be opened for use without unfolding the handles as you would do to use the pliers head, or as you would have to do with a Leatherman. This also means that when the tool is opened up and turned inside-out to use the pliers, the exposed handle surfaces are the ones that are radiused and more comfortable to grip strongly. This, combined with the smoothest out-of-the-box pliers action we've yet tested (and we've tested a rucksack full) would make the Bear Jaws a comfortable tool to use for an extended period, or in case you're one of those lily-fingered types who manage to make a living but don't often find a tool in their hand.

The Bear Jaw incorporates needle-nose and regular pliers, a wire cutter, large and small square-bar screwdrivers, Phillips screwdriver, drop-point blade, serrated sheep's foot blade, 8-inch rule, husky lanyard ring, can/bottle opener, metal/wood files and comes in a ballistic nylon sheath — with one of the best factory sharpenings we've ever seen. Precise, rugged



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As a practicing roadside ruminant, it is easy to spot writers who have read a couple "survival" handbooks from those who routinely graze nature's veggie patch. Aside from the green things stuck in their teeth, we mean.

Although we make light of it, knowing what you can eat in the wild and what will kill you is serious business. It's *not* something you want to learn by trial and error when the time comes. It's a skill best learned beforehand, from someone who *knows*.

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Presented by folks with excellent been-there-done-that credentials, the video series is lucid, entertaining and sound education. It covers the full subject: wild edibles of the yard, roadside and meadow, seacoast, wetlands, desert, mountains, mushrooms, poiso-



and Central regions and demonstrations of such arts as threshing and handling acorns, yucca, cattail, prickly pear and domestic flowers — more than 300 in all.

We're admitted tool freaks, but when it comes to wilderness survival, knowledge is more important than

belly full is the most important consideration.

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OPERATIONS ORDER



17th Annual Soldier Of Fortune — Fighting Firearms Convention and Exposition: 18-22 Sept. '96, Las Vegas

1. SITUATION

- a. **Enemy forces:** Target rich environment.
Weather and terrain: Favorable to airborne, small unit and mech operations.
- b. **Friendly forces:** Locals are cooperative (but remember to tip well).
Next higher unit: Omega Group HQ.
Fire support: *Soldier Of Fortune* 3-Gun Match, 17-20 Sept. '96. Submachine Gun Match, 19-21 Sept. '96
- c. **Attachments and detachments:** Command and Control Group: Las Vegas Sands Convention Center.
Registration commences 1200 hrs 18 Sept. '96. 1st Airborne Div. coordinates airborne operations.

2. MISSION

Convention personnel infiltrate Las Vegas, Nevada, to continue the proud tradition of previous 16 *SOF* Conventions, engage in the easy camaraderie of paratroopers and veterans, tell war stories and commit acts of heroism and bravery that grown men should have enough sense to avoid.

3. EXECUTION

- a. **Concept of operation:** Omega Gp main element deploys from Peoples Republic of Boulder to establish headquarters at Hacienda Hotel, Las Vegas, with further deployment to Sands Convention Center by 18 Sept. '96.
Forward element will infiltrate by motorcycle in a diversionary action through Colorado, Utah and Arizona 15-17 Sept. '96.
- b. **Other missions:** *Soldier Of Fortune* Firepower Demonstration (Field Marshall Kokalis); *SOF* Exposition (3-day pass for all convention personnel); seminars; convention T-shirt and commemorative insignia.
- c. **Coordinating instructions:** Transmit coupon below with \$125 U.S. to Omega Gp HQ ASAP.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. **Billeting:** Limited availability due to unexpected closing of Sands Hotel for demolition. Lodging has been reserved at Hacienda Hotel, a luxury hotel approx 5 km from Sands Convention Center (Tower rooms \$88 + tax, single and double; garden rooms \$78 + tax. Add \$10/additional person. 800-634-6713). A limited number of rooms have been reserved at Super 8 Motel, 4250 Koval, Las Vegas, NV 89109. (approx 1 km from Sands Convention Center; tel. 702-794-0888). \$40/Sun thru Thur; \$45/Fri and Sat, plus tax. Must mention *SOF* Convention to qualify for special rate.

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b. **Arms and ammunition:**

Weapons in locked cases allowed in Super 8. Check with other hotels.

c. **Uniform and equipment:**

Surprise us. We're getting a little jaded.

d. **Wounded and prisoners:**

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5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

- a. **Signal:** Omega Gp Tel: 800-800-7630 Fax: 303-444-5617 e-mail convention@sofmag.com
- b. **Command:** Robert K. Brown, LTC, USAR, Ret., Airborne Mission Commander.

I WAS THERE

Street Without Joy

by Maj. Stuart Parselle (USAF, Ret.)

On any map it was easily recognized: Highway One, the main north-south artery connecting the Mekong Delta and the DMZ. Many GIs and Vietnamese, though, termed it the "Street Without Joy," because anyone who ever rode its bloodstained blacktop was sooner or later stung by tragedy.

The "Three Amigos," however, didn't buy into this bull.

"Street Without Joy," to us, was a stupid Vietnamese thing. We called Highway One "The Road To Fun City," Cam Ranh Bay, a number one oasis of beaucoup bars and long-haired cyclo girls.

Foster Bradfo was from Macon, Georgia; 19, white, Southern to the core. Some people might've call him a redneck.

Jose Alvar hailed from Canovanas, Puerto Rico. Tall, blond, just 18, his English was broken by a thick Spanish accent. Very Catholic, very proud of his Spanish roots.

I was plain vanilla from the Midwest. Being older, 21, I was more mature, and outranked these boneheads.

We were Air Force supply troops, I served as NCOIC of the automotive supply point on Phan Rang Air Base. When a mission-essential vehicle was down, I often vaulted sluggish and unreliable supply channels, dashing directly to Cam Ranh Bay with Jose, my amigo and assistant, to liberate the needed parts before they were swallowed by the system or ripped-off.

When Highway One wasn't closed by the Viet Cong, we bounced along in a truck convoy. When Charlie did his thing, we flew. That's how we met Foster, a doorgunner on a Huey gunship.

Dark and early one Monday morning in April 1971, just as Jose and I were getting ready to hoist ourselves into a truck, the orderly room duty sergeant burst out of the office. "The convoy is a no go! Charlie is kicking up some shit in a couple of the *vills* along the way. MACV

[Military Assistance Command Vietnam] says no go!"

"Don't worry," I said, "Let's head for the 717th."

The 717th Cavalry was on the Army side of the base. They flew all the choppers in the area: Hueys, Cobras and Scout Loaches. We walked into the gunship orderly room and I asked if we could hitch a ride to Cam Ranh.

"Yeah," said the clerk. "There's a Huey leaving in 15 minutes."

The warrant officer, who piloted this particular Huey, told us "Private Bradfo will take care of you," then went back to his preflight inspection.

A U.S. convoy, meanwhile, was ambushed on highway 11 about 20 miles west of Phan Rang Friday by a Red force that killed one American and injured two.

American spokesmen said the guntruck in the 5-vehicle convoy returned the Red rocket and automatic weapon fire, but there was no estimate of Communist casualties or damage to the vehicles in the 30-minute fight.

Private Foster Bradfo launched right in. "Listen you Air Force pukes, we're happy to give y'all a ride to Cam Ranh 'cause we're goin' there anyway. If I tell ya to fire your weapons, point 'em away from me!"

While Jose stood glaring at Foster, I countered: "We are *all* military but you're a private and I'm a *sergeant*."

I sat on Jose to keep him from going after the smiling Foster. A delicate truce was called and from that time forward we frequently joined forces, Foster weaseling time away from his squadron to throw in with us on our forays into the nighttime party world of wartime Cam Ranh. We were adversaries in philosophy but kindred spirits in our marrow

and formed the ironclad bond of brothers.

Days later, MACV and Special Forces had, again, opened the road.

Highway Eleven runs east-west from Dalat to Highway One with rice paddies on either side until it intersects at a bamboo forest. Dalat, a noted honeymoon spot and resort, on that morning was terribly busy, jammed tight with traffic and pedestrians.

As we started into the teeming intersection the Viet Cong opened up!

Charlie blasted the lead jeep and its M60 machine gun. Our gun truck with its M60s, .50 cal. and RPG was in the *worst* possible position as the convoy tried to unass the intersection: at the rear facing the ambush straight on! Finally, it inched ahead then chugged sideways, its .50 cal. blazing forward over the roof of the cab.

The vehicle squirmed painfully ahead, through the amoebae-like mass of panicked, shrieking Vietnamese.

Charlie, meanwhile, was creaming us with automatic weapons fire, mortars and rockets. We laid down a wall of return fire with our M16s. Bullets zinged by our heads as mortars and rockets tore up chunks of earth and pavement. We were

scared shitless.

Finally, the gun truck broke around us, jolted on to Highway Eleven and let loose with everything it had — turning the now-burning bamboo forest into a bedlam of screams.

Then, just like after a nightmare, all was quiet.

The platoon sergeant of the convoy yelled, "Smith, Johnson, with me."

The three of them sloshed across the rice paddies to the smoldering bamboo. Foster and I followed. When we reached the bamboo, we found only a headless VC and one of his comrades, alive but cradling his intestines.

"Jesus!" screamed Foster.

Continued on page 27

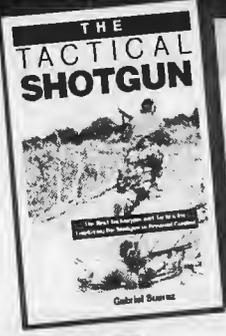
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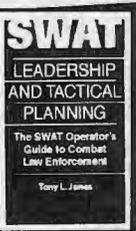
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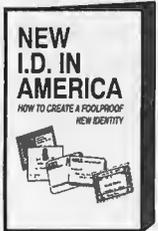
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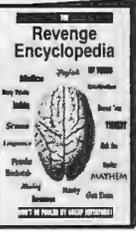
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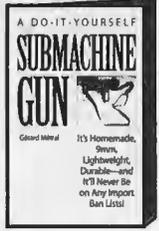
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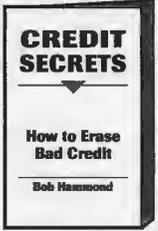
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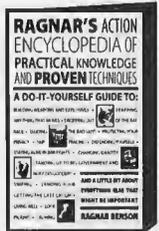
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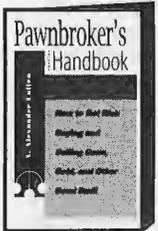
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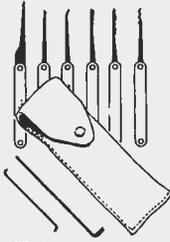
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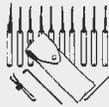
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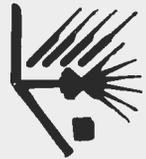
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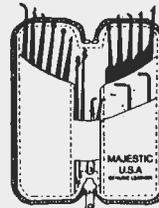
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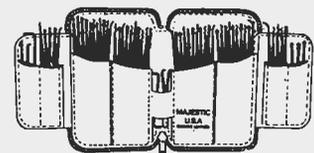
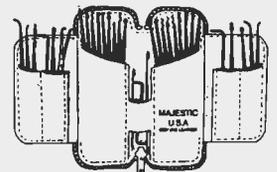


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Continued from page 23

The old sergeant stepped forward. "The body count here is two KIA," he whispered. "Let's get back."

The convoy was in shreds. Vehicles were bullet-riddled, their tires punctured. We suffered three WIAs, one severe: Jose.

He'd taken two AK rounds in the chest and was bubbling pink froth from his lungs. The medic had done his best.

Foster knelt down and took his hand. "Help me, Foster, it hurts," he garbled.

"Don't worry," he replied. "We radioed for a Dust-Off. We'll stay right here beside you till it comes."

Foster and I just stood there in the churning smoke and watched the chopper, with Jose aboard, thump-thump toward the horizon.

A truck was dispatched to pick us up and when we unloaded at Phan Rang, Foster and I headed for the 717th orderly room.

Foster was direct. "Airman Jose Alvar, he was just wounded on the road to Cam Ranh. We want to know what his condition is!"

A tall, black master sergeant stepped toward us, a shadow of deep sadness on his face.

"I'm sorry," he said, "he didn't make it to Cam Ranh."

Tears streamed down Foster's cheeks. He turned and slowly walked back to his hooch. I simply wanted the year to end and get out of there alive.

I saw Foster Bradfo for the last time on the day he died. I sauntered into his hooch to see how he was doing. The *Stars and Stripes* he'd been reading was full of stories and photos of anti-war demonstrations. He said he didn't want to talk, got up, threw the paper on the floor and walked off with a bottle of Johnny Walker.

Minutes after, he crawled into the shade beneath a truck just towed off Highway One, and passed out. The driver had spent too much time drinking in the Squadron Cozy and was in a big hurry to get back to his unit. He jumped in the cab, cranked the engine, threw it in reverse ... and backed over Foster's head.

In a few weeks I boarded the "Freedom Bird" and returned to CONUS. I was broken and angry; angry with the politicians who got us in and who made us stay in Vietnam, and then wouldn't permit a win.

But the deaths of my friends broke my heart.

The war is over now, pushed into the dark corner of America's memory. My memory, though, has no dark corners. ✕

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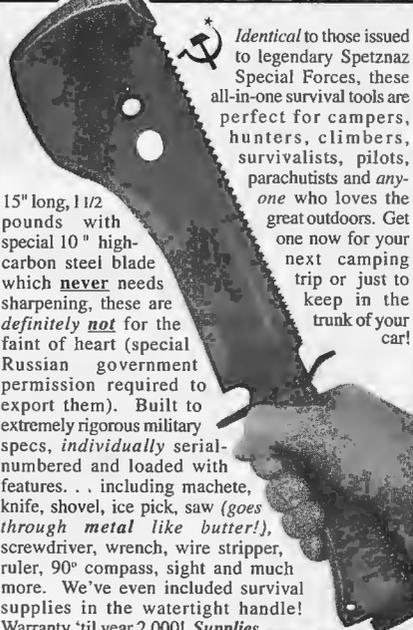
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FLAK

WHAT'S ITALIAN FOR "OOPS"?

Having served in the Italian *Bersaglieri* Corps, I read the article "Sarajevo 'Olympics'" (July '96 *SOF*) with great interest. However, some of the text related to the Bersaglieri was not completely correct, as well as the text of two pictures.

There are no Bersaglieri paratroops in the Italian Army; the soldiers wearing the red beret [photos, pp. 31-2] are paratroopers whose tactical functions are completely different from the Bersaglieri's, even if they occasionally cooperated in peacekeeping situations, as in Bosnia, Somalia and Lebanon.

The Bersaglieri Corps was founded in 1836 (34 years before the complete unification of Italy, culminating in the wresting of Rome from the Pope and the French army supporting him, in 1870) in Torino, then capital city of the Kingdom of Sardinia.

The name "Bersagliere" comes from the Italian word *bersaglio* [bullseye], so the meaning of Bersagliere is roughly "sharpshooter."

(Bersagliere is singular; Bersaglieri is plural.)

The Bersaglieri fought in all battles of the independence of Italy and were instrumental in the conquest of Roma in 1870. They fought gallantly in WWI, and in WWII under the command of Rommel in Africa. Today they are an integral part of armored tactical groups, with the same functions as the German *Panzergrenadiere* [mech infantry].

We wear a crown of feathers on the parade hat that dates from 1836, and on the helmet during training and combat. Daily, we wear a crimson "fez" with a blue pompon. Characteristics of the Bersaglieri are hard training, stamina, and esprit de corps. Bersaglieri always parade by running, led by their brass band — also running! Thank you for the interesting article.

A. Manchinu
Hampton, Va.

While I must congratulate *SOF* for the excellent coverage of Italian troops in Bosnia [July '96], here are some more assessments on the matter. ...

There are 10 Bersaglieri regiments in today's Italian Army: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, and 18th.

... The Italian infantry is composed of various specialities: the Line, Grenadiers, Alpini (mountain troops), Carristi (tank), Paratroops and Bersaglieri. The last were established in 1836 following the Napoleonic Wars' experience of the *voltigeurs*: light troops who fought in loose order in front of the close ranks of the Line. That same experience gave birth to similar troops in most of the European armies of that time; for instance, the Austrian *Jaeger* or the British Light Infantry. ...

The Bersaglieri are not specific for urban warfare; they usually train as mechanized infantry. They are not some sort of "rangers" as you mean in the States. ... It is true that the 8th



Regiment undertook specific training before going to Bosnia, but this was not limited to street fighting.

The red-bereted grunts in the photos are, of course, real Paratroops, not Bersaglieri paratroopers (who do not exist). In Bosnia there are some of the 9th *Incursori* Parachute Regiment, which is a special-forces unit (*incursori* means "raiders").

Massimo Boschi
Florence, Italy

I served in the Italian paratrooper brigade for two years. I am writing about the article in your July '96 issue, about Sarajevo. There are two pictures of what your writer calls Bersaglieri paratroopers. ...

The 8th Bersaglieri Regiment is a mechanized unit that is not even part of the same brigade of the paratroopers. The pictures you published on page 31-2 are in fact of soldiers of the 9th Regiment *Incursori*. That is the Italian special-forces unit that trains

normally with American Green Berets, English SAS, and other special units from all over the world.

The reason that I know this is not only because I was in a company that worked with them on a regular basis, but also because the people in the picture are my good friends and I was in Somalia with them.

I have been reading your magazine for a long time. ...

Alan Predolin
New York City, N.Y.

FIGHT THE WAY YOU TRAIN

I am writing in response to recent "Full Auto" columns by Peter G. Kokalis regarding the subject of proper

machinegunnery. ... I have always been fascinated with military small arms since I was a very young age. Recently, I had the fantastic opportunity to acquire my first Class 3 weapon: a beautiful, original German MG34.

Being in total awe of it and other belt-fed weapons, I thirsted for more information on how these are properly employed by the various militaries that have used them. ... Old U.S. Army manuals (pre-1940) are a

great source of information, but do not properly cover tactics used with my sort of weapon, seeing as the American military had no comparable one.

I therefore looked forward greatly to the *SOF* columns by Mr. Kokalis ... [on] the fundamentals of proper machinegunnery. Although I learned a great deal from his columns (two so far), I have to take great exception with the contempt with which he apparently holds civilian m-gunners.

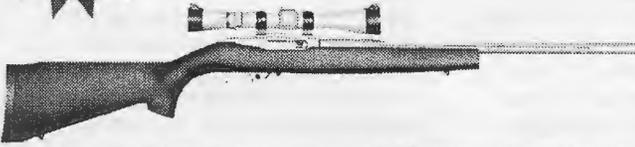
In both columns he takes swipes at civilians who sit on "inflatable toilet seats" shooting at old bathtubs and refrigerators in long bursts with no fire discipline. This is highly unfair, considering few of us have had the privilege of extensive training in the techniques he espouses. The Marine Corps did not train me or anybody else in my recruit platoon in anything more than the most basic operating procedures for the M60. Where else are we supposed to learn? There are no books

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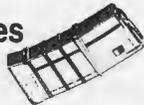
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| PMMG0093 Prec. Steel 20 rd. Blue Steel | \$17.95 | PMMG0095 Prec. Steel 40 rd. Blue Steel | \$21.95 |
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that I have found that would cover the subject.

He also criticizes the civilian approach by saying that "you will fight the way you train." This is nothing but pure, unadulterated cow chips. Does Mr. Kokalis really mean to tell me that U.S. troops in Vietnam sprayed the countryside wildly and ineffectively with M16s because they were trained to do so?

And no offense, but just who does Mr. Kokalis think is reading those articles: active-duty machine gunners or civilian Class 3 enthusiasts? Perhaps he should take better stock of his readership, quit insulting them, and use the articles for constructive instruction instead of arrogant bile.

Tomislav D. Golik, student
University of Miami School of Law
via E-mail

What is "nothing but pure, unadulterated cow chips" to reader Golik is accepted as an indisputable fact by the staffs of training centers such as Thunder Ranch and Gunsite and armed professionals in general.

You will indeed fight the way you train. However, permanent programming requires at least 3,000 repetitions. Furthermore, to erase and then replace bad habits may take more than 10,000 repetitions. "U.S. troops in Vietnam sprayed the countryside wildly and ineffectively" precisely because they did not receive proper training, not in spite of it.

No matter. When Tomislav Golik graduates from law school, he will be far more dangerous to society than any MG34. — P.G.K.

FLORIDA'S "SNIPER WEEKEND"

Concerning the article by Frank James, "Leathernecks And Lawmen" (July '96 SOF), about the Super Sniper Shoot-out in New Mexico: It implies that this is the only event of its type in America, but it is not.

I am the managing director of Snipercraft Inc. We are a nonprofit organization that was formed in 1992 to enhance the proficiency and professionalism of the police sniper (June '95 SOF). For the last four years, we have presented an annual nationwide sniper event here in South Florida known as Sniper Weekend.

This affair includes a one-day SWAT/Sniper training seminar and the two-day Sniper Shoot-out. Snipers from as far away as Anchorage, Alaska, have come to learn and compete. The courses of fire in the Shoot-out are specifically designed to test the skills of police snipers in the anticipated mission.

The concept behind Sniper Weekend is to provide a vehicle for

networking, training and exchanging information with the tactical sniper community.

Any police or military personnel in SOF's audience who are interested in getting more information about Snipercraft and Sniper Weekend or receiving our quarterly newsletter can contact Snipercraft Inc., at 472 Lakeside Circle, Fort Lauderdale FL 33326-4103.

Derrick D. Bartlett

MORE ON THE MAYAGUEZ

It was disheartening to read the article by Will Cadence about the SS *Mayaguez* misadventure ["*Mayaguez*: Forgotten Battle," May '96 SOF].

Having been a distant participant (service in U.S. Navy, 1971-5) in that ill-fated operation, I have always been interested to read personal, official, and unofficial accounts. As is typical, we heard only pieces of information about what had happened at the time, having rushed to Cambodia from our evacuation efforts in South Vietnam in May 1975.

The accounts I recall came from several of the Marines with Vietnam experience. Although this may be no more than emotions run amok, they complained that the Air Force [chopper] pilots' landings were not the typical hot-LZ, nearly crash-type touch-downs, but rather an excessive loitering in harm's way.

After returning home, I read the accounts in the popular press, complete with pretty pictures. There was, of course, no mention of the three Marines left behind [on Koh Tang island, off Cambodia]. Nor were we (in my unit) told about this. I have read other accounts as well. Never before have I heard about these MIAs.

I have always agreed with the decision by the SEAL team's commanding officer not to deploy onto the island and I know this was not a popular decision at the time. The question is, if there were U.S. personnel left on the island, why didn't we go back after getting organized? Was it too much a hot potato, coming as it did on the heels of Vietnam? It makes me sick to think about how those three guys must have felt.

I hope you plan on letting the readers know how things turn out *vis-a-vis* the DNA analysis of skeletal remains found in the recent expedition to the island.

Dr. Arthur C. Croft, M.S., D.C.
San Diego, Calif.

Freelance writer Will Cadence has been following developments in the recovery and identification of American remains on Koh Tang. We

hope to have his follow-up report in the not-too-distant future.

THE REST OF THE STORY...

When you say "Ethiopia seized Ogaden [desert] from Somalia in 1977" [World Sitrep, May '96 SOF], you are right, but it is misleading.

Somalia had grabbed the Ogaden from Ethiopia the year before, figuring that the Communist revolution would leave the Ethiopians too distracted to do anything about it and the Americans unwilling to help. But the Ethiopians grabbed it back by importing Soviet weapons and Cuban mercenaries.

The Somali flag — blue with a plain white star — stands for the five areas the old Somali government claimed: northern and southern Somalia, plus the Ogaden in Ethiopia, the Northeast Territory in Kenya (which has also been the scene of fighting), and the little Republic of Djibouti.

It may be just as well that we didn't get a national government re-established in Mogadishu: All we need is another international conflict in the Horn of Africa.

Dick Eney
via E-mail

ANTI-HEZBOLLAH, IN LEBANON

You already know about the heavy Israeli bombings in southern Lebanon, on the positions (logistic and military), of the *Hezbollah* Muslim militia, which is pro-Iranian. The Israelis also bombed positions in the southern suburbs of Beirut. ...

Well, contrary to what was shown on Lebanese TV, by "free will" of course, not all the Lebanese people like what those pro-Iranian Muslim puppets are doing. Of course, the big benefit goes for Syria and all of her puppets in the Lebanese government.

This country needs more attention from America, if they want real peace in the Middle East and for Israel. Balance should be reset in the government and justice should be made. Christian leader Samir Geagea (who's been in prison for two years now) must be freed. The Christian community, in and out of Lebanon, should feel free again [despite] Muslim fanatics and maniacs who are terrorizing the world with their lies and closed minds. ...

Name Withheld By Request
Beirut

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BLOODY TRIANGLE: UGANDA, SUDAN AND ZAIRE

Africa Reels Under Genocide, AIDS And Anarchy

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter

The end of the Cold War has brought severe tensions to Central Africa.

The reasons are varied.

Superpower money has dried up: The Soviet Union is gone, and the United States has new global priorities. Further, radical Islamic fundamentalism flexes its muscles wherever possible, and, as always, Central Africa is vulnerable to natural disasters, anarchy, and tropical diseases. Uganda, the Sudan, and Zaire are faced with an increase in cross-border raids and domestic insurrection. Civil war threatens to envelop the region. European and South African mercenaries again are active in all three countries.

Uganda, especially, is a hellhole. Its recent history is full of suffering.

The buffoon Idi Amin's eight-year dictatorship likely established new, 20th-century standards for barbarism and governmental corruption. He was forced into exile in 1979, but a new monster will kill even more Ugandans: The AIDS epidemic currently afflicts about 1.4 million people there. And in recent years fanatics drawing violent inspiration from the Bible, and calling themselves the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), have declared war on the government in Kampala.

Skulls of victims attacked in northern Uganda by Lord's Resistance Army were placed along road as a macabre warning.

I have traveled Uganda several times; the last in 1994. It was a dangerous place then; it is dangerous now. I don't think I'll be going back, for reasons that might give

ity by LRA rebels, the Ugandan army was in control; foreigners and locals alike ignored soldiers' orders at great peril.

Upon arrival in Gulu, we reported to

"No pictures," he warned. "Not even one!"

If our group was caught filming, the colonel continued, we would be arrested and charged with "sedition" (a favorite word in former British colonies in Africa).

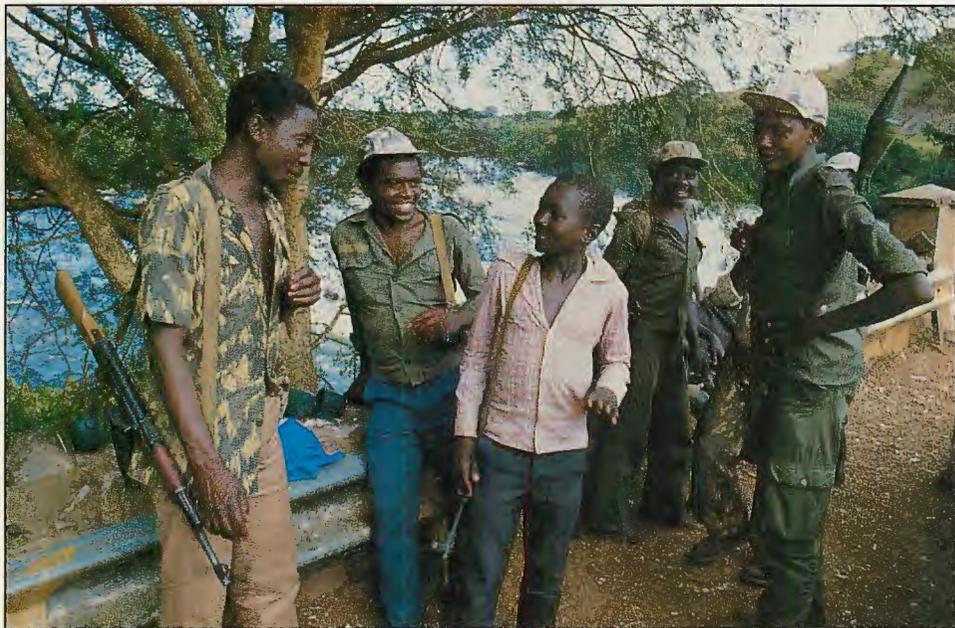
We waited at the Acholi Inn. Meanwhile, a couple of surveillance men kept careful tabs on our movements. By the third day we decided to do something. Each night there was firing about town and on the outskirts. We were not even allowed to ask questions, let alone investigate.

