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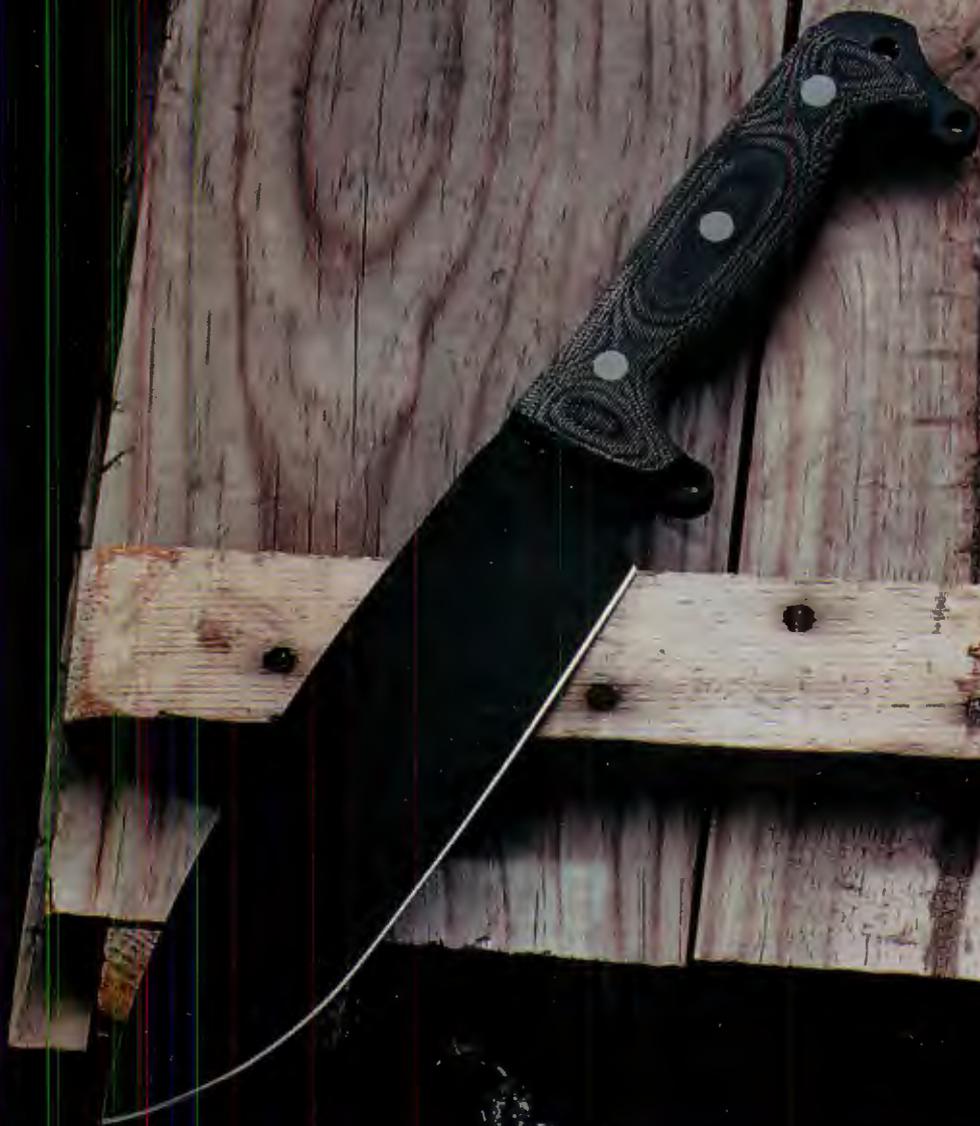
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by **Robert K. Brown**

A Few Good Men

AS a member of the National Rifle Association Board, I am nominating a list of candidates for the board this year because I believe we need some new leadership. It is the job of the National Rifle Association to lead the fight defending firearm rights on all fronts. That is what the members expect and that is why they pay their money. Unfortunately, the NRA seems recently to have become confused about how to do its job. Two examples spring immediately to mind:

In the closing days of the 104th Congress, Senate Democrats doing Clinton's bidding managed to ramrod through a dramatic expansion of the Gun Control Act of 1968. Now, for the first time ever, having certain misdemeanors on your record is enough to allow the government to revoke your gun rights, even confiscate your guns.

Why didn't headquarters get the membership in an uproar? Because they were asleep at the switch when the Senate let this insidious amendment slip through. Some versions of the story even have NRA staffers giving the amendment the OK. Others say that passage of the misdemeanor gun ban was Newt Gingrich's revenge for being forced to hold a politically damaging vote to repeal the "assault weapons" ban even when it was D.O.A. in the Senate. Either way, the trail leads to headquarters.

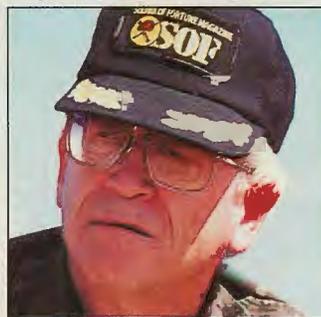
A serious indictment of the manner in which the NRA operates in the political arena came up during these last general elections. We failed, it seems, to recognize the fact that the need for Republican control of the Senate to block Clinton's Supreme Court and Federal court nominations, was more important than the egos of some NRA staff members. In Wyoming, the NRA rated both the Democratic and Republican Candidates for the U.S. Senate equally —

and as a result stayed out of the race. The Democrat is a flaming liberal woman who never had a hunting license and borrowed a shotgun to make a "progun" TV commercial, much like Bill Clinton. The woman, who helped write the anti-gun policies for the Democratic party and who is a good friend of the Clintons, fooled the NRA, but not NRA members in Wyoming. As a result the NRA ignored its Wyoming members and gave this woman an "A" rating. Mike

Enzi, a conservative, life-long hunter, won the election, but he is not likely to forget how the NRA was duped by the Democrats.

These are but two of the many mistakes that were made by the NRA because the current board was not strong enough. That is why I offer the following names, to

restrengthen the NRA so that we can more effectively defend the Second Amendment during the next four Clinton years:



Lt. Col. Rex Applegate USA (Ret.)
Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)
David I. Caplan, Ph.D.
Col. Jeff Cooper, USMC (Ret.)
Mr. Joe Foss, MOH
Wayne Anthony Ross
Mr. Al Rubega

I feel so strongly about electing these individuals, that in this instance I am endorsing "bullet balloting," which means if you vote only for the seven individuals listed above, and no one else, your vote will have the weight of all 26 votes.

While we're at it, if you are not a member of the NRA, or wish to upgrade to a lifetime membership, call them at 800-NRA-3888. In this election, we need all the horsepower we can get. ✂

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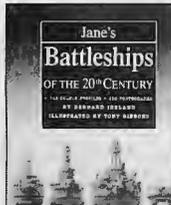
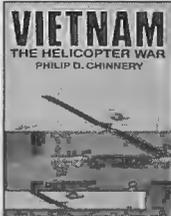
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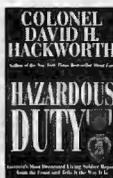
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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

I am mentioned in the December '96 *SOF*, in the article by Rob Krott entitled "Mined Camp," regarding the Refugee Relief International Inc., mission to Cambodia in March of [last year]. Mr. Krott has generously given me credit for things I am, and for one thing I am not: I was a Navy (Air Command) crash/rescue specialist at Moffett Naval Air Station in California, but was *never* a member of the elite Navy Search and Rescue (SAR) teams.

The only "swimming" I ever did was through flaming jet fuel and diesel, wearing the aluminized asbestos hood, jacket and pants commonly seen on firefighters involved in aircraft and flammable-liquid incidents.

Rob has written an otherwise excellent article and I have high hopes it will stir interest in a horrific situation that needs and deserves the world's attention. Mr. Padgett and the other members of the RRII team deserve the highest respect for their dedication to the less fortunate human beings of the world.

Andrew M. Hyslop
Santa Clara, Calif.

As a long-time reader of *SOF*, but especially because I'm the father of one of Arizona's "Viper Team," I've been waiting for the retraction/correction to [assistant editor] Marty Kufus' accompanying piece to Richard Sherrow's feature in the October '96 issue, "Desert Swarm."

On page 37 "MK" states that one of the items on the team's T-shirts was a *swastika*! It was, in fact, a peace symbol. ... I have now read the November and December issues, cover to cover, and no retraction, letter to the editor, or anything in a follow-up article has appeared.

I am enclosing a blow-up of the same logo that appeared on the T-shirt. It comes from the newsletter that the team circulates from time to time. Michael Stevens, editor and artist of the logo, assures me that it's the same logo that was on the T-shirts [worn at the 1995 *SOF* Three-Gun Match]. ...

I have spoken with com-

petitors from past 3-Gun Matches, and they say the match has evolved into almost a totally law-enforcement team event. Have any of those teams' members written you about this error? I bet you haven't heard a peep! And you probably won't print this or correct the error but, at least, now I know that you know!

Ralph C. Pleasant
Glendale, Ariz.

WHERE DO I SIGN?

Great article on the French Foreign Legion [Richard Lucas' "Viva La Compagnie," Dec. '96 *SOF*]. The day before I picked up this issue, I had sent off to the recruitment office for more information. I have decided that if my career as a police officer is not where I want it to be by the year 2000, then it's off to France for me. Your article helped convince me. ...

Donald Green
via E-mail

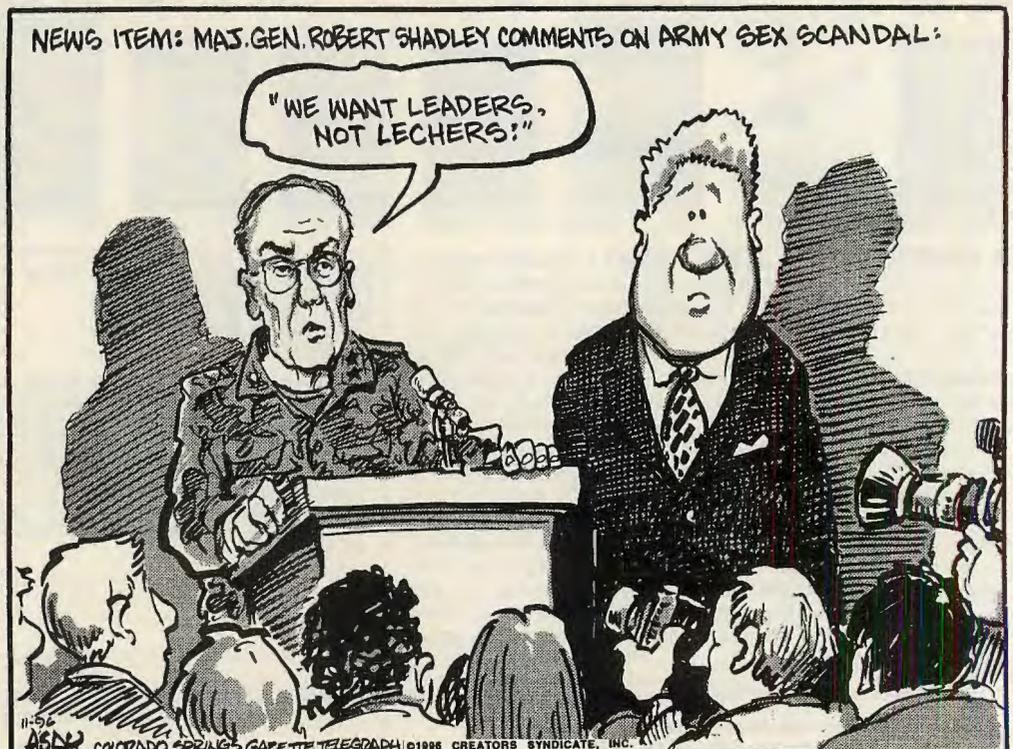
MORE ON FED FOLLIES

SOF's James L. Pate deserves thanks for excerpting the recent House of Representatives' report about the Waco disaster in "Waco: The Final Verdict" (Oct.

'96). I am, however, curious about an apparent omission in the report that could explain the whole botched raid on the Branch Davidians.

There have been persistent rumors of Drug Enforcement Administration involvement, and allegations of amphetamine manufacture at the Davidian compound in 1985 were used to justify military involvement in the 1993 raid. Interestingly, the DEA is not mentioned in the report excerpts. Ron Paul, the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate in 1988, gave a possible explanation for the raid in that party's newsletter while the standoff was still going on: "My suspicion is that this was one of these seize-and-forfeiture deals." In other words, the old drug allegations may have led to a decision to take the compound in a civil forfeiture proceeding, with purported weapons violations simply being cover for the raid. This possibility seems obvious, but did anyone tell the House subcommittee?

This brings me to my fear that we will see a lot more Wacos, aimed not at religious sects but at gun owners. In Command Guidance in the same issue, Robert K. Brown worries, with good reason, about what Clinton might do [in a second term] against gun owners. ... I see the current fad of states passing concealed-carry laws for



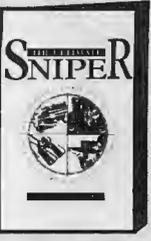


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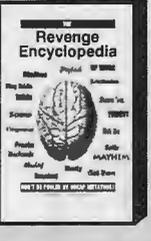
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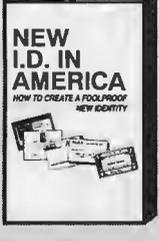
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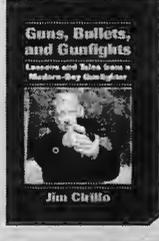
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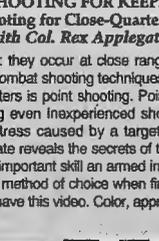
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their citizens as a dangerous Trojan horse.

Generally, these laws require fingerprinting and record-keeping, but many gun buffs are willing to submit to these to get a concealed-weapon permit. But what better means to target these people after a gun ban than a handy, state-maintained list of permit holders and their home addresses? How many Waco-style home raids and standoffs can we expect to see when this happens?

Edwin Krampitz, Jr.
Drewryville, Va.

I am new to your Internet site and I read with interest the FLAK section about the use of federal troops in police-officer capacity. My question is, if the common citizenry has to be controlled by the troops, what situation is so grave that troops are needed? I saw Waco and Ruby Ridge used as examples of this type of behavior.

It is a sad day indeed when the policies of this nation trample on the individual's rights to the point that use of soldiers is necessary to implement government policies. I thought *the people control the government, not the government controls the people.* ...

Lee Abbett
via E-mail

"ATTABOY" FROM TWO LOYAL READERS

As a long-time reader of your fine magazine I just felt that it was time I sent you a



long-deserved compliment on the outstanding work and factual reporting. I am an avid follower of World Sitrep and I always turn to it to find out the facts that the mainstream media omit because they don't deem it important or just plain won't sell papers. ... People who are not regular buyers of *SOF* are always fascinated by my old copies. ...

As a Canadian reader, I would like to

see more coverage of our military's current dilemma. I think "dilemma" is kind of a soft way of describing the outright bullshit that is wracking the Canadian Forces nowadays.

I have never served with the Forces but I have many friends who have and currently are. There are many issues that have irritated and bewildered us. The disbanding of the Airborne Regiment was one.

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Commando 1 and Commando 2 were first-rate, our "go against anyone, anywhere, anytime, and *win*" units. After Somalia, and the bad press that they received at the hands of our cutthroat media, they were disbanded and our country suffered a huge loss. All of this happened as a political whim on "public outcry." This is the way our "new" military works. It is an officer-heavy political engine for many (not all) who are self-serving, soon-to-be politicians. ...

Once again, *SOF* is an outstanding publication and I hope that I will be able to continue reading it for many more years. Publisher Robert K. Brown is a true adventurer and an American hero!

Tyler J. Yellowknife
Northwest Territories
via E-mail

I just want to thank everybody at *SOF* for continuing the tradition of providing those of us who are interested in the art of war with such up-to-date information.

I've been a faithful reader since I was a child. I can remember sneaking into my father's magazine collection, passing all the latest issues of *Playboy* and the such and heading straight for *SOF*.

The years have passed and I've since joined the United States Navy. I commend you all on your no-holds-barred approach concerning the state that this great nation of ours is in. As a proud member of the armed forces, I extend my most heartfelt thanks to

all of you great people who make this magazine possible.

Edward V. Braun III
via E-mail

ON A RUSSIAN LEGEND

The December '96 issue's article on the new Russian Dragunov SVDS sniper rifle ["Dragunov — The Man Behind The Legend" by Valery N. Shilin] was just superb and it's about time that credit was given where it's due here.

I don't think there is any question anymore that the talent of Soviet and now Russian armament designers is superb and their execution from blueprints to prototype to mass production has been exceptional. ... The Russian "design bureau" system has also worked very efficiently for fighters and helicopters. ...

The SVDS is undoubtedly a more cost-efficient design than our M21 or new M24 bolt-action designs. ... If the SVDS were produced in caliber 7.62x51mm NATO it would be a worldwide bestseller, but the Russians (to their credit) have been working hard to keep the 100-year-old 7.62x54R round as modern as possible. ... The SVD system and now the SVDS prove the concept of making a precision, sharpshooter rifle to an affordable specification and not shooting for the pie-in-the-sky standard. ...

Brian P. Dumas
Easton, Conn.

MILITARY DISCIPLINE BREAKING DOWN?

Again we see in the news stories how our once-great military has succumbed to feminization. ...

The NCO's caught having sex with [lower-ranking] female service members are only several examples of the breakdown in discipline due to intermingling of male and female troops and represents only the tip of the iceberg.

While on active duty I would hear all kinds of stories of sexual encounters with superiors and subordinates. The one thing [special-interest advocates] would love is a world where sexual tensions don't develop while opposite (or would-be opposite) sexes are in close quarters. Like most so-called reformers, facing the reality of human nature is contrary to their view of the world.

The professional bureaucrats, most field-grade and general officers, will say this is a minor problem easily fixed. But the reality is different. ...

Capt. Alexander Shockey (USAF, Ret.)
Tucson, Ariz.

The more concise and focused the letter, the better its chances are of appearing in FLAK. Letters can be mailed or faxed to SOF, or sent via E-mail to editor@sof-mag.com. SOF's popular web site is at <http://www.sofmag.com>. ✉

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Army's rapid troop movements and prepositioned war stocks, on land and afloat for U.S. response in Persian Gulf conflict, challenge Marine Corps' role as "America's 911 force," USMC brass acknowledges. • Science-fiction cataclysm now Air Force and Army threat scenario: Planetary defense system against incoming comet or large meteoroid — impact highly unlikely but potentially disastrous — would use emerging technologies, advanced weapons, long-range radar and satellite sensors, think tanks say. • U.S. military's plans for counterterrorism and response to nuclear, biological or chemical weapons rely too heavily on passive defense (including detectors and troops' protective suits), major Pentagon assessment says. Greater emphasis needed on "active defense" (next-generation anti-missiles) and prep for "surgical" counterforce strikes aided fully by U.S. intel and strategic-recon assets.

15

CANADA

To inspire other nations to support a global ban on antipersonnel mines, military vows to destroy 2/3 of its 90,000-unit stockpile.

9

GERMANY

Commander of Luftwaffe unit that inherited 24 Soviet-made MiG-29s from East Germany says the "Fulcrum" — long the object of worried speculation by NATO flyers — has numerous technical problems and insufficient power and range, and could not prevail in medium-range air combat. In close-range dogfight, however, MiG-29 would be highly capable. • A 1,000-man special-forces unit, similar to British SAS, is forming for behind-the-lines missions and international rescue of German hostages. (Famed GSG-9 has domestic counterterrorism/hostage-rescue missions.)

3

ISRAEL

Washington promises to share some NORAD satellite early-warning data with intel service in Tel Aviv, via secure downlinks in Europe. • Syrian saber-rattling, including large troop redeployments in Lebanon and near Mount Hermon (fall '96), indicate prep for possible war over Golan Heights (captured by Israel in '67), military analysts warn. • Only 16% of Israeli men — a third of what is expected — actually perform mandatory duty in military reserves, the famed "backbone" of national defense.

8

COLOMBIA

Army investigates the overrunning of remote base by guerrillas (who took 50 prisoners), finds that only 25 of the soldiers' 200 rifles were in working order. • Army and police clashes with FARC and ELN guerrillas occur almost daily. Lack of funding prevents government from calling up 120,000 military reservists. • Eleven air-force officers arrested after anonymous call brings search of President Samper's Boeing 707, discovery of nearly 7 pounds of heroin.

13

PERU

Long-standing border dispute with Ecuador must be resolved by those two governments, cannot become "Western Hemisphere's Cyprus," leaders from U.S., Argentina, Brazil and Chile agree. (After 18 months of supporting multinational observer mission, U.S. military is withdrawing four Black Hawk helicopters and intel and signal assets in favor of increased South American involvement.)

16

PUERTO RICO

Drug traffickers have made Puerto Rico "an island under siege" and corrupted the governments of Antigua, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts - Nevis, Aruba, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, U.S. DEA reports.



10

NORWAY

Oslo and Washington terminate Cold War military-aid program; Norway buys \$12 billion of prepositioned U.S. weapons, vehicles and aircraft for \$1.8 million. • Use of car bombs and stolen military ordnance in 3-year turf war between Hell's Angels and rival biker gang brings emergency police measures in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland.

2

RUSSIA

Prime Minister Chennomyrdin rules out eventual Chechen independence, contradicting provision in peace deal made by security secretary Lebed (later fired by President Yeltsin). Meanwhile, Chechen rebels are not disarming; conscription drive is underway for young men; and 500 of the movement's best troops are forming special-purpose brigade. • Air Force is squeezed for money, fuel, and spare parts: Jet fighters and attack planes number 2,500 (of which only 900 are modern Su-27s and MiG-29s and -33s), from Soviet era's 5,000, are shared among pilots who now fly less than 25 hours a year. • Russia continues shipping arms and materiel to Angola's Marxist government, interfering with peace accord, U.S. and UNITA officials claim. State-owned arms exporter, Rosvoorouzhnie, denies allegation. • Only 10% of military officers have access to, and skill with, modern computers. Defense Ministry and General HQ have computer systems while many regional commands have little or nothing.

7

JAPAN

Tokyo and Washington consider construction of a huge, floating airbase for relocation of U.S. Marine helicopters from Futenma base on Okinawa. • Squabble with South Korea over possession of two rocky islets in East China Sea, known as Takeshima or Tok-to, and their new maritime boundaries sees complaints on both sides over illegal fishing and piracy, and stirs memories of WWII atrocities. Japan, however, rules out use of force.

17

BRITAIN

Departing from Cold War precepts of defensive response, Ministry of Defense urges its government and NATO allies to think the unthinkable: pre-emptive strikes to destroy chemical- or biological-weapons facilities in renegade nations. Such talk startles diplomats in Foreign Ministry and echoes similar debate in Pentagon.