The French producer had a plan. We invited the two men watching us for a beer shortly after breakfast; they obviously enjoyed the break. Then a bottle of whisky appeared. An hour later our group was off to town.

By noon we had filmed the center of Gulu, snatched a sequence of the military camp while driving past and ended up in the railroad yards where a half-dozen trains stood abandoned. The LRA had sabotaged the line some miles out of town. It was there that a Uganda army officer caught up with us and demanded we accompany him back to the camp — a very bad place for an uncooperative foreigner to find himself.

When we refused, he went off for reinforcements and we, in our respective cars, hot-footed out of town in the direction of Kampala, five or six hours to the south.

We knew that the Uganda army post there had radio contact with the capital but that they were having trouble transmitting. (That much we were told by a British expatriate whom we met at the Inn and



any Western tourist cause to reconsider his travel plans there. Perhaps the best illustration of what could happen to foreigners in Uganda took place two years ago while I was in Gulu, a town in the Northern Province.

Highway To Hell

Gulu is at the heart of Uganda's war against the LRA, which has become resurgent in the region immediately to the south of the Sudanese border. The main crossing point between the two nations is at Nimule, about 100 miles north of Gulu; it has been closed to travelers for years.

Gulu had been one of my favorite stops. Before 1986, when I made a television documentary on the region, Gulu had been a tiny oasis of sanity in all the crazy mayhem that had overtaken Uganda. Its Acholi Inn offered good food and cold "Tusker" beer; the hospital was staffed and the children were all at school. There was even a foreign-aid contingent drilling for water in some of the surrounding villages. Most spectacular of all was the Murchison National Park, in its day one of Africa's finest. Then came the Lord's Resistance Army.

I returned with a French film crew; my own South African crew refused to leave Kampala because it was "too dangerous." By now, Gulu existed in name only.

Some tourists had returned and aid specialists were trying to make a go of it, but the effects of civil war were felt by all. The Acholi Inn offered me a bed without a mattress for \$25 a night. The food was inedible and drinks were suspect. Because of activ-

Uniformed (and otherwise) Ugandan government soldiers, armed with 7.62x39mm AK-47 rifles and a RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenade, enjoy joke at photographer's expense at roadblock over Victoria Nile River.

the local commander. The war against the LRA, he claimed, was in its final stages. The last dissidents had been driven into southern Sudan in 1989; what we were seeing, said the colonel, was a "mopping-up" operation. Then he got unpleasant.



Czech-made OT-64 armored personnel carrier, knocked out by LRA rebels in ambush of Uganda army patrol, sits abandoned along rural road. Vehicle's main armament is a 14.5mm KPVT machine gun.

who had come to Gulu to service the equipment.)

But there was also the LRA. At that stage Gulu, I had been assured, was completely surrounded. Cars were being shot up on the roads leading into the interior,

though most ambushes took place in late afternoon. It was still lunchtime and we were prepared to chance it. All these factors had been carefully discussed the night before.

Barely 10 minutes out of Gulu the first, sporadic shots rang out. Neither car was hit. We were moving one behind the other, about 100 yards apart. A mile later there was more firing. By now I was lying on the floor behind the driver urging him to drive faster. (Even without gunfire, auto wrecks and mangled bodies are a frequent occurrence in Uganda.)

We covered the 15 miles to the next town in about 10 minutes; it was the *longest* journey of my life. All of the villagers were gathered on the edge of town to greet us; they could follow our progress along the undulating low hills through which the road twisted. They could also hear the shots. A great roar went up at our arrival. For the moment we were safe.

Once we reached Kampala we split up. I went directly to the Kenyan border and crossed at Malaba early the next day, on foot. The French crew managed to persuade a charter pilot to take them to Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, the same evening.

Mercs For Hire

Since then, Uganda's civil war has taken on an international dimension.

First indications that the South African mercenary organization Executive Outcomes has been involved in Uganda's ongoing civil war came in 1995 when one of its senior directors died in an air crash while reconnoitering front-line areas near the Sudanese border. (The cause of the accident never has been fully explained.)

Nor have the identities been given of several soldiers, clearly of European origin, found in the wreckage of a Sudanese air-force transport that went down earlier this



Corpses of teenagers and children, mutilated with machetes then executed by LRA rebels, lie where they fell in northern Ugandan village. The victims' offense: belonging to the wrong tribe.

year near Khartoum. More recently, there have been reports of French merc activity in Zaire and arms' shipments to the

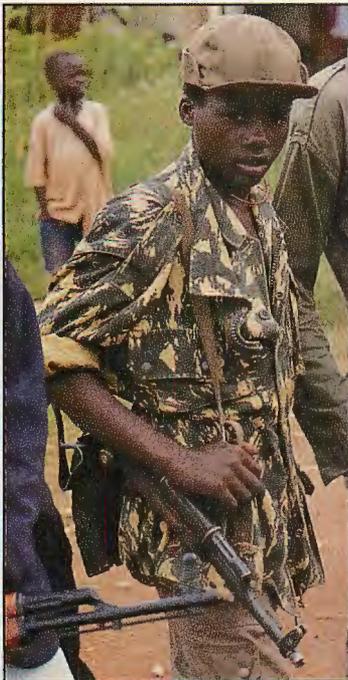
involved with its fledgling helicopter wing. Few stayed long, largely because the government was erratic with payments.

Now, with the civil war against the fanatical LRA active again, all of that has changed. Museveni has sought foreign military expertise and he needs to pay for it. Elements of the Uganda army are being trained by groups of white soldiers who are officially listed as "volunteers."

Foreigners with the right military credentials who visit Uganda are unlikely to prop up the bar at Kampala's Speke Hotel for long without being made an offer. Those with experience in counterinsurgency warfare are in demand. Payment is in British or U.S. currency, at a bank of choice abroad.

Late reports indicate that some of these specialists employed by the Ugandan government are training elements of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), whose Christian and animistic troops oppose the Islamic government in Khartoum. This apparently is in retaliation for Khartoum's military support of the Uganda-based LRA.

The cutthroat situation is further complicated by the arrival of a group of French dogs of war in Kinshasa, the Zairean capital. They are headed by Col. Christian Tavernier, who a quarter of a century ago led the infamous 14th Battalion against a



Children often become fighters in African wars. This boy, from a village in northern Uganda, possibly is an LRA guerrilla. He refused to answer photographer's questions.



Sudanese army in ops against rebels in the south of that country.

Ex-military pilots from South Africa and the former Rhodesia are known to have been involved with the Ugandan air force ever since President Yoweri Museveni and his National Resistance Movement party seized power in 1986; most were

Gulu was an "oasis" for foreign travelers in the mid-1980s. Nowadays the town in Northern Province is rundown; Many of its residents fled fighting between government troops and rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army.

Simba rebellion that threatened to split President Mobutu Sese Seko's country in two. Tavernier is known to have close ties with Mobutu; so has Tavernier's associate, Jacques Brassine, a former head of cabinet in the Belgian Ministry of Cooperation. These two have been identified by Israeli intelligence as having a role in supplying



Regular troops of the Uganda Peoples Defense Force man checkpoint along main road to Gulu. They are armed with AK-47 rifles and a 7.62x39mm RPD machine gun placed in front of shallow foxhole.

arms and instructors to units of the Sudanese army now active against the SPLA in southern Sudan.

A French correspondent, Francois Misser, reports that Sudanese army units have been allowed to cross into northeastern Zaire and use the airstrip at Bunia to resupply — without rebel harassment — about 5,000 of their comrades deployed in southern Sudan. Certainly, this would not happen if it were not sanctioned by President Mobutu. (Some Africa observers speculate it is in Mobutu's interest to keep the Sudanese leader, General Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir, happy lest he foment guerrilla war in Zaire, which already is badly fragmented.)

Curiously, this has not prevented other associates of Tavernier and Brassine from holding clandestine talks with the SPLA. It is known that SPLA Commander John Garang de Mabior has some foreigners in his anti-Khartoum force, although present-

ly only in marginal roles of training and logistics.

Central Africa is a tangled web of politics, rebellion, and guns for hire. It will only get worse.

Black Gold, Dark Politics

There is another angle to all of these developments and one that holds excellent prospects for whoever eventually comes out on top: oil. Southern Sudan is known to have a huge potential in crude oil.

Chevron, the American giant, invested \$1 billion in regional exploration before it abandoned the venture: The Khartoum government could not guarantee the safety of its workers. Several Chevron employees were kidnapped and murdered in the mid-80s. Three were taken prisoner by the SPLA and reportedly crucified.

Now a Canadian company, Arakis Energy, said to have commercial links in Zaire, wants to exploit southern Sudanese oil. It is being financed by a British group, Venture Guarantee Limited. Talks have also been held, according to the London publication *New African* (May '96), with the French company Lyonnaise des Eaux about construction of a pipeline to move oil produced in the region to a Red Sea terminal.

Suddenly the stakes have become very high.

Canada's Arakis claims it has discovered billions of gallons of oil reserves in this desolate region; 5 billion alone in a mysterious field called "Pink Panther." Such a venture would also require a fairly large military force to protect the project.

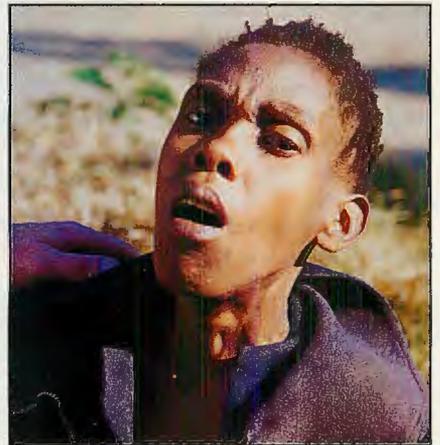
The bottom line with all these developments is that while war is likely to spread in all the countries neighboring southern Sudan, some of it, in true African fashion, is likely to spill over their common frontiers. And with

the entrance of foreign soldiers in the countries involved, the level of hostilities is likely to intensify still further.

Nor are conditions helped by the fact that the National Islamic Front (NIF) government in Sudan has been categorically identified by Western intelligence agencies (and by the Israelis, in particular) as increasingly radical.

The U.S. Department of State already refers to the Sudan as a country dabbling in international terrorism: Khartoum provides succor to a several terrorist movements, including the radical Islamic *Hezbollah*.

The NIF government has close political links with Libya's President Muammar Khadaffi; it receives aid from Iran's Shi'ite



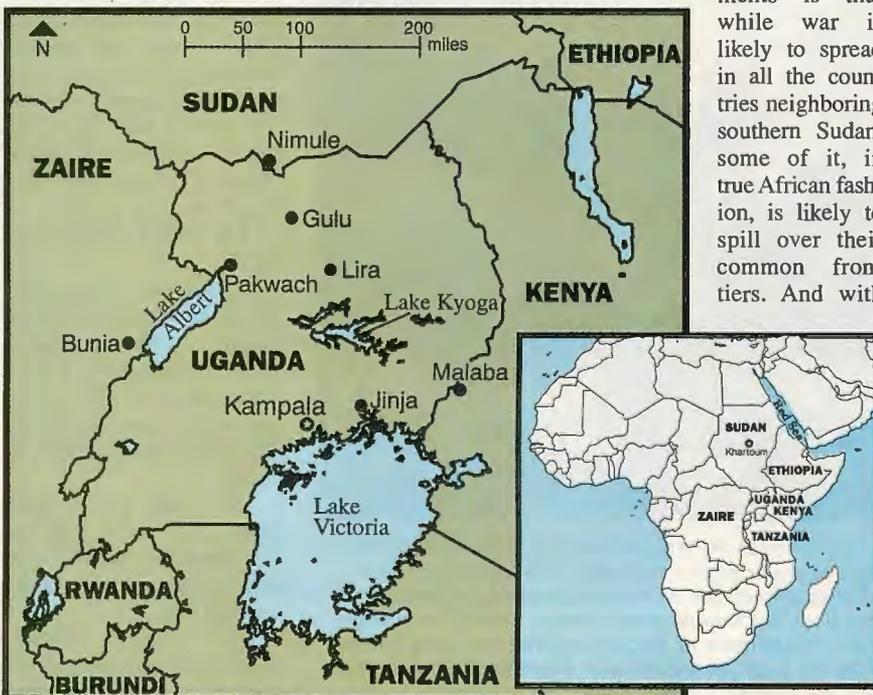
A young AIDS victim in northern war zone. Uganda has one of the highest death tolls in the world; an estimated 1.4 million Ugandans — 7% of the population — now are infected with the AIDS virus; most are women.

mullahs, even though the majority of Sudanese Arabs are Sunni. The common denominator among them all is an unbridled hatred of the West.

That being the case, it is easy to see that the balance of power in Central Africa was severely shaken when Uganda's President Museveni decided to support the Christian people of southern Sudan against the Khartoum oligarchy. The National Islamic Front government, in turn, embraced Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord's Resistance Army, and his ragged band of malcontents, trained and armed them, supplemented their numbers and sent them back into Uganda. Libyans and Palestinians are known to have been involved in this activity, too.

Invisible Warriors

Kony had taken over the LRA where his aunt and mentor, Alice Lakwena, had left off. Prior to Khartoum's assistance, Kony was operating from a headquarters deep in the Kidepo Valley National Park. This he shared with Karamoja cattle rustlers who regularly exchanged fire with



Continued on page 67

Bomb plot defused! Militia terror attack foiled! Arizona was back in the news — again.

A little more than a year earlier the Grand Canyon State was identified as

On 2 July, a grateful president appeared on national television. "I'd like to begin today by saluting the law-enforcement officers who made the arrests in Arizona yesterday to avert a terrible terrorist

attack," Clinton said. "Their dedication and hard work over the last six months may have saved many lives and they deserve our thanks."

And the embattled ATF, of course,

DESERT SWARM

Media Feed Off Feds' "Viper" Vapors

Text & Photos by Richard L. Sherrow

the stomping ground of Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh. Then came the deadly Amtrak derailment blamed on the "Sons of Gestapo."

And now, the "Viper Team."

In early July, just as a stunned nation was coming to grips over the truck-bombing of the U.S. military barracks in Saudi Arabia, national news crews again flocked to Arizona.

The story: Like avenging eagles, agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had swooped down on a nest of Vipers, breaking up what was *claimed* to be a militia terrorist plot to create a Phoenix version of the Oklahoma City bombing — only on a much larger scale.

In record time, ATF agents, the U.S. attorney in Phoenix, Attorney General Janet Reno, and even President Clinton were playing to the cameras. They wove a shocking tale of 12 militia bombers caught in the act as they prepared to blast more than a half dozen Phoenix sites into bloody rubble.

As news of the arrests broke, government officials from Clinton on down maintained that ATF agents had heroically prevented the destruction of several federal buildings, plus the Arizona National Guard headquarters, the Phoenix Police Department, and a local TV station.



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Group Supervisor Steven Ott (left) follows an unidentified ATF agent from the federal courthouse in Phoenix. During detention hearings for 12 "Viper" members, Ott admitted the ATF's original claim of an anti-government bomb plot was not true.



Media "feeding frenzy" outside Phoenix's federal courthouse. By mid-July, representatives of major media, including *The New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*, agreed the ATF misrepresented its Viper case. ABC *Nightline* host Ted Koppel said: "Simply stated, the government appears to have made more of its case against the Viper Militia than is warranted by the facts. And they were aided in conveying that impression by us in the media."

deserved another chance at redemption.

Government Hoax?

By the 4th of July, the national media were absolutely wild.

Flashing maps of supposedly targeted buildings and trotting out their usual pseudo-experts, the media — television in particular — were racing each other to be the first with bomb-plot trivia and gory imaginings of carnage averted. But there is one little problem.

There never was a plot, "bomb" or otherwise.

To the dismay of the purveyors of conspiracy and left-leaning merchants of paranoia, the whole "bomb plot" fell apart when, during detention hearings, defense attorney Jeffery Ross cross-examined ATF Group Supervisor Steve Ott. The focus of Ross' questioning was to dispel the government-perpetrated hoax that this group planned to blow up federal buildings. The lawyer asked the agent, "Isn't it a fact that this [bomb plot] isn't true?"

Ott replied, "That's correct."

These two words confirmed what a few observers already had speculated (*SOF* National Affairs Editor James L. Pate being one of the first, on CNN): The ATF's case lacked credibility.

So if there was no bomb plot, just what are the 12 wannabe warriors in the "Viper Team" being charged with?

In what U.S. Attorney Janet Napolitano has admitted was a militia test case,

six members of the group — Randy Nelson, Finis (Rick) Walker, Dean Pleasant, Gary Bauer, and David and Ellen Belliveau — are charged under Title 18 United States Code (USC), sections 371 and 231(a), with “Conspiracy to furnish instruction in the use of explosive devices and other techniques in furtherance of civil disorder.”

The remaining six — Charles Knight III, Henry Overturf, Walter Sanville, Scott Shero, Donna Williams and Christopher Floyd — are charged, along with the other six, under Title 18 USC Section 371 and Title 26 USC Section 5861(d) & (i), with “Conspiracy to unlawfully manufacture, receive and possess unregistered destructive devices made with ammonium nitrate.”

Moreover, Nelson, Pleasant and Bauer are charged with violation of Title 26 USC Section 922: “Unlawful possession of machine guns.”

As formidable as these charges seem, there is increasing evidence to suggest that much of the government’s case may be well based, not on law, but on the *Taurus Feces* doctrine.

Interestingly, as the alleged bomb plot fell apart, federal agents made a feeble attempt at damage control, hinting the “Viper 12” might have been involved in the two-year-old murder of a miner, as well as the Amtrak train derailment near Hyder, Ariz. (What’s next, cattle mutilations and UFO crop circles?)

ATF’s Claim Vs. Reality

The ATF initially claimed to have seized 77 machine guns, tons of ammonium nitrate, blasting caps, bombs, grenades, tens of thousands of rounds of ammo, hundreds of firearms, booby traps and drums of nitromethane. It also claimed that 1 1/2 quarts of lead azide, a powerful and unstable primary explosive, were found. Investigators soon claimed that it was lead styphnate, and then finally lead picrate.

But then, the American public will have to take the ATF’s word on just what and how much there was. That’s because the seized material no longer exists: ATF agents rushed all of the alleged explosives to a remote area of the desert and blew them up.

As for the “hundreds” of guns, the majority appear to be World War I and WWII surplus rifles, including M1888 Mausers; No. 1 Mark III Enfields; types 38 and 99 Arisakas; and M1891 Mosin-Nagants — not surprising considering a couple of the men arrested were collectors. One had a federal firearms license.

Also seen were what appeared to be a Russian PPSH-41 submachine gun and a couple of obsolete Russian DPM machine guns. However, since none of these was listed in the charges, it is reasonable to deduce that they were either registered or parts kits with dummy receivers.

By the time the hearings began, the

count began to dwindle: four machine guns — including a converted SKS carbine and AR15 rifle — and about 14 or 15 gallons of nitromethane plus some 500 pounds of ammonium nitrate.

If the machine guns do prove to be unregistered, as the ATF contends, then their owners are subject to prosecution. As for the ammonium nitrate, nitromethane,

blasting caps, and related material, by themselves they are not illegal to possess. Nor is it a federal violation to set off explosives. In order to prove its destructive-device charges, the ATF will have to prove that these items were designed or redesigned as weapons and

Continued on page 72

Team “Viper”

No official at the *SOF* Convention’s Three-Gun Match ever expected to see the “Viper Team” again. Even if two of the four shooters hadn’t been arrested this summer by the ATF — along with 10 others, all accused bomb-plot conspirators — their misbehavior in 1995 made them unwelcome at the match.

They committed no safety violations, yet the four almost got expelled.

“I and members of our staff found their [Vipers’] behavior and demeanor offensive,” recalled Mike Horne, match director. Their behavior “was off the scale of what we had experienced in the past.”

The Three-Gun Match is held for three days every September on the Desert Sportsman Range just north of Las Vegas, site of the convention. Drawing law-enforcement, military and corporate-sponsored shooters, as



Robert Waichii

well as private individuals, it tests marksmanship and tactical skills with pistol, rifle and shotgun. Horne, who has worked at the match since 1984, said the four men from Arizona “were skating on thin ice.”

For starters, they wore team T-shirts bearing a swastika and the logo “Suicidal Hippie Fucks.”

“We allowed them to wear

their T-shirts the first day with tape [coverings], but told them not to bring them back,” Horne said.

Two of the competitors were Dean Pleasant and Randy Nelson, whom the ATF would identify as Viper leaders. The four shot in the “open” category.

“They argued among themselves. I don’t know if they hassled any other shooters, but we had a number of complaints,” Horne said. “We went and talked to them. ... We told them to straighten up and fly right. But even after that warning, there was at least one other example of loud, boisterous behavior.”

He added: “We were considering throwing them out of the match. We told them we didn’t want to see them back again.”

In early July an Arizona newspaper reporter contacted Horne, asking about the 1995 match. He checked his match records.

“I looked up Randy Nelson,” Horne said. “He came in 60th out of 220 people: not world-class performance but ... it speaks of some skill.”

The reporter told him that Nelson, in a newsletter he helped publish, subsequently had criticized *Soldier Of Fortune* and threatened Horne personally. According to news accounts, Nelson wrote, “Next year I’m not gonna shoot just so I can get a chance to catch you [Horne] alone and smash your face in.”

Horne, a former American Pistol Institute instructor, noted, “They seemed to have an attitude.”

— M. K.

Drowsy residents are rattled by the rat-a-tat-tat and BOOM! BOOM! as 50 Army commandos fast-roped down into four separate parts of Pittsburgh from nine unlit, unmarked Black Hawk helicopters. The sudden raid "turned parts of the city into war zones, complete with the sounds of explosions and gunfire that frightened residents and sent one pregnant woman into labor..."

Frantic radio talk show callers swear to seeing the dreaded black helicopter.

No, it isn't a script synopsis for the opening scene of a new John Milius

Badges and Bradleys," *SOF*, August '96).

The Pittsburgh incident, two similar ones in separate Chicago suburbs on two consecutive nights in June 1995, and other nocturnal operations in other U.S. cities are not urban warfare training exercises for generic Green Beret units, said these sources, who all demanded anonymity.

These incidents, which are growing in number, are actually *internal security training missions* staged by the Army's Delta Force. And the operations routinely include some members of local law-enforcement Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams.

an abandoned building at about 0200 hours "one day" last year, a sniper bullet penetrated a window, hit the bullet trap, ricocheted and penetrated an interior wall. On the other side, customers in an all-night business were startled as the bullet whizzed harmlessly through and exited through another window. No one was hurt.

This was confirmed by a civilian law-enforcement source familiar with the incident who also requested anonymity. The same source described a similar mishap involving Delta and an excessively large explosive charge in an industrial area near New Orleans.

We Have Met The Enemy — And He Is Us

film. It's a real-life story, one that began at 2200 hours Monday, 3 June, and continued into the early morning of Tuesday. The quotes are from a front-page story in *The Washington Times* on 6 June 1996.

Local lawmen claimed not to know much about the decidedly military exercise. Small comfort to the more than 100 frightened citizens who phoned the Pittsburgh Police Department during the first 30 minutes. The eventual explanation came from far away, from Lieutenant Colonel Ken McGraw of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Green Beret units must "be able to deploy in any place in the world at a moment's notice," McGraw said. "The only way you can train for urban deployment is to train in that environment. ... We canceled Tuesday's operation to ... not cause further disruption."

McGraw said similar training had been conducted in other cities, rattling off Los Angeles, Dallas, Miami and Detroit. No mishaps have occurred, he assured curious reporters.

The official explanation was intriguing enough: Green Beret commandos routinely simulating attacks on civilian property in America's streets. The real explanation is even more mysterious.

Citing their concern for the military's expanding role with civilian

law enforcement, several military and civilian sources with intelligence and security backgrounds, including a member of the United States Special Operations Command, dispute the official version of the Pittsburgh incident. Public safety also prompted them to step briefly from the shadows.

Two of the sources contacted *Soldier Of Fortune* directly in response to a recent article about the close, routine and expanding relationship between the Federal Bureau of Investigation Hostage Rescue Team (HRT) and the U.S. Army's highly classified Delta regiment (see "Black Suits,



author's files

America's New Internal-Security Forces

by James L. Pate

"They do a city each quarter," one Army source said. "The Pittsburgh operation was 'A' Squadron, the current CT [counterterrorism] squadron."

Citing public safety concerns, he disputed McGraw's assertion that participants in these exercises only use blank ammunition, and that there had been "no mishaps."

"The deal with helicopters flying in and playing soundtracks of gunfire?" the Army source posed. "That was to cover the real gunfire."

In downtown Miami, in an assault on

After a takedown exercise at an abandoned petroleum cracking plant near New Orleans, Delta had to pay the facility's corporate owner an additional \$95,000 to repair a three-front section of wall damaged in an explosion.

Extra-Legal Law Enforcement?

More troubling is that these internal security exercises by Delta, which double as liaison and training missions to local law enforcement, are not bound by restrictions against involvement in civilian law enforcement that apply to most military units. As reported in the referenced article in the August issue of *SOF*, Delta is exempted from the *Posse Comitatus* Act by a classified portion of Presidential Decision Directive No. 25 (PDD-25) signed by President Clinton early in his administration.

Most disturbing, though, is the allegation that Delta, the Navy's SEAL Team Six and the Army's 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR 160) have been used occasionally to augment — in one alleged incident even replace — civilian lawmen involved in federal-prison barricade situations.

These claims were made by four separate sources, three in two branches of the military, and the fourth in civilian law enforcement. Among other allegations,

they say PDD-25's classified exemption for the *Posse Comitatus* Act covers not just Delta, but its higher command, the Joint Special Operations Command. JSOC is headquartered at Fort Bragg and accountable only to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the president.

McGraw denied that the Pittsburgh operation was anything except what was initially reported, and routinely declined to speak about Delta.

Secreted behind berms and two rows of 10-foot security fences ringing its six-mile perimeter, Delta's \$75 million headquarters building is located on the old Range 19 complex at Fort Bragg.

"The Pentagon still refuses to publicly

acknowledge that Delta Force even exists," veteran Pentagon journalist Douglas C. Waller wrote in his book, *The Commandos: The Inside Story of America's Secret Soldiers*.

"It's a somewhat silly subterfuge," Waller wrote. "A visitor can walk into offices at the U.S. Special Operations Command at Tampa and find coffee mugs sporting the secret Delta Force logo: a kelly green triangle inlaid with a white dagger and another gold triangle."

The anonymous assertions that the Pittsburgh incident, and others, were Delta training missions are lent further credence by Waller's chapter on the unit, in which he recounts "one exercise [in which] Delta commandos... use[d] an abandoned Los Angeles jail. ..." Abandoned hospitals and office buildings have also been used, said SOF's sources.