4

SOUTH KOREA

Most of planned 12% hike in defense spending — largest in 10 years — in 1997 to improve airborne early-warning and maritime-surveillance systems. North Korea's large military exercises, submarine infiltration of commandos, and tests of intermediate-range ballistic missiles (a strategic program backed by Iran) indicate increased hostility toward South. • New provocation scenario: European-made unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), recently purchased by North, could be used for cross-border spying or even scattering of nuclear waste on Seoul.

5

KAZAKHSTAN

Emergency meeting over Islamist revolution in neighboring Afghanistan draws leaders from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. All five countries agree to forcibly prevent spread of Taliban movement into Central Asian republics of former Soviet Union.

14

SOUTH AFRICA

National Defense Force's support of police battling country-wide crime wave is significant drain on military budget (11% in 1995) and sees deployment of 8,000 troops in first half of '96 for border protection, quelling of political violence in Natal (kwaZulu), or direct support of police pursuing violent criminals.

11

IRAN

Commander of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps condemns U.S. military buildup in Persian Gulf, vows "massive war" in the region if Iran is provoked. Tensions are especially high from U.S. efforts to choke Iran's economy in retaliation for Tehran's support of terrorism.

6

AUSTRALIA

In largest reorganization since WWI, army (now numbering 26,000 active-duty and 29,000 reservists) to abandon division and brigade structure to form integrated, self-contained combat task forces; eventually reassign 1,000 soldiers to combat units from admin jobs; and convert conventional battalion of Royal Australian Regiment to counterterrorism, freeing SAS Regiment for strategic recon and other SpecOps tasks.

World SitRep is compiled 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 world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

BULLETIN BOARD

UN ACCUSES MERCS

In a report issued last November, UN Special *Rapporteur* Enrique Bernales Ballesteros accused Angola and Sierra Leone of hiring mercenaries to provide security, in return for a stake in these countries' considerable mineral wealth. The UN gadfly who "investigates" world-wide mercenary activity, Ballesteros said, (in perfect UN bureau-speak) "to suggest that some mercenary activities are illegal and others legal is to make a dangerous distinction which could affect international relations of peace and respect between states." In the case of Angola and Sierra Leone, Ballesteros was referring to their contracting with South-African based Executive Outcomes (for information on EO, refer to stories in *SOF*; May '95, Dec. '95, Jan. '96, Aug. '96 and Nov. '96).

Dangerous distinctions? Some might ask why it is OK for Kuwait, India, France, Spain, Bosnia, Croatia, the United States et al. to enlist foreign nationals, for Saudi Arabia to hire foreign talent, for South American countries to hire Israeli advisers, etc. — or for myriad other countries to hire foreign technicians to keep their toilets flushing, their comms and transport nets working, their hospitals staffed and their militaries functioning. If it's the barter aspect of such arrangements he'd better not look at how business is done in the NIS, where nobody has cash. Since no country can function without an infrastructure, why is it so offensive to UN bureaucrats that some developing countries must contract with commercial firms for construction, comms, transport, medical facilities — even security?

Perhaps it just that the mega-government psyche of bureaucrats simply can't stand it when a commercial concern does something better, more efficiently and competently than can a government — which they can in almost every case.

GIs TO GET ANTHRAX VACCINATIONS

In what writer Robert Chandler characterized as a "salutary demonstration of outside-the-box thinking in the Pentagon," defense officials have concluded that GIs need to be vaccinated against anthrax. Investigators have concluded that during the Gulf War, Iraq had thousands of liters of anthrax, plus aflatoxin (a fungal-derived cancer-causing agent) and perfringens (which cause gas gangrene). And botulinum — the most poisonous substance known to man. Botulinum is roughly three *million* times more lethal than the sarin nerve agent ... and Saddam had enough of it on hand to kill 15 *billion* people. Nice guy.

Anthrax is more persistent and can cover a larger area than, for instance, botulinum, making it an ideal agent against unprotected troops massed at airfields, ports and staging areas — or as a terror weapon against civilians in an urban setting. Anthrax deaths can be equivalent to those expected in a nuclear attack. Writing in *Defense News*, Chandler concluded that most any Third-World madman could amass a substantial arsenal of such "poor man's nukes" for less than \$10 million.

Since American military strategy is based on the Gulf War where a reprobate nation causes trouble and the United States reacts by deploying tens of thousands of troops to the region, Chandler notes American troops would be vulnerable to the enemy's biological threat as soon as they entered the theater. Better, Chandler concludes, to make use of stand-off weapons or use men and machines who strike from outside the region of conflict.

And vaccinate in advance.



In days of yore, spray and pray meant mowing down attacking infantry with canister rounds from muzzle-loading cannon; then, mountain men and Indians carried tomahawk, knife and black-powder arms for the hunt and defense. It was a lustier, simpler time. If you're looking for an action family weekend on 4-6 July, don't miss the annual "Calamus Valley Rendezvous and Historical Festival." Area men and women — dedicated students of Americana — re-enact camp life from the Revolutionary War, French and Indian War, Lewis and Clark expedition, Rocky Mountain fur trade, Native American plains tribes, even the War Between the States. Handmade clothing, tents and teepees, tools, plus weapons and handicraft skills are exhibited; questions from spectators welcomed. (Dry goods, trinkets, and tools are sold.) This rendezvous provides a first-rate, all-American event. Adult admission is less than \$10 a day. For more information, contact Homestead Knolls Sports Center, on the Calamus Reservoir near Burwell, Neb.; phone: 308-346-5695. — Marty Kufus

THE OLD "STRESS" DODGE

A presidential panel reported in mid-November that "stress" is the most likely source of a host of ailments afflicting Gulf War veterans. The panel wants the Pentagon to continue examining the possibility that soldiers were exposed to chemical weapons — of course — but it heard testimony from the CIA that an "intensive probe" has ruled out all but one incident as a likely cause of exposure to chemical or biological agents during and after the 1991 conflict. The committee's report stated that "Significant evidence supports the likelihood of a physiological stress-related origin of many of these ailments," concluding that "no single causative agent can be identified" for the variety of symptoms collectively known as "Gulf War Syndrome."

In a related matter, two studies done by researchers from the Department of Veterans Affairs and by the Navy, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* state that GIs who served in the Gulf War were slightly more likely to die in their first two years home (from injury, *not* from illness), but they were not hospitalized more frequently than GIs who did not go to the Gulf.

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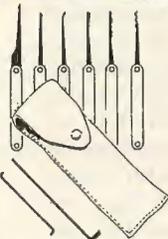


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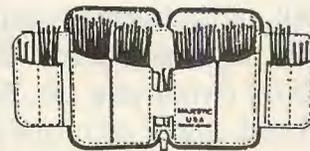
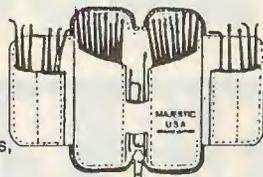
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BURMESE FILE SUIT, CALL FOR BOYCOTT

The democratically elected Burmese government-in-exile has filed a lawsuit in federal court against UNOCAL, charging the multinational oil company with wide-scale human-rights violations in its joint venture with the ruling SLORC military regime in Burma/Myanmar. The suit seeks a court order halting UNOCAL's role in the joint venture with Total Oil and the SLORC regime, worth an estimated \$1.2 trillion, alleging that UNOCAL, Total and SLORC have caused the forced labor of tens of thousands of villagers, the systematic destruction of villages and other human-rights atrocities in the region of an undersea pipeline being constructed to facilitate natural gas production. The State Law And Order Restoration Council, which seized power in 1988, is acknowledged to be one of the most brutal regimes in the world.

AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM IN BRITAIN

One of the more worthwhile projects contemporary with the 50th anniversary of World War II is the construction of the American Air Museum at Duxford, 50 miles north of London and eight miles south of Cambridge, England. Duxford Airfield was a USAAF during World War II, home to the 78th Fighter Group of the 8th Air Force. Today Duxfield is Europe's leading aviation museum. The American Air Museum will highlight the role of U.S. air power in World Wars I & II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, as well as in NATO and during the Cold War. This worthwhile project has received the endorsements of American military notables from Gen. Colin Powell and Brig. Gen. Jimmy Stewart to George Bush and Ronald Reagan. Charlton Heston, who was with a B-25 crew in the Aleutians during WWII, serves as co-chairman of the American Air Museum in Britain Campaign, and he has been joined by more than 60,000 American founding members.

The museum will feature a 295-foot expanse of glass and a great domed concrete roof, with raised walkways from which visitors

can view the collection of historic craft. Ground was broken in the fall of 1995, and it is scheduled to open in mid-1997, displaying American planes from a WWI French-built Spad, to a BUF and U-2 spyplane. More than 400,000 visitors tour Duxford every year.

The building project is coming along on schedule, but they're still a couple million short of the \$17 million the museum will cost. You can help, by joining the 60,000 American founding members, or by having your organization participate. Contact The American Air Museum in Britain, Dept. SOF, 655 15th Street NW, Suite 475, Washington, DC 20005; or phone: 800-233-4226.

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, INC., THE TV SERIES

"The producers of *SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, INC.* are in the process of writing the first 13 one-hour episodes into which the 2-hour movie will be incorporated. Casting is in progress and will be announced soon. Shooting begins in March."

MICROBOTS TO THE RESCUE

Isaac Asimov would be proud: official DoD funding for robotics in 1997 is some \$39.74 million, and industry is probably spending more than that on its own. But that's not news. The news is, the military may be about to get some return on its investment. Current researchers are closing in on workable insect-size robots that will be able to perform recon missions without detection, detect and analyze chemwar agents and transmit information — and according to a recent article in *Defense News* even engage in proactive missions such as destroying computers by eating silicon chips, or seeking out and detonating mines. Advances in micromachining techniques are enabling scientists to design robots the size of large insects, and they look forward soon to creating mission-specific robots the size of dust mites.

Other robots could infiltrate, survey and map closed installations, destroy materiel or even kill people by swarming on them

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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.

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It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

Before explaining more about this system, here's how Jerry Peterson, the creator of this system, became the first — and only — civilian ever to standardize, license and teach a hand-to-weapon fighting system to the United States military.

In 1989, Naval Special Warfare Command (NSWC), the group which controls all SEAL activity, was looking for ways to standardize hand-to-weapon combat techniques. After an exhaustive review, they had rejected every single martial art form in the world.

They found each completely unworkable in combat-oriented fighting situations where SEALS were in full gear, carrying 100# packs, and often knee-deep in water.

Amazing Scientific System

Then a SEAL NSWC officer (with black belts in 3 martial arts) saw Jerry Peterson's *scientific* fighting system. What he stumbled on wasn't martial arts. In fact it was unlike anything he'd ever seen before.

The SEAL officer watched in disbelief as a class of inexperienced students threw real punches for virtually 1 full hour, never repeating the same sequences. In one session he witnessed more fighting than most martial arts students see in a year.

Later, two top brass at NSWC saw the officer demonstrating moves he'd learned. But intrigue turned to doubt when they learned the originator was an ex-Army enlisted man.

Still they met with Jerry, as much out of admiration for his Vietnam record as anything (he spent 15 months as lead point for Charlie Company, the 173rd Airborne — one of the most decorated units of the war). As Vietnam vets, the SEAL officers figured Jerry at least would understand their needs.

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

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

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

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

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

Officially Required SEAL Training

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

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

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

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

Today 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).

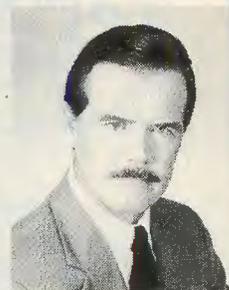
You'll know how to defeat, seriously disable and, when necessary, kill anyone threatening your life or the life of a loved one or friend!

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 'wannabes' 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-CFCH* K-431-0096) plus a new \$2.5 million military facility predicated solely on his SCARS training.

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Trip Prize

Luxury Vacation in Mexico or Dove Hunting Trip in Mexico



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- 2. TO ENTER WITHOUT PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION:** On an Official Entry Form only, available by mail as indicated in Rule 2A, hand print your name, address, (including zip code), daytime and evening telephone numbers. Residents of the State of Washington only, need not affix postage to return envelopes.
- 2A. For each Official Entry Form** you wish to be sent by mail, send a separate, self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to: SHOTGUN NEWS ENTRY FORM REQUEST, P.O. Box 5081, Blair, NE 68009. Requests must be received by 2/11/97. Limit one request per envelope. Completed entry forms must be received at the address listed on the entry form by the last day of each month indicated in Rule 1 to be eligible for that month's prize drawing (and subsequent monthly prize drawings) and/or by 3/11/97 to be eligible for the Grand Prize/Trip Prize drawings.
- 3. RANDOM DRAWING:** Monthly winners will be selected in a random drawing on or about the 20th day of the month following the month of drawing eligibility from among all eligible entries received by D.L. Blair, Inc., an independent judging organization whose decisions are final on all matters related to this program. Grand Prize and Trip Prize winners will be selected in a random drawing conducted on or about 3/12/97 from among all eligible entries received throughout the duration of this program. Winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning will depend upon the total number of all eligible entries received in a given month for monthly prizes and/or over the course of the entire promotion for the Grand Prize and Trip Prize.
- 4. PRIZE & APPROXIMATE RETAIL VALUE:** (1) Grand Prize consisting of a Shotgun News model new Jeep Wrangler with optional soft-top & doors, AM-FM radio and 5-speed transmission, (\$15,000) or \$15,000 cash; (1) Trip Prize — A 5-day, 4-night deluxe hunting expedition (White Wing & Morning Dove) in Mexico for four, including air transportation (from major U.S. city), lodging at the "Hacienda Cazadores", three meals per day, guide and transportation to hunting areas, (Shells, licenses, gun permits, guns, etc. not included) (\$6,000) OR a 5-day, 4-night Mexican vacation for four in a restored 300-year-old Hacienda, includes air transportation (from major U.S. city), two meals per day, Fiesta, sightseeing and Jeep tours (\$6,000). Monthly Prizes: March: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2 A Rifle plus a Wobly & Scott Brass Flare Pistol (\$279.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); April: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun (\$700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); May: (1) 1st Prize — Schofield Revolver (\$795); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); June: (1) 1st Prize — Model 308 Guardia Civil Spanish Mauser, Caliber .308 Win, complete with sling and muzzle cover in Special Select Condition, plus a Model 98/29 Persian Mauser Caliber 7.92 mm (8 mm Mauser) complete with bayonet & leather sling in Special Select Condition (\$459.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); July: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield, 45 Caliber (\$459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); August: (1) 1st Prize — Ishapore Enfield 2A Rifle plus a Model 98K Mauser WWI carbine Caliber 7.92 (8 mm Mauser) with Wimper Trigger guard in Special Select Condition (\$399.90); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); September: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun (\$700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); October: (1) 1st Prize — a 1911 A-1 Springfield, 45 Caliber (\$459); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); November: (1) 1st Prize — a Browning Hunter Gold, 12 gauge self-loading shotgun (\$700); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); December: (1) 1st Prize — Parker Knife Collection, Kentucky Derby set of 12 knives, engraved blades each with a different Derby winner, bone handles, framed under glass (\$450); (1) 2nd Prize — a Shooter's Visa Ultimate Pack (\$127.98); January 1997: (1) 1st Prize — a Classic Buffalo Hunters' Sharps Rifle in 45/70 caliber with a 28" heavy octagonal barrel with long sights recreated by Navy Arms Company, Inc. (\$375); (1) 2nd Prize — Coach Gun, side-by-side, 12 gauge Stoeger IGA (\$400).
- 5. GENERAL RULES:** Open only to U.S. residents who, as of February 28, 1996, are 21 years or older. Employees of Snell Publishing Co., Inc., Shotgun News, their affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising and promotion agencies and the immediate family members and/or those living in the same household of each are not eligible. Void where prohibited by law. Winner may make no substitution or transfer of prize. All federal, state and local taxes, insurance, licensing, registration and title fees are the sole responsibility of the winner. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Potential winners must execute any required Affidavit of Eligibility/Release of Liability/Prize Acceptance Form within 15 days of attempted notification. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and an alternate may be selected. Return of any prize notification as undeliverable will result in disqualification and an alternate will be selected. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prize of equal or greater value. Limit one prize per household (with exception of Grand Prize and Trip Prize). Acceptance of prize constitutes permission to the sponsor and its agencies to use winner's name and/or likeness for purposes of advertising and trade without further compensation, unless prohibited by law. (Note: If hunt expedition is selected by Trip Prize winner, hunt trip must be taken during November 1997. If vacation is selected by trip prize winner it must be taken in November 1997 or between January 2, 1998 and March 31, 1998. Trip Prize must be taken on dates specified by sponsor. Travel blackout dates will apply.) All traveling companions must be 21 years of age or older and will be required to execute a release of liability prior to departure. No mechanically reproduced entries permitted. All firearms will be transferred to the respective winners through federally licensed firearm dealers. All winners must be eligible for firearm's possession under all federal and respective state laws. In the event the sponsor is prohibited from awarding prize to winner as a matter of federal/state/local law or for any reason whatsoever (e.g. felony conviction, licensing requirements, etc.) prize will be awarded to an alternate winner. Not responsible for lost, late, postage due, illegible, damaged or misdirected mailpieces or entries not forwarded to prize headquarters in time for the random drawings. By participating in this promotion, entrants agree to be bound by the Official Rules and the decisions of the judges.
- 6. For the names of the winners,** available after May 31, 1997, send a separate, stamped, self-addressed (#10) envelope to: Shotgun News Winners, P.O. Box 5082, Blair, NE 68009.

and choking their breathing passages or injecting them with venom. An example of an evolving microbot being developed for surveillance purposes in the "Miniturized Autonomous Robotic Vehicle" (MARV). Designed for signals intelligence, MARV operates by identifying a target communications medium and its source. Currently MARV is about 5mm in diameter, but it is expected to be only 1/8th that size within two years.

Current research, upon which the practicality of such devices pivots, is directed toward methods to supply such robots with energy.

Various agencies are interested in microbots, for diverging purposes. The CIA is examining the tiny robots for surveillance use. The Air Force is investigating their possible use to clog aircraft engines, eat the silicon guts from computer systems, and kill enemy troops. The Army is interested in using them for finding and blowing up land mines, while the Navy investigates crab-like robots to find mines in the surf zone for amphibious landings.



AN EXOTIC VACATION OPTION

The 41st Annual Fuze Conference is to be held 14-16 April at the St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel and McDonnell Douglas Aerospace in St. Louis, Mo. This year's theme is "The Spectrum of Fuzing Technologies" and the conference will provide a forum for exchanging information throughout the fuzing community. Unclassified abstracts are sought on the topics of fuze setting concepts, new signal processing components, none-U.S. fuze elements, smart munitions, explosive trains, environmentally compliant fuze elements and fuse power sources. For a copy of the call for papers, contact the American Defense Preparedness Association, phone: 703-522-1820; fax: 703-522-1885, and refer to meeting #756.

KOREA, 1953, 8TH ARMY, 20TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Jean LeFrancois is searching for anyone who remembers him from the 8th Army, 20th Transportation Trucking Company, which was stationed in Korea between January and July of 1953. He particularly would like to make contact with those who saved his life after he sustained head injuries during an artillery attack. Please contact him, collect; phone: 603-588-2841, or by mail at 106 Pine Meadows, Bennington, NH 03442. ✕

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The Dog of War

In 1934 Charles J. Manville introduced a unique rotary-chamber, shotgun-type weapon designed to fire 12-gauge tear-gas shells for law-enforcement applications. The first-generation version was a 24-shot, spring-driven, cam-and-lever-operated semiautomatic weapon meant to be fired from the hip as it had no buttstock. Two years later Manville developed a 25mm version with an 18-shot skeletonized cylinder. The unloaded weight was 15.25 pounds. Blast-dispersion projectile ammunition was also developed to replace muzzle-blast ammunition, which had a short range and often affected the operator as well as the intended target. A 37mm Manville gun was introduced in 1939. Deployed from an odd quadrupod mount, it weighed more than a 60mm mortar, yet fired a high-explosive round of less than half the effectiveness. No orders materialized. In 1943, Manville had all drawings, remaining

operated from either side. The MGL cannot be accidentally discharged if dropped. The weight, empty, is 11.7 pounds (5.3 kg).

Manufactured by MILKOR and marketed by Mechem (Dept. SOF, 329b Mundt Street, Walthoo, Pretoria, P.O. Box 912454, Silverton 0127, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-803-7290; fax: 27-12-803-7189), the MGL is in service with the SADF, the Croatian armed forces and numerous other countries.

The MGL is loaded by releasing the cylinder axis pin and swinging the steel frame away from the cylinder. Rotating the aluminum cylinder will wind it against its driving spring. After loading the chambers, the frame is closed and the axis pin re-engaged. Its double-action firing mechanism is not linked to the cylinder. Cylinder advance is controlled by a gas-operated plunger, which is activated when a round is fired. When the trigger is pulled, the firing pin is cocked and then released to fire the grenade. Gas pressure on a piston unlocks the cylinder and permits the spring to rotate it until the next chamber is aligned with the firing pin. If a misfire occurs, the trigger can be pulled repeatedly.

The Armson OEG is a collimating-type sight which provides a single vertical red bar. It requires binocular vision on the part of the operator, who aims with both eyes open and sees the aiming bar superimposed on the target. The sight's elevation quadrant is graduated in 25-meter increments. The OEG enables the operator to increase hit probability at ranges up to 375 meters. This bridges the gap between hand grenades (maximum effective-throwing range of 30-40 meters) and the 60mm mortar (with a minimum range of 300 to 400 meters).



Effectively bridging the gap between hand grenades and mortars, the South African MGL Mark I continues to reign supreme among shoulder-mounted 40x46mmSR grenade launchers.



Although providing a higher rate of fire than the M79, M203 or HK69A1 single-shot 40x46mmSR grenade launchers, the MGL Mark I is heavier (11.7 pounds) and somewhat more bulky.

weapons, parts and the fixtures and dies for his tear gas guns destroyed for reasons known only to him. In 1946, the Lake Erie Chemical Co. acquired all of Manville's assets. They produced only his 5-shot, 12-gauge tear-gas revolving pistol.

Manville's unconventional rotary-chamber gun would have remained no more than a footnote in the history of small arms were it not for Hollywood. In the 1981 movie version of Frederick Forsyth's novel, *The Dogs Of War*, one of Manville's 25mm guns was featured as a supposed high-explosive grenade launcher. Although a hoax, it generated some visually exciting scenes.

By coincidence, a 40mm Multiple Grenade Launcher (MGL) was demonstrated as a concept to the South African Defense Force (SADF) also in 1981. It was adopted one year later. The MGL, a six-shot, revolver-type weapon, fires high-low propulsion 40x46mmSR (Semi-Rimmed) grenades. The MGL consists of a light progressively-rifled (one turn in 1,200 mm — 1:47.2 inches — final) steel barrel with a length of 12.2 inches (310 mm), an Armson Occluded Eye Gunsight (OEG), a steel frame with a firing mechanism, a spring-actuated revolving cylinder and a folding buttstock. The buttstock is adjustable to accommodate the eye relief and firing stance of the operator. The safety catch can be

After 12 years of production and more than a decade of users' feedback from different countries all over the world, it became evident that redesign of some of the MGL's component groups would enhance reliability and simplify maintenance. As a consequence, the MGL Mark I has just been introduced. All previous MGLs can be upgraded to the Mark I configuration. During my most recent trip to South Africa I was able to examine the new MGL Mark I in detail and fire it extensively.

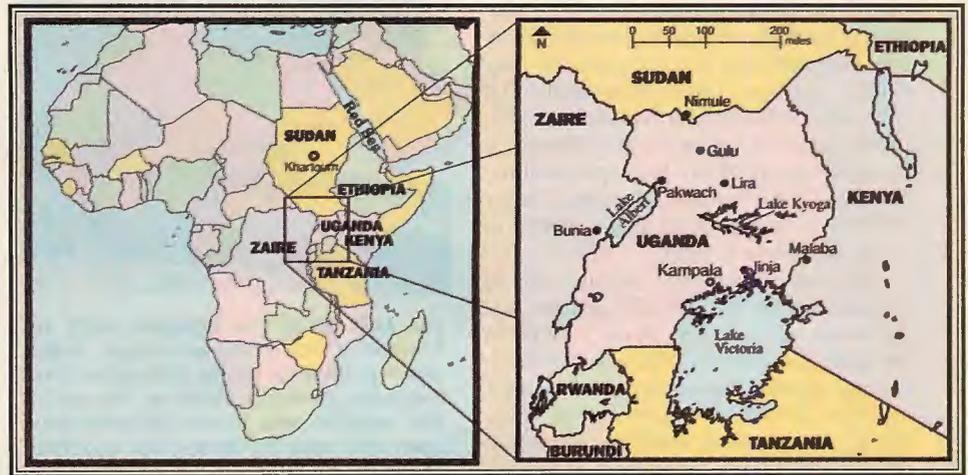
Some of the major modifications include combining the index mechanism cover with the manual release cover to simplify field stripping; the old sleeve bearing screw (which functioned as a shaft

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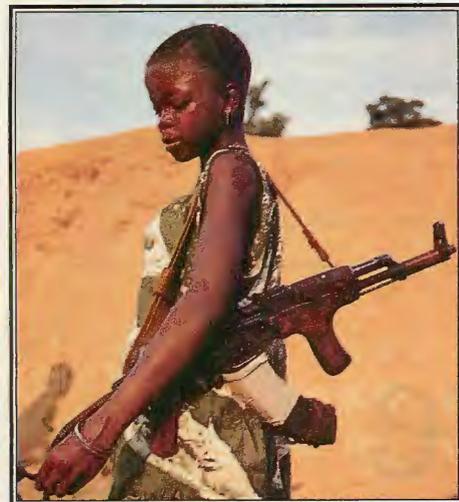
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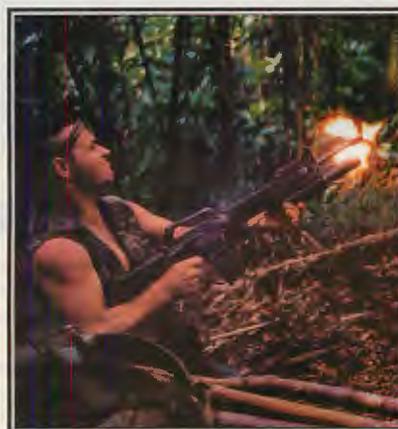
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for the index mechanism) was replaced by a straight shaft; the manual release was completely redesigned for easier operation; the cylinder shaft and the trigger mechanism shaft have been undercut to provide true bearing surfaces; and the release plunger is now provided with a cover plate for easy thumb operation. Other components that were either redesigned or replaced were the friction spacer (a spring added to maintain a constant friction effect), firing-pin bushing, butt-plate pin, buttplate, hammer, index mechanism's hook, spring toggle, hand-grip clamp and sleeve bearing.

The unusual high-low pressure system employed in the 40x46mmSR grenade was developed at the U.S. Army's Ballistic Research Laboratories (BRL) at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The launching method itself had been developed in Germany in World War II. An aluminum cartridge case with a brass powder-charge cup in front of the percussion primer is used to hold about five grains of M-9 flake-type mortar propellant (an enhanced, fast-burning, Bullseye-type powder). The propellant/high-pressure chamber has six sealed holes around its circumference. When the launcher's firing pin strikes the primer, the resulting primer flash ignites the powder within the high-pressure chamber.

The burning propellant creates a pressure of close to 35,000 pounds per square inch (psi) within the chamber, forcing the gases to rupture the vent holes and bleed into the larger (low pressure) chamber of the cartridge



The MGL Mark I is equipped with an Armson OEG collimating-type sight which provides a single vertical red bar. It requires binocular vision on the part of the operator, who aims with both eyes open and sees the aiming bar superimposed on the target

case itself. When the gases enter the larger chamber, the pressure drops to no more than 3,000 psi, which is sufficient to propel the grenade through the launcher's barrel and to the target, and yet generate a low enough recoil impulse to permit firing from a shoulder-mounted weapon. The projectile's muzzle velocity is only 250 fps; rounds can easily be seen sailing downrange. The MGL's progressive rifling imparts a spin of about 3,700 rpm on the grenade to provide the

required stabilization for accuracy and to arm the impact-type fuze.

A wide variety of 40x46mmSR munitions are available. The most prevalent type is an HEDP (High Explosive Dual Purpose) grenade which provides some penetration on light-skinned armor in addition to its antipersonnel effects. Most of the High-Explosive rounds, including the South African Swartklip HE M848A1, produce a casualty radius (the area within which 50% of exposed personnel will become casualties) of at least 5 meters. Swartklip also produces High Explosive Hollow Charge, Red Phosphorus and Baton Hard Rubber rounds. A large number of caliber 40x46mmSR signaling rounds have been developed by several producers worldwide, including smoke parachute, smoke canopy and ground marker smoke types. In addition, there are star-parachute, and also star-cluster pyrotechnic illumination and signaling rounds. Other riot-control munitions include tear gas (CS), stun bag and "knee knocker" (five pieces of oak dowel) rounds. Several types of practice rounds have also been fielded.

With its wide range of available munitions and relatively high rate of fire, the MGL Mark I will continue to reign supreme among shoulder-mounted grenade launchers well into the foreseeable future. Quite effectively bridging the gap between hand grenades and mortars, the MGL Mark I provides unmatched reliability in a significantly enhanced package. ✕

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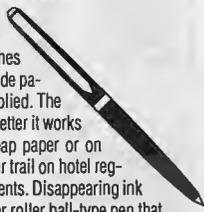
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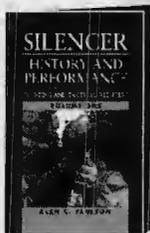
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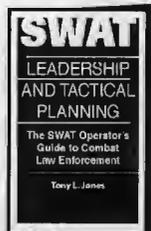
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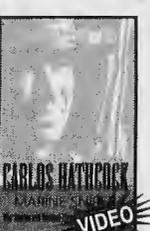


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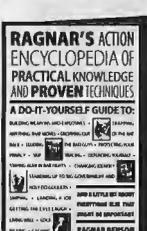


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Fanshaw, who's trod all points of the globe with the French Foreign Legion and for *SOF*, wore a new pair of high-top Dri-Foot 400 Danners to the *SOF* hunting camp this year, and said, "they're the best I've worn. They fit like a glove, or a moccasin. They give outstanding ankle support, even worn loosely. They did not pick up mud and did not chafe [right out of the box]. I carried a 70-pound pack over steep terrain for more than 10 miles and my feet did not tire, because of the Danner's firm but comfortable support. They were very warm, but my feet did not sweat." Danner has a complete, versatile line of footwear in waterproof leather or intelligently used synthetics. Danner boots: as good as it gets. Ask for them, or contact Danner Boots, Dept. *SOF*, 12722 N.E. Airport Way, Portland, OR 97230-1027; phone: 800-345-0430.

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State-of-the-art gear from the night vision specialists at Moro International, 219 Broadway, Suite 307, Dept. *SOF*, Laguna Beach, CA 92651; phone: 800-424-8222; fax: 714-4497-1270.

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Remember the clip-to-a-barb-wire-fence, stick-it-in-your-ear crystal radio you got from the Johnson-Smith catalog as a kid? It might only get the closest one or two stations, but its salient virtue was that it never needed batteries. Go Extreme Sports is marketing a new high-tech product that takes that idea to the brink of the leading edge: The ZF-128 AM-FM stereo pocket radio. The solar-powered ZF-128 will run 48 hours in the dark when fully charged, and will run forever in the light. The ZF-128 pocket radio is about half the size of a pack of Luckies



and weighs about the same. It delivers excellent sound in AM/FM stereo, and the wires to the ultra-light stereo headphones do double duty as the antenna: it's no Trans-Oceanic, but you will always be able to find Rush or your favorite redneck music station no matter where you are. It handily clips to your pocket, keeping the photo panel exposed, and to turn it off you simply unplug the ear phone jack. Also uses other ear phones, and will work from a standard power jack. An excellent idea, very well executed. Capable and comfortable for private listening no matter where you are — not just when you remembered to buy fresh batteries. Only \$29.99 — and *SOF* readers can buy one and get a second one for only \$15 more. Go Extreme Sports, Dept. *SOF*, 4809 Ave. N, Suite 218, Brooklyn, NY 11234.

LUBE THE METAL, NOT BETWEEN THE METAL

Some very good ideas have to wait for someone to really make them work right, such as Teflon-bearing lubricants. Mil-Comm has come up with a proprietary process for making micron-size spheres of Teflon, which when applied to clean, warm metal actually penetrate the interstices of the metal, in effect plugging the microscopic pores of the metal with a corrosion-inhibiting lubri-



cant. The result is a lubricant and preservative that will not wash off and resists wearing off because it is actually embedded in the metal surface. Since it is applied and then wiped dry, there is no residue to collect dirt or sand, and carbon, lead and copper fouling tend not to adhere. Mil-Comm's TW-25B and MC-2500 are lubricant-preservatives that really hang in there, surviving a 500-hour salt-water spray (most competitors washed off or jelled in less than a hundred hours). They're non-toxic and do not harm wood, metal or synthetics.

Weapons treated with Mil-Comm's TW-25B and MC-2500 are protected for years, yet can be fired without removing the lubricant-preservative. SigArms applies these products at the factory, Glock USA uses them as final treatment for everything run through their repair shop, and they're becoming the preservative-lubricants of choice among military users. Uses are not limited to firearms: Locks and precision mechanisms of all kinds will benefit from MC-2500 spray — especially if subject to corrosive or freezing environs — and the TW-25B, which is a light grease, is the best thing to come down the pike for lubing sizing dies, machine tools, wood-working tools and hard-use precision mechanisms of all kinds: Simply thoroughly clean the part or mechanism, warm it, wipe on TW-25B and wipe it dry. Precision woodworkers can throw away their cans of paste wax and silicone spray — one treatment with TW-25B lasts for weeks instead of hours, preventing friction and pitch build-up, as it does not scrub off with sawdust, dirt or sand.

There are similar-sounding products on the market, but *this* is the good stuff. Reasonably priced, no known shelf-life, effective lubrication and corrosion resistance for everything metal from concealable weapons to cannons, from chain saws to milling machines. Ask for it, or contact Mil-Comm, Dept. SOF, Box 43278, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043-7278; phone: 201-743-5404; fax: 201-743-7139. ☒

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I Was There

BLACK HAWKS DOWN!



by Larry Safko

Photos: Monica DeRise-Safko/foto-1

It took two months to persuade my wife, Monica, to fly in an Army helicopter. Once that was done, we “enlisted” for a Special day of activities sponsored by the Association of the United States Army.

On 18 June 1996, we drove to Ft. Campbell, Ky., where we rode in flight simulators, checked out the newest and hottest weapons in the U.S. Army arsenal and were shown to

a viewing area to await a “routine” air-assault exercise, featuring live fire and a simulated rescue of downed helicopter crew.

After a “delicious” lunch of MREs, and personal introductions to the ground forces who were our escorts, we were handed goggles and advised that UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters would fly in low, amid a lot of airborne debris; troops would “fast rope” to the ground under a veil of smoke to the accompanying noisy chaos of a battlefield landing zone. We were cautioned to stay calm, remain in our seats and enjoy the exercise.

Since my wife and I had obtained permission to shoot stills and video, our hosts moved us away from the other civilians and we set up to cover the event. Speakers were hooked to the military radios so we could monitor the traffic as the Black Hawks thumped in toward the LZ.

I focused the video camera on the lead chopper arriving on station just over the tree tops. Monica clicked off her first frames.

We followed the aircraft, then heard and finally saw the second helicopter appear to the right. Just as an M60 machine gun opened up, the rotors of both aircraft suddenly tangled and the two Black Hawks convulsed wickedly. Ragged pieces of fuselage and equipment were torn apart and rained violently to the turf.

I kept taping. I was a bit in awe of how the Army could stage such a dangerous stunt so close to the spectators below.

“Get back, get back! Oh, my God!” our escort yelled. He

shoved us toward the woods. I started to congratulate him on the realism of the fantastic scenario when Sergeant Adam Britzius, with what I thought was a mannequin over his shoulder, came lumbering past us into the tree line. He laid the “mannequin” down and darted back to the helicopters.

Debris was still flying everywhere and the engines were still running when, in a matter of seconds, many brave men who felt they were “only doing their job” reacted: Lieutenant Colonel Odom, Major Howell, Captains Mosier and Sadler, Lieutenant Begley, Command Sgt. Maj. Raper, Sgts. Pruyt, Caskey, Kiser, Britzius, McIntyre, Specialists Horton and McKay and others dashed into the wreckage.

They smothered blazes, shut down engines and yanked, shouldered and dragged battered comrades to safety even as the rear helicopter, minus its rotors, continued in its death throes, gouging a huge furrow deep in the hard Kentucky dirt.

I, again, attempted to resume taping but my wife virtually pleaded, “Oh my god, Larry, you’ve got to help them!”

She pointed me toward a “mannequin” lying by a tree, in actuality a writhing young NCO. I applied basic first aid and explained to his buddy that he likely had endured a fractured arm — maybe other injuries.

I jogged back to my wife, still shooting

film, and she pointed to the field littered with bodies, more than a few motionless.

As I ventured into a 1996 version of hell, I gave aid to the first trooper I saw, bruised and bleeding, his harness hiding his name tag. I gazed about and saw broken arms and legs, head and facial traumas before it dawned on me: The number of wounded, outnumbered the aidgivers — and we were isolated in the middle of nowhere.

I screamed to an officer that I had been an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) 20 years ago, and that I had captured the crash on videotape.

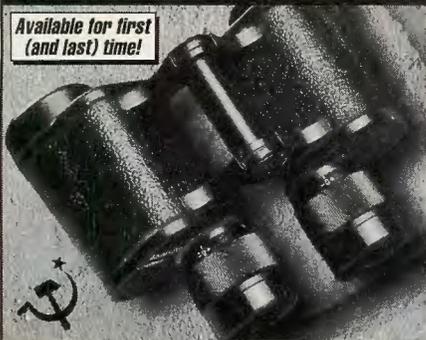


“Load-bearing ‘equipment’”: Sergeant Adam Britzius dashes from crash site with rescued Black Hawk pilot.



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He grabbed me, led me back across the road and urged me to get to work. It seemed like everywhere I looked, there were moaning bodies. Where to start?

My wife ceased shooting and, as the injured were ferried to the road and triaged, she rendered assistance. The casualties were loaded onto *any* available vehicle and transported approximately 100 meters to a clearing where several Medevac choppers were inbound. One after another; they snatched up the injured and whirled away.

Commanding General Kernan arrived at the crash site to personally ensure that everything that could be done, *was* done.

With the litter-borne presumably now being hoisted from the dust-offs and carted into various ORs, we discovered that only 48 minutes had elapsed since the crash. In that time, six men had died, and a lucky, but hurting, 33 were receiving class-A treatment in military and civilian hospitals.

We wandered around in shock and disbelief as the dead were removed. Then we began the grim task of gathering up "orphaned" M16s, scattered across the field like tree branches after a hailstorm.

When the lead safety officer approached and asked what I had on film, I explained that I caught the actual mid-air collision of the helicopters and footage of them on the ground after impact. We conversed for a few minutes more. When he realized that I had assisted with the wounded and viewed close-up the carnage on the ground, he requested that I further video the crash site and immediate vicinity to aid in the upcoming investigation.

I agreed to shoot additional video, as long as it was understood that even though I would furnish a copy of the crash footage to the Safety Office, the original tape belonged to me.

He agreed, so I went back onto the field and walked through the debris of the crash site videotaping the devastation and reliving those recent horrible moments.

Major Howell, of the Public Affairs Office, had been present and assisted the whole time. He accompanied us in order to safeguard the tape.

Upon arriving at his office, we agreed to let him make one copy of the video, and retain the tapes in his vault, until all the family members of the crash victims had been notified.

My video producer, Keith Garbinski, was given the thankless task of having to deal with all media requests concerning the videotape (which he eventually sold to CBS).

We witnessed heroism that day by soldiers who risk their lives *every* day, doing their job for America — the men who ride the warbirds and jump from the sky. These brave men — who without hesitation or consideration for their own safety, rushed headlong into the wreckage before the fires had been extinguished, or the engines had died — were "just doing their jobs."

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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

FOUR MORE YEARS

Thanks to the apathy of the 75%, less than a quarter of the eligible voters in this country have reinstalled a sexual predator in the White House. Since the sitting president is now a lame duck and ineligible for a further re-election, it would be easiest to simply hold our breath — or nose — for the next four years, since anything we could say would not have an impact on his re-election. After all, there are more pleasant topics to cover than the perverts, dopers, liars, liberals and cheats that currently hold the reins of executive power.

However, there is an agenda in the White House, be it or not that of the elected official, and it does not bode well at all for Liberty nor the principles upon which this country was founded. We can expect those still in power to, under the false flags of compassion — or whatever else will play well — do everything they can to advance an agenda that runs athwart what this nation stands for. We can expect the institutions of government to be perverted and the abuses of power to accelerate exponentially now that those at the helm, but adrift with no moral compass, do not have to worry about a backlash from the electorate next election.

You can expect the first and strongest, and most lingering and well-disguised, attacks on American Liberty to be aimed squarely



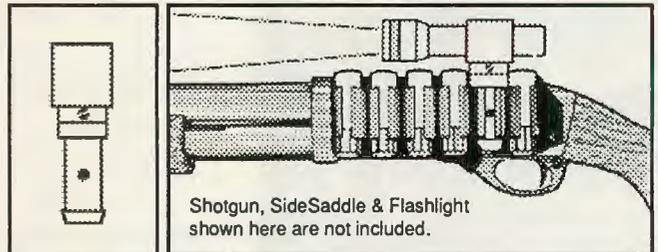
against an American's ultimate defense against internal tyranny — the Second Amendment. You can expect gun "control" advocates to continue to play the NRA like a violin, seizing what at least appears to be the moral high ground. As we go to press the president is posing enlarged definitions of the legal disabilities that would preclude citizen gun-ownership. They will characterize the new restrictions as keeping weapons out of the hands of wife-beaters and child

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molesters etc. (who could argue with such a premise), but will word the decrees so as to further disarm decent Americans. The NRA will of course clumsily react, to appear in the eyes of the public as defending wife-beaters and child molesters.

And when his agenda cannot be advanced through legitimate means, you can expect presidential fiat, international treaty, executive order and administrative regulation to be used in the stead of legitimate legislation by the elected representatives, and consent, of the governed.

The Remaining Defense

When the founding fathers characterized certain truths as "self-evident" they lived in a period where common sense ruled; in an era where there was no television to hide the truth by overloading the body politic's mind with inconsequential pap: There was not even such a concept as an MTV presidency. Today, however, those truths that were so self-evident to the founding fathers are thoroughly obscured — but they are still there, to those who will focus.

Which brings us to the better news of the election, that the House and Senate are still controlled by Republicans who in the current context have a much better track record on individual liberty, in particular the common-sense, self-evident liberties bought with our forebears' blood and bequeathed to us in our Bill of Rights. Many good freshmen legislators were returned to Capitol Hill, and some good new ones were elected. In this win-some, lose-some election we did not lose the people we must depend on to apply the brakes to the mindless juggernaut that is rumbling in attack toward the American Constitution. *But we must help them to focus.* Stay in touch with them. Let them know that the values of Liberty, especially the keystone Second Amendment, are very important to you and your support of them hinges on their support of the Bill of Rights.

You must also keep your elected representatives apprised of

programs important to you and America that are being neglected by the White House — such as his de-emphasizing the war on drugs (while teen-age drug use *doubled* during his first term in office).

In short it's up to your elected representatives not only to keep this junk-yard dog on a short leash when he would attack Liberty, but to kick him in the slats to goad him into action against the evils he neglects.

You don't have to remind them you pay their wages; they know that. You don't have to remind them you hired them with your vote — they know that, too. What you must communicate to them is what's important to you, how you want them to represent you in Washington. Be brief and be consistent. Keep them focused. Liberty is under attack as never before. Now is not the time to turn from the battle in disgust.

So this column, which we had intended as a one-term watch dog, will continue in an attempt to keep you apprised of the un-American activities of the continuing Clinton administration. Whether, because of possible criminal indictments or impeachment proceedings, the current administration runs full term or not, is moot. But as long as it's there we pledge to help you keep an eye on it, that you may encourage your representatives to keep a rope on the mad dogs that would attack Liberty.

As we go to press, what seems like an inordinate number of the Clinton cabinet have jumped ship. Between-terms is the common time for cabinet reshuffling: Secretaries who only signed on for one hitch take advantage of the pause to go back to private life; dead wood is culled; and those who have had a bellyful take this opportunity to bail out. But the flow seems inordinately strong this time. Are they ships leaving a sinking rat? Are they doing the Lloyd Bentsen Texas Side-Step and opting out while the getting is good because they have a premonition, or knowledge, of impending legal problems?

We don't know. But we can always hope. In the meantime, keep in touch with your representatives in Washington.

At this point, they may be the only friends you have there. ✕

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Bo Mya, president of the Karen National Union (KNU) and commanding general of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), undoubtedly is one of Burma's most successful post-World War II guerrilla leaders. His exploits in the '50s and '60s are legendary among the hill tribes. Even Rangoon's government-influenced press often refers to him.

In the early days of the insurgency, which dates from the end of WWII, the KNU's educated, English-speaking elders in the cities struggled to set up a civilian infrastructure. At the same time the eastern-most military command became dominated by the hill tribes. Two young guerrilla officers stood out: Shwe Hser, commander of what would become the Karen 6th Brigade south of Kawkaik, and Bo Mya, commander of the 7th Brigade, in Pa-an and Papun districts farther north.