"Ken McGraw's

lot of time. And a lot of money.

"They send an ADVON (advance team) down about a month before," one source said. "The ADVON gets with the local SWAT teams. It's very close-hold until it starts to go down, and then they issue a discreet heads-up."

In the Pittsburgh case, McGraw told *The Washington Times*, the Army notified the police and civilians in the "immediate vicinity," but didn't "put out any broad, sweeping statement that covers everybody. We don't want to unnecessarily alarm people. ... And we don't want ... a lot of people wanting to observe the training. ..."

The sources said site selection and timing are crucial.

Ryder Trucks Full Of Explosives

"The ADVON will link with the SWAT team, drive around the city and conduct site selection for abandoned buildings whose owners agree to rent them out as temporary training facilities," one said. "Typically, it's an abandoned or sparsely populated industrial area."

Once a site selection is made,

There have been "some foul-ups," he said, citing the Miami incident.

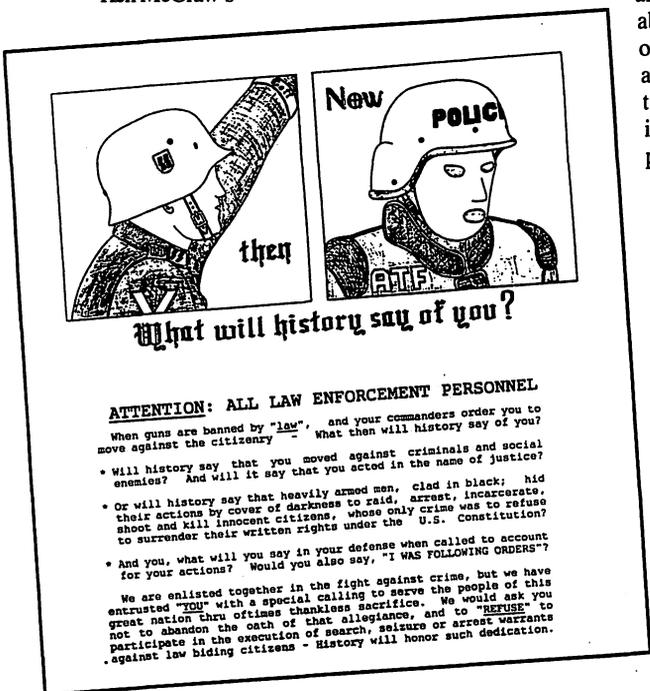
"One of the key elements deployed with the ADVON and the assault team is the counterintelligence (CI) unit. They have badges and plenty of cash for contingency problems."

"If anything untoward happens, they flip the badges and suggest that it would be helpful to God and country to keep your mouth shut. They'll blanket a small area. And, if necessary, they might bribe or threaten someone to keep them quiet. There's accountability for the money, presumably, but it's very secret internal accountability, and no outside oversight."

Counter-intelligence?

In the Miami incident, "the CI people were there almost immediately" after the errant bullet plunged through the wall of the all-night business and pinged through a street-front window. "They flipped their badges, pleaded national security, made some vague threats and passed around some loot. It's the old force-and-fraud thing. Shut up, and here's some cash for your trouble."

Then there are the allegations of JSOC assets, such as Delta, SEAL Team 6 and SOAR 160, being



Although very good at what they do, and mission-oriented, some within the new internal security establishment have misgivings about their mission since the federal fiascoes at Waco et al. These impromptu leaflets were dropped over Florida by a SOAR 160 pilot, but went unnoticed.

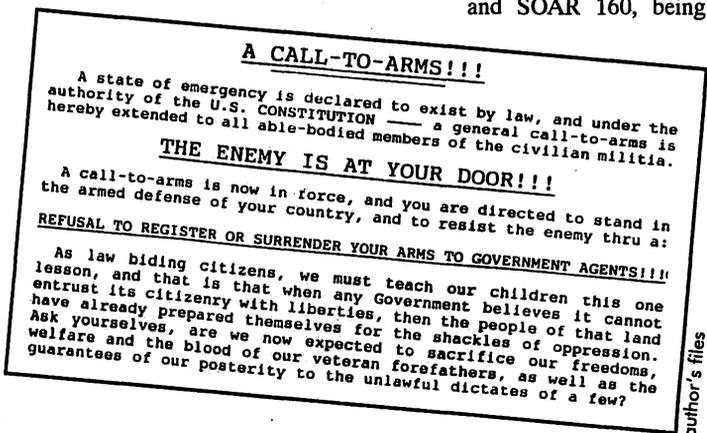
response to the incident in Pittsburgh was a total cover," said the USSOC source. "Nothing was cancelled. They routinely use the Green Beret ruse to mask Delta. But it's not Army Special Forces. A lot of the guys in Delta now have never been in Special Forces."

Waller describes in his book how, "twice a year, Delta's administrative staff makes a secret visit to St. Louis, Missouri, to pour over military records at the Army's main personnel center." While Delta recruiters closely evaluate Green Berets and Rangers, they also, "depending on what special skills are needed...at the moment... review the files of soldiers from other branches. ..."

The urban training missions take a

Delta sends up rental trucks packed with ordnance, weapons and other gear, all driven by teams of Delta operatives. Once they arrive, the building is set up for whatever training scenario has been selected, preparation that includes bullet traps in windows, hallways and behind doors.

"They try to pick a time when it'll be quiet," he said. "Early in the week is good. The other Delta guys will infiltrate by private vehicle, commercial air. They're filtered in. Stay at hotels, in safe-houses, whatever the ADVON has set up. And they link up with the local SWAT guys... This is where you get some of the black helicopter tales... They only do it once. There is no rehearsal on the actual target site.... They're doing live-fire exercises."



"loaned" to the Department of Justice in isolated incidents to defuse hostage-barricade situations in federal prison.

A military source at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, described in some detail a federal prison riot in Talledega, Alabama, in 1988. He said SOAR 160, then known as Task Force 160, provided the tactical insertion for the takedown team. That team, he said, was a Navy SEAL team, probably SEAL Team 6.

"HRT was standing aside. There was controversy about Posse Comitatus within the unit, especially among our pilots," the Army aviation source said. "There was a lot of question about whether they should do that or not."

That's not the only time military intervention has been considered to quell a disturbance at the federal prison in Talledega, said another military source, this one at Quantico, Virginia, familiar with the close-knit relationship between the FBI's HRT and elite military commando teams.

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HELL ON WHEELS

Terrorists Deal Death In Bloody Dhahran

If any doubt remained about President Bill Clinton's careless attitude toward the well-being of his rank-and-file military troops, it should have been blown away in the tanker-truck bombing that killed 19 U.S. servicemen and wounded another 547 near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia on 25 June.

The bombing of the Khobar Towers residential complex leaves yet another black mark against Clinton's fondness for choosing military leaders better known for their blind loyalty and political expediency than their dedication to troop welfare. As the facts trickled out, there were calls on Capitol Hill for Defense Secretary William Perry's resignation.

The Khobar bomb, packed in a fuel tanker, was estimated at about 5,000 pounds, 20 percent bigger than the Oklahoma City bomb. The method of deployment was similar:

A crater 30 feet deep and 50 across scars the desert in front of the devastated Air Force quarters in Dhahran, where 19 servicemen were killed and 547 wounded by a tanker-truck bomb.

The truck parked as close as possible, less than 100 feet in this case, to the target building. Building 131's floors at Khobar Towers, located along the complex's narrow northern perimeter, pancaked as they collapsed to the ground, leaving a fractured and crumbling edifice that reminded many of Oklahoma's devastated Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Khobar is reminiscent of another of Clinton's foreign policy fiascoes, one that left 18 U.S. soldiers dead and 84 wounded in Somalia in October 1993, when commanders put pol-

itics ahead of the lives of U.S. fighting forces. More worried about not offending Clinton's comrades at the United Nations, who might have been miffed if savage Somali gangsters got what they deserved, U.S. commanders *refused* to rescue surrounded U.S. troops with helicopter gunships, which were poised five minutes away, rotors turning.

The scandal ultimately forced

Clinton's first defense secretary, Les Aspin, to resign. Aspin's successor, Perry, should do the same, critics say.

Dust from the Khobar bombing had barely settled before Pentagon officials, led by Perry, began a damage control campaign of blame-diversion, obfuscation, selective disclosure and lame excuses. They had the tactical disadvantage of having to defend their negligence in the light



Road to ruin: access road on south side of complex approaching Gate 5, manned by U.S. and Saudi guards, which snakes through concrete "Jersey barriers" another 400-500 yards to complex itself. There had been above-ground bunker with HMG position just past these barriers, but it was removed after Gulf War.

author's files

of an earlier terrorist bombing aimed at U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia just seven months before.

A Warning Shot Ignored

On 13 November 1995, five Americans and two Indian nationals were killed in Riyadh when a 200-pound car bomb was detonated. Even then, an Air Force Office of Special Investigation (OSI) study on the heels of that bombing was severely flawed, failing to grasp the magnitude of the threat. Despite an almost total lack of knowledge about Saudi militants, the study concluded that terrorists inside Saudi Arabia could not make a bomb larger than 200 pounds.

While the need to expand the security perimeter around Khobar Towers was recognized in the OSI report, such an expansion was not among the 39 recommendations. The report concluded — incorrectly, experts say — that the 80-foot buffer between the northern perimeter and the closest building, 131, was sufficient.

The Pentagon also failed to attach enough significance to repeated anonymous threats to the U.S. Embassy by Islamic extremist groups in Saudi Arabia. To top it all off, the Defense Intelligence Agency issued a warning of major security flaws at Khobar Towers eight days before the bombing



Staff Sgt. Alfredo Guerrero, left, and Sgt. Gason Coll address a news conference in Dhahran three days after the blast that killed 19 of their fellow servicemen. Guerrero, pulling security duty on the roof of the building, is credited with saving many lives through his alertness and quick action in sounding the alarm when he observed two men drive up the truck and quickly get in a waiting car.



— a warning Perry conveniently neglected to mention in his public statements and U.S. Senate testimony.

Further confirming the negligence of the Pentagon's top brass was the admission by Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon that the DIA alert on Khobar had been distributed to Perry, his assistant secretaries, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General John Shalikashvili and many others; so many, in fact, that the distribution list was 14 pages long. The report was *not* included in an intelligence briefing Shalikashvili gave Perry only days before the Khobar bombing.

Trying to put his bosses in a better light, Bacon inadvertently damned Pentagon leadership further for their neglect of troop safety: "Typically, top officials ... do not read these reports," Bacon said.

If nothing else, Pentagon leaders failed to heed the lessons of 15 years of bloody experience in the Middle East. This is, after all, the region where terrorist have killed the most U.S. troops to die in a single day since World War II. A suicide truck bomber killed 241 Marines at their airport command post just outside Beirut in October 1983. That bomb, estimated to have contained 12,000 pounds of TNT, collapsed a



shared with investigators from two Senate committees, armed services and intelligence, indicates that some security measures in place during the war, such as above-ground bunkers and heavy machine-gun positions, had been eliminated by the U.S. command before the recent bombing.

Not A Time To Relax

This flies in the face of Terrorism 101. It is folly to think that the terrorist threat from a ruthless foe such as Saddam Hussein, who has *not* been tied to the Khobar

Two days after the 25 June blast, FBI investigators examine assembled remains of the truck believed to have carried the bomb, estimated at from 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of ANFO.

bombing at this writing, would decrease after his defeat in a conventional war. That's when the terrorism threat typically *will* increase.

Military brass must have recognized the threat on some level. For instance, when Lieutenant General

unnamed senior Air Force official told *The New York Times*, despite the more recent success of bombs placed near, but not inside, the target buildings, such as at Oklahoma City and Riyadh.

U.S. military leaders in Saudi Arabia apparently had been lulled into a false sense of security since the end of the Gulf

Gus Pagonis visited Khobar Towers for a USO show in the fall of 1991, six months after the Gulf War's end, security in the complex was quadrupled, sources told *SOF*, with armed guards and observers perched on every rooftop, and Saudi security personnel surrounded the perimeter. Too bad everyday GI Joes are not afforded such priority.

Despite persistent urging from uniformed security forces, who did take measures after the November bombing in Riyadh to enhance the security posture within the confines of the existing configuration, adequate measures were not taken to avert damage from an exploding vehicle bomb.

Two weeks after the November bombing, nine Air Force OSI agents began a security assessment of other U.S. installations in Saudi Arabia. Three of those agents focused solely on the Khobar Tower complex, assisted by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In January, based on OSI's assessment, the Pentagon issued a classified report recommending 39 specific steps for the commanders, Air Force Colonel Gary Boyle and Brigadier General T. J. Schwalier, to

The day after the blast, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, center, and Prince Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, left, tour the site of the bombing.



multi-story reinforced concrete building used as a barracks by the Marines.

After the Beirut bombing, in which the truck bomber drove through flimsy barricades and barged in the building's lobby before detonating his deadly cargo, an analytical report by the Pentagon stressed the need for an expanded security perimeter. But such a Beirut-style, break-in bombing continued to occupy security planners, one

War with Iraq, according to security personnel who had worked at Khobar Towers, some during the war and others who served there as recently as this year, who were interviewed by *Soldier Of Fortune*.

Photographic evidence obtained from a military source by *SOF*, subsequently

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With the U.S. scheduled

to turn over control of the Canal Zone on 31 December 1999, it's difficult to tell whether Panama is on the verge of "dog days" or the best of times. On the one hand, the Americans may be leaving. But on the other, fear many Panamanians, so may be the only real steady source of support, military or financial. Put another way, so, too, may be leaving the only country, neighboring or otherwise, which seems to care one

way or another about Panama.

For there just isn't much to write home about. Aside from the Canal, which was Washington's price in 1903 for supporting an independence movement that broke away from Colombia, and a few odds and ends (a great jungle warfare school), what else is there? That's a tad unfair but more or less the way it is.

The economy is one large service sector (70% of GDP), the jobs coming princi-

pally from the Canal and its American infrastructure, banking, insurance, the trans-isthmus pipeline, and a free trade zone. Little is actually produced. Unemployment consequently is high, foreign debt even higher — more than \$5 billion, which is a healthy figure for a small country of just 2.5 million in 29,775 square miles — an anemic South Carolina in size and population. The American dollar is the legal currency.

South-Of-The-Border SpecOps

Yanqui, Don't Go Home?

by Dr. Tom Marks

Leif Skoogfors/ZUMA



Since the turn of the century, the U.S. has maintained military presence in Panama, first to facilitate its construction then to maintain security through two world wars, later as a regional strategic point — and more recently to maintain the security of Panama itself.



Leif Skoogfors/ZUMA

As the U.S. military presence — or at least the profile thereof — draws down, SpecOps forces comprise a greater percentage of this smaller force.

Lately, there are disturbing signs that too many of those dollars have come from the old bugaboo, drugs, that led to Operation Just Cause and the ouster of Panamanian dictator (and longtime CIA informant/helpmate) Manuel Noriega. Key members of the government — now headed, for those who may be forgiven for having missed the most recent elections, by President Ernesto Perez Balladares — have been implicated in both the resurgence of the narcotics trade and money laundering.

A leading vault, which has been the focus of U.S. efforts to curb the dirty money trade, Agro-Industrial and Commercial Bank, or Banaico, collapsed earlier this year, leaving unaccounted-for more than \$50 million. Among its key figures was the director of Panama's National Defense and Public Security Council!

As if this wasn't enough, the drug trade has clearly spilled over into even the ticklish area of national sovereignty. Panama's Darien Province, located at the

country's eastern-most extreme, borders on the very area of Colombia that has long been a stronghold for everyone from the Medellin drug cartel, to several vibrant insurgent movements such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN). Undeveloped and covered with thick jungle canopy, Darien has in many respects been ceded to the outsiders. They use it, in the case of the druggies, as a transit zone; in the case



Gary Kieffer/ZUMA

For decades, the location, climate, topography of Panama made it ideal as a training base for American troops rotating through jungle schools et al. — now SOF troops train and deploy with Panamanian forces.

of the guerrillas, as a base area, especially for R&R.

The Best Of Times?

The possible up-side to all this? Where there's demand, there's a market — and the Panamanian "service economy" may not be quite dead in a security sense. When you have little else to peddle, make a commercial virtue of your misfortune.

The days may be gone when a good-sized, theater-wide war effort was waged from the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in the Canal Zone, but Darien's dilemma serves to highlight the continuing battle against narcotics in Latin America and the important, substantial role played by American forces.

Though President Clinton has already announced (last year) that Panama-based SOUTHCOM will move to a site south of Miami in 1998, behind-the-scenes negotiations continue, in an effort to maintain some sort of U.S. military presence in Panama. Down from a previous normal strength of 12,000 to approximately 7,500, the American presence remains important in both an economic and security sense. Thus the Panamanians are keen to strike some sort of bargain.

Some residual nationalist feeling remains in opposition to the U.S. role, but largely gone are the days of open America-bashing fanned by the left-leaning populism of dictator Omar Torrijos Herrera (killed in a July 1981 air crash, his place was taken by Noriega, though at times the latter used front men as formal holders of power). It was Torrijos who maneuvered U.S. President Jimmy Carter into the 1977 treaty whereby Washington relinquished the rights it held "in perpetuity" to the Canal Zone.

One of his favored weapons was the

staged anti-American demonstration. Just Cause and its suppression of the goon squads of the dictatorship — organized and more heavily armed by Noriega as so-called Dignity Battalions — ended that facade. American forces were able to return to a role more rewarding than confrontation with thugs. It was U.S. troops, for instance, which were instrumental in putting down a post-Noriega coup attempt against the fledgling democratic government.

Real Soldiers In Drug War

Less well-known has been their increased profile in the anti-narcotics effort. With U.S. regular forces quickly removed in the wake of Just Cause, the vacuum was filled by some 600 Special Forces personnel tasked with administering what was in effect half of Panama. Almost simultaneously, expanded funding and commitment of resources (especially for intelligence gathering and dissemination), led to U.S. military teams and small troop units accompanying "drug-war training patrols"

in Latin American countries such as Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia.

In Panama itself, while Special Forces personnel engaged primarily in what is known now as "foreign internal defense" (FID), and eventually drew down to a much smaller number, other SF troopers became more directly involved in the drug war. Some moved into, among other areas, Darien. Though ostensibly present for "training" — who can quibble with the term? — the SF teams wore sanitized uniforms and kit, and performed all the tasks associated with reconnaissance and interdiction. Offshore, in all Panamanian waters, U.S. naval assets were given authority to operate freely in an anti-drug role so long as a Panamanian official was aboard.

All of these activities, of course, throughout Panama and Latin America, were frequently denied by the Americans but in reality run from SOUTHCOM, with the SF and associated assets coordinated by SOCSOUTH (SOC = Special Operations Command). The effort has con-



Bill Gentile/ZUMA

Although SOUTHCOM is scheduled to move to Florida, permanent cadre will remain to protect mutual security interests in Panama.



Bill Gentile/ZUMA

American SOF troops train and deploy in, around and out of Panama to counter increasing activity by druggies and new revolutionary groups.

Special Operations Forces: An Assessment

by John M. Collins

(National Defense University Press, Washington, D.C., 1994, 189 pages with index)

Special Operations Forces are again a topic on the front burner. In this volume — *Special Operations: An Assessment, 1986-1993* is apparently the complete title (different versions may be found on pp. V and VI, respectively) — John Collins, senior military analyst for the U.S. Congressional Research Service, provides a cogent, succinct summary useful to both the professional and scholar. Eight chapters and four appendices give everything from recent history to organizational details and terminology. The whole culminates in a valuable discussion of problems and suggestions.

Collins' presentation is especially well-served by an approach that places organizational and operational detail within historical context. This highlights the degree to which present posture, missions, and manning are often only compromises. The degree to which the military itself has steadfastly resisted efforts to maintain forces dedicated specifically to special operations is a sobering reminder that neither political nor military reality will necessarily drive the bureaucratic imperatives of the national defense establishment.

A similar dynamic has been noted in recent scholarship dealing with security concerns as diverse as strategy and tactical doctrine. No national entity, in fact, has been immune to the often self-defeating dynamic of bureaucracy. Fortunately, in a surprising development, the U.S. military has, thus far, been rescued from itself through Congressional intercession. Even this, however, as Collins ably demonstrates, may be a short-lived victory (because particular personalities move on or pass on) if new structures and procedure initiatives do not develop a bureaucratic inertia of their own.

Though he never gets around to saying as much explicitly, Collins frames his discussion in such

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continued to this day. Some "business" in Panama, in other words, continues to boom, though it is certainly of a very particular type.

"Operations Other Than War"

SOC SOUTH plays a prominent role because of the central tasking given special operations forces in this new type of war (see accompanying review). After kicking around any number of terms — of which "LIC" or low-intensity conflict, was the most long-lived — the inelegant OOTW, or "Operations Other Than War," came out in a field manual. If nothing else, this served notice that all of the "other tasks," previously largely peripheral to

Central America



Even were its canal not an exposed jugular of world commerce, Panama would have great strategic importance today for its location as a choke-point for drug traffic.

military existence, could no longer be taken for granted in the military. An "Urgent Fury" (1983) or a "Just Cause" (1989) or a "Desert Storm" (1991) were still the ultimate test; meantime, "other" struggles went on. One of the most long-lived and nastiest has been the drug war.

Just how corrosive narcotics have become is fairly well known from hit films, with *Clear And Present Danger* providing a reasonably accurate overview of the game in Latin America. Allowing for the hype and the sinister "our government is evil" plot, the particulars aren't badly done. They portray vividly the extent to which the resources of a group such as the Colombian drug cartels have grown so extensive that the very integrity (and existence) of the state can be threatened.

Americans received a chilling reminder of this fact as the details of Noriega's activities in concert with the cartels trickled out, post-December 1989. Leaving

without comment the red underwear and porn collection, the most sobering realization for most was the extent to which a society could be brutalized as it was turned into a personal fiefdom by a thug who knew where the money was.

The CIA played its own misguided part in first building up, then sustaining, the tyrant. But it was the drug cartels who made him a player.

And it was drugs that led to his downfall. Too many of them found their way to Florida. For even as Washington continued to ignore Noriega's transgressions, it was Florida's persistence that ultimately led to the Panamanian strongman's indictment for drug trafficking, in February 1988, by

several federal grand juries.

It is with some irony, then, that negotiations go on now to keep a U.S. presence, even as charges again surface of Panamanian government involvement in narcotics activity. Though hard data on the dirty players is ever-harder to come by, Washington has recently (March 1996) again certified that Panama itself has been a good soldier in the anti-drug fight.

A National Relapse?

As the allegations noted above indicate, that remains to be seen. What is certain is that at least some elements in the country are up to Noriega-like activities. In early 1995, a cargo ship bound for Ecuador, as it was being searched by Panamanian authorities at the port of Colon, was rocked by an explosion amidst concealed weapons. Members of the Technical

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Camp Hale, World War II training base for the 10th Mountain Division, near the small mining town of

War antagonists backed away from such large-scale brawls until, nearly alone, the United States entered the slippery slope

into Vietnam the following decade. By mutual, if unspoken, agreement both East and West turned instead to the more dis-

The Flame That Flickered And Died

The CIA Smuggles Surrogate Soldiers From Tibet To Colorado — For A War That Never Was

by Col. Michael E. Haas (Ret.)

Leadville, Colo., had been dormant since the war that was to have made the world safe for democracy. But now, teams of hardy Asian freedom fighters, secretly flown from the Himalayas to the Rocky Mountains under the nose of an advancing "People's Liberation Army," were training to defend their small Kingdom. What strange twist of history had brought these guerrillas from the remote mountains of Asia to the remote mountains of North America?

After a brief honeymoon following the defeat of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, a new contest began between East and West, where nearly continuous dirty little wars were fought through surrogates as the West attempted to contain Communist expansion without getting on the front page, and the Communists fought "wars of liberation" to expand their sphere of influence.

If anything good came out of the Korean War, perhaps it was that after nearly two and a half million casualties between Communist and United Nations forces, the Cold

Tough face, tougher war. No quarter was given or asked by Tibet's Khamda and Amdo tribesmen, the rugged breed who live in what one 19th century traveler called "the most frightening desert in the world."



By arrangement/agreement with author and book publisher

Courtesy Michel Peissel, *The Secret War in Tibet*

crete but equally vicious “war in the shadows” competition that became a hallmark of the Cold War era.

These surrogate wars were in effect a series of continual feints and probes as the Communists worked unceasingly to see which states might be ripe for internal conquest by revolution, and the West poured resources into small countries that either

stered where and when required by supporting military “special operations,” or “*spetsialnoye nakhacheniye*” forces as the Soviets called such operatives. In the United States such operations often tasked the Air Force with transportation support for the CIA’s covert involvement in a number of anti-Communist rebellions and resistances, including one of the remotest

Khamda and Amdo tribes, a predictably tough people with a long and proud guerrilla warrior tradition. It was a tradition that would serve them well, initially, when the unwelcome Communist visitors from the lowlands came to “liberate” them in 1950.

Hope And Help From Afar

When China’s Chairman Mao ordered his People’s Liberation Army (PLA) into Tibet that year, the army entered through the forbidding Chambo region, the desert home of these fiercely independent tribesmen. In response to the Chinese invasion, Tibet’s highest spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, responded in Buddhist tradition with only passive resistance. So did the desert tribes — at first. But within a few short years the heavy-handed Chinese occupation managed to provoke a rebellion among the Khamda and Amdo, who became instant and notorious celebrities as “bandits” to the Chinese propaganda machine.

Much to China’s dismay, they rebelled with such ferocity that by 1957 the vastly superior Chinese invasion forces found themselves fighting an 80,000-strong, horse-mounted guerrilla army that seemed to ride off the pages of a Rudyard Kipling poem. But if the Chinese were dismayed, they still held what they believed to be a trump card in their bloody game. With the brutal geography of Tibet itself making outside western support to the guerrillas all but impossible, beating the guerrillas seemed only a matter of time.

In responding to the Eisenhower administration’s 1957 decision to provide support to the Tibetan resistance, the CIA had to overcome a seemingly insurmountable geographical obstacle. Anxious to not provoke its powerful neighbor to the north, the Indian government was not about to let the United States use India as an anti-Communist guerrilla base. Long



Courtesy Michel Peissel, *The Secret War in Tibet*

England’s 19th century Imperial Army would have recognized this horse-mounted guerrilla as a tough adversary. So, too, with dismay, did the Communist Chinese People’s Liberation Army of the 1950s when at one point they faced a guerrilla army of 80,000, largely trained and supplied by the West.

By arrangement/agreement with author and book publisher

might be saved for democracy or at least salvaged as a non-democratic but anti-Communist ally.

To fight these covert wars both U.S. and Soviet leaders turned primarily to their intelligence agencies for cadre and combatants who could operate actively and effectively — but covertly, and with plausible denial. To meet these new roles both the CIA and KGB respectively developed some formidable paramilitary capabilities. These paramilitary units were in turn bol-

and darkest of these shadow wars, which ranged from central Asia to the South Pacific, to Colorado.

The barren and freezing mountain kingdom of Tibet, on Communist China’s southwestern flank, is by anyone’s reckoning a long way from anywhere else. One 19th Century traveler recorded his impression of the unforgiving terrain as “the most frightening desert in the world.” Incredibly, people lived in this desert wasteland. They were the proud

range, covert air support was the only alternative, but the aircraft and expertise requirements exceeded anything within the inventory of the Agency’s proprietary airlines. Where to get the air support it needed?