Both were animist Sgaw Karens from the Papun Hills. Shwe Hser achieved a prominent position in Karen affairs, especially in the Dawna Range (in his 6th Brigade's territory), but it is Bo Mya's influence — a cross between Robin Hood and Che Guevara — that has been felt most strongly throughout the Karen nationalist movement.

Born 1926 in Hti Moo Khi village, Bo Mya went as far as the fourth grade in a Burmese school. As a teenager in WWII he witnessed Burmese Independence Army atrocities in the Papun Hills, influencing him to become a policeman under the Japanese puppet administration. In February 1945, however, Bo Mya made first contact with a British SpecOps unit that had parachuted in. As the ranks of volunteer fighters swelled to more than 600 local Karens, Bo Mya joined the staff of Saw Butler, one of the British army's highest-ranking Karen officers. After the war he kept Mya as his personal aide. When the Karen insurgency began, Butler refused to join the KNU whereas Bo Mya returned home and joined the Karen Highlander battalion as a company commander. Mya and his men later kept their weapons as part of the *Pyu Saw Hti* militia.

In the early 1960s Mya was promoted to colonel in command of the Karen Eastern Division's 7th Brigade.

In April 1963 he became the Eastern Division commander after his predecessor defected.

Soon after that Mya married a Seventh Day Adventist and converted to Christianity.

In 1963 there was a dramatic increase in black-marketeering and smuggling along the Burma-Thai border because of socialist Burma's disastrous economic policies. A 5-percent tax on all goods transported through Karen territory swelled KNU coffers. Shwe Hser built a Karen "customs post" at Phalu south of Myawadi in 1964; Bo Mya established another at Kawmoora in 1965. Others were quickly opened, too. Large profits were made through trade and taxation of timber, gems, and cattle from Burma and luxury items and manufactured goods from Thailand, with 1983 being a peak year.

Fighting the Good Fight

SOF Interviews Bo Mya - Karen's Legendary Guerrilla Leader

Text & Photos by Rob Krott



Karen resistance leader Bo Mya (right) and his California-educated son, "Rocky," during an SOF interview at the general's home in southeastern Burma.

With a strong financial base and some adept political maneuvering, Bo Mya's influence increased and he eventually became president of the KNU in 1976. Under his leadership the KNLA was reorganized into five main brigade areas; the army along the border grew to more than 10,000 well-armed soldiers with Southeast Asia "surplus" weapons purchased on the black market. The KNLA continued like this until the late '80s, when it was forced to abandon some of its Thai-border strongholds until finally losing Manerplaw and Kawmoora in 1995.

In the summer of 1996 the Karen were busy reconsolidating and preparing for a renewed guerrilla war against the dictatorial State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC): the military regime that renamed *Burma Myanmar*. After observing the secret training of elite Karen snipers, I was granted an interview with Bo Mya. His son "Rocky," 28, a graduate of Pacific Union College in California, translated.

SOF: *What exactly does the senior Karen leadership now envision as their goal for the future: an autonomous nation state, a free state, or a semi-autonomous province within a federation?*

Bo Mya: We want to build and to have a federation system in Burma. If we have independent, ethnic-based countries then economically we would be weak and could not compete economically with other countries. So we prefer a federation system in Burma where we could work together in cooperation with other ethnic groups.

SOF: *The fall of Manerplaw, the loss of Kawmoora and other KNLA strongholds were seen in the West as setbacks for the Karen. How has this impacted on your goals?*

Bo Mya: The fall of Manerplaw and Kawmoora had little impact on our future. They were but temporary setbacks for the Karen. To continue our revolution we must be united ... but because SLORC receives such wide support from the rest of the world we're unable to compete with them on the battlefield in conventional warfare, so we've changed our tactics back to guerrilla

warfare. Because of the fall of Manerplaw and Kawmoora some people are disappointed, but most people have a strong feeling about our struggle, about the revolution. We will keep fighting until we achieve democracy, freedom, and self-determination for the Karen people.

SOF: *So the focus has now shifted back to traditional jungle insurgency warfare using guerrilla tactics as opposed to occupying fortifications? Do you think this will achieve your goal of self-determination?*

Bo Mya: By using guerrilla tactics we don't need a lot of porters to carry arms, ammunition, and supplies for our soldiers. In fact, we can move very fast. We can move three- or four-man teams out to attack the enemy. As soon as they accomplish their mission they simply fade back into the jungle. Through guerrilla tactics we feel we can win, because it is the easiest, cheapest, and most effective way. And the enemy is then unable to use their heavy artillery and mortars, which they got from China, on a concentration of our forces as they did at Kawmoora.

SOF: *Bo Mya, you have been a guerrilla fighter and leader longer than the leader of any other insurgency in the world today. Garang has been fighting in the Sudan since the 1980s and Savimbi in Angola for the last 20 years, but you have been a guerrilla since 1948. How do things compare now to those early days?*

Bo Mya: When we first started our revolution in 1948 mostly we were fighting in the cities and we took control of some of the cities. But the Burmese government, and now the SLORC, received help from other countries and we had to move back. That's why we were pushed back slowly to the border areas. In 1952 to 1953 we lost most of our supplies. We'd already been fighting for a long time. [At that time most of the Karens' weaponry and munitions were WWII leftovers rapidly being depleted.] At one point we only had five bullets for each rifle but we continued fighting because we would use "One Shot, One Kill." The government troops wouldn't come after us because we were good jungle fighters and they knew we could "One Shot, One Kill" them ... that's how our movement survived.

SOF: *The loss of the border areas*



Using little more than natural materials and green sheets of tarpaulin, KNLA guerrillas can quickly build — and just as quickly abandon — secret camps in the jungle. (Karen scout-sniper training at one such site was examined last month in SOF's "Long-Range Revenge.")



This area of southeastern Burma has seen fierce combat between SLORC and Karen forces. (Straight-line distance between Moulmein and Papun is 180 kilometers.)



Armed with M16 rifles of various vintage, field troops of the Karen National Liberation Army depart on jungle patrol to search for and harass *Tatmadaw* (Burmese army) soldiers.

caused a decrease in financial revenue. What's been its impact on the future of the KNU and KNLA?

Bo Mya: In the past we have faced a lot of difficult times such as this, and we made it through. We will keep the revolution going. We know we can last it out and achieve our aims. The Karen will survive.

SOF: Who do you see leading the Karen into the 21st century?

Bo Mya: The next generation will take over. They will assume the leadership and carry on the revolution.

SOF: So the next generation is being actively developed, educated, and prepared to lead?

Bo Mya: Yes. We have set up schools in all the refugee camps [in Thailand] to educate our younger generation. But we need international support to sponsor Karen students for further education, for studies abroad. These people will come back to develop our communities and in turn educate our people. So more people will get an education through them and that is how the next generation will con-

tinue the revolution.

SOF: Has there been an attempt at a rapprochement with SLORC or negotiations regarding the formation of a federation?

Bo Mya: Negotiations between the SLORC and the KNU have been ongoing. What we want from the SLORC are peaceful dialogues ... what we consider political dialogues, not just a "paper" cease-fire; unlike a cease-fire we had for two months and then we had to start fighting again. We

Continued on page 66

The Burmese army, or *Tatmadaw*, has been described as "a giant, cold-blooded army, armed to the betel-nut-stained teeth with everything it needed." It has had nearly 50 years' experience in guerrilla/counterguerrilla warfare. Myanmar's SLORC regime keeps the *Tatmadaw* busy.

Its regional commands comprise numerous battalions generally responsible for static security throughout this country of nearly 46 million, and light infantry divisions (LIDs) comprising 10 battalions each and used offensively in counterinsurgency roles. Each battalion usually fields 400-500 combat troops. Sometimes regional commands and LIDs may be combined when situations require both local security forces and combat infantrymen, such as in the northern district of Taungoo. There are both light infantry battalions (assault troops) and regular infantry battalions (defensive). Three battalions — basically, a brigade — often are assembled for a specific combat op. Although troops can be transported to disputed areas in motor vehicles, Burma's formidable terrain usually requires dismounted infantry ops.

Typically there are six companies in a line battalion: four rifle companies, a heavy-weapons company, and a headquarters company. In combat the battalion commander controls the headquarters and three rifle companies; his executive officer commands the heavy-weapons and the fourth rifle company.

The *Tatmadaw* recently created the 702 Airborne Battalion, adding to a surprisingly large airborne-infantry force. Many of SLORC's senior paratroop officers are American-trained, so there are several organizational similarities to the U.S. airborne as well as the old but reliable American T-10 parachute being used as standard equipment. (The primary transport is the air force's Fokker F27 twin-turboprop, medium-range aircraft; each can haul about 45 paratroopers.)

As I discovered last year during a "Friendship Airborne" jump tour in Myanmar (an event the company has discontinued), the 702's commander has impressive credentials — including elite U.S. training.

Lieutenant Colonel Hla Win told me his relatively new unit, which is based at Hmaw Bi, already has engaged Karen guerrillas in combat. "Yes, we killed many," Win, 38, recalled, without embellishment. "It was very good fighting."

In the *Tatmadaw*'s officer corps, Win is a "fast burner." Following his 1979 graduation from the Defense Services Academy (established by Burmese graduates of America's West Point), he was commissioned as a second lieutenant and immedi-

ately assigned to the 82nd Burmese Infantry Regiment, 66th Infantry Division, as a platoon leader. For six years Lt. Win fought insurgents of the Burmese Communist Party (BCP), and participated in Operation *Min Yan Aung*. In 1985 Captain Win was deployed to the Thai border for a year as a company commander. Then he served again in the 82nd, including command of an infantry company in the remote northwest near the China border.

Win later was transferred to the far-east border of Myanmar and assigned to the 94th Infantry Battalion, based in the Taung-gyi Area Command, to fight the insurgents of the Shan State Armies (SSA) and BCP. After a tour as a company commander, Win was assigned in 1988 to the defense department and then received orders as an exchange officer to the U.S. Army. After three months of intensive English-language training he was assigned to the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning. Under Georgia skies he completed Airborne and Pathfinder courses

Anti-SLORC resistance groups battle well-equipped soldiers led by officers such as airborne Lt. Col. Hla Win, who applied his U.S. Army training (in 1989) at Fort Bragg, N.C., in the eventual creation of the *Tatmadaw*'s anti-terrorist unit.

es before transferring to Fort Bragg, N.C., as the second Burmese soldier ever to attend the Special Forces Officer's Qualification course — a highly desired "ticket-punch."

Upon his return to Myanmar, Capt. Win was assigned to the Myanmar Airborne School and became the instructor for the new Myanmar Army Pathfinder course. Win saw another tour of combat duty in the Northern Command, in the Kachin State, an area known for its jade production. "The Kachins were skillful in mountain warfare; they were difficult to fight," Win remarked.

After his promotion to major, he took command of the headquarters and headquarters company of the *Tatmadaw* anti-guerrilla unit (AGU): 10 battalions functioning under the auspices of SLORC's secret police. Win then was tasked with forming an anti-terrorist unit (ATU): a Delta Force-style organization trained for dynamic entries, hijacking response, and hostage rescue. The ATU was formed from selected members of the AGU, and in 1991 several officers were sent to Thailand for specialized training.

In 1994, Major Win was ordered to the Thai border as deputy commander of the 310 Infantry Battalion fighting the Karen National Liberation Army. He saw a year of combat, generally in battalion-sized ops, against a tenacious foe that increasingly is using small-unit, hit-and-run tactics.

—R.K.

Conversation With The Enemy



courtesy James Donahue

Internet users can tap into more on Burma/Myanmar at these websites: zni@students.wisc.edu, University of Wisconsin's anti-SLORC "Free Burma Coalition"; and, maunghwin@sorosny.org, "Burma Project" at Open Society Institute, New York City.



SNEAKING and PIQUING

SOF Dances With DELTA



An Army spokesman claimed Houston has “a unique environment for certain types of aerial maneuvers.” Other cities “invaded” by Delta trainers were sites of “navigational training” [sic]. The Main Building (circled, top, and close up, above) was available for rough-and-tumble CQC training because it is in the process of demolition — and, of course, in “a unique environment...” [sic]. Some question whether, especially with current and numerous base closures, suitable sites might not be found on military bases.

Glancing at my watch, I declined dessert and asked for the bill at Josephine’s *Restaurante Italiano*. It was almost 2100 hours on Wednesday, 30 October, in the high-rise heart of downtown Houston. I’d arrived in Texas the day before and, if my intelligence was correct, an after-dinner show by the Army’s super-secret and rarely seen Delta Regiment was about to begin.

Josephine’s was chosen not for its cuisine, which is enjoyable, but because of its vantage point. Three blocks northwest is Houston’s abandoned Main Building, once an urban landmark, now a 20-some story inner-city eyesore, undergoing renovation to become a new police headquarters. Between the Main and Josephine’s are three open blocks of parking lots, making the restaurant an ideal and delectable stakeout.

My dinner guest and partner for this project was Major Mike Williams, a longtime *Soldier Of Fortune* contributing editor. I’d picked him up for supper at Houston’s old Main Street Gym, which is now at another location, the corner of Clay and Shenevert. The sign out front still says “Main Street Gym,”

Text & Photos by James L. Pate

though, followed by "House of Pain." In the opposing corner of the intersection is the Southern Noodle Company. A cosmic juxtaposition, I thought.

The gym smelled like a small mountain of rotted jockstraps. Indoors, with the windows closed. Its air hung heavy with the moist, rank determination of serious pugilists, jump ropes *whap-whap-whapping* on the floor, punctuated by the irregularly popping volleys of leather against leather and other skin. Except for a couple of trainers, few men were of the Caucasian persuasion. Except Mike. He was the only guy there over 70, a cantankerous war-horse boxing a few days each week, as much for his sanity as his physique.

Williams has lived most of his life in Houston, except for intermittent absences for such diversions as World War II, Korea, the Congo and Rhodesia, where the Texan won respect for his command of a horse-mounted counterinsurgency force. He was in the Army's 10th Special Forces Group in the 1950s with Colonel Aaron Bank, the spiritual granddaddy of all Green Berets. I would need Mike's local savvy and special operations expertise.

As a SpecOps veteran, Mike was skeptical that my intel about a raid on the Main Building at 2100 hours would be accurate, much less punctual, especially because Delta's activities are so heavily cloaked in secrecy and subject to change.

Routine Special Operations

The two-week Houston maneuvers, like similar joint ventures between the Army and local police departments' special weapons and tactics (SWAT) teams around the country, was explained to the public as a "routine" military urban-warfare training scenario involving run-of-the-mill Special Forces troops. But various special operations sources say these regularly scheduled exercises, which are growing in number, use the story as a ruse for Delta squadrons to conduct secret internal-security train-ups for the local SWAT boys (see "We Have Met The Enemy — And He Is Us," Oct. '96).

SOF's intel on Delta's training schedule in Houston proved accurate. Before the week was over, we penetrated one of their covers with two phone calls, and located one of their staging areas at Ellington Field, an old Air Force Base near the NASA Space Flight Center. Mike and I were able to recon targets prior to Delta's arrival, allowing us to select the most advantageous shooting positions. I was armed with a Nikon N90, two Canons, two tripods and night-vision equipment. Mike had the usual.

One site, scheduled for two separate Delta exercises in Houston, was the old Rice Hotel, where President John F. Kennedy spent his last night on 21 November 1963. It is in the partial-demolition phase of a major renovation into downtown apartments. Delta rented several floors for room-clearing exercises; floors 6-12 on 30 October, and the 4th and 5th floors on 5 November, Election Day. SOF obtained marked floor plans indicating which rooms would be used by Delta, and we were able to inspect these rooms before and after Army instructors prepped them for exercises.

Our dinner at Josephine's was leisurely, watching the Main in



In night photo taken from same position as inset at far left, MH-60 from 160th SOAR hovers over Main Building, backlit by modernistic skyscraper. (inset) Mission accomplished, Delta operator-trainees are plucked from building and fly off into the night.

case anything popped up early. We'd barely gotten out to Caroline Street to get my Nikon out of Mike's Mercedes when I knew my sources were alpha-one.

The metallic *throb* of approaching helicopters was unmistakable, growing in intensity. Grackles mobbed on tree limbs across the street suddenly bolted airborne, then regrouped into one maddened flock, swooping in screeching passes over the sidewalks and parking lots.

Unlit and unmarked, two MH-60 Black Hawks — the SpecOps version — appeared overhead, flying southwest to northeast, banking northwest as they descended through scudding fog banks that shrouded the tops of Houston's tallest skyscrapers. Whopping rotors and whining turbo engines echoed loudly, reverberating in downtown's towering concrete-and-glass canyons.

Front Row, Center

Josephine's big plate-glass windows were vibrating audibly when the restaurant suddenly disgorged its humanity — customers, cooks and servers — on the sidewalk. A few people caught in the open three blocks, over which the choppers made their final approach, ran for the cover of nearby buildings, while other pedestrians huddled in small groups. Skittish motorists pulled quickly to the curb, craning their necks upward into the swirling darkness.

First one, and then the other MH-60 descended out of the fog to hover above the Main Building's highest roof. Teams of black-clad men fast-roped down from each Black Hawk to the top of the roof tower. Tossing a web ladder off the upper tower, they climbed quickly to a lower roof that provided access to an elevator shaft. Others rappelled off the side toward lower windows.

BOOM! A breaching charge relaunched the grackles into careening flight, the explosion's sound wave bouncing back and forth among nearby buildings, then fading.

Scores of passersby stood spellbound, as if watching a high-wire act at the circus. Soon, the helicopters were thundering over again, hovering in turn over the roof and dropping a line with pairs of steel D-rings attached. In a spectacular aerobatic finale, the Black Hawks zoomed away, each with a clutch of commandos hanging beneath, daredevils flying though midair.

Mike and I looked at our watches: 27 minutes from start to finish. Not bad. Some guy with long hair in his 20s jogged across the street as I was putting my camera gear away. He asked what in hell all the commotion was about. I told him he'd just witnessed the Army's anti-terrorist Delta unit conducting a building takedown and rooftop extraction. He gawked upward.

"Wouldn't it be cheaper to call a cab?" he wisecracked. But the humor nailed a serious point about the exercise's overall necessity.

"This is... necessary," Houston Police Chief Sam Nuchia had said the afternoon before, at a press conference to deflect public complaints about explosions, machine-



The old Rice Hotel as seen from one of SOF's surveillance points, an office in the Texas Commerce Tower just down the hall from former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen. (left) Author and Mike Williams on the roof of another building used for observation, with the rear of the Rice Hotel behind them.



gun fire and low-flying helicopter gunships on Monday night, which lit up police switchboards.

Safe Crack-Up

"There's no danger to the public," Chief Nuchia vowed. But his spin for the evening news was upstaged before broadcast, by an aircraft "incident" near Sugar Land, an affluent, fast-growing suburb about 20 miles southwest of Houston. It involved an Army OH-6 helicopter.

Unlike Houston's prior police chiefs,

who wore baggy civilian suits, Nuchia is fond of going about in a smartly turned-out uniform, generously adorned with piping, braids, epaulets, stars and other sartorial martial splendor. He likes the military. They must like him, too. At least they tried to bail him out of the bath he took on the "no danger" claim.

Apparently trying to save some face for Nuchia, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, declined to characterize the "incident at Sugar Land" as a "crash." Minimizing the severity, he called it a "hard landing."

It "landed" hard enough to end up on its side, injuring two soldiers. The pilot was hospitalized. Maybe it's not a "crash" until somebody gets killed.

Such semantic hair-splitting illustrates the type of weasel language used by military commands to obscure real meaning and blur exact intentions, using such euphemisms as "hard landing" and such acronyms as MOUT, or military operations in urban terrain. The same Army spokesman said troops were in Houston for MOUT training.

It's only when one understands the definitions of Army training doctrine that one can understand the difference between what the Army says and what the Army does. Its actions reveal its true intent.

MOUT is typically conducted by regular Army troops, not generic Green Berets, much less Delta. In a real-life tactical arena, MOUT operations can result in

heavy collateral damage and significant civilian casualties. Advanced MOUT doctrine, or AMOUT, also results in heavy damage, but it is more confined to the specific target area.

The most advanced tactical takedown doctrine, Close Quarter Combat, or CQC, has heretofore been the province of certain — but not all — Special Forces-qualified troops. The modern definitive CQC operation is the takedown of the Iranian Embassy at Princess Gate, London, by the British Army's 22nd Regiment of the Special Air Service: 22 SAS is the doctrinal progenitor of Delta, largely because of the influence of Delta's first commanding officer, Colonel Charlie Beckwith, who served with 22 SAS in Malaysia.

Delta

The most frequent practitioner of CQC scenarios in the Army is Delta. Under more recent recruiting practices, not *all* Delta operators are SF-qualified, as was once the case. Under old SF policy, CQC training was not authorized for any civilian law-enforcement agency except the U.S. Border Patrol's tactical team, or BORTAC. Since the Waco disaster, when Delta advisers were literally in the trenches with FBI HRT members (see "Black Suits, Badges & Bradleys," Aug. '96), the Army's policy has been relaxed to allow CQC training to many civilian law-enforcement agencies.

For instance, one of the agencies being trained by Delta operators in Houston, besides the Houston Police Department's SWAT team, was the Texas Department of Transportation SWAT team. That fact surfaced in an article in the 22 October edition of the *Houston Chronicle*. Chief Nuchia and the Army asked the Harris County commissioners for permission to practice building take-downs at an abandoned condominium complex on the San Jacinto River.

After being flooded out in October 1994, the Federal Emergency Management Administration purchased Forest Cove Condominiums from the owners and deeded them to Harris County. The county, in turn, made plans to demolish the complex and turn the river-front property into a park. Nearby residents, fearing the military maneuvers might be more dangerous than Chief Nuchia later would have the public believe, complained to the county. The commissioners voted unanimously to deny the Army permission.

The morning after Williams and I witnessed and photographed the rooftop assault on the Main Building, there was further confirmation that the Army troops were not generic Green Berets, but Delta commandos. Army spokesman Walt Sokalski confirmed to *Houston Chronicle* reporter John Makeig that the OH-6 which had "landed" at an imprudently high rate of speed the week before, and the 11 other helicopters scaring residents in and around Houston, were all from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. The 160th SOAR exists primarily to be Delta's inser-

tion platform, but also ferries around the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, a Delta-trained clone. The OH-6 that crashed, and the MH-60 Black Hawks Mike and I saw, are uniquely configured for Delta-type operations.

The morning-after coverage of the Main Building operation in the *Houston Chronicle* was blasé, and poked fun at readers who'd called the newspaper and the police, disturbed by the sight of military commandos zooming and shooting around the metro area. "Rumors Fly as Army Choppers Buzz City," the headline said.