The last of the active-duty Air Resupply & Communications (ARC) Groups (the 1950s USAF special operations force) had been de-activated the previous year. One of the only two remaining USAF troop carrier squadrons (medium)

(special) still dedicated to special operations was based on Okinawa, but its aircraft didn't have the required performance. And neither for that matter did the special operations Air National Guard units based stateside.

The necessary expertise was found within the intelligence community itself, in the form of a select group of both young and experienced USAF officers seconded to intelligence duties. A few of these "on-loan" officers were assigned to Detachment 2, 1045th Observation, Evaluation & Training Group on Okinawa. While most on this small team were new to the paramilitary warfare business, their commander had already established himself as a formidable unconventional war fighter and leader during the Korean War.

Major "Heinie" Aderholt's Korean War combat experience in special air missions (see "Aderholt's

In Tibet, guerrilla war was waged at altitudes above those where pilots wear oxygen masks: there is a reason Tibet is often called "the roof of the world." Covert American support to Tibet's anti-Communist resistance placed the most extreme demands imaginable on both men and equipment.

Air Commandos" Aug. '96) proved especially useful to the young group assembled on Okinawa. Remaining for multiple tours with the Agency after the war, Aderholt now commanded the CIA/USAF detachment, and was soon to become one of the most influential (and controversial) air commandos in Southeast Asia. But that was to come later, and for the moment the high-altitude, high-risk flights to Tibet demanded the most from the skills and experience he had accumulated during years of service in the black world of intelligence operations.

Long-Range War

The reality of supporting a covert operation in Tibet proved a daunting task for the detachment's planners. There is a reason why Tibet is often referred to as the "roof of the world," a country in which the "lowlands" are found at 14,000 feet! Fundamental to the entire problem was simply finding a transport aircraft with adequate range and payload performance to operate under these extreme conditions.

Prior to 1959, Det 2's largest aircraft, a four-engine C-118 transport, had been frequently "loaned" to the Civil Air Transport (CAT), a CIA proprietary airline operating throughout Asia. And CAT had indeed been busy in Asia during the earlier stages of the Cold War. According to the highest ranking USAF special operations officer at the time, Brigadier General Edward Lansdale, CAT had by 1959 completed "more than 200 overflights of Mainland China and Tibet."

For the extreme-range flights to Tibet, the C-118 was loaded on Okinawa with Communist-bloc weapons and supplies

this solitary C-118's power limitations at Tibet's extreme altitudes limited its payload to an unsatisfactory 9,000 pounds per flight. And even with this limited payload, the loss of just one of the C-118's engines over Tibet's jagged mountains would make the loss of the aircraft and its American crew virtually inevitable; taking with them in the process any hope the United States could maintain the politically necessary "plausible denial" of this covert support. By early 1959 the inadequacy of the C-118 had become so obvious to all, that top priority was placed on finding a replace-



U.S. Air Force

already rigged for paradrop over guerrilla strongholds in southeastern Tibet. On a typical Tibet mission the transport would leave Okinawa, stop off at Clark Air Base in the Philippines to pick up fuel and long-range communications specialists, then overfly Indochina enroute to an abandoned British airfield located in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). From there the CAT/Air America (CAT changed its name to Air America in 1959), crews would take the C-118 on the final run north into Tibet.

By 1958 the Tibetan resistance movement was growing dramatically, outstripping in the process the inadequate air support provided by Det 2's sole C-118. Worse still,

ment aircraft.

The new Lockheed C-130 transport just coming off the production lines was the obvious choice for this operation. With four powerful turbine-powered propellers

For the extreme-range flights to Tibet, the C-118 was loaded on Okinawa with Communist-bloc weapons and supplies already rigged for paradrop over guerrilla strongholds in southeastern Tibet.

and a range of more than 5,000 miles with a 20,000 pound payload, it was (and arguably still is) the best long-range tactical transport in the world. And if the right

strings could be pulled, the 130s could be made available in the required numbers. Already in hot demand throughout the Air Force, the only C-130s then available in the

and swap-out with Air America aircrews flying the final leg over Tibet. First one, then as many as three C-130s would arrive at Takhli prior to the all-important monthly "full-moon windows."

The arriving USAF crews would return immediately to home base in another aircraft, leaving behind Det 2, CIA, and Air America personnel along with the trained Tibetan guerrillas awaiting airdrop back into Tibet. With the passage of time Det 2's self-confidence,

common sense and imagination overcame every obstacle to provide the publicly invisible but all-critical air support. And it did so without the loss of a single aircraft

tion, the Air America aircrews flew the C-130s northwest from northern Thailand, flying across inadequately chartered mountainous terrain with no reliable navigation aids save the navigator's celestial plotting skills. To further mask the flights from possible Chinese fighter intercept, all missions were flown at night, during the 10-day "moon windows" that allowed at least some visual reference with the dark terrain below. Monsoon weather restricted the program still further, to dry-season only flights.

From Tibet To Leadville, Colorado

While the night and remote terrain factors helped avoid detection, they obviously complicated efforts to find the easiest routes in and out of Tibet. One Det 2 mission planner recalls assembling old French maps in which the same river, running across different map sections, was disjointed by miles when the map sections were brought together. To execute these high risk missions, the contract aircrews were paid the remarkably low sum of \$350 for a "routine[!] high risk" mission; \$500 "if unusual hazards" were involved.

A typical mission might carry a number of weapons and supply pallets rigged for

The arriving USAF crews would return immediately to home base in another aircraft, leaving behind Det 2, CIA, and Air America personnel along with the trained Tibetan guerrillas awaiting airdrop back into Tibet.

Pacific were assigned to the USAF's 315th Air Division based in Japan.

To tap discrete Air Force C-130 support for Tibet, the CIA approached the Office of



U.S. Air Force

Slowing to paratroop air-speed in the thin air of Tibet's 14,000-foot "lowlands" demanded the best airmanship from Air America crews flying sterilized USAF transports on these hazardous missions. Tibetan guerrillas with training in the Philippines, Saipan or Colorado returned to their homeland via parachute and "skyboats," as they called the C-130s.

Special Operations (OSO), the division within the Office of Secretary of Defense charged with providing military support to the intelligence community. Pressing the national priority of their operation, the intelligence spokesmen soon obtained the necessary Air Force response. And as the operations tempo increased, so did Det 2's workload and reputation.

Finding Allies With Airfields

The old airfield in East Pakistan, with its short runway, was abandoned as a launch point in favor of much better facilities located in northern Thailand, at Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base. Under the direction of Aderholt's men, USAF C-130s began flying into Takhli for removal of all visible U.S. insignia fuselage markings

or crew during the entire campaign. Which is not to say there weren't bumps along the way.

Prior to the return of the aircraft to Air Force control, the sterilized C-130s were secretly "re-Americanized" inside a hangar with the application of U.S. insignia decals on the fuselage. On one particular occasion a behind-schedule mission necessitated a take-off from Takhli only a short time after the decals had been applied. As the C-130 roared down the runway in Thailand's oppressive humidity, horrified Det 2 officers watched as the U.S. stars and bars decals slid back along the fuselage, finally falling away altogether as the plane lifted off the runway!

To reduce the chance of Chinese detec-

airdrop, along with a small (half-dozen) team of Tibetans who had completed their parachute training in the Philippines. It was a measure of the difficulty of these missions that on occasion they exceeded even the extreme long-range capability of the C-130. If shifting winds or mechanical problems caused mission deviations, discrete diplomatic arrangements allowed continued use of the old airfield in East Pakistan.

Not all of Det 2's special operations were performed in southern Asia. As early as 1957, USAF transports began flying Tibetan guerrilla recruits, many who had never even seen an airplane before, from East Pakistan to a special CIA training facility on Saipan, one of the U.S.-administered islands in the Marianas. To main-

tain the required security of the Saipan facility, flight plans into the island were filed with flight-following facilities as merely overwater navigation training — with the aircraft dipping down below radar observation level to make the run into Saipan. Low-level routes were used on take-off, climbing to radar-effective levels once safely away from the island. On Saipan, the Tibetans were put through map reading and radio communications training, capped with the previously mentioned parachute training before their airborne insertion back into Tibet.

By 1959 Det 2 was also organizing flights that took carefully screened guerrilla recruits all the way to Petersen Field, Colorado, located some

By anyone's reckoning, Tibet is a long way from anywhere else, and a lot higher than anywhere else — even its closest neighbors are held remote by the terrain. Exfil and infil of guerrillas before and after training, plus regular supply drops, made the multi-year covert air-support program a true test of Air Force men and equipment. Incredibly, not one aircraft was lost, despite extremes of weather, distance and terrain.

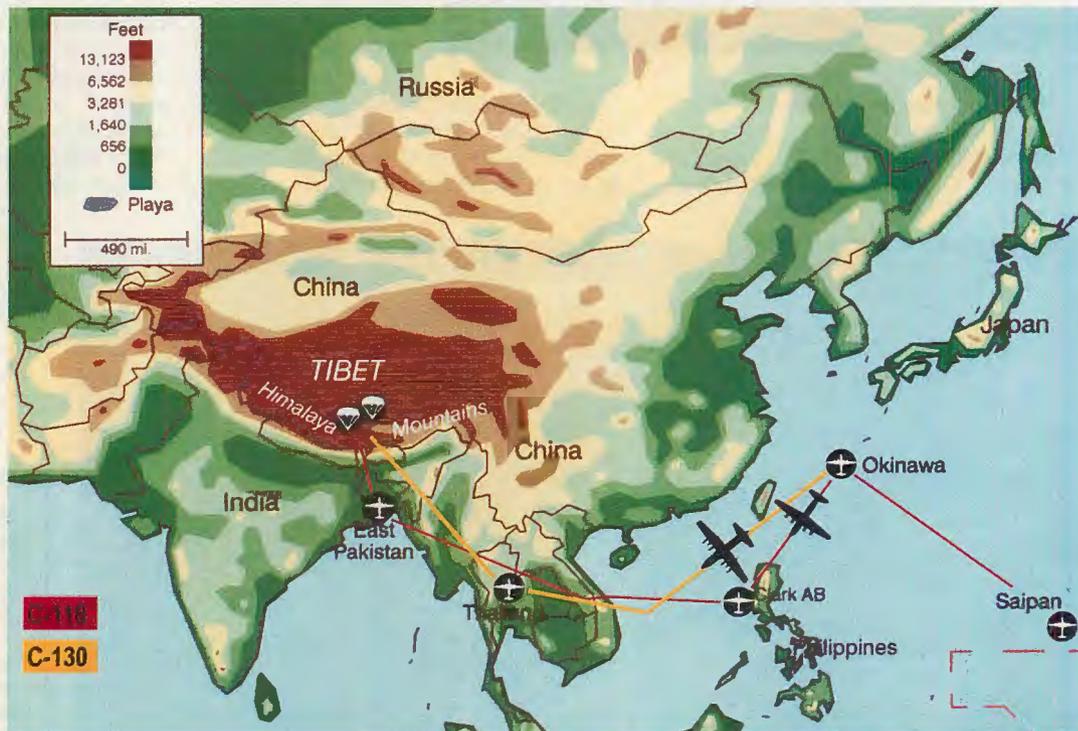
after they were parachuted from the “sky-boats,” as the guerrillas called the C-130s, onto Tibet's high-desert plateaus. When Tibet's most important religious leader, the Dalai Lama, finally fled his country in March, 1959, the Colorado-trained Tibetans played a key role in his escape. Even with their assistance, however, he came within a whisker of not making it.

Flight Of The Dalai Lama

When the ranking Chinese general in occupied Tibet learned of the religious leader's flight, he ordered his 50,000-man army to close all mountain passes to India

Chinese moved an entire air division into western China to threaten Det 2's essential night resupply airdrops. During this same period growing Indian and Burmese political pressures further restricted overflight routes, making the missions all but impossible. The downing of Gary Power's U-2 reconnaissance jet over Russia later that year, and President Eisenhower's subsequent decision to cease all overflights of Communist countries, eventually brought to an end the USAF special operations support of the Tibetan operation.

The Tibetan resistance flickered for years afterward. In one of the Cold



Map: Wayne Thompson

70 miles south of Denver. The airfield was, of course, only a transfer point for the Tibetans, who were immediately bussed higher into the Rocky Mountains to Camp Hale, a former World War II Army training site near the mining town of Leadville. There they were put through a demanding training curriculum including weapons, demolitions, communications and guerrilla tactics.

At an elevation of more than 10,000 feet, the former Army mountain troop training camp was as close to “home” as their U.S. advisers could hope to find for the mountain tribesmen. During field exercises at Hale the Tibetans astounded their trainers with their physical endurance, the agility with which they traversed the most difficult terrain ... and their passion for their U.S.-issued weapons. One Tibetan source estimated that between 1959 and 1962, about 170 Tibetans were passed through Camp Hale.

Following their training they were quickly flown back to Asia. Shortly there-

to block the Dalai Lama's escape. But with their intimate knowledge of the terrain, the Khamda guerrillas guided the group across the freezing 17,000 foot Che Pass, eluding Chinese patrols and setting up the clandestine air-resupply drops that were crucial to the success of the Dalai Lama's safe arrival in India, where he remains to this day.

By early 1960, the anti-Communist Tibet guerrilla movement was flourishing, with a string of tactical successes in the countryside. But in the face of these successes the Chinese responded with increasingly ruthless counter-insurgency tactics. Women and children, by now the only inhabitants left in many villages, were reportedly used as human shields in front of Chinese troops assaulting guerrilla strongholds and monasteries. In the face of such tactics and the overwhelming Chinese superiority in numbers and weapons, the rebellion inevitably began to falter.

Another blow came in 1960 when the

War's great ironies, the American support was replaced for a while by Russian airdrops to the Khadaffi and Amdo guerrillas, a fallout from the Sino-Soviet spat that marred Chinese-Soviet relations for years. As the years and the vast Chinese numerical superiority inevitably wore down an unsupported Tibetan resistance, the focus gradually shifted from guerrilla war in the mountains of Tibet to the current efforts by exiled Tibetan leaders to bring the issue of Tibetan independence before the United Nations for resolution.

Col. Michael E. Haas (USAF, Ret.) has served in Army SF, Ranger, Airborne, Aviation and PSYOPS, logging nearly a thousand combat hours as flight platoon commander and chopper jock in Vietnam. During his Air Force career, Haas served with SpecOps aviation and Special Tactics units, and commanded the Pararescue Squadron. ✕

From Camp Lisa, Vlasenica headquarters for the U.S. Army's 2nd Brigade, it's only about 25 kilometers south to the deceptively quiet, Bosnian Serb garrison town of Han Pijesak.

On a clear day, the brigade commander, Colonel John R.S. Batiste, can stand at Lisa's perimeter fence and almost see the 1500-meter mountains around Han Pijesak — the same solid granite covering the underground bunkers of Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) general and accused war criminal Ratko Mladic.

Mladic and his partner in crime, President Radovan Karadzic, are two of the world's most wanted men. They were indicted by the war-crimes tribunal in the Hague, Netherlands, on charges of murder, ethnic cleansing, the waging of war against civilians, and genocide. Political leaders from Europe to Washington have vocally supported the Hague tribunal and called for both men's immediate capture.

Easier Said Than Done

Wanted posters for the two men, along with some 50 lesser accomplices, hang

ALL MOUT AND NO MISSION

IFOR's Balkan Snatch-And-Grab

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

from the walls of every NATO Implementation Force (IFOR) headquarters, motor pool or billeting area. There isn't a soldier among the 60,000 troops in the multinational IFOR who has not been briefed on the matter. American patrols regularly cruise within grenade-tossing range of Han Pijesak's perimeter fence; other IFOR units routinely put up checkpoints at or near the driveway to Karadzic's office and home in the near-by Bosnian Serb capital, Pale (a Sarajevo suburb).

Yet as summer arrived in the Balkans,

Mladic and Karadzic still were free. The general remained in command and the president in office despite threats of international sanctions. Occasionally they thumbed their noses at the Hague, United Nations, and IFOR by making public appearances. How both men avoided capture became clear to me after a week of observing the "hunters" and the "hunted."

Between Rocks And Hard Places

"Whenever we actually enter the base [at Han Pijesak], which doubles as a designated IFOR heavy-weapons collection point, we call in advance," said the 2nd Brigade's press liaison, Sergeant Gary Younger. "It's a professional courtesy, a way for us to show that we aren't against [the Bosnian Serbs]."

I speculated that this "courtesy" allowed U.S. troops to avoid bumping into Mladic during a visit and having to arrest him — and provoke a firefight with every BSA unit in the area.

"Look, when we're told to go in [and arrest Mladic], then we'll go," Younger replied. "Those orders just haven't come in yet. Don't worry, when the time comes and we have to get him, we will."

I and another journalist, Army veteran Jim Bartlett, decided to push



U.S. Army 1st Armored Division scouts set up checkpoint near Han Pijesak village; platoon's four Humvees carry either a roof-mounted .50-caliber M2 heavy machine gun or 40mm MK 19 belt-fed grenade launcher (shown). Sergeant Kelly Endsley displays vehicle-identification manual he and 1st Lt. Dan Arakelian (left) consult when watching for Bosnian Serb military vehicles violating the Zone of Separation. (bottom) Scout platoon emerges from forest trail onto road near Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) post in Han Pijesak where General Mladic has underground bunker complex.



our luck and see how difficult it would be to enter the former Yugoslavian army base at Han Pijesak and then the presidential offices in Pale.

"There's only one road in and out, so watch your ass," a U.S. soldier yelled as we left Camp Lisa. We didn't need the advice; Bartlett and I knew full well that Mladic, Karadzic, and their subordinates were a dangerous bunch.

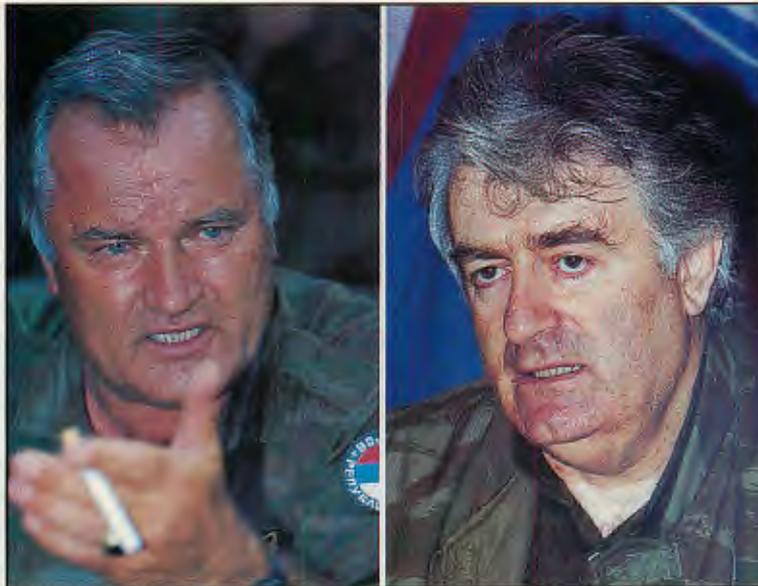
After 20 minutes of driving steep switchbacks, passing two burned-out 1984 Winter Olympics-era restaurants, we saw Han Pijesak. *Soldier Of Fortune's* Russian-made jeep, bearing Hungarian plates and IFOR emblems, entered unnoticed and — most importantly — unchal-

AP/Wide World

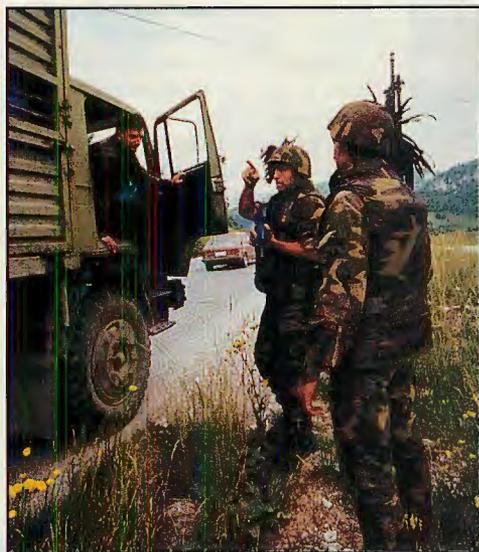
lenged by militiamen or BSA military police.

Signs in German, Russian and Serbo-Croatian warn foreigners not to stray off

"WANTED"



Bosnia Serb Gen. Ratko Mladic (left) and President Radovan Karadzic, indicted by International Criminal Tribunal for genocide against thousands of Muslim civilians during 1992-5, avoided NATO troops well into summer. U.S. Emissary Richard Holbrooke arrived mid-July in former Yugoslavia to confer with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic (influential among Bosnian Serbs) and presidents of Croatia and Bosnia, on Karadzic's removal from power.



the main road or photograph the BSA stronghold, now barely visible through a pine forest. A hundred or so unarmed BSA soldiers milled around two cafes on the town's main drag, too busy listening to European soccer quarter-finals to notice us.

Rather than driving boldly to the

accused war criminal seemed to be free to come and go.

We drove on for another 40 minutes, passing small farming villages and two mid-sized towns before entering Pale. At an intersection there was a checkpoint manned by 16 Italian *Bersaglieri* soldiers backed by a French *Panard* armored car with a 90mm gun.

"Not As Easy As It Sounds"

"If I see either man [Mladic or Karadzic], I will arrest him," said a Bersaglieri lieutenant. "Yes, I know what they look like."

The IFOR soldiers carefully eyed cars and trucks driving into Pale from the direction

(below) Italian *Bersaglieri* soldiers in Pale, a Sarajevo suburb, watch for trucks hauling war materiel or military vehicles violating peace accords. Italian officer, Lt. Massimo Carta (left foreground), carries folding-stock Beretta rifle, the 5.56x45mm SC70/90; enlisted men carry Beretta AR70/90 rifles; vehicle's gunner mans 7.62x51mm MG42/59 general-purpose machine gun. (left) Carta points to cargo area of truck, ordering it opened for inspection.



main gate and demanding the general come out and talk, we slowly drove through Han Pijesak, studying its layout. We passed seven run-down apartment houses and a mini-market on our way out of town and into a thinly forested area that became hilly pasture.

We won-

of Han Pijesak. On the other side of town, another 50 or so Bersaglieri manned two checkpoints. The lieutenant, who refused to identify himself, said the checkpoints were totally arbitrary, not based on any particular information.

"We're trying to spring a trap," he said, tapping his Beretta 5.56x45mm AR70/90 assault rifle. "We're trying to be so unroutine in our methods as to be effective. All orders come from [headquarters] in Sarajevo over the radio at the time the orders are issued. That way security is maintained."

"You know," the Italian officer said, "arresting Mladic and Karadzic isn't as easy as it sounds. First of all, there is only one road into Mladic's headquarters. It can be easily defended. The other thing is

"...arresting Mladic and Karadzic isn't as easy as it sounds."

that you would need about 1,000-2,000 highly trained airborne troops with helicopters and armor just to get into the base.

"Now, let's say you were able to get in," he continued. "Now what? You cannot be sure that you will find him; you cannot be sure that you will not kill many innocent people, or have many of your own men killed or hurt. And, you cannot be sure that you will get him alive. Then what? How do you get out? You see? Not so easy, huh?"

As we talked, a small group of Bosnian Serb women walked by. One drew her finger across her throat while another wagged her finger at us as if to say "For shame."

The lieutenant had a good point. The NATO force — especially the Americans — was ill-prepared to conduct a manhunt. Although the U.S. Army had nearly 17,000 troops in theater, it was heavy on armor and mech infantry anyway and light on the kind of unit it would take to get the accused war criminals: a highly mobile, well-trained infantry-assault unit.

Such a unit, the Army's 1/508th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, formerly the 325th ABCT, based in Vicenza, Italy, was rotated from Bosnia months ago. No similar unit replaced it. (After its withdrawal from Bosnia — and IFOR — the 325th was renamed and soon participated in two major civilian evacuations in Africa. By mid-July, the 1/508th was training in Albania in a NATO exercise called "Peaceful Eagle '96." The 1/508th reportedly conducted "snatch and grab" exercises — missions that NATO's IFOR units are forbidden from conducting under the Dayton Agreement.)

Italian Point Of View

Before lunch, we couldn't resist driving to the entrance of the Hotel Panorama, the former ski chalet that now acts as the Bosnian Serb government's official guest house, restaurant and presidential offices.

"Is President Karadzic available to speak with us?" we asked the lone guard at the gate.

"I don't know. You'll have to go to the Ministry of Information and ask there," he replied in broken English.

It must have been the Hungarian license plates that threw him off. If he had known we were Americans, his answer might have

been less helpful and our stay in Pale shorter. (After NATO's 1995 bombing campaign against the Bosnian Serbs, Americans were disliked in the Serb republic.)

The information ministry's staff provided no help in locating Karadzic, claiming not to know the whereabouts of their president. They added, as an afterthought, that a session of the Bosnian Serb parliament was scheduled in four days and

perhaps we should return then. Bartlett and I agreed, and made arrangements to meet at the press center to seek access to the session.

The next morning, Bersaglieri troops were back at the crossroads linking Pale to Han Pijesak and Sarajevo. It was a different squad, and its leader had a completely different take on the situation.

"I don't have any orders to arrest Mladic or Karadzic," Lt. Salvator Leccino said. "If they came through here, I can do nothing. Now, if they came up to me and asked to be arrested, then I would hold them until the military police came. If they tried to run, I would not shoot them. Why should I?"

Dozens of cars, including official-looking Mercedes limos with darkened glass, sped by. Any one of them could be trans-

stronghold of Bosnian Serb nationalism, we spotted two U.S. Army Humvees ahead. It was the first American presence we had seen in the area in three days.

Both Humvees drove on for another 15 minutes before their occupants — a colonel, major, staff sergeant, specialist, and a British army major — got out to relieve themselves, put on body armor and lock and load.

"General Nash requires us to 'suit up' in certain sections," U.S. Army Major R. Byrd explained to us. The group now was less than 10 kilometers from Mladic's headquarters.

The driver of the second Humvee, Specialist L. Jenkins, who had been deployed from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, said that standing orders were that any U.S. troops coming within a certain distance of Han Pijesak have to exercise caution.

"We're not expecting a firefight or something," Jenkins said. "But one never knows with these guys. Better safe than sorry."

"And if the Major drove around the corner and found Mladic standing along side the road?" I asked.

"I'm not going to be drawn into some sort of hypothetical situation which I wouldn't under any circumstances be prepared to discuss with you anyway," Byrd replied, ending the discussion.

Not Pretty In Pink

The two Humvees drove off toward Camp Lisa. We continued into Han Pijesak, still searching for the elusive Gen. Mladic.

The center of town was deserted. We had decided to drive back to Pale when we lucked out: Four Humvees were coming onto the highway from a logging trail that ringed Mladic's base.

"Yes, we carry a wanted poster with us," said 1st Lt. Dan Arakelian, a scout platoon leader. "But I'm sorry, you can only look at it, not photograph it. I don't want to break any security rules."

The poster was printed on pink, perhaps peach-colored, paper; it had postage stamp-sized photos of 50 or so people, Karadzic and Mladic among them, wanted by the Hague. Under each grainy, black-and-white photo, there was a brief description and comments. "Flamboyant," read the com-

President of the Parliament Momcilo Krajisnik (right) presides over Bosnian Serb governmental session in Pale. That session failed to draw President Karadzic, wanted on U.N. charges of war crimes.



porting Mladic or Karadzic.

"We're here to look for heavy weapons violations," Leccino explained. "If a tank or artillery piece comes by, we stop it."

Fat chance of that happening, I thought.

We returned to Han Pijesak to see if the Americans had beefed up their patrols. The evening before, CNN had reported that the Clinton administration and NATO were calling for increased patrols to search for the president and general.