The article confirmed that the police did not publicly confirm the joint exercises with

the Army until a day after they began — when upset residents began calling in complaints. It said that "... some people think the media are covering up for the culprits."

Going To See The Elephant

Truth be known, the local media didn't have the energy or the interest to cover up for anybody. With the exception of a couple of TV stations, whose reporters got good footage, but were not particularly well informed about what was really going on, Houston's media just didn't care.

Sokalski, the Army spokesman, blew some smoke up the *Chronicle's* ass about Houston being "a unique environment for



In the throes of salvage and demolition, the Rice Hotel was prepped by advance Delta team, such as by flagging areas and rooms to be the site of training activity. Insertion, training and extraction from real urban areas is realistic, but leaves some pondering how necessary it is — and *who* they are training to rescue, take-down, or take away.



certain types of aerial maneuvers." Then, contradicting himself and Chief Nuchia in the news reports of the day before, Sokalski acknowledged that these exercises might be dangerous to civilians watching in close proximity, using that argument as a reason to keep secret the dates, times and locations of training events.

"It's like when the circus comes to town," Sokalski said. "Everybody wants to see the elephants. It creates a greater hazard if we have a lot of people trying to watch the training."

The evasiveness by the Army and Chief Nuchia about exactly what was going on — and the public fright that resulted — is typical of Delta's forays into other U.S. cities for similar exercises.

Houston residents are among only the more recent population centers to have the jolting experience of machine gun-toting ninjas, throbbing choppers, staccato bursts of gunfire and the thud of explosions added to the everyday nerve-jangling stresses of urban life.

Similar exercises in June in Pittsburgh "turned parts of the city into war zones," *The Washington Times* reported, "complete with the sound of explosions and gunfire that frightened residents and sent one pregnant woman into labor..."

A year earlier, residents of two Chicago suburbs were similarly panicked on two

successive nights when choppers swooped in amid crescendos of gunfire and explosions. Other cities have been subjected to such nocturnal terror by the combined forces of their federal and local governments, including Miami, Dallas, New Orleans, Detroit, Los Angeles and Dallas.

Despite Chief Nuchia's assurance that there is no danger to the public, there have



New, mag-wheeled Chevy van did not fit usual ambiance of a wrecking crew — and two phone calls to directory assistance and the drapery store pulled the rag off their thin cover.

been training accidents in these exercises. An explosion in an industrial area near New Orleans caused almost \$100,000 in property damage — which Delta's command promptly paid in cash. A misplaced bullet trap in Miami failed to stop a .308-caliber bullet, which ricocheted and penetrated an interior masonry wall, then plunged through a window of an all-night business. No one was hurt and, again, Delta's bag men showed up to soothe tempers and nerves with a calming balm of Federal Reserve Notes.

Navigational Training

A common thread among all these operations has been a remarkable lack of professed foreknowledge by local law-enforcement agencies, and mysteriously vague explanations by the Army of just what it's all about.

For instance, hundreds of citizens of Des Plaines, Illinois, frightened by clattering copters and the *Boom! Boom! Rat-a-tat-tat*, flooded the phone lines of local police, who at first denied hearing or knowing anything, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported. An Illinois State Police spokesman finally admitted that it was "some sort of SWAT thing... We can't talk about it. Call the Department of Defense."

Pentagon spokesman Mike Sienda called it "a routine exercise" pertaining to



Delta's advance team came to Houston with a Ryder truck carrying materiel, seen here behind construction fence at front of Rice Hotel.

“military police.” Next night, when residents were terrified by a similar assault on an abandoned seminary in nearby Lemont, Illinois, Sienda described it again as “routine,” said instead described it as “a navigation exercise.”

Navigation exercise? With gunfire and explosions? [As we go to press, the Ft. Lauderdale *Sun Sentinel* announced similar “night navigation” exercises for 18-27 November, compromised when City Manager George Hanbury sent a memo to Ft. Lauderdale city commissioners, which stated “this memo is not intended for public release at this time” but the memo is a public record under Florida law.]

Sienda told the Chicago newspaper that no one was notified in advance because — curious logic here, when trying to justify a major public disturbance of the peace — “we didn’t want to attract attention.”

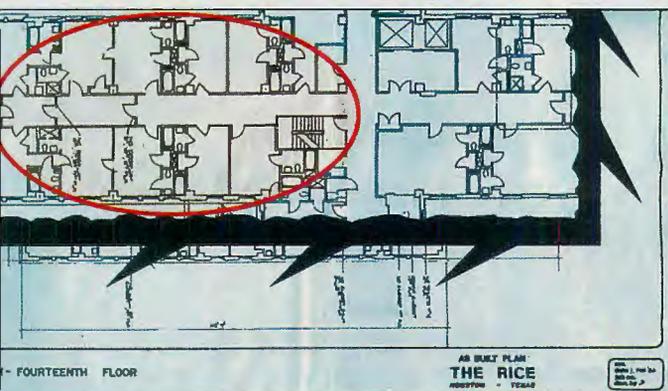
The well-dressed Delta operators who showed up at the Rice Hotel on 5 November, ostensibly disguised as demolition workers, probably didn’t want to attract attention either. But they weren’t hard to spot.

I’d been keeping an eye on the Rice for a week, and Delta had used it once already, on the same Wednesday night Mike and I watched the helicopter assault on the Main Building a few blocks away. The demolition crew working in the Rice was all Mexican. They were a dusty, rag-tag looking crew. They looked like — a demolition crew.

Neither Cover Nor Concealment

I was waiting on the street when Delta arrived. A backup photographer was standing by, to take my picture in case the Delta guys spotted me and decided to confiscate my film or otherwise manifest their displeasure. A Ryder rental truck — the same size as the one used to blow up the federal building in Oklahoma City — and another rental truck had been staged by Delta in a parking garage across from the Rice. A police officer stopped traffic to let the trucks out. As I snapped pictures, they turned the corner and parked behind a chain-link fence in front of the Rice.

Six Delta personnel were in a brand-new white Chevy van with magnetic signs attached to the doors indicating they were



Rooms circled on floorplan are rooms used for Delta's training ops.



Obviously fit, well-dressed with virginal helmets, \$100 sneakers, clean and driving new wheels, Delta operators outside old Rice Hotel on 30 October stood out from genuine down 'n' dirty salvage crew tearing out toilets the week before.



The “cover” for Delta operators was “Mike’s Dismantling and Restoration” with a local phone number that belonged to a drapery store. Here, crew of Delta “dismantlers,” apparently piqued at being photographed, climbs in van and drives away.

from “Mike’s Dismantling & Restoration.” A quick check of a Houston phone book and directory assistance revealed no such company listed. A call to the phone number listed on their sign rang up a company that sells wholesale draperies and had never heard of “Mike’s Dismantling & Restoration.”

It was obvious the moment they stepped out of their vehicles that these guys weren’t demolition workers. They were wearing stylish sport clothing, \$100 athletic shoes and all looked like they’d just left “Gold’s Gym.” Not a beer belly among ’em. Their construction helmets were all brand new, without a single scuff mark. Their vehicles were new and spiffy; undented, not a ladder or a tool box to be found. A pretty thin cover.

I shot two rolls of film, stashed

them and went back for more. I decided it would be interesting to let the Delta guys see me. So I made myself obvious, taking their pictures as they watched. They convened a quick meeting in a construction trailer, walked out in a group (which I photographed), got in their van and drove away.

Mike Williams was incredulous when I told him how easy it had been to spot the Delta boys, how much these well-dressed, well-muscled young Anglos stood out from the real Mexican demo crew.

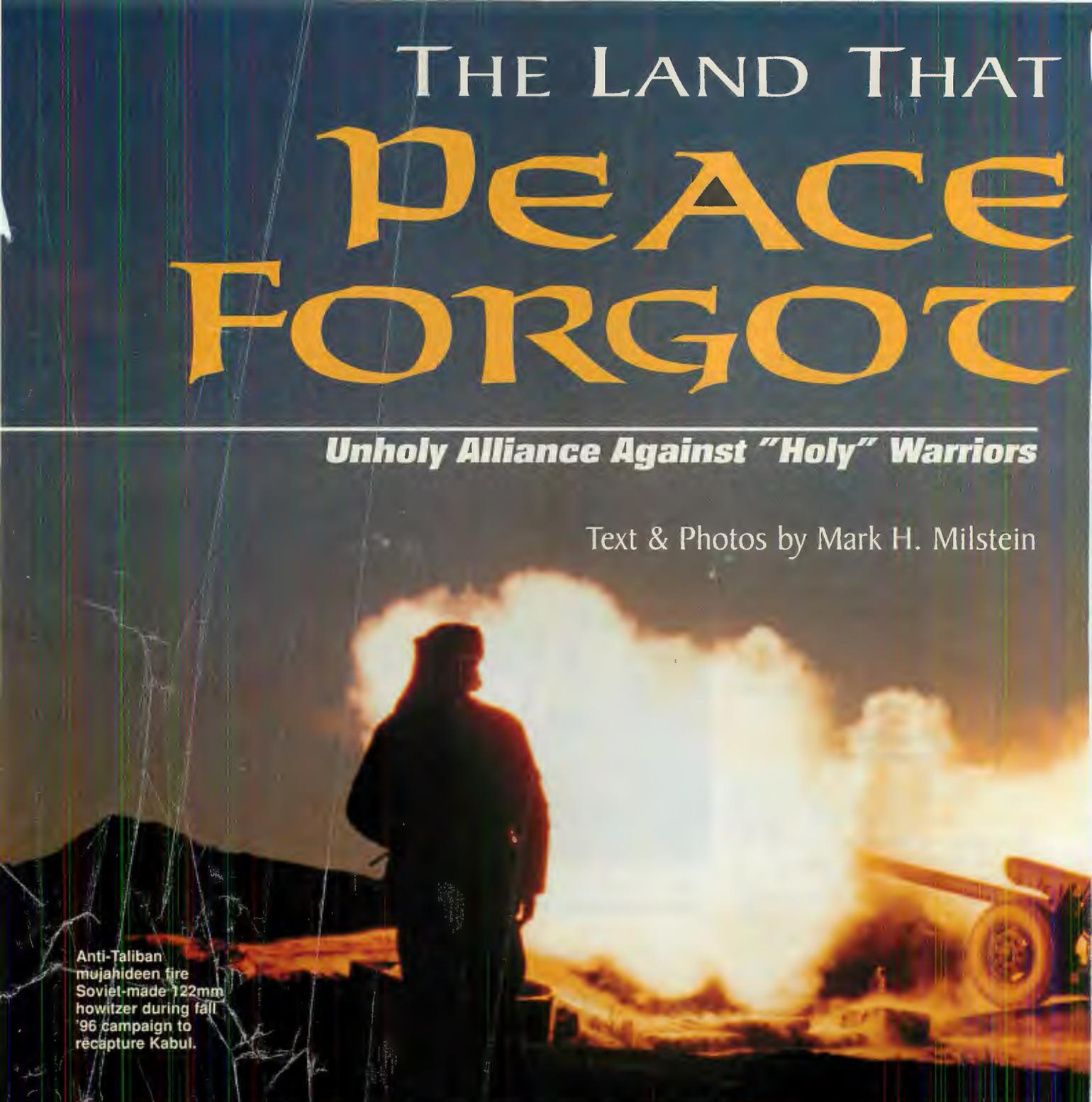
“Well, I know now what the D in Delta stands for,” Mike said in disgust. “Dilettantes. These guys are dabblers, so impressed with themselves they ignore the most basic lessons of tradecraft. They should have had some backstop for that cover. Hell, they ought to at least have a real phone listing, and a secretary there to take calls.

“If Aaron Bank and Charlie Beckwith knew this shit was going down,” Mike muttered to himself, “they’d be spinning in their graves.”

THE LAND THAT PEACE FORGOT

Unholy Alliance Against "Holy" Warriors

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein



Anti-Taliban mujahideen fire Soviet-made 122mm howitzer during fall '96 campaign to recapture Kabul.



Weapons left behind by Soviet army now are used on all sides of Afghan civil war: (from left) Mujahideen fire-support unit comprises truck-mounted 23mm anti-aircraft guns and jeep-mounted 140mm multiple-rocket launcher (MRL). T-62 tank in anti-Taliban



forces of Ahmad Shah Massood rumbles by in southward push to Kabul. Taliban BM-21 MRL fires 122mm round against Massood's positions north of Kabul.



Fighting for radical Islamic-fundamentalist rule in Afghanistan, platoon of Taliban muj awaits orders to engage troops commanded by Uzbek warlord Dostum.

IF the T-62 was the Taliban rebels' target, then the seven government soldiers lounging in foxholes behind the tank were some of the unluckiest men in Afghanistan.

Only minutes after they had folded their Muslim prayer rugs and put away their Korans, a 122mm rocket slammed into their little piece of earth, killing four and wounding three. We were standing a (barely) safe distance away. Our reflexes had been dulled from insufficient sleep induced by cheap vodka over the past three days. A "wake up" arrived soon, as government soldiers moved their wounded and dead from the still-steaming crater littered with smoking scraps of clothing and blood-stained sand.

With a roar, a second Katyusha slammed into the highway. "Get into the car! Get into the car!" screamed John, a Montana-born cameraman with a British TV crew. "We've been targeted! Let's go. Shit, did you hear that...?"

A third explosion radiated a shock wave that bludgeoned us. Then a fourth round in the artillery-rocket strike came closer, so close that the pungent smell of cordite coated my throat and nose. We wouldn't be so lucky if there was another Katyusha. It definitely was time to unass this AO.

The Russian-made Volga station wagon fishtailed down the Kabul highway as we sped north toward the government forces' rear lines. A few minutes later a Soviet-made BMP (*boyevaya mashina pekhoty*: combat vehicle of the infantry) loaded with wounded passed us on the way to the nearest hospital in Charikar, a city located some 60 kilometers north of Kabul. We decided to follow.

Dozens of government soldiers and anti-Taliban mujahideen milled around the gray-walled hospital building. Two stunned soldiers with eye and face wounds from the Katyusha were quickly led into the fly-infested emergency room. Soldiers unloaded a third casualty, whose leg had been shredded by the rocket's blast, through the rear hatch of the BMP and rolled him onto a urine- and pus-soaked mattress. He was soon surrounded by a team of doctors and interns, one armed with a bloody and partly rusted amputation saw and what looked like a wad of tennis racket-gauge catgut. This wasn't going to be pretty.

We left without further word and began driving to Jebul-us-Siraj, the headquarters of famed commander Ahmad Shah Massood.



The "Lion of the Panjshir," Ahmad Shah Massood, radios orders during combined-arms op against Taliban; his assistant, Dr. Abdulla, stands at right. (below) Anti-Taliban alliance brings Gen. Abdul Majid Rozi (in uniform), representing Uzbek warlord Dostum, to confer with Massood (in white jacket).





Massood's troops bring fighter, badly wounded in rocket strike, to hospital in city of Charikar. Doctors likely amputated his leg. (right) Taliban mortar round lands, explodes in government firing position during combat north of Kabul.



Syigma

couple of kilometers away.

Massood, normally media-shy, lit up with an atypical smile when asked if an *SOF* correspondent could accompany him. "Just don't get in the way," Massood's assistant, Dr. Abdulla, answered. Massood's seven-man security team, all blood relatives or related to him through marriage, took up position in the back of his Toyota pickup. The headquarters element drove off after the T-55s.

During its nearly 10-year occupation of

Afghan vs. Afghan vs. Afghan

A main battle tank, even an old work-horse from the Cold War, *always* has right-of-way.

Just outside Baghram airbase, recently retaken by the allied forces of Massood and Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, an ally of embattled Afghan President Rabbani, we were nearly run off the road by two government T-55s.

The tanks were clambering in reverse through a narrow street of houses and shops. Dozens of soldiers, armed with rocket-propelled grenades, AK rifles and other Soviet-era small arms, were in a near riot.

Some tried to hop aboard as the metal behemoths narrowly avoided smashing into each other. It was pure Afghan chaos.

Off to the side, dressed in his trademark white "Banana Republic" jacket and chinos, stood Massood, the "Lion of the Panjshir."

"Get the tanks down the road," he firmly ordered into a walkie-talkie. "Now. Now — go. Get them into position."

One of the T-55s suddenly stopped, its diesel engine sputtering. Massood ordered all of the infantrymen to get behind the smoke-belching monster and push-start it. It worked. Both tanks rumbled off to their assigned firing position in an open field a

Afghanistan the Soviet army mounted seven special-forces missions to capture or kill the wily Massood. Each time, *Spetsnaz* teams came back empty-handed. Massood's skills as a guerrilla commander were unparalleled. He had learned how to organize his muj fighters into highly mobile guerrilla units and harass the Soviet army at will while living off the land with little or no logistical support.

In 1992, three years after the Soviets quit Afghanistan, the communist regime of President Najibullah fell. Massood entered Kabul, the capital, and spent the next four years battling other factional leaders as the defense minister to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his political party, *Jamiat-i-Islami* (Islamic Society). This fighting, however, opened the door for the Pakistan-backed, Islamist Taliban forces.

The Taliban, commanded by a core of former Islamic seminarians, launched an offensive that first captured the eastern city of Jalalabad. Last September the Taliban captured Kabul, driving out the Rabbani government and sending Massood and his army into full retreat northward. (One of the first acts of the victorious Taliban was to drag Najibullah from a U.N. compound where he had been sheltered and execute him.)

With Taliban armor and infantry hot on their heels, Massood's units regrouped north of the Panjshir Valley at the mouth to the strategic Salang Pass, coordinated with the ethnic-Uzbek warlord Dostum's forces — and waited. When the moment was right, the alliance forces swept southward in counterattack, dealing the Taliban a number of significant defeats. Massood soon found himself within cannon shot of a strategic prize: Kabul's airport.

Foreign-Press Paranoia

Ka-boom. The T-55 fired, sending a high-explosive shell onto a ridge just north

THE KEVLAR TOURIST

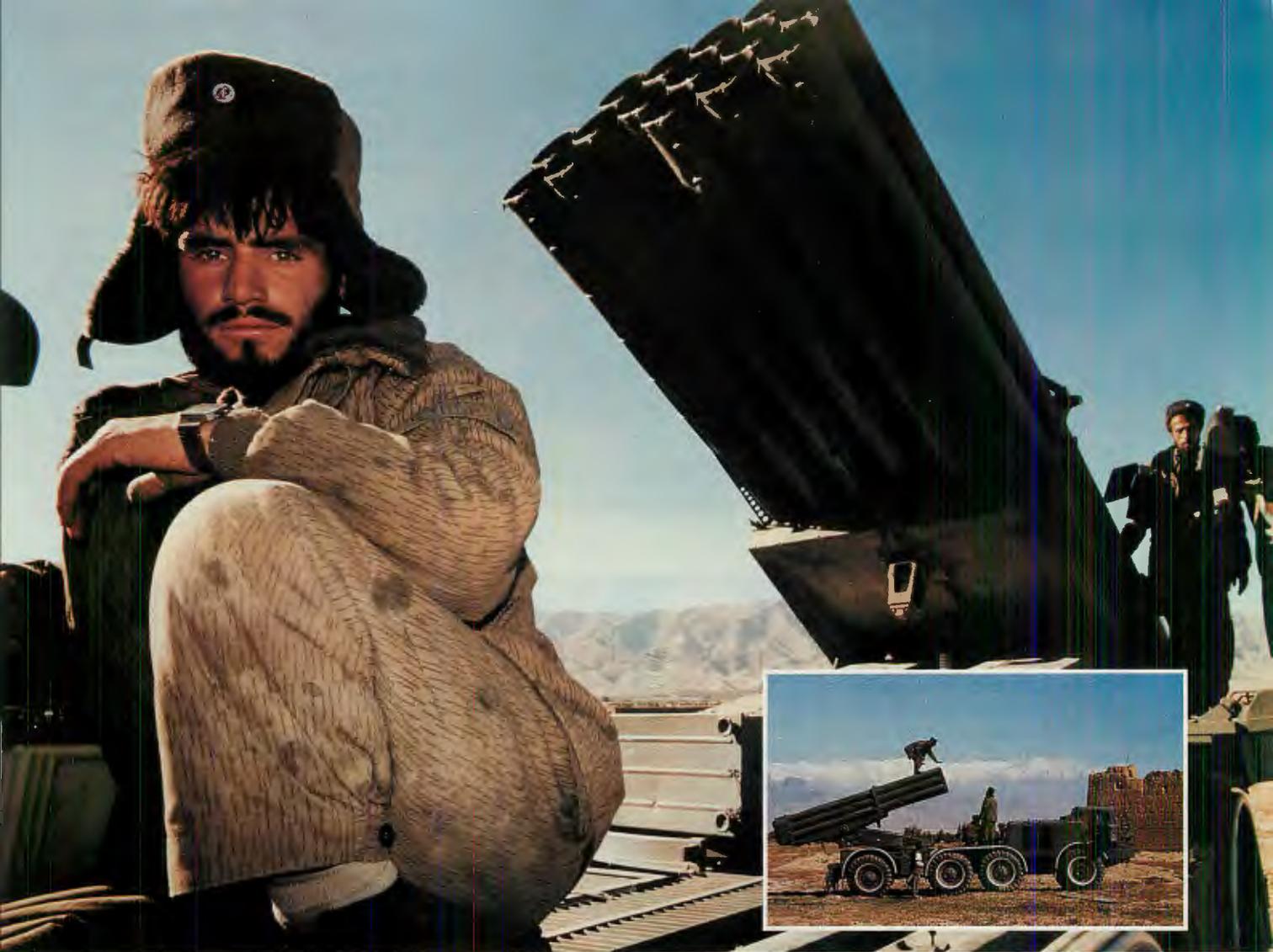
Many times with an *SOF* adventure, half of the story is just getting there. We're talking logistics, equipment, airlines that barely fly, ground transport that barely moves, petty Third World bureaucrats, religious maniacs, and nasty weather; then, if all goes well and the journey reaches the front lines, there are bullets, bombs, adrenaline-pumped hosts who can turn violent, the risks of being captured by the wrong side, and injury or death.

Last fall's flare-up of fighting in Afghanistan, pitting the alliance of Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum and famed Afghan mujahideen leader-turned-defense minister Ahmad Shah Massood against the Pakistan-backed Islamist Taliban, really put my skills to the test.