Two kilometers outside Sokolac, a

Continued on page 68

CLINTO ON THE CO

As ineffective as he may have been with other facets of his socialist agenda, in the balance President Bill Clinton has made staggering inroads in his war against the linchpin constitutional guarantor of liberty: the Second Amendment. And for a man as universally famous for lying as is President Clinton, he has been surprisingly open about his desire to disarm the American people. Clinton answered a question by *Rolling Stone* (9 December 1993) regarding the possibility of banning handguns rather straightforwardly: "I don't think the American people are there right now. But with more than 200 million guns in circulation, we've got so much more to do on this issue before we even reach that. But there are certain kinds of guns that can be banned and a lot of other reasonable [sic] regulations that can be imposed." In that same interview, Clinton outlined his desire to pass the Brady Bill, the ban on semiautomatics (the so-called "assault weapons") and to step up regulatory harassment and reduction of federally licensed firearms dealers (FFLs).

Can you see it now in your mind's eye? There is George Washington, huddled in a freezing tent at Valley Forge with many of his men shoeless, writing in his diary that all of this suffering would be worth it if Americans were able to throw off the yoke of London's tyranny so there could be a brave new world of government approval of who can buy a gun — especially if it could be done instantly. No doubt he would have appreciated, in this line of thinking, the fascist propaganda of making the trains run on time. "Hey, do what you will with me, as long as there is no

devoid of any protection to prevent the government from compiling a registration list of gun owners. To believe that the government is not making a registration list is to believe people such as Clinton when they tell us "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help you." In fact, a registration list is already being compiled — *illegally* — by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Operation Forward Trace has involved the BATF in a massive sweep of the country's gun dealers' books to record the name and address of buyers of so-called "assault weapons." A BATF



After pushing hard for it, Clinton signed into law the Brady Bill that requires a national permit to buy a gun, and adding insult to injury, imposes a period for us to wait while the government decides whether or not we can exercise our constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms. The Brady Law's implementation resulted in an immediate abuse of police power as thousands of denials were issued for unpaid parking tickets and other supposedly off-limit reasons. The Brady Law, in addition to being unconstitutional from the concept forward, became one more method of tax collection.

wait." Can't see that in your mind's eye? Neither can I.

The Brady instant check has an additional charm for advocates of civilian disarmament such as President Clinton: As a Justice Department Task Force stated in 1989, "any system that requires a criminal record check prior to purchase of a firearm creates the potential for the automated tracking of individuals who seek to purchase firearms."

Laws Only We Have To Obey

Most background-check laws, including the Brady instant check provision, are

In the recent Lopez decision, the Supreme Court finally (after 50 years) admitted that it had been wildly unconstitutional to use the interstate commerce clause of Article I, Section 8 to regulate and ban guns.

Clinton could easily pull the same charade — sign up for U.N. gun control and then whine that there is nothing he can do since civilian disarmament would then be the law of the land.

agent told a reporter on the national TV program *Day One* (on ABC) that the out-of-business records sent to the BATF are being computerized — in spite of an explicit congressional prohibition. Clever ploy: put half the country's gun dealers out of business, then demand their records and subsequently enter all the data into the computer.

Happily, one effort to build a comput-

N'S WAR NSTITUTION

erized gun registry was blocked this spring when a Pennsylvania court stopped Pittsburgh from using a grant from the U.S. Justice Department. It was to be a pilot project to design a computer program that when fully distributed, would have linked all local, state and federal agencies together to access information on gun owners nationwide.

Passing the Brady Law did not stop Bill Clinton and the gun grabbers any more than British Prime Minister Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler, by inviting him to invade Czechoslovakia, prevented World War II. They now have the additional advantage of momentum. Senator Bob Dole fits the Chamberlain mold well, and as we go to press, it could cost him the support of the NRA. The habit of offering a deal — "Here, you take only half of what I have instead of all" — for nothing in return and calling it a compromise has been a powerful self-deception throughout history. And such appeasement has always resulted in worse loses, as it only whets, never sates, the appetite of the aggressor.

Bob Dole had cut deals with the Democratic leadership of the Senate to allow for the semiauto ban to go through so as to focus on the Brady Bill. Then he capitulated again and did the same thing to let the Brady Bill through the Senate. Clinton and his allies had an agenda and they pressed on relentlessly toward their goal of eventual civilian disarmament. Having already passed the House, once Brady got out of the Senate, the way was clear to push for the gun ban as well.

Disarmed Civilians, Then And Now

Clinton was able to get more than a gun ban as part of the 1994 Crime Bill. He also stole First Base toward the goal of a national police force and a rape of the Fourth Amendment in the same bill. The Crime Bill, which banned nearly 200 specific guns from civilian possession if they were made after the effective date of the law in 1994, also banned magazines of more than 10 rounds.

What a state of affairs. King George's troops sparked the start of our War for Independence when General Gage's troops tried once too often (they had been at it for months) to confiscate colonial powder and arms. Only the government should have such weapons, it was argued. Is it not inter-

esting that the same argument that was answered with lead 200 years ago was met with a sporting smile in our age?

Even many gun owners bought Clinton's idea that guns are only legitimate if they are "suitable for sporting use." Thanks to the research of Jews for the

The President's Strategic Successes In His Anti-Gun Campaign

by Larry Pratt

Preservation of Firearms Ownership, we know that this notion originated in Nazi Germany and was imported into our country in 1968 as part of Senator Tom Dodd's

A BATF agent told a reporter on the national TV program *Day One* (on ABC) that the out-of-business records that are sent to the BATF are being computerized — in spite of an explicit congressional prohibition.

versioning of the Nazi law as his 1968 Gun Control Act. Actually, Hitler did not think that idea up all by himself. It was rooted in European history as a way of banning weapons to keep the peasants from hunting on the king's lands. Of course, the same bans also worked nicely to keep the peasants under control otherwise, say at tax time. In the tradition of European tyranny — a sanctuary from which this

country was specifically founded to be — Clinton and his allies made the same arguments, that the people cannot be trusted with the means of keeping the government from having a monopoly of force.

Opportunities Lost

In the recent Lopez decision, the Supreme Court finally (after 50 years) admitted that it had been wildly unconstitutional to use the interstate commerce clause of Article I, Section 8 to regulate and ban guns. The Court threw out the federal prohibition on possessing a gun within a 1,000 feet of a school, not on public policy grounds, but strictly because the Constitution does not give the federal government the authority to act in this area. Too bad the Republican Congress in 1995 did not take up on that idea, because they should have been dismantling all the federal gun control laws, and the Supreme Court had just handed them the tool to use. They could have started with the 1994 Crime Bill with its gun ban.

One of the shortcomings of the repeal of the semi-auto ban passed by the House was the refusal of Gingrich and the other House leaders to act on the version sponsored by Rep. Steve Stockman (R-TX). Stockman's repeal bill would have not only done away with the ban on guns and magazines, but also would have checkmated the rest of the agenda Clinton had announced to *Rolling Stone*, namely, getting rid of as many gun dealers as possible. The 1994 Crime Bill in effect set the BATF up as the national zoning czar. It empowered the BATF to require dealers to show they have zoning variances to do business. Most of America's gun dealers have been part timers operating at home. The Crime Bill does not seek to make Amway and Mary Kay dealers get proof of local zoning variances — just

gun dealers. The result has been the reduction of the number of dealers from a high of nearly 290,000 in 1993 to 161,000 by April of this year.

Increasing fees, requiring photos and fingerprints as well as the zoning hassle have served

as an additional disincentive for people to seek to be FFLs or to renew their licenses.

Pressure on dealers has also come from an arbitrary regulation with no statutory authority (not to mention that there is no constitutional authority) to require burdensome paperwork of dealers operating at gun shows. If a dealer from out of state

Continued on page 78

A Note To The Reader: From April 1995 to May 1996, two subcommittees in the U.S. House of Representatives investigated the conduct of various government agencies involved in the Battle of Mount Carmel, the 51-day standoff at a religious retreat outside Waco, Texas. The Branch Davidian sect, which located in Waco in the 1930s, is a small offshoot of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

The Waco tragedy began with a botched raid by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms on 28 February 1993. Agents hoped to arrest church leader David Koresh for his alleged failure to pay a federal tax levied on certain types of restricted firearms. Four agents and six residents were killed and the action ended in a stand-off, which became a siege. It ended on 19 April, when the Federal Bureau of

seven additional sections. Those sections each provide a review, analysis, findings and recommendations for the following focus areas: the ATF investigation, the planning and approval of the ATF raid, the execution of the raid, the military's involvement in government operations at Waco, negotiations to end the standoff, Attorney General Janet Reno's decision to end the standoff and the subsequent fire.

Readers who obtain and read the full

report may find it of interest that the largest section of the report — almost a third of the text — deals with the military's involvement in civilian law-enforcement operations at Waco, an aspect of the tragedy in which SOF led all other publications in uncovering. Much of what was learned in the congressional probe is based on hundreds of documents, many of them classified, initially obtained by SOF and subsequently provided to investigators.

WACO: THE FINAL VERDICT

Solons Slam ATF/FBI

by James L. Pate

Investigation's Hostage Rescue Team, advised on-site by members of the U.S. Army's secretive anti-terrorism unit, Special Operations Forces Detachment-Delta, tried to force out the remaining 70-80 besieged residents by flooding the building with CS, a chemical riot-control agent, and then battering it with military armored vehicles. A fire erupted. Only eight Davidians survived.

The House Waco probe was jointly run by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs and Criminal Justice; and the Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime. It focused on three Executive Branch departments: Treasury, Justice and Defense.

The joint investigation included 10 days of public hearings in late July, early August 1995, at which more than 100 witnesses were called. On 11 July 1996, the two subcommittee chairmen, Bill Zeliff of New Hampshire and Bill McCollum of Florida, announced an 11-page summary of findings of their panels' joint investigation. The full report was released in late summer. It will ultimately be available from the Government Printing Office, but no order number was available at this writing.

Soldier Of Fortune is providing these excerpts from the full report as part of a commitment to provide our readers as many facts as possible about the biggest law-enforcement disaster in U.S. history. The 180-page, heavily footnoted report includes a four-part appendix. The text is divided as follows: an 11-page executive summary, a six-page introduction and



AP/Wide World

"The Administration tried to control potential damage from the hearings. ... Staff assembled a damage-control team and retained a public relations specialist and former White House official who had worked for Handgun Control. ... Treasury Secretary Rubin contacted at least one member ... and requested that he not ask any questions that might embarrass the Administration. ... A lack of cooperation clearly frustrated hearing preparations ... the White House, and ... Treasury and Justice attempted to narrow the scope ... and restrict access. The first significant documents were delivered only three weeks prior to the hearings, and tens of thousands of others after the hearings had already begun."

Limited by space, this excerpt by necessity omits much significant material. We offer no comment or interpretation. We caution the reader to be aware of apparent contradictions among some of the conclusions. We agree with many of the findings. But not all.

Most important, though, is that Congress not shelve this report; that it act on its recommendations. Because, if the elected representatives of government continue to neglect their oversight responsibilities, and continue to put loyalty to the bureaucracy ahead of loyalty to citizens, it will hasten the day of other, more horrible Wacos. And Congress will have blood on its hands.
— The Editors

Executive Summary Findings

1. The Branch Davidians: But for the criminal conduct and aberrational behavior of David Koresh and other Branch Davidians, the tragedies ... would not have occurred. The ultimate responsibility for the deaths ... must lie with Koresh. While not dispositive, the evidence presented to the Subcommittees indicates that some of the Davidians intentionally set the fires. ...

2. The Department of Treasury: Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen and Deputy Secretary Roger Altman were derelict in their duties in failing to even meet with the Director of ATF in the month or so they were in office prior to the February 28 raid. ... Senior Treasury Department officials routinely failed in their duty to monitor the actions of ATF officials, and as a result were uninvolved in the planning of the ... raid.

After the raid failed, Assistant Treasury Secretary Ronald Noble attempted to lay the blame entirely on the ATF.

3. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms: The ATF's investigation ... was grossly incompetent. It lacked the minimum professionalism expected of any law-enforcement agency, let alone a major federal law-enforcement agency. While the ATF had probable cause ... the affidavit filed in support of the warrants contained an incredible number of false statements. ...

David Koresh could have been arrested outside the Davidian compound. The ATF deliberately chose not to arrest Koresh outside ... and instead determined to use the dynamic entry approach. In making this

decision, the ATF agents exercised extremely poor judgment, made erroneous assumptions and ignored the perils of this course of action that should have been foreseen.

ATF agents misrepresented to Defense Department officials that the Branch Davidians were involved in illegal drug manufacturing. As a result of this deception, the ATF was able to obtain some training from military forces which would not have otherwise provided it, and likely obtained other training within a shorter period of time than might have been available. ... The ATF undercover operation was incredibly inept. Supervisors negligently failed to properly moni-



"The decision by Attorney General Janet Reno to approve the FBI's plan to end the standoff on April 19 was premature, wrong and highly irresponsible. ... Reno was grossly negligent. The Attorney General knew, or should have known, that the plan to end the standoff would endanger the lives ... including the children. ... There was little risk to ... continuing the standoff. ... There was no threat of a Davidian breakout. ... The CS riot control agent insertion and assault plan was fatally flawed. ... The president should have accepted Attorney General Reno's resignation." Rep. Bill McCollum (R-Fla.), left, with Rep. Bill Zeff (R-N.H.) at a press conference 11 July 1996, called to discuss the Waco report.

AP/Wide World

tor this operation. The ATF's raid plan ... was significantly flawed. ...

ATF agents directly involved in the ... raid acted heroically and with a high degree of professionalism. There was no justification for the rehiring of the two senior ATF raid commanders after they were fired. The fact that senior Clinton Administration officials approved their rehiring indicates a lack of sound judgment on their part.

4. The Department of Justice: The decision by Attorney General Janet Reno to approve the FBI's plan to end the standoff on April 19 was premature, wrong and highly irresponsible. In authorizing the assault to proceed, Attorney General Reno was grossly negligent. The Attorney General knew, or should have known, that the plan to end the standoff would endanger the lives of the Davidians inside ...

including the children. ... There was little risk to the FBI agents, society, or to the Davidians from continuing the standoff. ... The reason cited for ending the standoff on April 19 lacked merit. There was no threat of a Davidian breakout. ... The CS riot control agent insertion and assault plan was fatally flawed.

5. The Federal Bureau of Investigation: The FBI should have sought ... and accepted more expert advice on the Branch Davidians and their religious views, and been more open-minded to the advice of the FBI's own experts. ... The CS riot control agent assault ... should not have taken place. The possibility of a negotiated end to the standoff ... should have been pursued, even if it had taken

several more weeks. ... FBI officials on the ground had effectively ruled out a negotiated end long before April 19, and had closed minds. ... FBI tactical commander [Jeffrey] Jamar and senior FBI and Justice Department officials knew ... that none of the reasons given to end negotiations ... had merit. To urge these as an excuse was wrong and highly irresponsible. ... It is unlikely that the CS riot control agent, in the quantities used by the FBI, reached lethal toxic levels.

6. The Department of Defense: The activities of active duty military personnel in training the ATF, and in supporting the FBI ... during the standoff did not violate the *Posse Comitatus* Act because their actions did not constitute direct participation in the government's law-enforcement activities.

Summary Recommendations: The ATF should be constrained from independently investigating drug-related crimes. Congress should consider moving jurisdiction over the ATF to the Department of Justice. Criminal charges should be brought against the ATF agents responsible for the false statements contained in the affidavit used to obtain the search and arrest warrants. Criminal charges should be brought against the agents responsible for recklessly going forward with the raid.

The Department of Defense should streamline the approval process for military support so that *Posse Comitatus* Act conflicts and drug nexus controversies are avoided in the future. The General

Accounting Office should audit the military assistance provided to the ATF and FBI in connection with their activities towards the Branch Davidians. The GAO should conduct a comprehensive audit of the activities of Operation Alliance in light of the Waco incident.

The FBI should expand the size of the HRT. The government should further study and analyze the effects of CS riot control agent on children and the elderly. The president should have accepted the resignation of Attorney General Reno when she offered.

Introduction

Waco ranks among the most significant events in U.S. law-enforcement history. For ATF, it was the largest and most deadly raid ever conducted. For the FBI, it was an unprecedented failure to achieve a critical objective — the rescue of dozens of innocent women and children.

Opposition to the Waco hearings was to be expected. ... What was not expected was the extent to which the Administration tried to control potential damage from the hearings. ... The White House staff assembled a damage control team and retained the services of John Podesta, a public relations specialist and former White House official who had worked for Handgun Control, Inc. Treasury Secretary Rubin contacted at least one member of the joint subcommittees, Rep. Bill Brewster of Oklahoma, and requested that he not ask any questions that might embarrass the Administration.

A lack of cooperation clearly frustrated hearing preparations. Representatives of the White House, and Departments of Treasury and Justice attempted to narrow the scope of the subcommittees' requests and restrict access to a wide array of information. The first significant documents were delivered only three weeks prior to the hearings, and tens of thousands of others after the hearings had already begun. In what became symbolic of the Administration's uncooperative attitude, it was discovered that the minority, but not the majority, had been provided an index for locating Treasury documents.

Regrettably, the Treasury Department balked at making ATF agents available for interviews. The Department steadfastly

refused to allow the subcommittee staff to meet with ATF agents who participated in the raid. Only the threat of subpoenas secured the appearance of ATF agents at the hearings. The inability to interview these individuals before hearings was a significant roadblock.

Several of the military personnel involved with the training were not made available to the Subcommittees' staff for interviews. Disturbingly, all of the military personnel interviewed were counseled about the interviews prior to them by senior commanders, despite requests to the contrary.

The ATF Investigation

The most troubling aspects of the case were the ATF's overall lack of thoroughness in its investigation, the ineffectiveness

offer was a serious mistake.

In December 1992, after reviewing all the available evidence, ATF decided they did not yet have probable cause to support a warrant. Director [Steve] Higgins stated, "We went back out and got more information and came back in February. ... We didn't have it [probable cause] until mid-February."

The surveillance produced no additional evidence of criminal activity. The events that were described by the Bunds [family members who had lived at Mount Carmel] occurred prior to 1992, and the information they provided was so stale as to be of little or no value.

Importantly, the only activity mentioned in the affidavit involving the Branch Davidians that occurred between December 1992 and February 1993 was



"It does not appear that senior ATF or Treasury officials gave any consideration to the negative image of military helicopters being used ... on American civilians. ... Only when the National Guard team arrived at Fort Hood, 24 hours prior to the raid, did pilots learn they were to be part of the raid itself. ... ATF had even assigned one of the soldiers to hang from a monkey sling outside the helicopter to film the raid. The soldier was in that position when the helicopters took incoming fire. ... Clearly, ATF disregarded the safety of the soldier, its agents and innocent civilians ..." CH-47 Chinook hovers over burning Davidian compound.

of the undercover operation, and an affidavit in support of the search and arrest warrants that was replete with deficiencies.

It is unclear why the ATF did not accept the offer [by Koresh] to do a compliance inspection of Koresh's firearms. Importantly, the Treasury Report fails to mention that [case agent David] Aguilera had an opportunity to inspect Koresh's firearms. [Former Army Delta operator] Wade Ishimoto, a reviewer of the Treasury Department Report, indicated to the Subcommittees that he had not been made aware of the [gun dealer Henry] McMahon compliance visit. Mr. Ishimoto maintained that Koresh's offer should have been accepted, presenting an invaluable opportunity to gather critical intelligence. The agents' decline of the Koresh

[undercover agent Robert] Rodriguez's undercover visits to the Davidian residence. Rodriguez discovered no evidence during his visits that would have contributed to a finding of probable cause.

ATF demonstrated a reckless disregard for the value of well-developed intelligence. Furthermore, the haphazard manner in which the investigation was pursued repeatedly exposed the lack of adequate command, control and communications processes to support such an operation. Through a series of mistakes, the ATF appeared to lose the security of its undercover operation. The agents were informed by one of the neighbors shortly after they began surveillance that Koresh suspected they were not what they claimed to be [technical college students]. Numerous

aspects of the undercover operation were carried out in such a way as to reveal the true identity of the agents. It was later determined that during the period of constant surveillance, the agents did not know what Koresh looked like. ATF failed to develop nearly 900 photographs taken from the undercover house.

In view of the common sense standard required to establish probable cause, the affidavit appears to have contained sufficient evidence of probable violations of federal firearms law. Nevertheless, the affidavit is full of deficiencies, and serves as a de facto record of a poorly developed and mismanaged investigation. The affidavit supporting the warrants contained misstatements of the facts, misstatements of the law, and misapplication of the law to the facts. The affidavit gave the appearance that the ATF was not going to let questionable facts or evidence stand in the way.

Planning And Approval Of The Raid

The subcommittee received evidence of numerous opportunities to arrest Koresh away from the residence, thereby reducing the likelihood of violence. Trial transcripts reveal that Koresh left the Davidian residence at least once a week during January and February. Planning for a military-style raid began more than two months before the undercover and infiltration efforts even began in January.

Even though Lloyd Bentsen had been Treasury Secretary for approximately one month at the time of the ATF raid, and Roger Altman had been serving as Deputy Secretary for the same period, ATF Director Steven Higgins had never met either of them, let alone briefed them regarding the investigation and planned raid. The testimony before the sub-



FBI, courtesy Richard L. Sherrow

"Civilian law enforcement's increasing use of militaristic tactics is unacceptable. Congress should consider applying the *Posse Comitatus* Act to the National Guard ... where a federal law-enforcement agency has the lead. ... Significant portions of military assistance provided to ATF and even the FBI were funded through counterdrug funds. ... There was no known drug nexus in the Koresh case. ... It was the largest request in the history of JTF-6 ... [in spite of] concern that ATF misrepresented the required drug nexus, JTF-6 continued ... to actively promote its services to ATF." A combat engineer vehicle attacks the structure at Mt. Carmel, to inject CS gas and "provide escape routes" for those inside.

committees consistently depicted a Department that treated ATF as its lowest priority. Neither Bentsen nor his deputy, Altman, knew anything about an imminent law-enforcement raid — one of the largest ever conducted in U.S. history — being managed by his Department, which would endanger the lives of dozens of law-enforcement agents, women and children. Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen and Deputy Secretary Roger Altman were derelict in their duties.

Raid Execution

The Davidians apparently feared the

not affiliated with the Davidians, warned him that some type of law-enforcement action was going to take place at the residence, that it was likely to be a raid of some type and that there might be shooting.

At the hearings before the subcommittees, ATF raid commanders Chuck Sarabyn and Phil Chojnacki testified in a manner that was similar to, but not entirely consistent with the summary in the Treasury Department Report.

While the Treasury Department Report maintains that "all key participants now agree that [undercover agent Robert]

Rodriguez communicated, and they understood, that Koresh had said the ATF and National Guard were coming," Sarabyn and Chojnacki maintained at the hearings before the Subcommittees that while he understood the words Rodriguez had spoken, he did not feel that Koresh actually believed that law-enforcement personnel were on their way to the residence.

"Those two men know what I told them and they knew exactly what I meant," Rodriguez testified at the congressional hearings. "And instead of admitting to the American people right after the raid that they had made a mistake ... they lied to the public."

Several other agents also testified that Sarabyn had informed them that



FBI, author's files

After a 51-day siege, Mt. Carmel burns to the ground in the greatest law-enforcement tragedy in U.S. history. How could this happen here? "The ATF's investigation ... was grossly incompetent ... the affidavit filed in support of the warrants contained an incredible number of false statements. ... David Koresh could have been arrested outside the Davidian compound ... ATF agents misrepresented to Defense Department officials that the Branch Davidians were involved in illegal drug manufacturing.... The ATF undercover operation was incredibly inept. ... The ATF's raid plan ... was significantly flawed. ..."

"But for the criminal conduct and aberrational behavior of David Koresh and other Branch Davidians, the tragedies ... would not have occurred. The ultimate responsibility for the deaths ... must lie with Koresh."

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Magazine repeaters of the lever-action type, an exclusively American invention, had to wait until the successful development of self-contained cartridges. In 1847 Walter Hunt patented a 12-shot repeating rifle with a spring-loaded tubular magazine under the barrel. Too complex to be successful, Hunt's "Volitional Repeater" was improved by Lewis Jennings. In 1854 Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson patented an improved variation of the Jennings design, in both rifle and handgun versions, using a toggle-link lever action. Smith and Wesson sold their interests in the design to the Volcanic company, whose assets were acquired by a shirt manu-

successful by producing single-shot Ballard rifles and handguns, introduced his side-loading, top-ejection lever-action rifle in 1881. At the time one of the most expensive lever-action rifles available, it sold for \$32. During World War I, the Marlin Arms Corporation manufactured the Colt Model 1914 machine gun, a Marlin-Rockwell improved Model 1917 machine gun and the Marlin aircraft machine gun with mechanical trigger motor, together with a tank version. They

shudder at the military portion of their history. Even though the Marlin Camp Carbine is included in Smith & Wesson's law-enforcement training program, Marlin neither advertises in police journals nor promotes any law-enforcement applications for their products. Running scared and apparently attempting to remain politically correct (presumably as defined by vitriolic New York congressman Charles Schumer, the very apotheosis of the anti-gun movement) Marlin officials nervously insist that their entire production is devoted to nothing but *sporting arms*.

Lever-action rifles remain popular among hunters and with those who participate in

LETHAL



facturer, Oliver F. Winchester, in 1857. After further modifications by Winchester's factory superintendent, Benjamin Tyler Henry, it was marketed as Henry's Patent Repeating Rifle in 1861, coinciding with the outbreak of the Civil War. It was an instant success. Winchester's advertising literature claimed the rifle could fire 60 shots per minute. A hundred and thirty-five years later, this firepower proved so frightening to Bill Clinton and Sarah Brady that Italian-made replicas of the Henry rifle were classified as assault rifles under the crime bill.

John M. Marlin, who became initially

also manufactured the M1918 Browning Automatic Rifle toward the very end of the war. During World War II, Marlin manufactured the UDM 42 submachine gun and barrels and other components for the .30 M1 Carbine and .45 ACP M3 submachine gun.

Marlin's current management must

cowboy-action shooting competition. In recent years, a third application has been suggested. Jeff Cooper has recommended a modified version of the lever-action rifle as an urban defense weapon. In light of Marlin's paranoia, I took fiendish glee when presented with two Marlin lever actions for test and evaluation that were heavily modified by Master Gunsmith Jim

Jim Brockman's customized Marlin Model 336CS caliber .30-30 lever action carbine holds considerable appeal as a true general purpose rifle, with legitimate applications on both the game field and for serious social purposes.

LEVERS

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

A Long-Lived Design Becomes A "Military" Marlin

Jim Brockman's nifty little Marlin Model 1894 .44 Magnum short-barreled carbine makes an ideal "house" gun for repelling boarders.



Brockman for use as general purpose rifles with obvious applications in the area of self-defense.