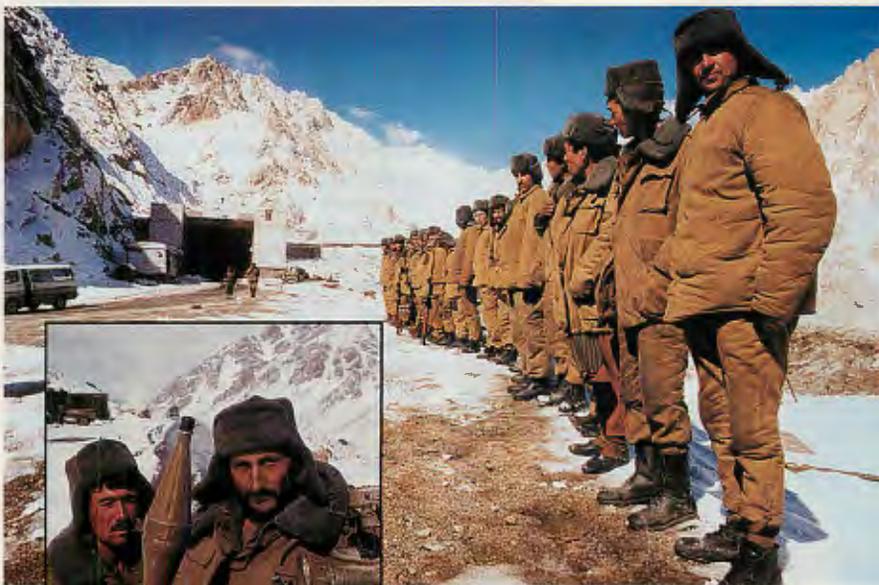
From Budapest, Hungary, to the front lines near Kabul's airport is about 2,700 miles (4,340 kilometers) as the crow flies — about 90 hours of nearly nonstop travel under conditions that would challenge even the most hardened adventurer.

After a relatively benign flight from Budapest to Istanbul, preparation for the Turkish Airlines' "red eye" to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, was a harbinger. First there was lengthy questioning and hard stares by security officials at the Istanbul airport: My personal kit comprised Kevlar helmet, threat-level 4 body armor with ceramic and Kevlar plates (front and back), plus 52 pounds of cameras, film, lenses, clothes, medicines, and a handful of aviation maps of northern Afghanistan and portions of Iran and Pakistan. Then I had to spend 10 hours waiting for the flight. My companions in this exercise in patience

Continued on page 72



Afghan government troops prep their Soviet-made BM-22 MRL for fire mission against Taliban. The 220mm artillery rockets have a maximum range of 40 kilometers.



Motorized rifle troops under Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum assemble at strategic Salang Tunnel, in northern mountains, before joining anti-Taliban offensive.

of the hills ringing the Kabul airport. *Ka-boom*. The second tank, also acting as a self-propelled artillery piece, fired.

Massood then ordered other tanks and artillery flanking the road to open up. Puffs of smoke from impacts appeared on the horizon; seconds later, muffled concussions rippled back across the valley floor.

Fire mission completed, Massood and his HQ entourage departed for Jebul and a staff meeting. We followed. In Jebul we stopped for food then made an unannounced visit to Massood's command center and quarters. We weren't disappointed.

After allowing us to "sit in" on the last few minutes of staff meeting, Massood sat down and spoke briefly with us. "I have no plans for political office," he commented, referring to the possibility that he might soon retake Kabul. He began discussing the Taliban's military strategy. Just then, an aide entered the room to tell him General Dostum, the Uzbek warlord, was on the satellite telephone.

"Gee, didn't the Russians kill [Chechen rebel leader] Dudayev that way?" *Newsweek*

Continued on page 70



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artillery, a 30mm high-speed aircraft cannon, a 35mm computerized anti-aircraft cannon system, the Rooikat Armored Fighting Vehicle, mortars of all types and numerous other defense products.

General's Model

I have just returned from another extensive trip to South Africa where, among numerous other defense industry products, I tested and evaluated a bevy of new handguns from LIW. Most interesting to me was the General's Model, a compact version of the large service-size SP1/2 series pistols, that will be available in both 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W chamberings and is intended for both the military and commercial markets. Both the SP1 and SP2 (and LIW's other pistol, the Z88, a greatly enhanced version of the Beretta 92F) are

South Africa's Lyttelton *Ingenieurswerke* (Afrikaans for Engineering Works) — or "LIW" as it is now referred to — has a proven track record in the defense industry. They produce the Z88 and SP1 9mm Parabellum pistols, the SP2 .40 S&W pistol, the CP1 compact pistol, the R4 rifles series, the new CR21 bullpup rifle, the SS-77 caliber 7.62x51mm GPMG, a 5.56x45mm Squad Automatic based upon the SS-77, several different 20mm automatic cannons, the G5 towed and G6 self-propelled 155mm



Peter G. Kokalis

Firing the new South African SP1 General's Model, a mid-size pistol chambered for either the 9mm Parabellum or .40 S&W cartridges.



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locked-breech pistols that operate by short recoil with a falling locking block driven downward to disengage the slide from the barrel and halt the barrel's rearward travel. This method of operation was taken from the German Walther P.38 — a double-action pistol of World War II vintage (which employed the same locking principle, albeit significantly modified, as the Mauser Model 1896 "Broomhandle" pistol).

Although it may resemble the Z88 internally, the SP1/2's slide and frame — as well as some other important features — are startlingly different. SP1/2 slides, which unlike Z88 slides are closed except for a conventional-sized ejection port on the right side, are machined from high-quality, EN-24 (a British World War II term that stands for "Emergency Number" and indicates the alloy content of the steel) ordnance steel billets. Although far more labor-intensive than mill-finishing a drop forging such as that of the Beretta 92F, in this manner the slide's

flow lines are maintained in a longitudinal direction without distortion, providing considerably higher fracture toughness.

Furthermore, after machining, SP1/2 slides and other important components, such as the locking block, are heat-treated by dipping in a neutral salt bath (to prevent decarbonizing) at 840 degrees Celsius for 25 minutes. They are then quenched in a neutral salt bath at 340 degrees Celsius for 20 minutes and finally cooled by air. The hardness of the steel after this treatment is 42-48 Rockwell C without any internal brittleness.

The General's Model will be initially offered with either black oxide or electroless nickel finishes. Eventually, a nitroplex finish — which looks like nickel, but is highly rust resistant — and a black finish with the same scratch and rust resistance as nickel will be available.

most important, permits this double-action pistol to be carried "locked and cocked" (with a round in the chamber, the hammer cocked and the safety engaged). The first round can thus be fired single action. If preferred, the hammer can be lowered (slowly and very carefully) by hand (the safety lever does not operate as a hammer drop) and the first shot fired double-action. The safety lever can also be engaged with the hammer rotated forward. Personally, I can think of no situation in which I would not prefer to carry this pistol in the locked-and-cocked mode.

The thumb safety on SP1/2 series pistols has the correct sense of direction, which is to rotate downward into the *fire* position. This is reversed on the Z88 and Beretta 92F. In addition, the SP1/2 safety lever can be easily manipulated with the thumb of the firing hand while maintaining

frame. There is no magazine safety and the pistol can be fired without a magazine seated into the well.

The SP1/2's "ringed" magazine-release button is properly located to the rear of the trigger guard. It may be reversed for either right- or left-hand shooters. Empty magazines fall freely away when the release button is pressed. The General's Model magazine capacity is 16 rounds in 9mm Parabellum and 11 rounds in .40 S&W. The staggered-column, single-position-feed magazine bodies have been heat-treated by means of carbonizing to a depth of 0.01mm. This process provides an extremely rugged magazine, which will not deform from repeated reloadings nor when it is dropped on the all-critical lips. The finger-extension floorplate, an important feature on a compact pistol, is made from Nylon-6. Larger SP1 and SP2

by Peter G. Kokalis

AFRIKANER

AUTOLOADERS

Pistol Crafting At Its Zenith

In overall geometry, the SP1/2 series slide is quite distinctive. The exterior radiuses are all clearly defined and the sides, at the muzzle end, are wedge-shaped. As a .40 S&W chambering was contemplated during initial development of the SP1, a heavier slide was not required when the SP2 was introduced two years ago. The top of the slide has a wide, serrated, integral heat rib. The rib has a dish-shaped configuration, and both the front and rear sights rise above the serrations.

The blade-type, stepped front sight is retained by a roll pin and can be removed to install higher or lower blades. The rear sight, an open square notch, can be adjusted for windage only by drifting it in its dovetail on the slide. Tritium night sights are available as an option.

The ambidextrous, manual thumb safety is mounted on the frame, which is CNC-machined from high-grade aluminum-alloy barstock. The safety blocks the trigger and,

the firing grip.

The firing pin is inertial, and a spring-loaded steel block limits its travel. This mechanical firing-pin stop, also located in the slide, is activated by a coil spring and deactivated at the last moment of trigger travel by the trigger bar and a lever assembly. It ensures that the pistol cannot fire unless the trigger is pulled. Finally, the hammer has a rather useless half-cock position.

Trigger-pull weights on the SP1 General's Model we tested were 9 pounds at double-action and 3.75 pounds when fired single action. The polymer trigger is serrated. The mechanism itself is that used on the Z88 pistol. In comparison with the Z88, the SP1/2's hammer has been lightened and its profile altered.

The SP1/2 recoil spring has been redesigned to accommodate the abbreviated envelope of the General's Model. The recoil spring's guide rod is now polymer instead of steel. The fixed ejector is attached to the

magazines can be used.

The polygonal-rifled barrel is 102mm (4 inches) in length and is fabricated from tough EN-24 steel. This compares to a barrel length of 118mm (4.72 inches) for the standard-size SP1/2. All of LIW's pistol barrels are "aust" tempered, a process which yields a hardness of 43 Rockwell C. SP2 .40 S&W heat-treated barrels have fired up to 30,000 rounds without failure. SP1 9mm Parabellum barrels feature four-groove rifling, while SP2 .40 S&W barrels have six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 254mm (10 inches). This rate of twist is most commonly found on 9mm Parabellum barrels. SIGARMS provides their P229 .40 S&W barrels with a 1:15-inch (380mm) rate of twist. However, the importance of twist rates on handgun barrels has been vastly overrated by gun writers who are long on anecdotal material and short on technical knowledge. At the short ranges handguns are employed, stabilization of bullets closer

As a consequence of a request from Brazil, which does not permit civilians to possess firearms chambered for "military" cartridges, the South African CP1 (Compact Pistol 1) will be offered in caliber .380 ACP (9mm Kurz), as well as 9mm Parabellum.



Peter G. Kokalis



Peter G. Kokalis

to round balls than boat-tail rifle projectiles and fired through launching platforms with an extremely short sight radius by operators with trembling hands; the rifling's rate of twist looms as an insignificant factor in the accuracy equation.

Overall length of the General's Model is 7.4 inches (188mm), as compared to 8.44 inches (211mm) for the SP2. As the grip area of the frame has been shortened, the height, from the top of the rear sight to the base of the magazine, is now 5.2 inches (132mm), while that of the SP2 is 5.8 inches (145mm). A most important dimension is the circumference of the grip portion of the frame which is only 5.4 inches (135mm). Thickness in the grip frame area is 1.34 inches (34mm). The weight, with an empty magazine, is 31.4 ounces (890 grams).

Injection-molded, one-piece, black nylon grips, with an attractive enameled brass Vektor logo embedded on each side, are held to the frame by a single allen-head screw at the heel directly to the rear of the magazine well. A threaded steel insert in the

frame retains the grip screw. The top of this steel insert serves as a guide for the hammer spring. Inside the grips, 45-degree dovetails help secure the grips to the frame.

At the bottom of the frame, directly under the barrel, is a flat surface which flows into the recurved (ugh!) trigger guard, which has no serrations. The rear of the trigger guard is undercut, and this provides the

firing hand a larger purchase on the grip portion of the frame and lowers the barrel's axis to diminish muzzle climb.

Our test and evaluation of the General's Model went as expected, as the SP1/2 series pistols have already demonstrated themselves to be rugged and reliable. Both accuracy and reliability meet the requirements demanded by armed professionals. As this pistol is somewhat heavy for a compact type, the perceived recoil was mild.

CP1 .380

Two years ago LIW introduced what I personally feel is the slickest-looking compact pistol ever designed (See "Slickest Compact Nine Ever?" September '94).

CPI .380 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .380 ACP (9mm Kurz).

Operation: Gas-retarded blowback — gas-actuated piston holds breech closed until chamber pressures drop to a safe level.

Feed: 14- and 15-round, detachable, staggered-column, box-type magazines with magazine floorplates curved to match the configuration of the frame.

Weight: With empty magazine, 24.7 ounces (700 grams), with standard magazine; 24.3 ounces (690 grams), with compact magazine.

Length, overall: 6.9 inches (176mm).

Height: 5.5 inches (139mm), with standard magazine; 5 inches (128mm), with compact magazine.

Thickness: 1.1 inches (28mm) in the grip-frame area.

Barrel: Four-groove polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.85 inches (254mm).

Barrel length: 3.9 inches (99mm).

Sights: Blade-type front sight, adjustable for windage zero by drifting in its dovetail in the slide; fixed, open square-notch rear sight which is an integral part of the slide casting.

Finish: Black, nitrite-finish EN24 steel slide and black polymer frame.

Manufacturer: LIW, Dept. FF, 368 Selborne Ave., Lyttelton, P.O. Box 7710, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-620-2103; fax: 27-12-620-2407.

T&E summary: Exhibits human engineering at its small-arms zenith. Fixed barrel enhances accuracy potential. Reliably feeds all modern JHP bullet configurations. Designed for concealed carry.



courtesy LIW

CP1 .380, field-stripped.



courtesy LIW

The SP1 Target model, with a blued slide and natural anodized frame, has a 6-inch barrel with a barrel weight. This model is also equipped with a straight trigger, extended magazine release and oversized ambidextrous safety levers.

Now, as a consequence of a request from Brazil, which does not permit civilians to possess firearms chambered for "military" cartridges, the CP1 (Compact Pistol 1) will be offered in caliber .380 ACP (9mm Kurz), as well as 9mm Parabellum.

The Colt's Patent Fire Arms Mfg. Co. of Hartford, Conn. introduced the .380 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) cartridge in 1908 for use in a modified version of their Model 1903 Pocket Automatic Pistol. The first European pistol designed to take this cartridge was the Model 1910 Browning Pocket Automatic. It has remained popular to this day and provides more effective performance than the .32 ACP (7.65mm) round.

The CP1's attractive and unique frame and slide configuration was the result of a complex design process between LIW and Pentagraph, an internationally respected and well-known industrial design firm. These graphic, product and environmental design consultants, together with additional consumer input, were commissioned to create the pistol's exterior envelope. The final result was not only eye-appealing, but exhibits human engineering at its small-arms zenith. Thoroughly unconventional in appearance, the CP1 in either caliber is a pistol that literally fits your hand like a glove and almost instinctively comes right up on target every time it's presented.

The CP1 has a polymer frame and a black steel slide. The slide is machined from solid bar stock. The slide's nitrite finish, called "QPQ" is both extremely scratch and corrosion resistant. Resistance to oxidation is an important criteria for deep-concealment weaponry. Both the front and back strap areas of the frame have a pebble-grain textured surface that provides just enough gripping adhesion without inhibiting the shooter from shifting his grip, if required.

The CP1 operates by means of gas-

retarded blowback in a manner similar to the Heckler & Koch P7 series pistols. This operating principle was first employed in the World War II-era German *Volksturmgewehr* (People's Assault Rifle - VG1-5) and in an experimental Swiss pistol developed by Eidgenossische Waffenfabrik, Bern. Much later, it was also used to operate the now almost-forgotten Steyr-Daimler-Puch 9mm Parabellum GB pistol.

Most often, gas pressure is used to unlock and open a firearm's action. Reversing this principle, the LIW project engineers used a gas-actuated piston to hold the breech closed until chamber pressures

SPI GENERAL'S MODEL SPECIFICATIONS

Calibers: 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W.

Operation: Short recoil, locked-breech with a falling locking block; double-action trigger mechanism with frame-mounted ambidextrous manual safety that blocks trigger and does not drop the hammer.

Feed: 16- (9mm Parabellum) and 11-round (.40 S&W), detachable, staggered column, single-position-feed, box-type magazine.

Weight: With empty magazine, 31.4 ounces (890 grams).

Length, overall: 7.4 inches (188mm).

Height: 5.2 inches (132mm).

Thickness: 1.34 inches (34mm) in the grip-frame area.

Circumference of grip frame: 5.4 inches (135mm).

Barrel: Four-groove (9mm Parabellum) and six-groove (.40 S&W) polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254mm).

Barrel length: 4 inches (102mm).

Sights: Fixed, blade-type front sight and open square-notch rear sight. Tritium night sights available as an option.

Finish: Black oxide or electroless nickel.

Manufacturer: LIW, Dept. FF, 368 Selborne Ave., Lyttelton, P.O. Box 7710, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-620-2103; fax: 27-12-620-2407.

T&E summary: Steel slide and locking block machined from billets for maximum durability. Frame-mounted ambidextrous manual safety permits locked-and-cocked carry. Satisfactory accuracy potential. Large capacity, double-action mid-size pistol brought to its ultimate level of perfection.

drop to a safe level. After the cartridge is fired, gases are diverted into a cylinder below the barrel. Acting upon a hinged piston attached to the front of the slide, the propellant gases retard rearward movement of the slide. This system eliminates the requirement for a locking mechanism, and permits a lightweight slide, less powerful recoil spring and fixed barrel (pinned to the gas block).

Because the CP1 is much lighter than the H&K P7, a larger gas port is required. The 9mm Parabellum CP1's gas port measures 2mm in diameter, while that of the P7 is only 0.9mm. The gas port for the CP1 .380 is 1mm in diameter.

The gas piston is nickel-plated, as this process is more chip-resistant than hard chrome. It is pinned to the slide.

Overall length of the CP1 is 6.9 inches (176mm). Height with the standard magazine is 5.5 inches (139mm) and with the compact magazine only 5 inches (128mm). Width at the thickest point (the grip area of the frame) is 1.1 inches (28mm). The weight, empty, with the standard magazine is 24.7 ounces (700 grams) and 24.3 ounces (690 grams) with the compact magazine.

The polygonal-rifled barrel is 3.9 inches (99mm) in length and is fabricated from stainless steel. Polygonal rifling seals propellant gases behind the bullet and increases barrel life. CP1 9mm Parabellum barrels have four-groove rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.85 inches (254mm). All of this remains the same on the new CP1 .380 pistol.

These single-action pistols have an internal hammer with a torsion spring and a half-cock notch in the event the weapon is dropped. The spring-loaded hammer is cocked when the slide moves rearward. When the trigger is pulled, the trigger bar moves backward to trip the sear (which projects out of the right side of the hammer housing) and release the hammer. Consisting of only seven parts, the modular hammer assembly is compact and simple. It can be removed by driving out its retaining pin in the frame. The fixed ejector is attached to the hammer assembly. The extractor, retained by a conventional spring and plunger is located at the rear of the ejection port on the right side of the slide.

The barrel and gas-block assembly, held in place on the frame by grooves on the polymer frame, can also be removed. The magazine hold-open device is attached to the left side of the gas block. Activated by a step in the magazine follower, the hold-open mechanism is spring-loaded. In the pocket pistol style, the hold-open has no external slide-stop lever on the frame. Once caught rearward, the slide can travel forward again only after the empty magazine has been removed and/or a loaded magazine has been inserted and the slide is manually retracted slightly to the rear before permitting it to fly forward.

forward unless the slide is in battery, as it will otherwise impinge on the feed bar (an integral part of the breechblock). Premature ignition is impossible with this system.

The manual safety is also employed to disassemble the CP1 series. After removing the magazine and clearing the chamber, press inward on the safety (spring-loaded when pressed past the *safe* position) while retracting the slide fully rearward and then upward to separate it from the frame. Withdrawing the recoil spring (which is the same on both models) from around the barrel is the only other disassembly step required. Remove carbon fouling from the piston and the gas

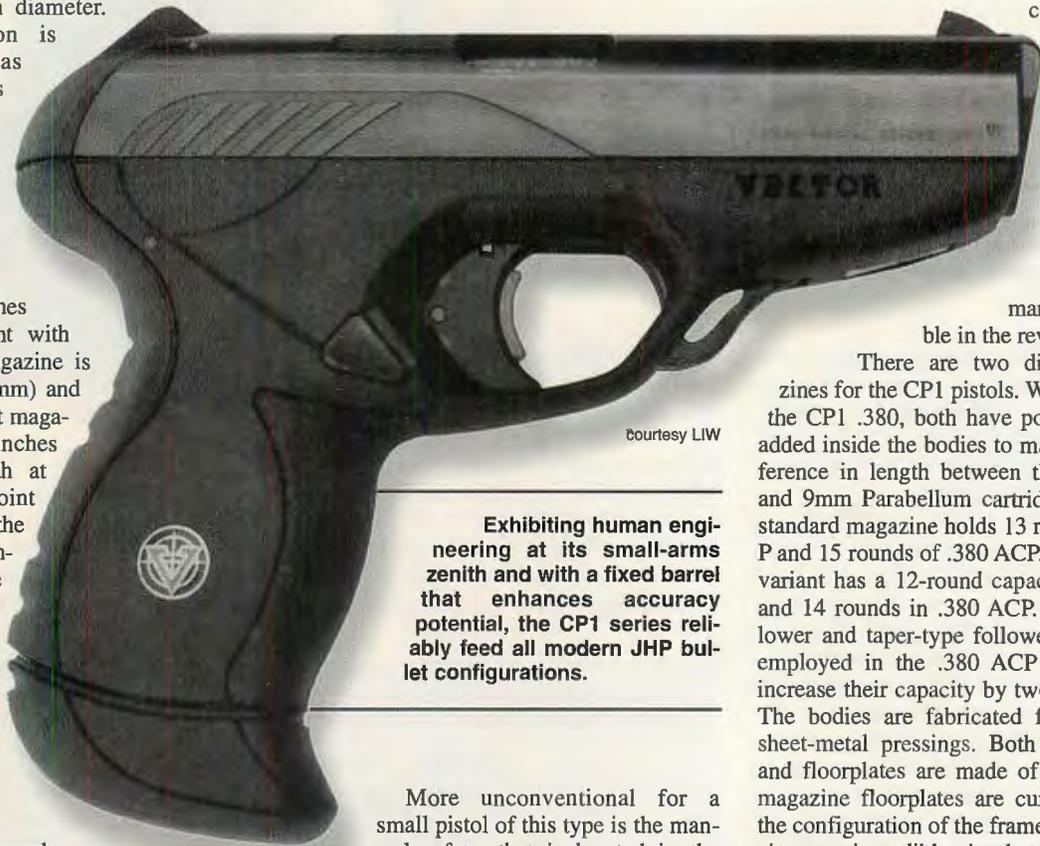
cylinder (which is directly under the barrel). After cleaning and lubricating the other components in the normal manner, re-assemble in the reverse order.

There are two different magazines for the CP1 pistols. When used with the CP1 .380, both have polymer spacers added inside the bodies to make up the difference in length between the 9mm Kurz and 9mm Parabellum cartridge cases. The standard magazine holds 13 rounds of 9mm P and 15 rounds of .380 ACP. The compact variant has a 12-round capacity in 9mm P and 14 rounds in .380 ACP. A shorter follower and taper-type follower spring were employed in the .380 ACP magazines to increase their capacity by two rounds each. The bodies are fabricated from stamped, sheet-metal pressings. Both the followers and floorplates are made of polymer. The magazine floorplates are curved to match the configuration of the frame. These magazines are incredibly simple to disassemble. Simply press inward on the floorplate's integral polymer projections which protrude through a slot on each side of the magazine body and withdraw the floorplate. CP1 pistols in either caliber are issued with a plastic storage box and one of each of the two types of magazines.