Fighting Firearms

The rifles sent to us were a caliber .30-30 Model 336CS carbine and a .44 Magnum caliber Model 1894 carbine. The Model 336 series was introduced in 1948 to replace the Model 36 and it's still going strong. Its salient features include a rugged, round breech bolt completely encased in the area of the locking bolt by a solid bridge of steel in the receiver and an improved extractor. Today, all Marlin lever actions are side-ejecting. The 20-inch round-tapered barrel has a crowned muzzle

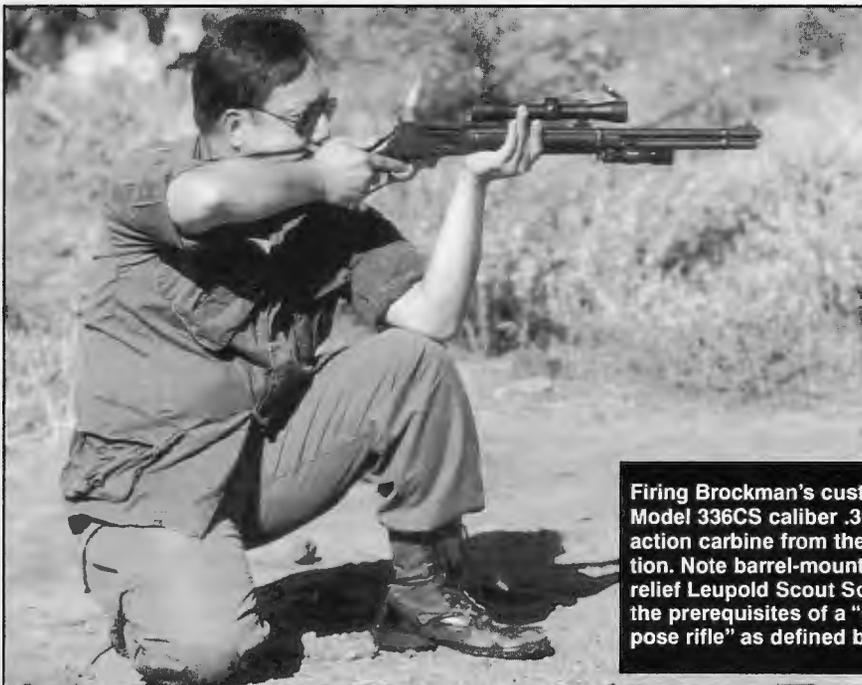
and Ballard-type rifling. Overall length is about 38 inches and the weight is approximately 6.5 pounds, with an empty seven-shot tubular magazine.

Reintroduced in 1969, the Model 1894 carbine has since been produced in .44 Magnum, .41 Magnum, .357 Magnum, .45 Colt, .22 WMRF, .25-20 and .32-20. The latter two cartridges were also available in the original Model 1894, along with the then popular .38-40 and .44-40. Magazine capacity in .44 Magnum is 10 rounds. Weighing about 6 pounds, empty, the Model 1894 was billed as a "potent big bore brush-buster." Barrel length is also 20 inches. Both of these rifles feature receiver-mounted cross-bolt safeties.

Jim Brockman's custom modifications were extensive and designed to enhance reliability, accuracy, speed of target acquisition and durability. Brockman works on rifles only, about half of which are lever actions. Both barrels were recrowned with a deep, recessed crown. Both bores were BlackStar electro-polished to reduce fouling and increase accuracy. This is an especially useful procedure on .44 Magnum caliber bores, which tend to foul rapidly. BlackStar's bore accurizing process is a patented, non-abrasive polishing procedure which simultaneously micro-polishes and deburs the bore surface while micro-machining the bore dimensions. BlackStar removes a maximum of 0.0004-0.0005-inch from lands and grooves. Land height remains the same. There are two reasons why the BlackStar process improves a barrel's accuracy: the ultra-slick bore surface and the tapered bore that result. BlackStar electro-polishing will typically improve a barrel's accuracy by 25-35%. The bores also received the popular Tetra Gun Bore Treatment. The Model 1894's barrel and magazine tube were shortened to a more compact 16.5 inches. This reduced the magazine capacity to eight rounds.

In addition, a process called deep cryogenic stress relief, which until recently was known only to precision high power shooters, was performed on both barrels.

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



Firing Brockman's customized Marlin Model 336CS caliber .30-30 lever action carbine from the kneeling position. Note barrel-mounted, long-eye-relief Leupold Scout Scope, one of the prerequisites of a "general purpose rifle" as defined by Jeff Cooper.



Firing the Marlin Model 1894 caliber .44 Magnum short-barreled carbine from "rice paddy prone", which is actually the old Marine Corps squatting position. Relatively stable, yet quick to assume and move out of, this "shoot and scoot" position is ideal for engaging targets that shoot back when the vegetation cover does not permit utilizing the prone position.

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 homo-

tively inexpensive. Furthermore, modern computer control has brought the process to a consistency not possible in the past.

Barrels subjected to this process devel-



After customizing by Jim Brockman, both of the Marlin carbines were provided with the famous Black-T finish as supplied by W.E. Birdsong & Associates. Black-T is especially popular with those who move in the shadows, from elite military organizations to clandestine government operatives.

geneously stabilized barrel. The process by which this is accomplished takes

more than several days as the barrel is taken by precise computer control to -310 degrees F, held for up to 60 hours, then raised to +310 degrees F and slowly brought back to room temperature. Due to recent technical developments, the deep cryogenic tempering process is now rela-

op a more uniform, refined micro structure with far greater density, as a consequence of carbide fillers precipitated during the process. These carbides fill interstices in the steel, leaving a much denser, more coherent structure with far greater wear resistance. Thus, in addition to increasing

accuracy, deep cryogenic stress relief can provide barrels with an exceptional increase in durability, with barrel life extended by as much as 300%. This work was done by Cryogenic Tempering/-300 degrees.

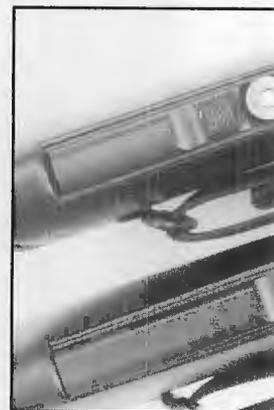
To further maximize the accuracy potential, Brockman added a custom steel forend hanger to the front of each receiver on the underside. The magazine tube and forend were then attached to the hanger by three allen-head screws. This permitted the barrels to be free-floated. In the case of the Model 1894, the front barrel band was then completely removed and a dovetail on the barrel, into which are threaded two screws that retain the forend's end cap, was opened up so the hanger could be free-floated from the barrel. The front barrel band and forend band on the Model 336CS were both retained, but relieved to free-float the barrel. Finally, both the magazine tubes and added forend hangers were glass bedded tightly into the forend.

Both of these firearms have been equipped with ghost ring sights, each slightly different. Popularized by Jeff Cooper, a large-aperture ghost ring provides a shadow-like effect around the front sight blade, with extremely fast sight alignment at close ranges, without compromising the requirement for precision sighting at longer ranges.

The Model 336CS has been fitted with Brockman's standard ghost ring sights, which permit adjustment of elevation zero at the rear aperture. The serrated, steep-ramped front sight blade (which has a gold vertical line in the center for shooting in subdued light) can be drifted in the dovetail on its mount on the barrel to adjust windage zero. Elevation zero on the Model 1894 sent to *Soldier Of Fortune* for test and evaluation, can be adjusted by sliding the front blade (which also has a gold vertical line) up or down in the covered dovetail on its ramped base. Remember, you must move the front sight up or down in the opposite direction you want the point of impact to move. Windage zero on the Model 1894 can be adjusted by loosening the two screws holding the one-piece rear ghost ring on the receiver and moving the sight to the right or left. Both of these sight systems are robust and durable. They do *not* permit large amounts of adjustment. Rifles of this type and caliber are generally zeroed with iron sights at 50 to 100 yards. We zeroed both to shoot dead on at 50 yards.

High Speed, Low Maintenance

Internally, both rifles were hand stoned



to remove burrs and high tool marks, thus smoothing the action. The triggers were adjusted to pull weights of 2 pounds on the Model 336CS and 2.75 pounds on the Model 1894 — too light for some, but just right for me. Brockman prefers 3.5 to 4 pounds, but the Black T finish will lighten the sear release on a firearm by as much as a pound and a half. Externally, both rifles had the sharp edges rounded (“dehorned”), especially the inside areas of the finger levers.

The buttstocks were thinned, reshaped and then finished, along with the forends, with a textured, slip-resistant black epoxy paint. Pachmayr Decelerator sporting clays buttpads, with the hard, rounded top insert (to prevent snagging on the clothing



Using a Weaver ring and a mount developed by Brockman a Laser Products 6P SURE-FIRE Tactical Light was attached to the magazine tube.

during a rapid shoulder mount) were also installed. Sliding, spring-loaded cartridge traps, holding four spare rounds of .30-30 and six rounds of .44 Magnum, respectively, were installed in the bottom of the buttstocks. Black nylon, 1-inch Super Slings, supplied by The Outdoor Connection Inc., were mounted on the left side so the rifles can be carried flat on the back. These slings can be rapidly adjusted to any position and can be used for either carrying or as a shooting support.

The front sling swivel is of the quick-detachable type and is attached to the rear barrel band.

Using Weaver rings and a mount developed by Brockman (that can be pivoted 180 degrees by loosening a thumb screw and rotating the base to the desired position), Laser Products' 6P SURE-FIRE

Tactical Lights have been attached to the magazine tubes at the forward end of the handguard. These are 6-volt systems with a high-pressure xenon lamp that throws out about 60 lumens (or about 11,500 mean spherical candlepower). Lumens, as measured by an instrument called an “integrating sphere,” are a measure of the total amount of light a flashlight produces, which includes both

the focused and wide-angle portions of the beam. These units are powered by lithium batteries, which are expensive, but have an almost indefinite shelf-life.

There is no more important accessory you can hang on a shoulder-mounted fighting firearm (and that's just what these Brockman-customized Marlin lever actions have the potential to be). Lights of this type are most definitely not aiming devices. They do not replace the weapon's sights. These lights are used

to illuminate the target and permit proper target discrimination to prevent popping a friendly. They backlight the weapon's sights and permit their proper use. If powerful enough — and the Laser Products 6-volt SURE-FIRE Tactical Lights certainly are — they can also be used to momentarily blind your opponent.

To turn the flashlight momentarily on, just slide the support hand forward along the forend until it pushes against the neoprene diaphragm in the middle of the tail cap, and the light will come on. Stop pushing and the light goes off. Rotate the tail cap until it's tight, and the light stays on. Unscrew it a bit and the light goes off.

After all of the custom modifications had been performed, the rifles were provided with the famous Black-T finish as supplied by W.E.



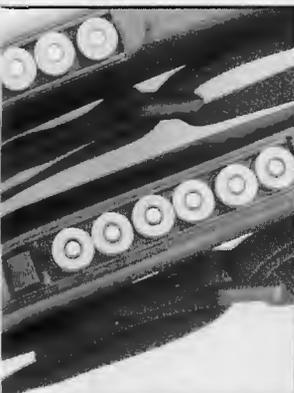
To further enhance the accuracy potential, the front barrel band of the Model 1894 was completely removed to free-float the barrel.

Birdsong & Associates Inc. Black-T is especially popular with those who move in the shadows, from elite military organizations to clandestine government operatives. The FBI's HRT uses Black-T finish on their pistols and MP5 submachine guns. Black-T is a co-dispersion of fluoropolymer resin, Teflon and graphite, in a thermosetting binder. It produces a low-friction coating, free of so-called “stick-slip” (smear) characteristics, combined with excellent resistance to corrosion. Available colors are non-reflective black and NATO (olive) green.

All metal (steel and aluminum) parts of the firearm are treated. After vapor-degreasing, they are low-pressure blasted with very fine, 150-grit aluminum oxide. Then the parts are given two hot dip coatings. Black-T is then applied by spray in a fine mist, by centrifuge, electrostatically or by hand dipping, depending upon the component being treated, and then heat-cured. The complete finish is no more than 2 to 3 ten-thousandths (0.0002-0.0003) of an inch in thickness (a slightly thicker coating is required on stainless steel). This compares favorably to salt bluing (black or blue oxide) which is usually about 4 ten-thousandths (0.0004) of an inch thick. The final result has a high salt spray and humidity resistance (greater than 500 hours), a very low coefficient of friction (0.08) and a service temperature-high of 300 degrees Fahrenheit continuous (325 degrees F for intermittent service).

This is an extremely

To bring accuracy to its highest possible level, Brockman added a custom steel forend hanger to the front of each receiver on the underside. The magazine tube and forend were then attached to the hanger by three allen-head screws. This permitted the barrels to be free-floated.



Sliding, spring-loaded cartridge traps, holding four spare rounds of .30-30 (top) and six rounds of .44 Magnum, were installed in the bottom of the buttstocks.



low-maintenance finish — very little, if any lubrication is required as it provides a 0.08 drag coefficient which is superior lubricity to almost all firearms lubricants. In most cases, a lightly oiled rag is sufficient to wipe away accumulated debris and carbon fouling. There is no better finish for fighting firearms. I have the Black-T finish on the four semiauto handguns I most frequently carry (three M1911 .45 ACP types and a 9mm H&K PSP P7), a Benelli M1 Super 90 fighting shotgun, .308 HK91 and my personal MP5 sub-machine gun.

Gunfighting Rounds

It has become fashionable of late to ridicule the .30-30 cartridge, although it remains popular, especially in the eastern United States. Originally known as the .30 WCF, it was the first American small-bore, smokeless-powder sporting cartridge. Designed by Winchester, it was one of several cartridges available for their famous Model 1894 lever action. The first loading was with a 165-grain soft point projectile in front of 30 grains of smokeless propellant. The designation “.30-30” stands for a .30-caliber bullet with 30 grains of powder, a nomenclature derived from the descriptions used for blackpowder cartridges.

This rimmed cartridge is still the standard American deer cartridge against which all others are compared. While no death ray, at ranges of 100 yards and less it is more than adequate to take deer-sized game and engage far more dangerous human targets. The 170-grain Winchester Silvertip Jacketed Soft Point (JSP) load, with a chronographed muzzle velocity of 2,140 fps, will penetrate up to 17.7 inches of soft tissue while expanding to .67 caliber and losing only 13% of its original weight to fragmentation. This is excellent performance for defensive purposes. The desired depth of penetration is from 12 to 18 inches. Within that parameter, the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage.

Leupold Scout Scope

In 1983 Jeff Cooper defined the “general purpose rifle” as “... a conveniently portable, individually operated firearm, capable of striking a single decisive blow, on a live target of up to 200 kilos in weight, at any distance at which the operator can shoot with the precision necessary to place a shot in a vital area of the target.”

The envelope was prescribed by Cooper with a maximum length of one meter (39.37 inches) and a total weight, empty, no greater than three kilograms (approximately 6.6 pounds). The rifle resulting from these parameters was to be convenient, powerful (whatever that means), accurate, rugged, versatile and aesthetically pleasing. This concept has come to be known as the “Scout Rifle.”

An important and unusual attribute of the scout rifle is a barrel-mounted scope with an eye relief of about 10 inches. Cooper argued the case for a low-power, long-eye-relief scope with great conviction. He was convinced that it permitted the shooter to see both the entire area in front of him, as well as the cross hairs printed on the target — as long as the scope’s magnification remained under three power to prevent a great disparity between the view perceived by each of the two eyes.

He also argued that it permitted low mounting. This is important since a peep-aperture “ghost ring” rear emergency sight is another key ingredient in the scout rifle concept. Keeping the scope’s line of sight as close as possible to that of the iron sights is important because it permits the buttstock’s comb to provide a proper cheek-weld with either sight.

Until recently, the only low-magnification, long-eye-relief scope available for this purpose was the 2.75X fixed power Burris Scout scope. The concept was correct, but the execution was seriously flawed. In my circle — where the scout rifle prevails — the Burris

New Leupold long-eye-relief Scout Scope.



scope was noted principally for its poor quality and tendency to fail at the most inappropriate time. Leupold & Stevens Inc. has recently introduced a 2.5X32mm Scout Scope that will quite frankly blow Burris out of the water.

Leupold’s fixed-power scopes have

been the purest form of their incomparable craftsmanship since they began manufacturing scopes just after World War II. Leupold’s new Scout Scope provides 9 to 17 inches of eye relief. There are two standard reticle patterns. The normal duplex reticle has thin cross hairs in the center, stepped to thick bars on the four corners. This will more than do for most applications, but for more rapid target acquisition, especially in subdued light, a so-called German #1 reticle pattern is available. This reticle pattern has a thick vertical bar with a pointed tip on the bottom and a thick horizontal bar on each side. It is popular in Europe with those who hunt in dark forest terrain. I have mounted a Leupold Scout Scope with this reticle pattern on my caliber .308 Winchester Gunsite Scout Rifle. An optional heavy-duplex reticle pattern and Leupold dot reticle with slightly tapered cross hairs are also available. They cost \$41 and you must ship your Scout Scope to Leupold to have one of them installed. I have a Leupold Scout Scope with a heavy duplex reticle pattern installed on the caliber .30-30 Marlin Model 336CS lever action customized by Jim Brockman. It has been interfaced to the rifle with the superb quick-detachable scope rings manufactured by Dave Talley. The heavy duplex pattern also provides for very quick target acquisition. Leupold’s Scout Scopes are ideal for lever-action rifles.

Excellent image quality is a characteristic of all Leupold scopes. This is possible only because Leupold uses material and techniques that minimize chromatic aberration, distortion and curvature of the field to an extent not achieved by any other scope manufacturer in the United States. More top benchrest shooters, professional hunting guides, custom rifle makers and elite military and law enforcement special operation units use Leupold scopes than any other make.

To both Leupold Scout Scopes I added Butler Creek lens caps which can be obtained from Brownells, Inc.

— P.G.K.

Ammunition used in our test and evaluation of the Marlin Model 336CS, altered to "general purpose rifle" configuration, consisted of Winchester 170- and 150-grain Silvertips and Hornady Custom ammunition with 170-grain flat

The Marlin Model 336CS has been fitted with Brockman's standard ghost ring sights, which permit adjustment of elevation zero at the rear aperture.



point (designed for use in tubular magazines) and 150-grain round nose bonded soft-point bullets.

Since its introduction in 1956, the .44 Magnum has taken everything from jack rabbits to Cape Buffalo. Although not considered by most armed professionals to be a gunfighting round because the recoil it generates in a revolver retards re-

acquisition of the target for a second shot, the equation changes considerably when this big boomer is fired from a 6-pound, shoulder-mounted weapon.

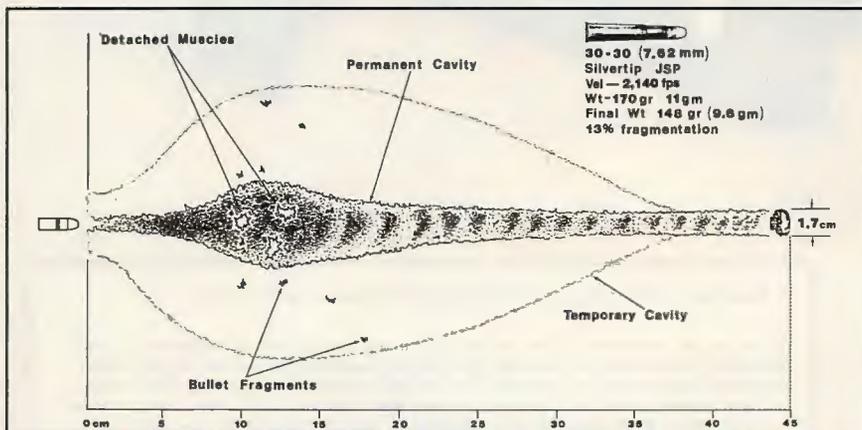
Developed by Smith & Wesson and the Remington Arms Co. with considerable impetus from the late Elmer Keith, its rimmed case is one-eighth-inch longer than the .44 Special cartridge, which in turn was introduced in 1907 by S&W for its .44 caliber "New Century Model." Keith had been pushing S&W Model 1950 .44 Hand Ejectors to the limits of their endurance for years with his 250-grain Semi-Wadcutter (Lyman Ideal SWC cast bullet No. 429421) propelled by 18.5 grains of Hercules 2400 powder.

All of the .44 Magnum ammunition used to test the Marlin Model 1894 was provided by Black Hills Ammunition. They were of three types: a 240-grain lead-

The serrated, steep-ramped front-sight blade on Brockman's customized Marlin Model 336CS (right) can be drifted in the dovetail on its mount on the barrel to adjust windage zero. That of the Marlin Model 1894 (left) can be adjusted for elevation zero by sliding the front blade up or down in the covered dovetail on its ramped base.



alloy SWC, and both 240- and 300-grain loads featuring Hornady XTP Jacketed Hollow Points JHPs. The lead-alloy Semi-Wadcutter should be restricted to hunting game as it is shoulder-stabilized and will over-penetrate in human targets. The best



The 170-grain Winchester Silvertip Jacketed Soft Point load will penetrate up to 17.7 inches of soft tissue while expanding to .67 caliber and losing only 13% of its original weight to fragmentation. Wound profile courtesy of Martin L. Fackler, M.D.

choice for gunfighting are the JHPs.

Instrumentation for the velocity portion of our testing consisted of the excellent PACT MKIV Championship Timer with its built-in chronograph mode, together with PACT MK5 Professional Skyscreens. All shots were fired at a distance of 10 feet from the start screen and the ambient temperature was 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Continued on page 71

Inside Sources

Brockman's Custom Gunsmithing
Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 357, Gooding, ID 83330; phone: 208-934-5050; fax: 208-934-5284

Black Hills Ammunition
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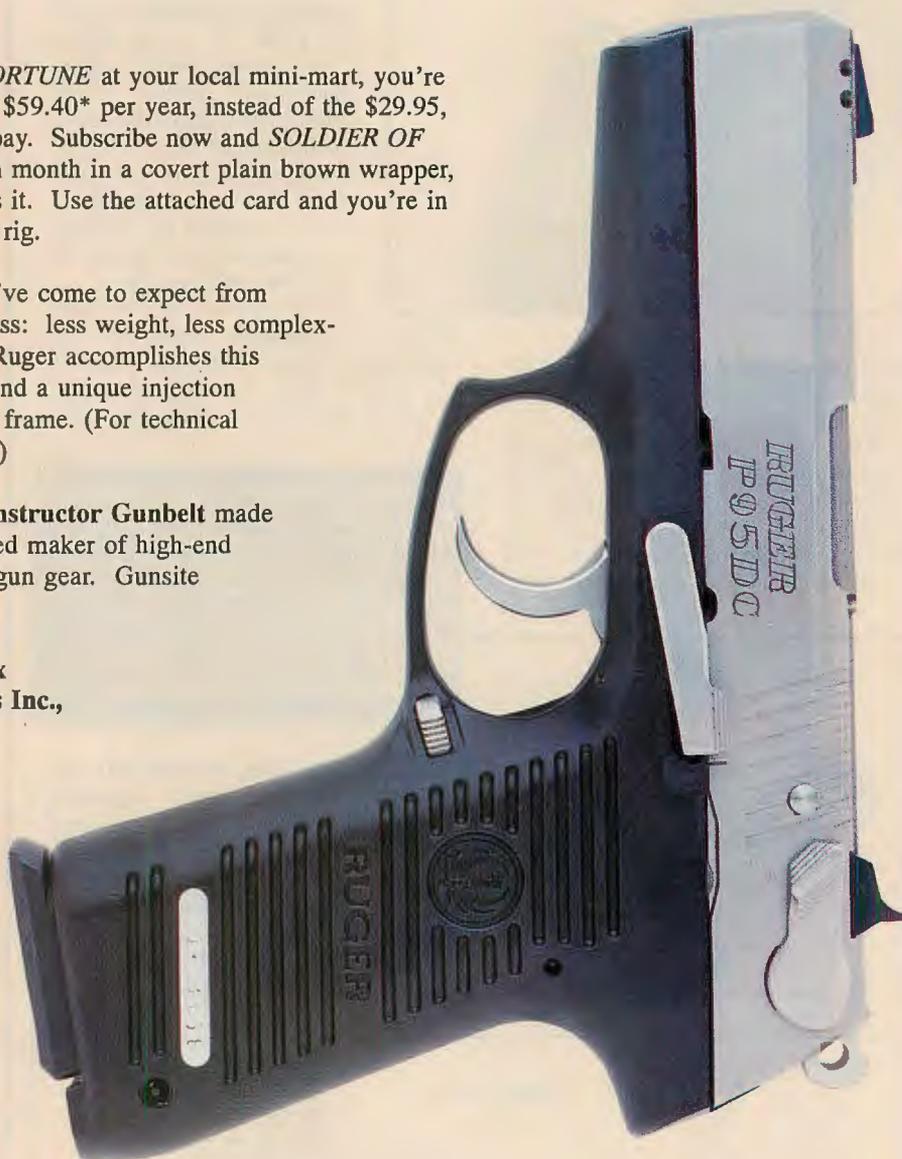
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BLOODY TRIANGLE

Continued from page 35

the Uganda military and the occasional Kenya army patrol that came across the border to retrieve stolen livestock.

Kony's force was down to about 500, including child warriors. He would "anoint" his troops with holy waters and various concoctions to make them "invisible" or bullet proof. The effect in battle was that it made Kony's warriors fearless; to frightened government soldiers, the enemy's crazy disregard for death sometimes caused them to break ranks and run. A Ugandan editor, Charles Obbo, described the LRA as "a few hundred rebels [who] are giving a division of 10,000 Ugandan soldiers a right run 'round."

It got worse — thanks to Khartoum.

In February this year, Kony returned to Uganda from the Sudan with what Western intelligence agencies estimated were 6,000 guerrillas. In their first encounter with the Uganda Peoples Defense Force (UPDF) north of Gulu, the LRA killed between 250 and 500 UPDF soldiers.

In addition to carrying modern Kalashnikov assault rifles, LRA guerrillas now were planting mines along all the roads and paths used by UPDF forces. Kony's fighters also took light artillery pieces and rocket-propelled grenade launchers into some of the better-coordinated attacks.

Overnight, Kampala was faced with a new and revitalized enemy that was not only well-disciplined, but used the same kind of weapons that the UPDF had been equipped with. Also, LRA guerrillas had become masters of the art of ambush. These have been taking place with increased regularity since February, along many of the major roads of the north as far west as Pakwach and east to Lira. Some LRA cadres have even been spotted as far south as the shores of Lake Kyoga, 90 miles or so from Jinja.

Kony's force bore some distinctive hallmarks.

The Lord's Resistance Army has been divided into three brigades; these in turn are split into smaller groups of 15 to 50 depending on the nature and size of the task ahead. Each unit has its own political officer; the men in this formerly staunchly Christian force now are allowed to adopt the faith of Islam, if they chose.

In other respects not much else has changed. It is still the children in the ranks — kids of 10 or 12 years of age — who are responsible for the worst atrocities. In the past five months entire villages have been laid waste. The stacking of human skulls alongside roads continues, largely to intimidate those who follow.

As in other parts of Africa, the LRA revolt has some ugly tribal undertones.

Kony, an Acholi from northern Uganda, believes in the resurgence of the

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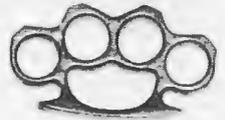
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warlike Acholi nation as a dominating force throughout the region. Tribal passions often result in the slaughter of other tribal groups. And anyone within the ranks of the LRA who is even vaguely suspected of disloyalty is murdered. Conditions are so bad that no Western correspondent has ever dared accompany the LRA on its forays.

One of the results of all these developments is that there is likely to be an increase in the presence of "hired guns" in Central Africa. The Christian South Sudanese welcome volunteers, though they haven't any money to pay for mercenary services. Uganda's armed forces are being forced to use more foreign military specialists; so are the Zaireans.

It is a vicious cycle.

SOF's contributing editor for Africa, Al J. Venter, has covered conflicts throughout that continent and the Middle East. ✕

ALL MOUT, NO MISSION

Continued from page 53

ments for Karadzic.

Arakelian and Sgt. Kelly Endsley both said they had orders to detain Mladic and Karadzic if caught, but did not have any instructions to lock and load or shoot if either man attempted to flee.