Located on the left side of the frame to the bottom rear of the trigger guard, the magazine catch/release is almost flush-mounted, yet easy to depress. It has a spring rod in the manner of the Glock, with the added advantage that a right-side button can be fitted for left-handed shooters. When released, empty magazines fall freely out of the magazine well.

There is a feed ramp on both the gas block and integral barrel collar. The CP1 has been designed to reliably feed all modern JHP 9mm Parabellum and .380 ACP ammunition and *Soldier Of Fortune's* test and evaluation indicated this to be so. There were no stoppages at any time during *SOF's* T&E of the new CP1 .380 pistol.

The fixed, open square-notch rear sight



courtesy LIW

Exhibiting human engineering at its small-arms zenith and with a fixed barrel that enhances accuracy potential, the CP1 series reliably feed all modern JHP bullet configurations.

More unconventional for a small pistol of this type is the manual safety, that is located in the front portion of the trigger guard and blocks a safety plate connected to the trigger. Color coded red, as is the trigger safety, the safety is pushed forward with the front of the trigger finger to fire the pistol. Placing the pistol in a holster will push the safety back into the SAFE position. Pressing the red trigger safety (cosmetically reminiscent of the Glock's) in the center of the trigger, draws a spring-loaded pin on the left side of the trigger inward to permit the trigger's rearward travel.

Those addicted to placing the index finger of the support hand on the front of the trigger guard will not be able to apply this nonsense to CP1 because of the location of its manual safety. This useless technique only serves to weaken the support arm's isometric pull inward when firing from the Weaver stance.

The CP1 trigger bar is spring-loaded. When the slide is open, the trigger bar is forced down by an integral cam on its upper surface and is thus disconnected from the sear. Furthermore, the hammer cannot go

is an integral part of the slide's polymer endcap. A blade-type front sight has been attached by means of a dovetail in the slide. It can be adjusted for windage zero by loosening the grab screw that locks it onto the slide. Sight radius is 5.4 inches (136mm).

Accuracy of the CP1 .380 was at the level required for its anticipated use. This is *not* a target or hunting pistol. The vast majority of gunfights involving handguns occur at distances *under* 7 meters. The target is bobbing and weaving and the shooter is under intense stress. Firing for maximum theoretical accuracy from a Ransom Rest does not approach a realistic simulation of this scenario.

CP1 .380 pistols can be distinguished by the "Cal. 380" barrel marking visible through the ejection port. On the left side of the polymer frame, the "9mmP" marking below "CP1" has been removed. In addition, the magazines are marked "Cal. 380."

As human engineering was a salient feature of the envelope's design, target acquisition times during draw-stroke sequences were noticeably lower when compared to pistols of more conventional configuration, such as LIW's Z88 or SP1/2 series.

Race, Sport And Target Models

Three new, highly altered SP1/2 pistols were also presented to me for test and evaluation. The so-called SP1 Sport Nickel Tuned model features an electroless nickel finish slide with the aluminum frame "natural" anodized. This model has a muzzle compensator, as does the regular Sport model. The high-profile front sight is pinned to the muzzle compensator to increase the sight radius. It carries a single white dot and can be replaced by blades of different heights. The Italian LPA adjustable rear sight has two white dots and is dove-tailed to the slide. It has an oversize ambidextrous safety and an extended magazine release. Its straight trigger provides



The front of the SP1 Target Model's barrel has an adjustable tapered lock nut that interfaces with the front of the slide. Using the differential screw-thread principle, the purpose is to remove all play between the slide and barrel. A wrench and instructions are supplied.

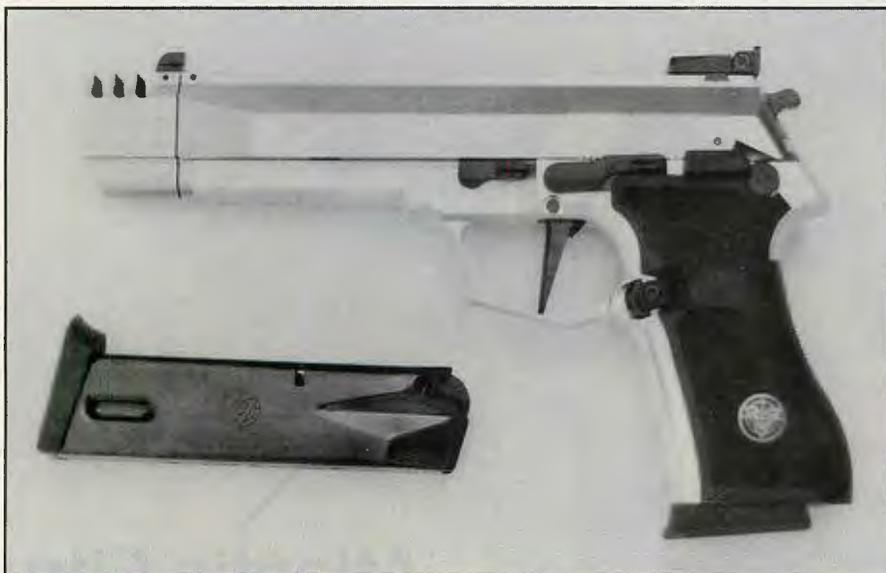
greater leverage with a pull weight of approximately 3.3 pounds (1.5 kg). When cocked this trigger is farther forward and thus more comfortable for those with large hands. The overtravel can be completely eliminated. This pistol will eventually be available in .40 S&W. Optional magazines are available that hold 18 rounds of 9mm Parabellum and 14 rounds of .40 S&W.

The SP1 Target model, with a blued slide and natural anodized frame, has a 6-inch barrel with a barrel weight. The front of the barrel has an adjustable tapered lock nut that interfaces with the front of the slide. Using the differential screw-thread princi-

ple, the purpose is to remove all play between the slide and barrel. A wrench and instructions are supplied. There is a special adjustable rear sight that fits into the slide. The rear face of the rear sight is serrated to reduce glare. The rear faces of both the rear sight and front sight are also slightly angled for the same reason. The sight radius is 8.2 inches (208mm). This model is also equipped with a straight trigger, extended magazine release and oversize ambidextrous safety-levers.

The SP1/2 Race Gun is an example of weaponry beyond my data base or interest level. Equipped with a 6-inch barrel and a new muzzle compensator, it also has a straight trigger, extended magazine release and oversize ambidextrous safety levers. A magazine funnel has been added to facilitate speed loading and the magazines have extended floorplates. A pronounced beaver-tail is integral with the frame, which is CNC-machined from aluminum-alloy bar-stock. Even more exotic, to me, is the polymer universal scope mount with Weaver base and the slide racker installed on the rear sight's dovetail in the slide. While requested by gamesmen, this type of gadgetry has no place on a combat handgun.

All of LIW's small-arms products, from handguns to automatic cannons are marketed by their Vektor division, Dept. SOF, 368 Selborne Avenue, Lyttelton, P.O. Box 7710, Pretoria 0001, Republic of South Africa; phone: 27-12-620-2103; fax: 27-12-620-2407. LIW is guardedly optimistic that some of their handguns may meet U.S. import regulations sometime in the near future. If so, this will present U.S. gun enthusiasts with an opportunity to acquire pistols designed and produced at the highest possible levels of excellence. ❧



SP1 Sport Nickel Tuned model features an electroless nickel finish slide with the aluminum frame "natural" anodized. This model has a muzzle compensator. The high-profile front sight is pinned to the muzzle compensator to increase the sight radius. It also features an Italian LPA adjustable rear sight.

The state of New Jersey, in the middle of the Northeast corridor between the anti-gun capitols of New York City and Washington, D.C., is not the first place one might expect to host a firearms industry trade exposition. But the first Annual Firearms Trade Expo held at the Atlantic City Convention Center early last year was a success, thanks to the tireless efforts and unstinting diplomacy of Andrew Molchan, publisher of *American Firearms Industry* and show organizer. There had not been a firearms industry trade show in the Northeast in living memory: The South and West are simply more hospitable waters for such events. And although the political waters of the Northeast corridor are still chilly toward private gun ownership, the success of the inaugural show means this trade event will be repeated on 9, 10 and 11 April 1997. Manufacturers and importers of firearms and their immediately related accessories wanting to display should contact Ed Conyers; phone: 954-561-3505.

The purpose of all such shows is to give purveyors an opportunity to display their wares to the trade. They displayed what was new and *SOF* examined what was offered. We noted that, unlike the SHOT Show, at the Firearms Trade Expo, firearms displayed did *not* have to be "politically correct." Below is a brief collage of some highlights. ✕

In Darkest Territory

Weapons Expo Thrives In Liberal Bastion

NEW JERSEY



Atlantic City

H&K's Mark 23 SpecOps pistol, designed to hand-filling specs, created a great deal of interest, and (inset) the MP5/40 now sports ambidextrous sling attachments and is available in 9mm, 10mm auto and .40 S&W.



(clockwise from above) Barrett's new Model 95 Bullpup incorporates subtle improvements such as a forward-relocated trigger housing to facilitate magazine changes, and a redesigned bolt handle to allow easier ejection of spent cases. Of interest to police users is the new Micro UZI, only 2 inches longer than the UZI pistol, but selective fire from a closed bolt. SOF honcho Bob Brown (left) visits at expo with Mike Gruber, firearms consultant and designer to the industry. Beamhit markets the 110 laser target system compatible with your weapon and home computer, with a new twist: Their new system connects compressed air to the firearm, simulating recoil for more realistic training. (below) Among S&W's offerings were the Model 686 Magnum plus, a seven-shot .357. Taurus International's entry (inset) in the build-a-better-wheelgun contest is this Model 608 eight-shot revolver in .357.



BUSHNELL HOLOSIGHT

Each year a significant number of scope and gun-sight manufacturers introduce what they claim is *The Scope Or Sight That Will Revolutionize Shooting*. Most are worthwhile improvements, but it takes something like Bushnell's new HoloSight to truly qualify as revolutionary.

This remarkable holographic gun-sight is based on the same technology used for "heads-up" displays in today's most sophisticated combat aircraft. The HoloSight uses a



Police trainer Allan Cooper found the HoloSight to be fast, accurate and adaptable. (inset) Unique design is suitable for long arms, handguns, archery equipment.

compact Class II laser light to illuminate a holographic reticle contained in a heads-up display window. When the shooter looks through the sight, he sees a virtual image of the reticle



Photos: Galen Geer

imposed on the target. The advantage is the same as in a combat aircraft: The sighting can be done precisely, but the shooter can simultaneously see everything going on in his field of view. A further advantage is that the eye relief is from 1/2-inch to 10 feet. As long as the shooter can see the view screen of the sight he can use it, which can be an advantage when firing from hasty or awkward positions where the shooter is not directly behind the rifle.

Windage is adjustable in 1/2 MOA increments, elevation by 1/4 MOA. It comes with a polarizing filter for use with polarizing sun glasses. It is powered by two Type N 1.5v batteries, which provide an average of 30 to 100 hours of service, and it has an auto shutoff feature and a live-battery check. Police firearms instructor Allan Cooper and I range-tested the unit on an AR-15 rifle, and it proved accurate in all sorts of unlikely positions.

The unique design of the HoloScope allows it to be mounted on long arms, handguns and even archery equipment. As there is no magnification, its appropriate range is the same as conventionally sighted weapons.

Available @ \$549 (replacement screens \$99), from Bushnell Sports Optics, Dept. SOF, 9200 Cody, Overland Park, KS 66124. — Galen Geer

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

A Book Gungrabbers Would Love To Ban

Not since Margaret Mitchell wrote *Gone With The Wind* has a first-time novelist come up with a book of such great scope, excellence of execution, and significance as John Ross' *Unintended Consequences*. This superb novel is written much in the style of a James A. Michener work in the way it sets a historically accurate background to act as a backdrop to the completely fictional events that ultimately develop. While this book is a very good read, it is also thought-provoking and educational in a pleasantly painless way.

Woven into the story is the best concise history of federal gun control in the United States I have ever read. Unfortunately, it is a history full of nonsensical laws and regulations, of questionable constitutionality, which have been enforced in an arbitrary and capricious manner by petty bureaucrats. It is the accumulation of such laws, the manner in which they trample the rights of good men and women, and the maliciously incompetent enforcement of such laws by the BATF that set the stage for this book.

The author, John Ross, is an investment broker and financial adviser in St. Louis, Missouri. He has degrees in both English and economics from Amherst College. He is a certified personal-protection instructor, an avid hunter, experienced reloader, and enthusiastic shooter of all types of firearms. He fires upwards of 20,000 rounds a year in the pursuit of his firearms avocations. Like many among *SOF's* readership, he is also very much a member of the "gun culture" and this book is written with that perspective.

While Ross has written a number of technically oriented works, this is his first novel. The key character in this book,

Unintended Consequences, by John Ross

Accurate Press, Dept. SOF
7188 Manchester Road
St. Louis, MO 63142;
phone: 314-645-1700
861 pages. \$33.00 ppd.

Reviewed by
Chuck Karwan

Henry Bowman, is also a member of the gun culture and clearly there is a great deal of John Ross in Bowman's fictional personality. Indeed, many of the fictional characters of the book are likewise based on real people and many readers will be able to easily identify them.

(There is also a real-life individual who felt he could see himself portrayed among Ross' fictional characters and has sued for \$200,000 damages, claiming *he* must now fear retribution from government agents, although this character has been changed in current printings.)

There are also a number of characters in the book, such as a senator and congressman, who are clearly based on a couple of the most virulent anti-gun members of Congress. In many cases Ross uses real personalities in the novel, including the great exhibition shooter Ad Topperwein, the extraordinary gun designer and inventor John Browning, the late great gun writer Elmer Keith, and a number of other past and present luminaries of the gun culture. Even the names of *SOF's* national affairs editor

James Pate and *Fighting Firearms'* contributing editor Ken Hackathorn appear in this book.

Unintended Consequences is both historical and contemporary in that it is based on the premise of a federal government that has been, and is in many ways continues to be, out of control. It covers government excesses of the past and brings it into the present with Ruby Ridge, Waco, and beyond. The beyond part is what so many will find to be so troubling: It portrays a possible future where honest, law-abiding members of society are driven to take up arms against agents of the government in general and of the BATF in particular. The blood really flows in the latter third of the book. Lest you think that this book dwells solely on gun issues, certain ridiculous laws and regulations zealously enforced by other agencies such as the FAA and EPA are used as springboards into the melee.

Like all great novels, *Unintended Consequences* can be read and enjoyed at several levels. Scattered throughout the book are technical and semi-technical firearms references that will appeal to the gun enthusiast but can be passed over by the non-enthusiast. For a book its size there were remarkably few technical errors, which were corrected in the second printing.

A recurrent theme throughout this book is the tremendous skill with firearms present in the civilian American firearms community. The main character, Henry Bowman, is an accomplished aerial shooter in the tradition of the great exhibition shooters like Ed McGivern, Herb Parsons, and Ad Topperwein. Another character demonstrates some fantastic long-range rifle

shooting to the detriment of several federal agents. I believe that the author is making the point that the gun culture has in it a significant number of members that have the knowledge, equipment, and skill with firearms to make them incredibly capable and dangerous were an armed rebellion to happen in this country. So dangerous, in fact, that any agents of a corrupt government that might want to attack them would quickly find themselves badly out-skilled and out-gunned. My personal observations and experiences indicate that this premise is absolutely right.

One reviewer of this book, Vin Suprynowicz of the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, compares *Unintended Consequences* with Ayn Rand's masterpiece novel of liberty, *Atlas Shrugged*. He certainly has a strong point in that both novels are apocalyptic in nature, both present a possible outcome that is unpalatable to most people, and both authors have voiced a hope that by their pre-

sentation such a disagreeable future might be avoided. With any luck at all, sales of *Unintended Consequences* will grow by word of mouth to the point where it becomes an accepted classic novel on liberty like *Atlas Shrugged*, which has stayed in print for more than 40 years.

Ross makes an important statement about the importance of private firearms possession and knowledge, by including in this novel a character who was a participant in the Warsaw ghetto uprising against the Nazis during WWII. The realistic experiences and revelations of this individual should motivate any thinking person into protecting their rights to keep and bear arms. Not surprisingly, Aaron Zelman, executive director of the civil rights organization Jews For the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, has strongly recommended this book.

There is no question that most members of the gun culture, which probably includes

the majority of *SOF* readers, will enjoy reading this book and will improve their knowledge on the gun issue by so doing. This, alone, is sufficient reason to read this book. However, the strength of this book is that it is also a good read for those outside the gun culture. It is full of fascinating history, interesting characters, action, intrigue, and even a touch of mystery. It has sex, violence, and a modicum of profanity but I did not find their use gratuitous. This book will give people who are not members of the gun culture a different perspective and quite possibly make them more sympathetic to the principle of civilian gun ownership. I was pleasantly surprised that my wife enjoyed reading this book even though she is not particularly interested in guns.

Unintended Consequences is difficult to describe because it is a thriller, a political work, and a historical novel rolled into one. It is a big book, 861 large pages of fine print, so big that many potential readers may be put off. The first two-thirds of the book are like a historical novel and the last third boils with death and destruction in the best traditions of pulp fiction.

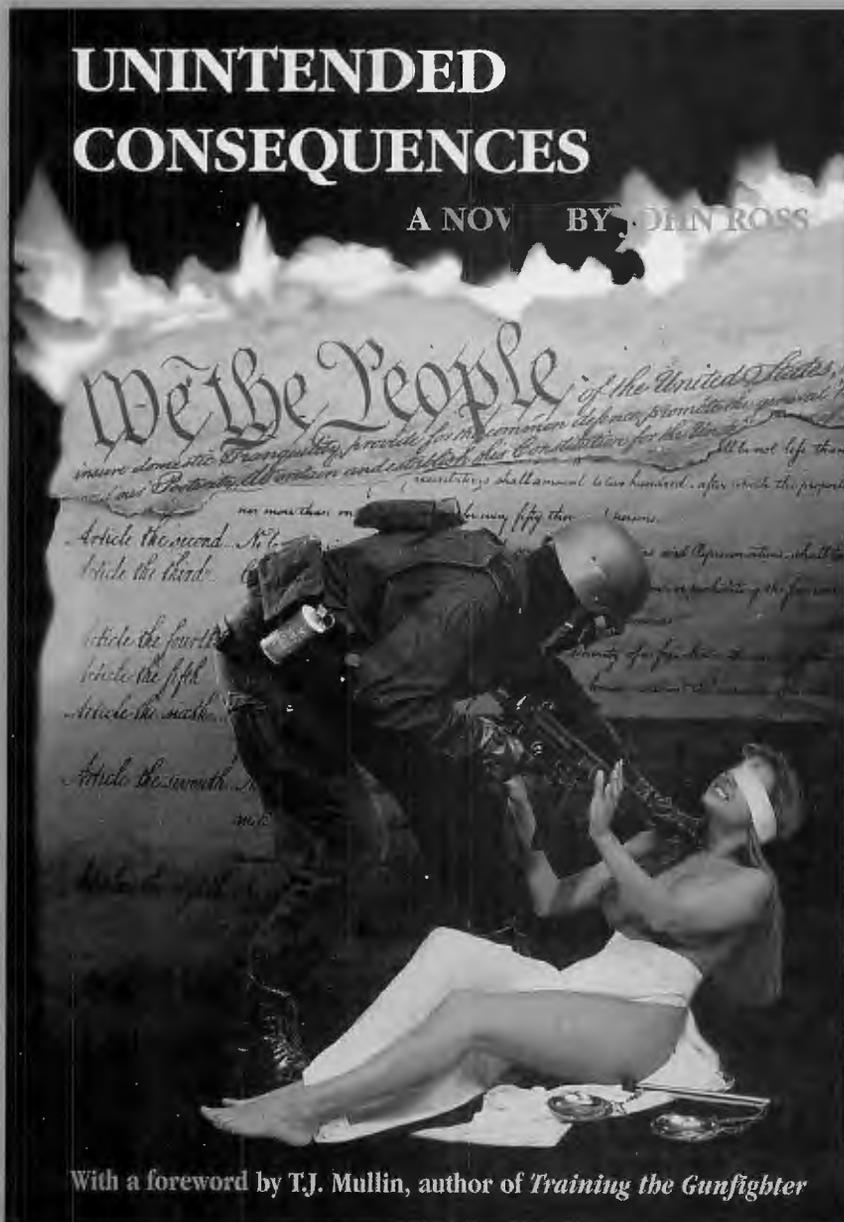
Because of the book's size it is too expensive to appeal to some casual readers, but perhaps this will change if the book comes out in paperback. Distribution of the book has been spotty at best. Your best bet is to order it directly from the publisher — or watch for it at gun shows.

Think also about donating a copy to your local library. This is an important book that needs to be read by as many people as possible, and anti-gunners may well try to limit its distribution. Not surprisingly, more than a few federal agents are unhappy about it, and politically correct attacks on it are to be expected. In an effort to discredit this work, inappropriate parallels will no doubt be attempted to *The Turner Diaries*, the radical anti-establishment cult classic credited by some as inspiring the OKC bombing.

Neither this reviewer nor *SOF* would suggest anyone consider the violent courses of action taken by the key characters portrayed by Ross. However, its fictionalized plot may well serve to spotlight, as did *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in the case of slavery, that there exists an evil that must be addressed. It is to be hoped that the plausible scenario of reactive violence in this book would serve as a wake-up call to our government that the potential is being created for such violence in real life, if our legislatures continue to write bad laws and agents of the government continue to abuse their power and authority. It could be most profitable if every member of congress would read this book, but I am not holding my breath.

This book is in the must-read category, however, for anyone who believes in the United States Constitution, justice, and freedom.

Charles W. Karwan is a firearms and knife writer, and frequent contributor to SOF. ✕



For Whom the Belfast Polls

by Dr. Tom Marks



**Does
Peace Have A
Future In Ireland?**

Principal activity of British troops is simply providing protection for those individuals (e.g. the police or the postal and sanitation personnel) who make "normal" life work. A small "brick" (four men) may accompany several policemen. The scoped SA-80 is constantly in play, sweeping for possible danger. The "protected" simply go about their business: it is the task of the troops to ensure that such is so.
Photo: Author



British Forces, Army Information Services

Between Ireland and Bosnia, some 40% of British army is deployed. Here Scots Guards patrol in Belfast supporting Royal Ulster Constabulary.



British Forces, Army Information Services

A lighter moment on Ballymurphy Estates, a Catholic section of Belfast, as Brit trooper wins some hearts and minds.