"Going after these guys is not our main

job," Arakelian said. "Our main job is keeping them [warring factions] from fighting, and weapons violations."

Endsley said their patrols into the woods surrounding Mladic's HQ were routine, and they weren't trying to be clandestine.

"We are a scout platoon," Arakelian chimed in. "Our job is to observe, maintain contact and report."

Arakelian then said nothing prevented his platoon from entering the base at Han Pijesak, but that to date there had been no reason to do so.

"I don't know that he [Mladic] is in there," the lieutenant said. "Do you? Who can say that he is or he isn't? It's not my job."

"So why don't you go in there and make a search of the place, including the bunker complex?" I asked.

"I have no orders to do so — and I'm not stupid either," Arakelian quickly replied.

We asked if the Americans troops ever stopped civilian vehicles to search for Mladic and Karadzic.

"Vehicle checks usually alienate civilians," the officer replied, "so we've gotten away from that. The main thing is big military movement."

We then followed Arakelian and his scouts, driving deep into the forest around Mladic's base to patrol a perimeter road dotted by abandon bunkers and populated

with man-eating deer flies but no war criminals.

Waiting For The Pres

On the appointed day we returned to Pale to attend a session of the parliament of the *Republika Srpska*. Karadzic was expected to be there to discuss the upcoming September elections.

At the edge of town Italians troops had set up another one of their highly flexible checkpoints, actively stopping vehicles in search of something. Two hundred meters down the road a French unit, with two Panards and three armored personnel carriers, was doing the same.

"My orders say that I am not to actively search for Mladic or Karadzic," said Italian Lt. Massimo "Max" Carta, a seven-year Bersaglieri veteran and former resident of Hackensack, New Jersey. "If any one of them came to me or I spotted them, I would detain them and call the military police. They would be here in five minutes."

"I know very well what both men look like," he said. "Hey, I miss New Jersey. Wouldn't you love a bagel or something right now?"

Asked about the video camera in his command vehicle, Lt. Carta smiled. "Hey, it's there just in case," he replied. "Just in case we catch Karadzic."

Just then, two black BMWs with tinted windows sped past the check-

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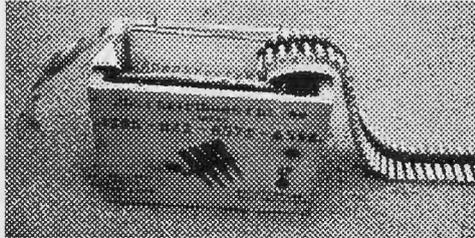
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point in the direction of Pale.

"Arrest Their Corpses"

With \$25 worth of Bosnian Serb Ministry of Information press cards stuffed in our pockets, we drove on to a small factory complex outside Pale that doubles as the renegade nation's parliamentary building.

Dozens of heavily armed BSA soldiers guarded the entrance and parking lot. We pulled the jeep into a corner, near the gutted wreckage of three APCs. Our official press handler walked us through the front gates and up the stairs. Security was tight: hand-held metal detectors and thorough searches.

The central room was filling up rather quickly. Talk was that Karadzic would arrive shortly.

The entire hierarchy of the Bosnian Serb government had arrived, including newly appointed hard-line Prime Minister Goyko Kljickovic, Foreign Minister Aleksa Buha, Vice President Nikola Kojevic, President of the Parliament Momcilo Krajisnik, and former biology professor-turned Vice President Biljana Plavsic.

An hour into the session, neither Karadzic nor Mladic had yet arrived. As usual, no one knew their whereabouts.

A French APC and a jeep pulled into the parking lot. The soldiers inside watched traffic for a while, then left. In fact, for some unexplained reason, within minutes of the start of the parliamentary session all IFOR checkpoints were abandoned and the Italians headed back to Sarajevo; this on a day when it was highly likely that President Karadzic, and perhaps even Gen. Mladic, would be in Pale.

A British journalist standing outside wondered aloud if NATO just didn't have the stomach for a manhunt that could turn out like the failed search in 1993 for warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid during the U.N. mission in Somalia.

"The politicians speak a lot of shit," the Brit said, "but they don't give the soldiers [in Bosnia] any concrete orders to work with. This place is a muck. They'll wait for both men [Karadzic and Mladic] to die and then arrest their corpses. It's a hell of a lot safer."

No doubt. A confrontation 3 July outside Mladic's compound in Han Pijesak occurred between U.S. Army scouts and a few hundred Bosnia Serbs, many of them BSA soldiers.

During a routine patrol, the 2nd Brigade scouts stopped their four Humvees outside the main gate; BSA personnel thought it was a raid to capture the general. An angry mob surrounded the U.S. troops, who followed IFOR rules and radioed for support that included attack helicopters. At some point, junior BSA officers reportedly threatened to fire on U.S. aircraft, further inflaming the situation.

Officers from IFOR and the BSA worked quickly to end the confrontation.

No shots were fired — this time.

SOF Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein is based in Budapest. He can be reached via E-mail at ansphoto@pronet.hu. ✉

LETHAL LEVERS

Continued from page 65

The peg against lever actions has always been in the accuracy department. As a genre, most lever-action rifles will shoot no better than 3- to 4-inch groups at 100 yards, although Marlins seem to be slightly more accurate than Winchesters. Lever-action rifles chambered for handgun cartridges are even worse, rarely shooting better than 4- to 5-inch groups at 100 yards. While they're still not benchrest rifles, Jim Brockman raised our two test specimens to a level of accuracy that is truly outstanding. The caliber .30-30 Model 336CS with 2.5x32mm Leupold Scout Scope will consistently shoot 0.4-inch groups at 50 yards with both 150-grain and 170-grain factory ammunition. This translates in theory to 0.8 MOA at 100 yards. Group sizes under an inch with a lever action are literally astounding. With Black Hills 240-grain JHPs, the .44 Magnum Model 1894 prints 0.6-inch groups at 50 yards. This is just superb and Jim Brockman has more than just done his homework.

Another problem I have encountered with lever-action rifles, especially older Winchester Model 1894s converted to handgun calibers, is unreliable feeding, no matter how fast or slow the finger lever is manipulated. Brockman has specifically addressed this situation and no lever-action rifle leaves his shop until it performs flawlessly in this area. There were no feed stoppages at any time during our test and evaluation of these two rifles with any of the bullet configurations we loaded into the magazines.

Increasing the barrel length from that of a 4-inch revolver to 16.5 inches increases the velocity of .44 Magnum ammunition by a significant amount. The Black Hills 240-grain lead-alloy SWC, the mildest load tested, went from 965 fps to 1,200 fps. The 240-grain Hornady XTP JHP load increased the most, moving from 1,140 fps in a revolver with a 4-inch barrel to an average velocity of 1,584 fps out of the carbine barrel. In my opinion, this large an increase in velocity pushes the XTP bullet to the outer edge of acceptable performance, as any further velocity increase will surely result in over-expansion and consequent under-penetration in soft tissue. The 300-grain Hornady XTP JHP, somewhat uncomfortable to shoot in a revolver when traveling at 1,140 fps, jumps to 1,330 fps in the Marlin Model 1894, which, however, also effectively tames the recoil it generates. In fact, all of the .44 Magnum and .30-30 loads were



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quite pleasant to shoot in these rifles, as the perceived recoil was minimal in both.

Jim Brockman's customized Marlin Model 336CS holds considerable appeal as a true general purpose rifle, with legitimate applications on both the game field and for serious social purposes. I have personally never been attracted to hunting with handgun cartridges, with the possible exception of brutes like the .454 Casull. However, I think Brockman's nifty little Model 1894 short-barreled carbine makes an ideal "house" gun for repelling the boarders that seem to be increasing in direct proportion to the rapidly increasing subversion of the Second Amendment. The workmanship displayed on these two rifles is peerless. The results achieved are outstanding. I can recommend Brockman's custom gunsmithing without reservations of any kind. ✖

DESERT SWARM

Continued from page 37

there was intent to make them weapons.

Who Are The Vipers?

And what about the defendants at the center of this bizarre story? The press dubbed them "The Dirty Dozen," "Rambos with bombs," and other such catchy titles.

In fact, they are a cross-section of America: 10 men and two women;

Republicans, Libertarians, and even a Democrat; maintenance men, an engineer, and a house painter; one owned an air-conditioning service, another worked for AT&T, and one was a doorman at a local topless nightclub. Some were deeply religious, polite and quiet. Others were known as loudmouthed smartasses. (See accompanying article.) They were involved in mainstream politics at the same time they fretted over "black helicopters," the United Nations, and the New World Order.

Initially depicted by both the feds and the news media as a terrorist militia, testimony heard during the detention hearings established they were neither terrorists nor a militia.

From the onset of this case, *Soldier Of Fortune* staffers doubted things were exactly as the government said. Too many things had an air of political posturing. And, as the media feeding frenzy began, very few in the mainstream media stopped to consider the track records and political baggage of some of those at the heart of this case.

Feds Not Without Fault

If anyone needed good press, it was the *politically correct* U.S. attorney for Arizona.

Clinton appointee Janet Napolitano, described as a high-level Democrat with sterling liberal credentials, had drawn attention for her January refusal to issue

search warrants to U.S. postal inspectors closing in on an international child-pornography ring. Inspectors, who already had obtained 106 similar warrants across the country during a two-year sting operation, were stunned at Napolitano's rejection of their request. (In desperation, the federal investigators turned to Maricopa County; within 24 hours, Deputy County Attorney JoAnn Garcia got them their warrant.) The resulting search of the suspect's house revealed numerous photos and videotapes of children engaged in sex with adult men, as well as the suspect's confession that he'd sodomized hundreds of young boys.

This entire incident was kept quiet until May, when U.S. Postal Inspector Karyn Cassett appeared on ABC's *20/20* show with a letter from Napolitano's office. It revealed that the U.S. attorney had refused to take the child-pornography case because she felt it unfairly targeted *homosexual* men. This incident, and Ms. Napolitano, are the subject of an ongoing investigation by the U.S. Senate.

In the past year, ATF representatives have testified before two separate congressional subcommittees, on Ruby Ridge and Waco. Both times it was clearly established that ATF officials lied and conspired to obstruct justice. And only a few months ago the ATF was in the headlines again, for busting a Georgia militia group. The ATF claimed — then later recanted its words —

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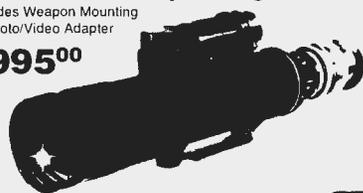
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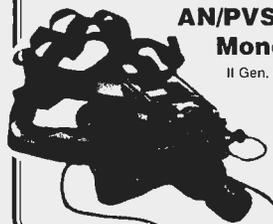
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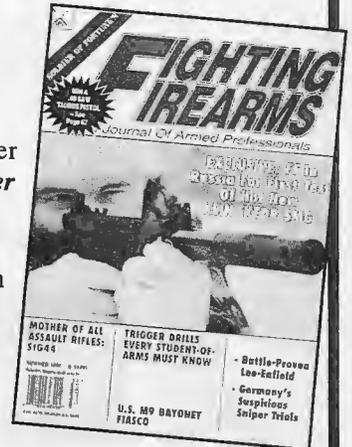
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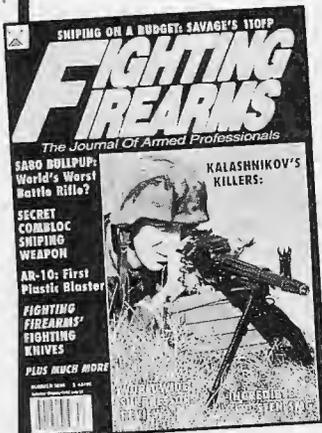
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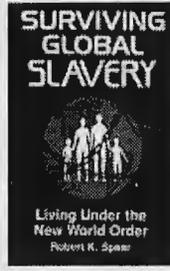
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that the group was planning to bomb the Olympic Games. This case has quietly slipped into media oblivion amid rumors that ATF agents or paid informants may have planted evidence.

Then came the much-ballyhooed Viper bust.

However, soon after the ATF's Ott took the witness stand in the detention hearings, the feds' case began to appear shaky enough to register on the Richter scale.

A week after the arrests, hearings were convened in Phoenix to determine whether the 12 would be freed on bail, or remain jailed as Assistant U.S. Attorney Frederick Battista demanded. This normally is a rather speedy procedure: Defense attorneys and prosecutors briefly state why the accused should or shouldn't be freed. With the entire nation watching, the Viper hearings dragged on for nearly four days.

Originally, government attorneys planned to call several witnesses to bolster their case. In the end, only one took the stand: Ott, a nine-year AFT veteran. That was enough. As one defense attorney, James Logan, later commented, "The government has made the case for the defense."

Questions & Lousy Answers

In a move that had many in the courtroom wondering what was going on, prosecutors didn't call to the stand the person who should have been most familiar with the case: ATF Agent Jose Wall. Instead, his boss, the group supervisor, was given the honor.

No sooner had Ott been seated than defense attorneys began their attack. The subsequent questions and answers were to send shock waves all the way to Washington — and bring ATF Director John Magaw to Phoenix for what many saw as damage control.

As Agent Ott was verbally bombarded, it soon became clear where the case was headed. Here are some of the more poignant exchanges:

• Referring to craters supposedly left in the desert by the group's activities —

Attorney Deborah Williams: "You, Agent Ott, have nothing to show that the group did it [detonate homemade bombs]?"

Ott: "I guess not."

• Regarding the Vipers' motives —

Attorney Jeffery Ross: "In referring to the ATF affidavit [for search warrant], it was claimed that all members participated in making explosives. Isn't it a fact that this isn't true? And that the targets were to be considered only in the event of a 'New World Order takeover'? Isn't that correct?"

Ott: "Yes, that's correct."

• Regarding ATF's knowledge of "militias" —

Attorney Martin Lieberman: "What have you done to research militias?"

Ott: "Read newspapers and magazines."

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• When asked to explain the legality of the firearms-conversion kits, Ott said, "Some conversion kits are illegal to possess ... it's very confusing."

• When asked if rocket launchers (which some Vipers had discussed building) were considered to be covered under the National Firearms Act, Ott admitted, "I don't know."

Buzzword: Militia

An issue sure to be at the forefront of the trial is, how far the undercover confidential informants (CIs) were willing to go to please their ATF handlers. Defense attorneys claim the following:

• The CIs tried, and failed, to get the group to distribute "Aryan Nation" and white-supremacist literature.

• The CIs asked the Vipers if they wanted to rob banks or commit other crimes. The answer was a resounding "no."

• When told the group had decided not to experiment with explosives any longer, the CIs convinced it to continue.

• The CIs actually might have provided the group with some explosive materials.

• By Agent Ott's own admission, the Viper Team never called itself a "militia." The CI first used the term.

During closing arguments, Deborah Williams, attorney for Randy Nelson, waved a copy of the 15 July *Newsweek* magazine, proclaiming to U.S. Magistrate Barry Silverman: "There has been a great lie perpetrated in this courtroom. It lives ... it takes on a life of its own."

Greg Bartolmei, attorney for Rick Walker agreed, saying, "My client had legal items, but bad thoughts ... he's a political prisoner." Describing the case as a media event orchestrated by U.S. Attorney Napolitano and the ATF, defense attorney Martin Lieberman argued, "The [federal] government created a political case through deliberate misinformation." He blasted ATF agent Ott, questioning whether Ott was purposefully ignorant, or just ignorant of this case.

In the end, six of the defendants — Knight, Shero, Williams, Sanville, Overturf and Floyd — were released on their own recognizance pending trial.

The so-called Vipers should not be portrayed as angels; nor should they be painted — as the government tried — as a domestic terrorist organization. Regardless of the crimes they now stand accused of, they are innocent until proved guilty in a court of law.

There is a bigger issue here, too.

In the cases of Randy Weaver, Waco's Branch Davidians, the accused bombers of Oklahoma City, the Unabomber suspect, and now the Vipers, the public has seen a disturbing trend in federal law enforcement: The government intentionally leaks heretofore *sensitive* information to the media. And justice is not served.

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not only is reprehensible, it's downright criminal.

SOF Contributing Editor for Forensic Sciences Richard L. Sherrow, an Arizona resident, has written extensively on the Oklahoma City bombing and federal law-enforcement abuses. He is a former Army and ATF explosive ordnance-disposal specialist. ✕

FULL AUTO

Continued from page 15

excellent thermal protection for the operator's support hand with enhanced barrel cooling characteristics. In a test designed by the U.S. Army to compare issued handguards on an M16 M4 carbine with the KAC RIS, the Knight RIS exhibited greater thermal protection and superior barrel cooling.

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Special Operations Command (USSO-COM) recently awarded a 5-year contract for the Modular Weapon System to Knight's Armament Company. All of this equipment can be purchased by the public. If you would like to bring your M16/AR-15 up to the level of those now issued to America's elite special operations units, contact Knight's Armament Company for a complete price list. ✕

HELL ON WHEELS

Continued from page 41

improve security at Khobar Towers. Among other things, it recommended such basic steps as reducing foliage along the perimeter that might mask the approach of a terrorist, and further tightening scrutiny of people coming and going.

Khobar Towers were built as public housing in the late 1970s, but the intended tenants, Bedouins, rejected the concrete towers for their traditional goatskin yurts because the tower complex did not include facilities for the nomadic herdsmen to keep their livestock.

In 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, refugees were housed briefly in the towers. They were followed by U.S., British and French forces sent to the region for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. While part of the complex was occupied by contract civil-

ians from Third World countries, the U.S., British and French sector remained separate from the rest, and these troops provided their own security.

The freeway from nearby Dhahran had an exit near the towers, and the ramp leading to the access road crossed what U.S. GIs came to call the "suicide intersection," so dubbed because of the frequent accidents there, most caused by Saudis who ignored stop signs.

The access road, as seen in the accompanying photograph, is on the south side of the complex. It approaches Gate 5, manned by armed U.S. and Saudi guards. It is another 400 to 500 yards to the complex itself, and the road snakes through concrete blocks, referred to by Air Force security guards as "Jersey barriers."

Past these Jersey barriers, there had been an above-ground bunker with a heavy machine-gun position. The bunker and HMG position had been removed since 1992. Just past this point, a driver must turn left to enter the area of the tower complex occupied by U.S. personnel.

The Soft Underbelly

The vulnerable spot, though, the one exploited by terrorists in the 25 June bombing, was the 10-foot perimeter fence. But the buffer zone was only about 80 feet along the northern perimeter. Just across, on ground not controlled by U.S. security personnel, was a public parking

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lot, a public park and a mosque.

To his credit, Col. Boyle did raise the perimeter issue with his Saudi counterpart during a stroll around Khobar Towers. Boyle told reporters that during his walk with the Saudi colonel, just after the first bombing in Riyadh, Boyle suggested the perimeter should be moved out to 400 feet. Boyle said he asked again in March. The Saudi officer never refused, but suggested delay, citing the need to close the parking lot and the possible disruption of a developer's plan to build a strip mall.

But neither Boyle, nor his superior officer, Air Force Brigadier General T.J. Schwalier, commander of 4404th Air Wing, whose troops lived in Khobar and whose unit was responsible for enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, raised the perimeter issue higher in the chain of command.

The "threat condition," or THREATCON, used by U.S. security personnel at the site was rated from "Normal," for lowest threat, to Alpha through Delta, for maximum threat. Prior to the Riyadh bombing, Khobar Towers was at THREATCON Alpha. After the November attack, it was raised to Bravo. The perimeter fence was supplemented with a ring of concrete Jersey barriers. Observers with night-vision scopes and binoculars were placed on rooftops. The U.S. sector was divided in two, each with a Humvee patrol. A third command Humvee was

armed with a pedestal-mounted M60 machine gun.

The OSI security assessment suggested the application of a four-mil coating of Mylar to tower windows, to prevent their shattering into lethal shards in the event of a blast. Schwalier deemed that too expensive, and the Pentagon approved his request to delay the measure until after 1 October, the new budget year. Schwalier and Boyle could have moved personnel away from rooms close to the vulnerable perimeter, to units facing the compound's interior, but they did not do so.

Straws In The Wind

Between November and June, there was uneasiness. Local Saudis repeatedly would ask U.S. personnel "why we were still there, why hadn't we gone home," one Air Force OSI agent told *SOF*. Religious conservatives continually despaired of the "decadent" Western influence in the Moslem country. Air Force sentries atop the buildings would see local Saudis gazing intently back through their own binoculars. In what was probably a tactic by terrorists to gauge the response of U.S. security, two men tried to ram a large truck through the perimeter fence, alarming guards. They drove away.

Schwalier began holding security meetings with his staff every Wednesday. Due to turn over his command on 26 June, Schwalier held a final meeting with his

squadron commanders on 19 June, where he congratulated himself for improvements to Khobar's security posture.

Six days later, two Arabs driving a Mercedes Benz semi-tractor, pulling a tanker trailer packed with an estimated 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of high explosive, drove into the adjacent parking lot on the north perimeter fence. Seeing the driver and a passenger jump into another vehicle containing two other men, an Air Force guard sounded the alarm. It was too late.

Immediately afterward, Schwalier claimed the Saudi government refused "repeated requests" to expand the perimeter. The Saudis issued a swift denial. The Pentagon later admitted such an expansion was mentioned only in the informal chat between Boyle and Boyle's Saudi counterpart.

In numerous statements to the press and in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee on 9 July, Defense Secretary Perry neglected to mention the classified DIA report that warned that Khobar's security flaws made it particularly vulnerable to terrorist attack. Perry acknowledged that the desire to extend the security perimeter was never pursued up the chain of command, but tried to excuse that, too.

"The [Saudi's] answer was not 'No,'" Perry testified to the Senate Armed Services Committee. "The answer was 'Not now. Not yet.'"

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that American troops in Saudi Arabia are to be dispersed to outlying areas so they no longer provide enticing massed targets: The same reports state that Islamic extremists in that country have indicated their willingness to use chemical and biological warfare to force Americans to leave.

The question voters must ask William Perry and his boss is not unlike a recently issued Army recruiting poster in which Uncle Sam points an accusing finger at the viewer: When will our military leadership take responsibility for the safety of our troops? If not now, when? And if not you, then who? ✕

CLINTON'S WAR

Continued from page 55

wishes to do business at a gun show, the BATF is now requiring him to sign over all of his show inventory to a local dealer at the beginning of a show. Then, after the show, the dealers must go through all of the same paperwork in reverse, minus any guns that were sold and transferred off the local dealer's books. Heretofore, it was enough for an out-of-state dealer to take just the gun he was selling to a local dealer, transfer it to that dealer's books, and then have the local dealer transfer the gun to the buyer. Of course, if there were no unconstitutional licensing of dealers by the

federal government (another Nazi idea), none of this hassle would take place. Clinton would object that he would then have no way of knowing who was buying a gun. The answer would be what I am sure our founding fathers might have replied, "That's the idea."

Opportunities For Abuse Never Wasted

The Crime Bill also expanded the ability of police agencies to profit from forfeited property. Forfeiture is often a euphemism for government theft of private property. About 80 percent of the more than 50,000 property seizures every year have no charges filed. The property just goes into some police department's control, or is sold so they can buy military-style armament or whatever they desire. The Republicans have really been asleep at the switch to let Clinton grab such unconstitutional and dangerous power.

We are forgetting at our peril that the Constitution vests almost no police powers in the United States, these being reserved to the individual states. Architect of the Bill of Rights, James Madison, pointed out that the Constitution delegated to the national government police powers *only* in the areas of counterfeiting, treason, piracy and offenses against the laws of nations. Generally speaking, Madison stated that the powers of the United States are few and well-defined.

But Clinton is not interested in the Constitution. He is interested in aggrandizing his own power, and he is willing to use any shameless excuse to do so. For an example of this, one need look no farther than the explosion that rocked the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City killing 169 men, women and children. Clinton threatened the Republicans with a bucket of mud if they did not bend the knee before the President's demands that an Anti-Terrorism Bill be passed in response to the tragedy. Amazingly, the Republicans gave him much of what he wanted — more money for the BATF, a study that will be used to justify the banning of hunting ammunition and several due-process violations that shredded the Fifth Amendment guarantee of due process.

One due-process violation enacted into law in the Government Terror Bill was a standard-of-knowledge rule governing those selling explosives, meaning black and smokeless propellant powder, and probably ammunition, that will be a prosecutor's dream. Sellers can be convicted of a minimum mandatory sentence of five years if a jury can be convinced that they "should have known" that the buyer would commit a criminal act. How do you prove that you did not know? Putting the burden of proof on a defendant is to turn upside down our presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

Another violation of due process



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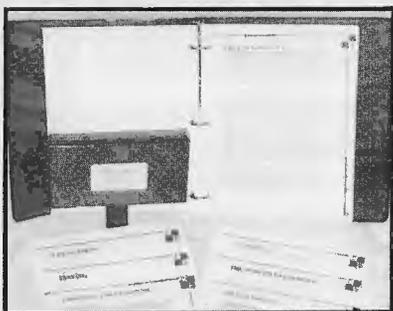
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involves the virtual destruction of the Great Writ of *habeas corpus*. This is the right of judicial review, and even the power to free one convicted unjustly. Now, thanks to passage of the Government Terror Bill, for practical purposes, a defendant will have to show that the trial court violated one of his constitutional rights in a *wholly* unreasonably unconstitutional manner in order to get an appeal heard. Why, if a prosecutor withholds evidence that would have led to acquittal, but was only 95 percent unreasonably unconstitutional, what's the big deal? Let the prisoner rot in jail, right? Well, consider that a lot of judges and prosecutors like convicting gun owners just because they are gun owners. Gun Owners of America has used habeas corpus lots of times to seek redress for the unjustly convicted. Probably no longer, though, thanks to King William I.

To fully appreciate what Clinton got in his Government Terror Bill's assault on the Great Writ, consider that habeas corpus dates back at least to the Battle of Runnymede in 1215 when the barons of England wrested the recognition of this right from King John. With a majority vote of our Congress, Bill Clinton was able to take back what King John was forced to give up.

But this is not all. Clinton has actually delivered more than he promised to Sarah Brady's Handgun Control crowd in Congress. As a fan of what President

George Bush referred to as the New World Order, Clinton has been seeking to turn over U.S. sovereignty to the U.N. and other international bodies. This has been from the beginning the dark side of NAFTA and GATT. These treaties have had the result of placing U.S. laws under World Trade Organization and other international bodies' approval. When Cuba shot down two private planes full of U.S. citizens, there was strong sentiment to tighten the economic sanctions against Cuba. Nothing of the sort happened. Why? Because Canada and the European Community warned the U.S. that they could not do that under GATT and NAFTA.

It's Later Than You Think

So, why is the U.S. continuing to participate in the U.N. Crime Commission? This group has called for the harmonization of world gun laws — meaning, dragging the U.S. down to the level of most of the rest of the world. The Japanese and Canadian governments are pushing for an international convention to disarm the U.S. the way they have disarmed their own people. Were the U.S. to ever sign such a convention, it would become the law of the land. Perhaps the scenario would be similar to how forced busing was imposed in the U.S. Courts made rulings and the politicians simply said, "Well, there is nothing we can do." Actually, there was plenty the Congress could have done.

Under Article I Section 8, Congress could have withdrawn jurisdiction for busing cases from federal courts. Clinton could easily pull the same charade — sign up for U.N. gun control and then whine that there is nothing he can do since civilian disarmament would then be the law of the land. It is kind of the same defense as that used by the guy that killed his parents and then pled for the court's mercy since he was an orphan.

When you stop and think about it, President William Jefferson Clinton has probably been more effective in destroying the rights of Americans than was King George III.

All of this transpired in Clinton's *first* term in spite of what he admits was the heavy political price he paid for pushing gun control in 1993 and 1994. Clinton publicly acknowledged that gun control cost his party control of the Congress. If he has been this bad already, whatever might he be like in a *second*, lame-duck term when he is no longer seeking re-election?

Larry Pratt is executive director of Gun Owners of America. ✕

WACO: THE FINAL VERDICT

Continued from page 59

the Davidians knew the ATF was coming. The subcommittees conclude that Sarabyn understood that the Davidians were tipped

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off and would have been lying in wait for the ATF agents to arrive.

The Clinton Administration's attempts to suggest that maintaining the "element of surprise" had been an overriding feature of the directives of Treasury Department officials to ATF officials is inaccurate. While the issue was discussed, there was no absolute direction given to ATF officials or ATF commanders on site that if secrecy was compromised that they were not to go forward with the raid. The Clinton Administration's attempt to suggest otherwise appears to be a veiled attempt to distance the Administration and its most senior officials from the results of the failed raid.

But it is almost impossible to understand why ATF commanders did not find Rodriguez's information to be important enough to call off the raid. Given the type of tactical operation selected, maintaining the secrecy of the timing of the raid is so fundamental that the blame for the failure to ensure that it was maintained must be shared not only by the commanders on site, but by senior ATF officials. Sarabyn was grossly negligent in failing to realize the significance of what Rodriguez had told him and then failing to insist, in his capacity as tactical coordinator, that Chojnacki call off the raid.

Chojnacki was selected as incident commander because he was special agent in charge of the field office in whose region the raid was to occur. Even though Chojnacki had 27 years law-enforcement experience, there were other agents involved in the raid who possessed substantially more experience in tactical operations. Chojnacki appointed Sarabyn to be tactical coordinator because the National Response Plan required that position to be filled by an assistant special agent in charge who had completed special response team training. Sarabyn had attended SRT training, but only as an observer.

One problem with overall planning was the fact that no written raid plan existed. There was almost no training on how to withdraw from the residence. ATF leadership shares blame for the failure of this operation. It is evidence of grievous negligence on their part.

When the Texas National Guard pilots arrived at Ft. Hood to train with the ATF the day before the raid, they learned for the first time that the ATF intended to use the helicopters as a diversion just before the raid was to begin. While the National Guard was conducting its role in its Title 32 status, and so was not limited by the terms of the Posse Comitatus Act, this change of plan is still troubling. The failure to inform National Guard commanders of their true role is, at best, additional evidence of poor planning. At worst, this may have been an attempt to obtain operational assistance that might have been declined. It does not appear that senior ATF or Treasury officials gave any consideration to the negative image of military heli-

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copters being used as part of a raid on American civilians.

Treasury Department officials were asked why a deal was struck with the two people on whom the Treasury Department blamed the failure of the raid. No sufficient answers to this question were provided. In light of the Treasury Department report's conclusion that "raid commanders Chojnacki and Sarabyn appeared to have engaged in a concerted effort to conceal their errors in judgment," it is difficult to imagine any basis upon which the rehiring of these two individuals can be justified.

Chojnacki and Sarabyn jointly share most of the responsibility for the failure of the raid. The planning for the raid was seriously flawed. The evidence suggests that the Davidians fired the first shots. The evidence generally supports the conclusion that no shots were fired from the helicopters. The ATF agents executing the raid were not required to knock and announce. After the raid failed, Clinton Administration officials inaccurately stated that the ATF raid commanders had been given explicit orders to not proceed with the raid if the secrecy was compromised.

Military Involvement At Waco

U.S. military involvement is one of the least explored and most misunderstood elements of the events that took place near Waco. The Treasury Department dedicated only three-and-one-half of 220 pages to explaining the military's involvement.

The Subcommittees found that subsequent congressional actions and legal cases have eroded the Posse Comitatus Act to an alarming degree and blurred its legal restrictions. No one has ever been prosecuted for violating the Posse Comitatus Act.

The National Guard, for reasons that are at least partly historical, is not subject to the same legal restrictions placed on active-duty and reserve military personnel with regard to involvement civilian law enforcement. Having evolved from the state militia concept, the National Guard holds the unique position as both a state and a national military force. During the ATF investigation, National Guard assistance came not only from the Texas National Guard, but from the Alabama National Guard, to take aerial photographs.

Significant portions of military assistance provided to ATF and even the FBI were funded through counterdrug funds. On 4 December 1992, ATF case agent David Aguilera told Army Lieutenant Colonel Lon Walker, a Defense Department liaison to ATF, that there was no known drug nexus in the Koresh case.

On 11 December, ATF's resident agent in charge of the Austin office met with a representative of Texas Governor Ann Richards to discuss what types of military assistance were available for the Waco raid. On 14 December, ATF's Austin office sent

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the state official a facsimile letter asking for help under the state's counterdrug program. Although the request did not mention the required drug nexus, it was initiated for approval. On 16 December, Aguilera told the state official he had received a faxed letter from former church member Mark Breault in Australia suggesting the existence of a methamphetamine lab at Mount Carmel. ATF searched criminal records to see if any known Branch Davidians had a prior drug conviction. One did.

None of the numerous briefing papers or status reports on the Waco case sent from ATF field offices to headquarters ever mention a drug lab, or drug activity. Neither ATF's search warrant, nor its supporting affidavits, mention illegal drugs.

Key documentation justifying the deployment of non-reimbursable military aid on the drug nexus is missing. Yet the ATF request was approved, and further requests for military aid were referred to the federal level. Within a week, ATF Special Agent Richard Garner, ATF's Pentagon liaison, asked the Army's Regional Logistics Support Office (RLSO) for an urban warfare training site, seven Bradley fighting vehicles, and on-call support in the event a siege occurred. This was the largest request in RLSO's history. It was the largest request in the history of JTF-6. Yet, even as senior military officials expressed concern that ATF

misrepresented the required drug nexus, JTF-6 continued for months after Waco's fiery finale to actively promote its services to ATF.

On 2 February 1993, the U.S. Army Special Forces Command Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) was advised of ATF's request to Joint Task Force Six for assistance from a Green Beret team. The SJA, Maj. Phillip W. Lindley, advised JTF-6 "that Rapid Support Unit (RSU) assistance in actual planning and rehearsal of proposed 'takedown' could violate Posse Comitatus law, expose RSU to liability. [A] question also arises as to the appropriateness of RSU giving [Close Quarters Battle] training to ATF."

There is no written documentation of ATF's request for this highly controversial training.

Only when the National Guard team arrived at Fort Hood, 24 hours prior to the raid, did pilots learn they were to be part of the raid itself, flying as a diversion behind Mount Carmel as the raid teams approached from the front. ATF had even assigned one of the soldiers to hang from a monkey sling outside the helicopter to film the raid. The soldier was in that position when the helicopters took incoming fire.

Clearly, ATF disregarded the safety of the soldier, its agents and innocent civilians. For example, even though ATF told the Army there was a meth lab at Mount Carmel, agents trained with and subse-

quently used flashbang grenades. They would present an enormous hazard of fire and/or explosion if used in the proximity of chemicals used in meth labs.

Approximately 10 active-duty Special Forces soldiers [from Special Forces Operational Detachment - DELTA] were present at Waco as "observers" during various stages of the post-raid siege, including the day of the fire. Additionally, at the request of the commander of the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, two senior Army Special Forces officers [DELTA] were present when Attorney General Reno was briefed on the FBI's plan to end the standoff. Prior to the meeting, one of those officers [DELTA commander] visited the site of the standoff by helicopter, accompanied by the HRT commander.

The report concludes that no violations of the Posse Comitatus Act occurred. But the ATF definitely misled other agencies in getting non-reimbursable assistance for the Waco raid. Contrary to the assertions by senior Pentagon officials, the approval process did not work as it was supposed to.

Civilian law-enforcement's increasing use of militaristic tactics is unacceptable. Congress should consider applying the Posse Comitatus Act to the National Guard with respect to a situation where a federal law-enforcement agency has the lead.

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The FBI did not take appropriate steps to understand the mindset of the subjects of the negotiations. FBI leadership failed to make crucial decisions about which strategy to employ. FBI must train its negotiators so that physical and emotional fatigue will not influence the course of negotiations. Federal law-enforcement should take steps to increase the willingness of its agents to consider the advice of outside experts.

Reno's Decision

The risks of ending the standoff were not fully appreciated. FBI tactical commander Jeffrey Jamar and senior FBI and Justice Department officials acted irresponsibly in advising Reno to go forward with the plan to end the standoff. It is unlikely that the CS riot control agents used by the FBI reached toxic levels, however. Yet, in the manner in which the CS was used, the FBI failed to demonstrate sufficient concern for the presence of young children, pregnant women, the elderly, etc. The FBI should have been more concerned with the presence of young children. Line FBI agents involved in the 19 April operation to end the standoff acted heroically and with great professionalism.

The president should have accepted Attorney General Reno's resignation. The government should further study and analyze the effects of CS on children, preg-

nant women, etc. The FBI should expand the size of the Hostage Rescue Team.

The Fire

The evidence indicates some of the Davidians intentionally set the fires. The methylene chloride in the CS did not cause the fire. FBI agents did not intentionally, or unintentionally, set the fire. But the FBI should have made better preparations to fight a fire. The Davidians could have escaped the residence even after the fire began. ✕

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Continued from page 45

manner as to highlight the perennial military battle between those who do and those who train to do. It is the "two armies" so eloquently discussed by Jean Larteguy in his immortal work, *The Centurions*: one which looks good and practices with the finest equipment for hypothetical conflicts; the other which wears fatigues and is actually in combat. To America's benefit, its military leaders have never been so far removed from reality that national security itself has been threatened, but they have certainly, even to the present as Collins discusses, made life difficult for those who have actually held the line.

Institutional rewards (e.g. assignments, promotions, and decorations) continue to ensure the status of second-class citizenship for special operations personnel, even while they are required to function at a feverish pace (the example given, of one sergeant, who was absent from McDill AFB 32 of 39 months after being assigned, is not in my experience either unique or unusual). No example could better illustrate this (it is too recent to be included by Collins) than the Pentagon's initial decision — ignoring its own advisory board on the matter — to deny combat decorations to those who were advisers during the conflict in El Salvador. Likewise, reductions-in-force appear to have fallen heavily upon any shoulders so rash as to have dedicated an undue portion of a career pattern to actually fighting in one of his country's numerous undeclared wars.

This is not to play a dead horse, but only to highlight a point that surfaces repeatedly in the text: It is special operations forces which are called upon most often in the present environment to deal with the "real-world," post-Cold War contingencies. Yet because these contingencies do not fit the institutional definition of what the military should be doing — or what war should be — the best

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manner to handle the issues is to ignore them altogether until forced to do otherwise by outside intercession. It is hardly the manner in which a railroad should be run.

Of course, force-feeding can get results, and in the case of special operations forces, such does appear to be the true. The integration of the unwanted child into the fold has made substantial strides. It is the permanence of acceptance and utilization that remains at issue. Particularly valuable in assessing the degree to which special operations requirements are not going to vanish, therefore, is "Chapter V: Theater Special Operations Commands." It illuminates, as well, the degree to which Collins is unusually well-informed (and well-briefed).

There are minor errors here and there in the text. The opening page, for instance, takes a list of nine statutory SOF (special operations forces) responsibilities (a tenth, which I omit from this count, is "other activities"), and cites six of them as being "primary" — direct action (DA), strategic reconnaissance (SR), unconventional warfare (UW), foreign internal defense (FID), civil affairs (CA), and psychological operations (PSYOP) — another two as "collateral" — humanitarian assistance (HA) and theater search and res-

cue (TSAR). This, of course, leaves without category or discussion the seventh of the list, counterterrorism (CT), an item of no little importance. (Is it primary? I would hazard a guess that one would be hard pressed to obtain a definitive answer from anyone in the U.S. government, military or otherwise!)

Similarly, a discussion of "four" personnel issues with "far-reaching ramifications" (pp. 121-25), includes in reality but three. Given that the third (and final) point is the politically correct "minority accessions" (women and minorities are under-represented in SOF), it may be just as well that the fourth, whatever it was, has disappeared! Less sanguine, in dealing with "vanishings," undoubtedly will be SOCPAC (Special Operations Command, Pacific), which (on p. 89) sees the three battalions of its 1st Special Forces Group diminished to but a single battalion on Okinawa (the other two battalions are at Fort Lewis, Washington, but very much alive, well, and in constant use).

As a final note, a discriminating reader might well wish, too, that many of the amateurish captions to the accompanying photos would disappear (see e.g. pp. 106 and 107). They stand in stark contrast to the professionalism of the text. The cover

photo, in fact — "U.S. Special Operations Forces skilled at jungle warfare conduct a mock raid" — features M14-equipped soldiers who have a suspicious resemblance to those of a certain Latin American country where the United States military did not (repeat, *did not*) engage in combat.

Such, though, are small complaints when dealing with a text of considerable value. It is a fine introduction to the field of special operations and a useful reference to organizations, forces, and missions presently in the field. Its suggestions for improvement should find a ready audience in a U.S. Congress more anxious than ever to achieve more bang for the buck.

—T.M.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Continued from page 45

Judicial Police (TJP), under the Attorney General's office, quickly followed leads and came up with two more caches on property owned by Colombian Gustavo Lopez. *His* whereabouts remained unknown, but in April, after years (decades, actually) of ignoring his presence, the government arrested Jose Castrillon Henaó, described as director of maritime shipments for the Cali cartel.

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Such bigger fish, nabbed through honest police effort at the lower levels, could operate with protection higher up.

What remains the subject of speculation is the extent to which it was U.S. pressure that finally forced the Panamanians to move, or simply self-preservation, because the sheer amounts of money swirling about have continued to bring into play some dangerous players.

Now attempting to gain a piece of the action is Panama's own National Liberation Movement 29 (MLN-29), which has been linked to insurgents in Colombia and Peru. Other weapons, as well as funds, apparently have found their way to disgruntled elements in the military who have yet to reconcile themselves to the new order. In early January (1996), 13 police officers were arrested for planning to overthrow the government. In the wake of Just Cause, the Panama Defense Force had been disbanded; its place was taken by the Panama Public Force (PPF) of approximately 12,000. While seven were later released, evidence linked the plot to the old guard that had profited from the dirty deals of the past.

It may be engaging in undue intellectual effort to worry about motivation. At one level, the job seems to be getting done.

Don't Embarrass Your Friends

And to be fair, any politician in Panama must engage in a precarious balancing act.

Not only is it hard to remain "clean" amid ample temptations, but there are political costs associated with supporting the U.S. effort. At no time has the deployment of American security assets, in whatever form, be they simply intelligence gathering/provision or actual forces, been without controversy.

In May (1996), for instance, Justice Minister Raul Montenegro responded to opposition questioning in Congress about what the government was doing to stop drug smuggling. He was quoted as stating, "The national government has authorized the U.S. Army to lend support to the authorities on the frontier with Colombia."

Onlookers were hastily expelled, and a closed session ensued.

As events transpired, it was difficult to tell which upset the opposition most: the original issue — what are you doing to stop drugs? — or the revealed, purported "secret" program with the Americans in Darien. For its part, SOUTHCOM denied any involvement outside a request to test airborne eavesdropping equipment and techniques over the area.

Regardless of the actual extent of the operation, the bottom line was the same: The Panamanians freely admitted that they no longer had control over their own territory in the area in question — and drugs were a problem — but they *weren't* a problem — and it's embarrassing to have foreigners all over the place — but, yes, we

could use some help — but these matters need to be handled with discretion.

Strangely, at discretion the U.S. has, thus far, proved reasonably adroit, as demonstrated by the lack of publicity in this country on the continuing battle "down there." Firefights involving DEA personnel in the Upper Huallaga Valley of Peru surface periodically as a popular subject for press and media discussion. Elsewhere, there is little save silence — or ignorance. The heart of the hemispheric operation, located in Panama, methodically and professionally continues.

SOC SOUTH itself, according to analyst John Collins (refer again to attached review), has only a single Special Forces company and a detachment of Black Hawks, together with a Naval Special Warfare Unit and a Special Boat Unit based at Rodman, Panama (both controlled by U.S. Atlantic Fleet Detachment South but released in support of SOCSOUTH when so-directed). These, though, are at any one time amply reinforced by both TDY and contract personnel working for various agencies within the U.S. government structure. The result is a fairly intense operational tempo that shows few signs of slackening even as the "pullout date" approaches.

Hence, ironically, the greatest friend Panama may have in its effort to avoid becoming a total backwater may not be what is expected, strategic position and all that. Instead, it may just be its central role,

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as linchpin and participant, in the drug war. Chances are high that a U.S. presence will remain a significant factor for some years to come.

Senior Foreign Correspondent Dr. Tom Marks has been writing for SOF for more than 10 years. ✕

WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY

Continued from page 39

The other Talledega incident occurred while the HRT was tied down in the 51-day Waco siege. Use of a SEAL team instead of HRT for a takedown operation "was discussed," said the Quantico source. As it turned out, HRT resolved it peacefully, without military assistance.

In a separate, but not as recent, incident at the federal prison in Atlanta, Delta was called in to take down a prisoner-barricade situation, said the USSOC source. Like the second Talledega takedown in 1993, the crisis was resolved without violence.

In Atlanta, "there was no resistance. I believe they [inmates] knew these were more than federal agents coming in. Delta did the take-down. HRT took the credit."

Debate continues in the ranks, the sources agree.

"At first, no one really questioned it," said the Kentucky source. "We were thinking about Islamic terrorists. We'd always thought of the civilian agents as the good guys. After Waco ... it took on a more sinister light."

So much so that a disgruntled SOAR 160 pilot printed up propaganda leaflets condemning the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms for thuggish conduct. He dropped thousands over Florida, but was disappointed that there was no public notice.

Now, the public is noticing. But officials, civilian and military, say very little. When hundreds of sleeping residents in Des Plaines, Illinois, near Chicago, were awakened by gunfire, explosions and swooping helicopters in June 1995, local police "said they never heard of it," the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported. An Illinois State Police spokesman finally admitted it was "some sort of SWAT thing; multijurisdictional. We can't talk about it." Call Department of Defense, he said.

"Routine exercise," said Mike Sienda, a Pentagon spokesman. "Military police."

Next night, in another Chicago suburb, Lemont, an abandoned seminary was "invaded." One neighbor thought a nearby refinery had exploded.

"Routine training," Sienda repeated the next day. This time it was "a navigational exercise."

Navigational training? With gunfire and explosions?

"There was some of that, too," Sienda told reporter Zay N. Smith. No one was notified in advance because "we didn't want to attract attention." ✕

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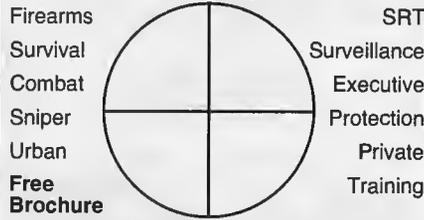
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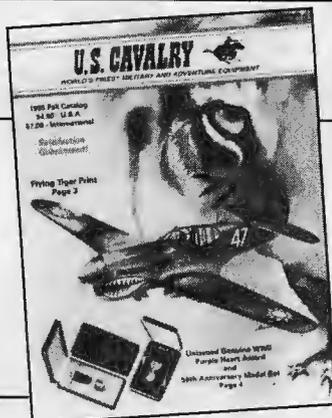
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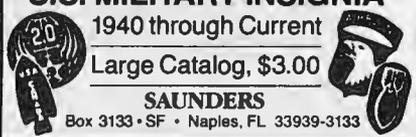
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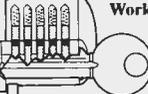
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PARTING SHOT

Defense Budget Basics

by Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.)

Col. David Hackworth (Ret.), America's most decorated living soldier and a frequent contributor to SOF, writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

As Whitewater, Filegate and the latest White House-Arkansas scandal assault us, President Clinton's \$254 billion defense budget quietly streaks through Congress like a Stealth fighter, virtually unchallenged.

Except, of course, by Republican Hawks, who haven't yet figured out the Cold War is over. They want to add \$12 billion more to the 1997 defense budget.

Two hundred sixty-six billion dollars for the military would keep defense spending near the levels spent when

The first thing America has to do is identify its real enemies, today, next year and on into the middle of the 21st century. We can no longer afford to inflate our enemy list just to justify our weapons list.

the Russians were coming, a figure nearly 20 times as large as the combined spending of the Dirty Half Dozen: North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Cuba. A figure that would cost every American citizen \$963 next year.

Meanwhile in Japan — a country we've spent the last 50 years defending while they were cranking up to wax us on the world market — the average citizen spends only \$429 keeping mythical bogeymen away from their door.

The Center of Defense Information (CDI), a Washington-based think tank headed up not by wild-eyed peaceniks but patriotic, conservative retired military men, reports the 1997 defense budget is nearly seven times that of Germany, five times that of Japan and more than four times that of the

world's second largest defense spendthrift, Russia.

Retired Vice Admiral John Shanahan, the director of CDI, hits it on the head when he says, "America

Joint Strike Fighter, a trillion-dollar bonanza for some lucky defense contractor.

CDI says buying such unneeded gold-plated aircraft is "wasting billions

TRACKING THE NATIONAL DEBT



U.S. national debt increased in March 1996 by: **\$120,020,307,804**

New total: **\$5,137,761,102,347**

Your share of the federal debt is: \$19,419

SOURCE: U.S. Treasury Department

is militarily secure. We face no enemies." Shanahan says the public is misinformed and that many officials responsible for our defenses "deliberately cultivate fear of foreign threats in order to justify their role."

Enter Bob Dole, railing on about Clinton being weak on defense (if \$254 billion is weak, what's strong?) at a rally at a California defense plant.

"Where would the world be without America, and where would the world be without you, Lockheed Martin?" he asked a cheering crowd. Their votes were obviously there for the taking for just a few strips of the

ol' baconola Dole's such a pro at dispensing in the time-dishonored American politicians' pork barrel way.

Bob Dole doesn't get it. Neither does Bill Clinton. Both are planning to defend America with truckloads of promised pork and a Cold War mind-set. Both are thinking like the French leaders who, between the World Wars, built the Maginot Line to stop the Germans without understanding the Bouch learned during WWI that frontal attacks aren't smart. Back then, the Germans built fleets of tanks, developed new doctrine, went around the concrete bunkers and took Paris in six weeks.

Lockheed Martin, where Dole was schmoozing up the workers and executives and greasing the skids for a fat PAC contribution, is one of the companies competing to build the new

of dollars in an arms race with ourselves. No other nation comes even close to matching existing U.S. air capabilities."

America is broke and can't continue to pour money down a rat hole by buying unneeded gear.

We urgently need to overhaul our lavish way of guarding America.

What's needed is some revolutionary thinking on how best to defend this land and its interests.

We have to go back to the basics, like a sergeant does before going on an operation. He asks, "What's the mission? How many men am I going to have? What's the enemy situation?" Then he checks out the terrain and weather, organizes his guys and moves out.

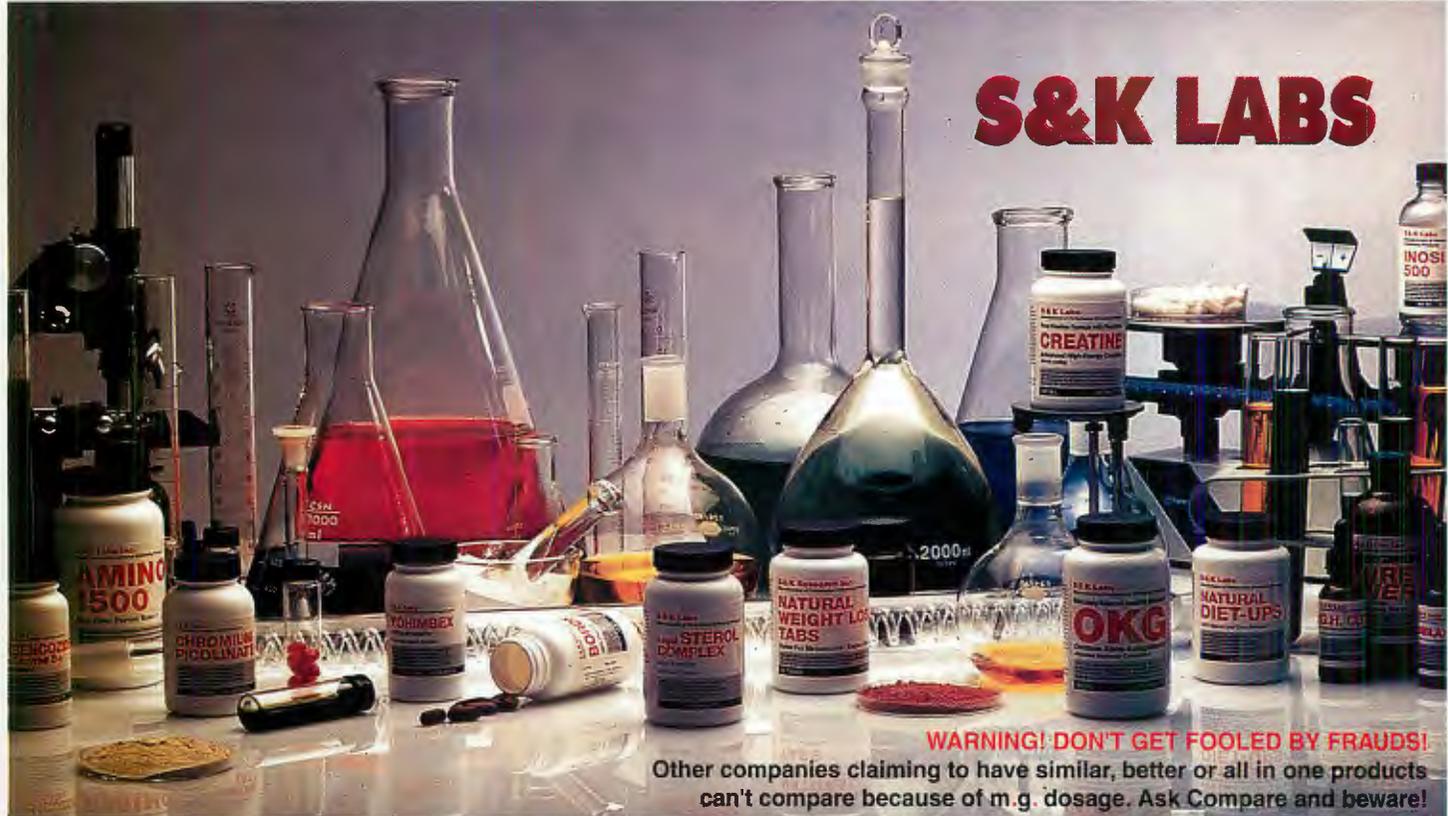
The first thing America has to do is identify its real enemies, today, next year and on into the middle of the 21st century. We can no longer afford to inflate our enemy list just to justify our weapons list.

The next step is to deep-six the current wrongheaded strategy of fighting two Desert Storm-sized conflicts at the same time. This strategy is mission impossible. It was designed by King of Pork former Defense Secretary Les Aspin to keep the military industrial complex booming and doesn't have one thing to do with military necessity.

To paraphrase Bob Dole, "How much better off would most Americans be without Lockheed Martin?" Changing our politicians' Cold War mind-set should be the battle cry of all Americans during Election '96. ✖

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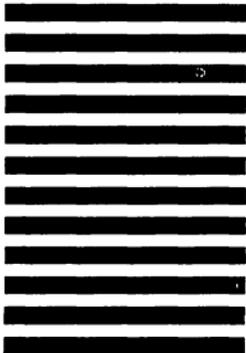
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