One year ago there was an explosive finale to the 17-month cease-fire by the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA). Carefully crafted structures designed to end decades of terror — including those of the present American administration — fell to a bomb that ripped through the Docklands area of east London. More bombs in Britain itself followed. With the July “marching season,” when the benchmark days of the past are celebrated, there came spectacular sectarian riots and the return of bomb blasts in Northern Ireland.

There has been a shocked scramble to keep the peace process going. But was this eventuality ever really in doubt?

I believe the collapse of peace was inevitable, because of what PIRA is and what it wants. Anyone reviewing information available in Ulster, listening to the principal figures involved, knew that PIRA would have to come out swinging. It was predestined, what with a terrorist organization expecting the British government, under pressure from its American cousins, to bestow victory to their movement. This was something London could not and would not do, regardless of what Clinton's Washington wanted.

There is no shortage of analysts who will come down on the other side, to deny collapse was preordained. Few internal conflicts have inspired quite so much ink as “the Troubles,” the present phase of which dates to the 1968-69 Catholic struggle for civil rights in Protestant-majority Ulster, and the consequent deployment of British troops “in support of the civil authority.” There is no romance in this fight, and it's unlikely anyone is going to live happily ever after.

Struggle Transformed

The contenders are clear: In one corner, the government of a democracy. In the other, PIRA.

But who are they? Freedom fighters or terrorists? Each time *Soldier Of Fortune* calls them terrorists, which is what surely they are, the mailbox heats up. If only we realized what dastardly things those Brits have done, they write us, we'd see the justness of the cause.

We're familiar with the history. The conflict has been centuries building, with plenty of blame to go around. We're aware that the label “terrorist” poses something of a problem, particularly for readers steeped in the mythohistory of the Irish “liberation move-

British Forces, Army Information Services



British trooper provides security for street vehicle checkpoint. Checking vehicles for contraband weapons has proved more effective — and better politically — than cordon and search ops.

The Crown in Ireland

British intervention in Ireland began in 1169, part of the Norman expansion that cost the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Britain itself their independence. Then, there was no more a "Britain" than an "Ireland" — only feudal federations resisting outside influence. Absorption, though, proceeded steadily in the centuries that followed.

The most Gaelic area of the island, Northern Ireland was directly colonized beginning in 1609. Those moving to the "Plantation of Ulster" principally were Scottish. Crossing the 12-mile strait, they retraced the footsteps of the prehistoric settlers from eastern Ulster who gave Scotland its population and name.

By 1692 a legislature had been established in Ulster, a Protestant body on a Catholic island. Thereafter, a series of "coercive acts" were implemented to protect the settlers. By 1703, only 5% of the land in Ulster remained in Irish hands (the figure for Ireland as a whole was only 14%). Thus the divide between the Protestant and Catholic communities became institutionalized.

Economic reality soon broke down this separation. With industrialization, substantial demographic shifts brought the two communities shoulder-to-shoulder in urban areas, where they competed for jobs and housing. The year 1835 saw the first serious communal riots even as the groups increasingly intermingled. An impending civil war — as Protestants

agitated for home rule, Catholics for independence — was averted by the outbreak of World War I.

Two problems preoccupied Britain in the aftermath of "the Great War": competing demands for home rule and independence. Independence had been given a second wind by clumsy suppression of the Easter 1916 Uprising. Now passed into nationalist legend, this farcical episode would have remained just that had not London, fearful of a German attack through Britain's soft Irish underbelly, responded to Keystone-Cop insurgents by hanging their leadership and interning thousands. Outrage became fuel for a renewed independence drive.

Britain's solution was to set up two states, the present Northern Ireland and Ireland, each with its own legislature to deal with internal affairs. A Council of Ireland was to consider matters affecting both, and the two states were to have representatives in London, which would continue to control foreign affairs and defense. To insure viability of the north, three of the traditional nine counties of Ulster were shaved off, leaving the remainder, today's Northern Ireland, with a two-thirds Protestant majority.

The Council of Ireland did not become reality. The independence issue was "settled" as Dublin went its own way, but communal, sectarian problems of the new Ulster state — comprising part of "the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" — arose. Refusing to participate in local government, seen as illegitimate, Catholics only made matters worse, as government functioned without them. Its own gerrymandering solidified the exclusion of Catholics from politics in the province and foreshadowed the civil rights movement of the '60s.

With voting rights determined by property ownership (until 1969), and even qualified Catholics boycotting elections, Protestants dominated affairs of state in Ulster. The result was unequal treatment for Catholics. Inspired by similar American events, the resulting Irish civil-rights movement was co-opted by radicals. Aggressive tactics inspired a backlash, and Protestant paramilitaries attacked Catholic working-class areas, and Catholics turned to their traditional standard bearer, the Irish Republican Army (IRA), for protection.

Independence achieved by the 26 counties of the south left the six Ulster counties in the north unliberated, according to IRA thinking. While Eire (Dublin) settled down to forming a viable state, the IRA continued to wage what it saw as the good fight. —T.M.



British Forces, Army Information Services

Rural vehicle checkpoint in Omagh area monitors traffic, inspects for contraband weapons. Inset: Royal Marine radio operator checks ID papers in West Belfast.



Royal Marines, courtesy Sam Katz

ment," so fashionable in this country.

But the definition of terrorism — violence by a small group to gain its political ends — fits PIRA to a tee, as it comprises a small group of ruthless individuals determined to have their way through violence. "Their way" may have a certain legitimacy in some circles, but neither the goals nor the means enjoy widespread support at home.

PIRA has grown in lethality over the years, as security forces have increased in proficiency and the political landscape has evolved.

Learning from its mistakes, London steadily instituted the mechanisms of area domination and local security, while working, through implementation of direct rule, to eliminate legitimate grievances of those marginalized, from whence came PIRA's support and recruits.

But no reforms had meaning to PIRA, which had committed

British Forces, Army Information Services



British Forces, Army Information Services

(above) Patrol returns to Forkhill Patrol Base by Army Lynx helicopter, after rural op. (left) Explosives are the weapon of choice for terrorists. Here Ammunition Technician Officer (ATO) of the 321 EOD dismantles an Mu15 mortar.

itself to a “the long war.” Its approach was consistent: to inflict maximum pain and dislocation upon Britain so that, in the end, John Bull would simply walk away from “the Irish problem.”

Even though its strategic vision was unchanging, PIRA’s tactics were distinguished over time by their growing sophistication and adaptation to new counter-moves. PIRA’s evolution was an effort to find balance between the military portion of the liberation struggle and other facets, with politics gaining increasing emphasis. In 1982 the decision to emphasize both armed struggle and political participation was pithily put by Danny Morrison, publicity director for *Sein Fein*, stating Irish freedom

Anyone stumbling over the “terrorist” label being applied to the IRA should note their favored use of terrorist weapons: bombs and snipers. Here is the aftermath of bomb at Thiepval Barracks. (inset) Three soldiers were killed in this land-mine attack on vehicle in County Armagh. IRA’s indiscriminate use of the *most* indiscriminate weapon — bombs — has cost more civilians their lives than police and military personnel.



British Forces, Army Information Services



Pacemaker Press

would be won “with a ballot paper in one hand and an Armalite in the other.”

This was an approach that cut to the heart of the liberation struggle and the very self-definition of Irish republicanism. Armed resistance had always been integral to “the movement.” Adjusting means to ends was not a matter that preoccupied the original IRA. The means, as the end, were a given as “the long war” philosophy negated the temporal element. It was the very romance of fighting for a cause, of sacrifice, that helped the IRA to recruit. The notion of descending to mundane politics was distasteful.

That politics subsequently emerged as a meaningful approach stemmed as much from historical accident as from reasoned choice. A 1969 split in the IRA had not resolved differences, and PIRA itself was fragmented. A younger Gerry Adams, now familiar as the veteran head of *Sein Fein*, was in a PIRA faction sympathetic to new

Birth of a Terrorist Organization

The passionate civil rights movement of the ‘60s breathed life into a conflict nearly dead a few years earlier. Fewer and fewer Irishmen north or south remained interested in the IRA’s goal of a united “republic.”

The dynamic events in the north changed this: Quickly, the moribund IRA had an army, and Ulster had a problem. Protestant and Catholic communities staked out turf; violence became rampant. The small 3,000-man police force was overwhelmed. Enter the army.

Initially greeted as liberators by the Catholic community, the soldiers enjoyed only a brief honeymoon. In cracking down on *all* militants, the military convinced many it was an occupying power.

Military emphasis upon cordon-and-search sent recruits flocking to the IRA and for the next three years 36,000 soldiers and policemen were busy. By 1972, there were 31 regular army battalions deployed to Northern Ireland, augmented by a further 11 battalions of the locally recruited Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR, now consolidated with other units as the Royal Irish Regiment) — a total of 42 battalions operating in an area the size of

Connecticut, with just 1.5 million people. Deaths that year climbed to 467. In July, there were 100 terrorist-type incidents daily.

Ironically, military presence, by creating an issue, gave the IRA the popular following it lacked.

That the IRA was not then a factor of local importance runs athwart the common impression there was an unending struggle against British “occupation.” But such had become the case. Although partition solidified communalism, prosperity dampened overt conflict. When the IRA tried to join the game by trumpeting a radical version of socialism, urging the Catholic and Protestant proletariats to

unite against their oppressors, this only alienated the populace further.

Attacks by the Protestant paramilitaries, though, ended any hope the 1960s would be free of Republican violence. Extremist leaders rose to prominence in Northern politics when moderates did not find viable solutions to the problems of administration.

In the South, a similar dynamic was at work. Caught napping by the civil rights issue, the IRA’s strategic approach featured an increasing drift towards socialism. This meant resisting sectarian pulls while simultaneously emphasizing class struggle, particularly forging common cause with the Protestant proletariat.

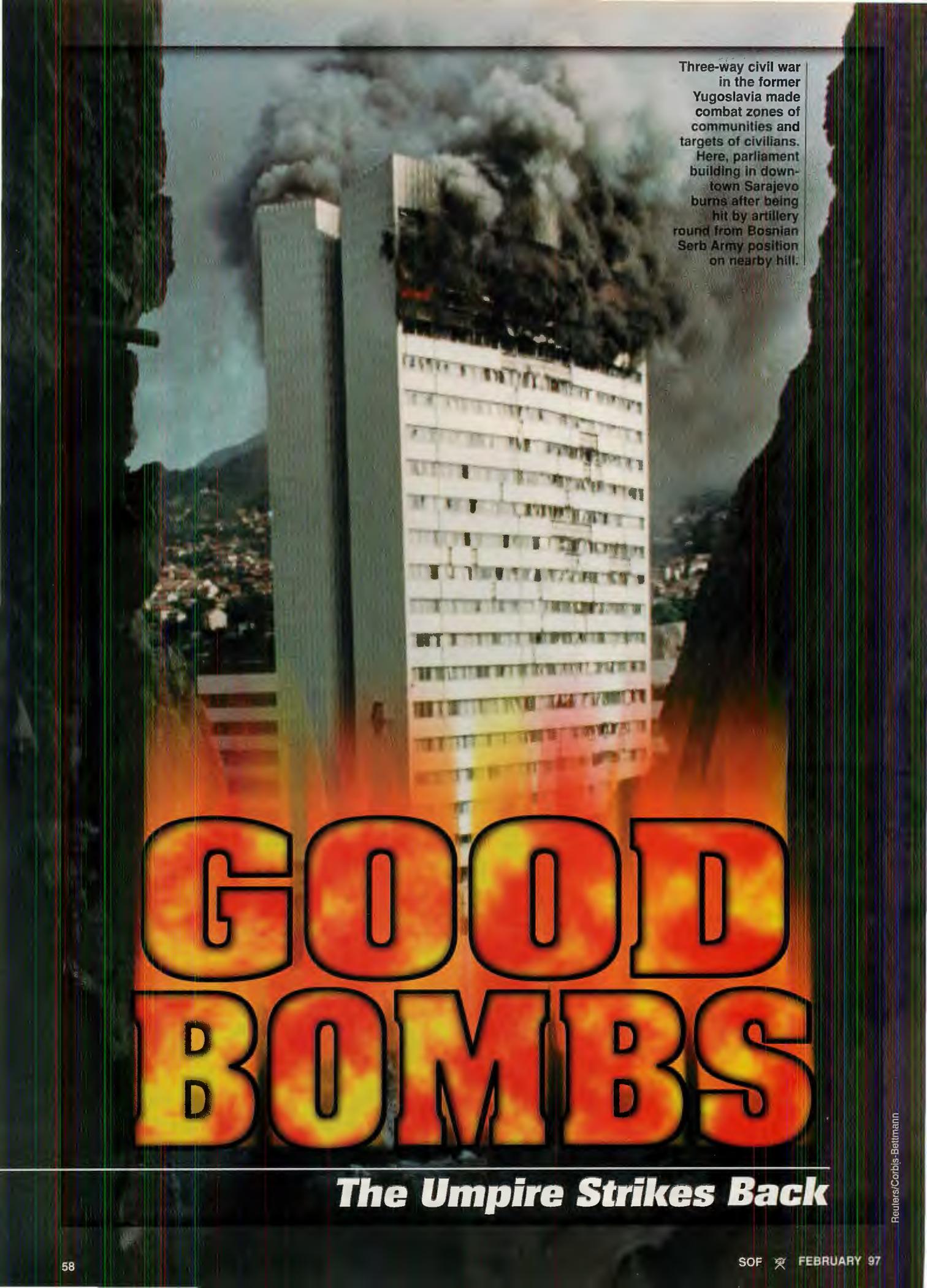
That this same proletariat, provider of foot soldiers for the Protestant paramilitaries, could not be met head on, enraged Northern IRA members. Their anger was shared by Southerners who opposed the ruling IRA Army Council’s decision to seize the opportunity provided by the civil rights movement. This opposition left in 1969 to form a Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA). Likewise, the political wing of the IRA, *Sein Fein* (“Ourselves Alone”), split, to become Provisional *Sein Fein* (PSF). Loosely affiliated with the Official IRA (OIRA), which even today continues to engage in open politics, IRA became the resistance movement, although the old “IRA” label still enjoys widespread use. When, in 1982, *Sein Fein* became “The Worker’s Party,” PSF reverted to the original name, *Sein Fein*.

Initially, PIRA, which drew its strength from the north, continued the IRA practice of fielding ever-larger units of the volunteers who had flocked to its colors. “Yet we were able to infiltrate those,” a British army representative observed. “So the military side adopted the Active Service Unit (ASU) cell structure. Brigades were divided into cells of four or five men each, all compartmentalized.”

In practical terms, this meant that the British, after facing a broad-based, defensive resistance movement officered by committed insurgents, found the enemy had changed. London now had to deal with PIRA terrorism and its ability to strike at will as far afield as Britain itself, or Germany, where British troops were stationed. Further, the cell structure gave the security forces very little opportunity to gain the intelligence needed to smash this new opponent.

—T.M.

Continued on page 67



Three-way civil war in the former Yugoslavia made combat zones of communities and targets of civilians. Here, parliament building in downtown Sarajevo burns after being hit by artillery round from Bosnian Serb Army position on nearby hill.

GOOD BOMBS

The Umpire Strikes Back

Reuters/Corbis-Bettmann

From U.S. Air Force Major Bob "Surf" Beletic's vantage in the cockpit of an F-16C flying 14,000 feet above Srebrenica, the scene below looked like TV footage of an active volcano — running backward. Smoke billowed from the factory town in eastern Bosnia. But the incandescent chunks of "lava" — tracers, some large and slow, others small and fast — looped into the eruption rather than spewing from it. On this third day of its assault, the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) had pulled out the stops, pounding the hapless city from the surrounding wooded ridges with 122mm howitzers, 128mm tube-launched rockets, mortars of various sizes, and 23mm automatic cannons.

Beletic's earphones crackled with tense but properly phrased messages from the Dutch/United Nations Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) in a sandbagged bunker at the crossroads south of Srebrenica. Ten minutes earlier, three camouflaged BSA T-72 tanks had crept from a pine grove and fired at the bunker.

"You are cleared to attack any tanks you see," the exhausted young Dutch soldier radioed.

"Roger," Beletic acknowledged, banking his fighter.

A "fast FAC" forward air controller, he had been orbiting with a strike package of two more American F-16Cs and two A-10 "Warthog" tank-killers, waiting for authorization to hit the BSA.

Studying the situation, Beletic clenched his jaw in angry frustration. More than 40,000 Muslim refugees driven by the BSA from their homes were jammed into the city, one of six "safe areas" under the protection of the U.N. Protective Force (UNPROFOR), when the BSA began the attack. But the lightly armed Dutch/U.N. battalion manning roadblocks could not shield the refugees from the assault. For two days, the Dutch commander at Srebrenica had been pleading with the U.N. Balkan headquarters in Zagreb for air cover. That morning, convinced the town was about to fall, several thousand Muslim refugee men and boys, joined by a few hundred members of the Bosnian government army (BiH) in Srebrenica, had made a break for the hills to the northwest, hoping to slip through the BSA lines to government positions around Tuzla.

NATO was solemnly committed to guarding Srebrenica and the safe areas with air support. But the BSA had defied U.N. demands to end the shelling, despite warnings of the "grave consequences" it faced. And with BSA troops swarming down the pine-covered hills to bypass the Dutch positions, it was obvious Srebrenica would fall by dark.

Even now, NATO air power, in the form of Beletic's strike force, was hobbled by restrictive rules of engagement that all but guaranteed a BSA victory: NATO planes could attack the BSA forces assaulting Srebrenica *only* if the Serbs were firing at U.N. troops.

by Jack Devlin

The Serbs had heard the threats of foreign bureaucrats in Zagreb, Croatia, many times before. The United Nations had tried for years to intimidate General Ratko Mladic, the aggressive BSA commander, with empty warnings of "massive" NATO air strikes. In reality, NATO was hamstrung by a "dual key" command structure that required the approval of both the U.N. Balkan envoy, Yasushi Akashi, and NATO's southern commander, U.S. Admiral Leighton "Snuffy" Smith, Jr., for the use of air power. Smith favored a robust response to Serb aggression, but Akashi always limited retaliatory raids to pinpricks.

In November 1994, for example, Maj. Beletic led a flight of F-16s from the 510th Fighter Squadron that bombed the Udbina airfield, from which the Bosnian Serbs had openly launched air strikes against the Muslim safe area of Bihac. Akashi had insisted only the runway — not the *Galeb* light attack planes parked beside it — could be bombed. Acting too "aggressively," the Japanese envoy said, might lead to "tragic consequences." So that fall morning Beletic and his men had to dodge heavy air-defense artillery (ADA) and shoulder-fired, surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) to blow holes in a concrete runway while the *Galeb* jets sat undamaged in open revetments 30 meters away.

A U.N. Failure

In May 1995, Mladic had blatantly moved his heavy artillery back into the 20-kilometer U.N. "exclusion zone" around

Sarajevo, ignoring the cease-fire former President Carter had negotiated that winter. When French peacekeepers were killed in the renewed shelling of Sarajevo, Akashi finally allowed NATO to bomb ammunition dumps near the Bosnian Serb capital of Pale.

The BSA reaction to the Pale air strike was swift and predictable: They took 378 U.N. peacekeepers hostage as insurance against further attacks. Negotiating their release, Akashi caved to all the Serbs' demands, implicitly guaranteeing there would be no more NATO bombing. (This craven act earned Akashi the rather unkind nickname "KY Jelly-shi" among some NATO airmen.)

The spectacle of British, French, and Canadian soldiers chained to BSA munitions bunkers shocked the world and thoroughly pissed off every professional soldier in UNPROFOR and the NATO South command. This humiliation dramatized the utter failure of U.N. peacekeeping in Bosnia.

And NATO, hobbled by the vacillating U.N. leaders and unable to effectively use its air power, appeared powerless. The hostage debacle had convinced Gen. Mladic he could overrun U.N. safe areas in Eastern Bosnia, roll over all of the BiH outposts in the Drina Valley, and tighten his stranglehold on Sarajevo with impunity.

On the night of 10 July, Akashi had belatedly allowed French Army Lieutenant General Bernard Janvier, UNPROFOR's commander, to request NATO air strikes to blunt the attack. Dutch F-16A fighters of the Frisian Dragon Wing dropped bombs early on 11 July, trying to destroy BSA T-55 and T-72 tanks hidden around Srebrenica.



Looking For Mr. Good Bomb

Air Force officials were dissatisfied with the F-16's bombing effectiveness in the Persian Gulf War. Fighting Falcons sometimes were driven off while attacking well-defended Iraqi sites with Mk 80-series unguided "iron" bombs. F-16 pilots either went in low and relatively slow, facing deadly air-defense fire, or dropped the "dumb" weapons at higher speed and altitude, frequently missing. F-117A stealth fighters often had to return to finish the job.

By then, though, the Air Force in Europe had begun flying upgraded F-16Cs equipped with the Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting InfraRed for Night (LANTIRN) system, which already was used in F-117As and F-111s.

The LANTIRN targeting pod contains a forward-looking infrared (FLIR) sensor displaying ground targets in cockpit images resembling sharp B&W television. It also has a laser designator/range finder for precision delivery of guided bomb units.

During an attack, a pilot "acquires" and locks onto his target with the laser designator coupled to the targeting computer. The computer releases the GBU at precise altitude and airspeed for the warhead to intercept the laser beam and "ride" it down (if clouds don't interfere).

By the time NATO unleashed Operation Deliberate Force, LANTIRN reportedly was so accurate and flyers so skilled that a GBU impact 15 feet or more from the Desired Munition Impact Point (DMIP) — perhaps a building's air vent or window — was considered a miss. This standard of accuracy led to some reporters' confusion over the effectiveness of Deliberate Force.

Most of the F-16C strikes achieved 63-72% "hits," while most "misses" still fell within 30 feet of DMIP. "All this media whining about 'missed bombs' is bullshit," a U.S. intel officer remarked at the time. "With a 2,000-pound GBU-10 exploding 20 feet from the aim point, the old saw about 'close enough for horseshoes or hand grenades' sure as hell applies." —J.D.



NATO pilots in American-made F-16 Fighting Falcons flew extensively over former Yugoslavia during peacekeeping operations. Night- and standoff-bombing capabilities were greatly improved by use of LANTIRN (Low-Altitude Navigation and Targeting InfraRed for Night) systems in F-16Cs.

Slipping Punches Over Srebrenica

Now, as the town burned and the Dutch TCAP came under attack, Beletic's American fighters and attack planes had been sent to ferret out the camouflaged tanks.

The F-16Cs were equipped with infrared targeting systems and GBU-10s and -12s: laser-guided 2,000- and 1,000-pound guided bomb units. The A-10s carried electro-optical Maverick air-to-ground missiles as well as 30mm multi-barrel cannons, whose depleted-uranium shells could destroy any tank in the world.

Beletic's job was to mark targets for the four other aircraft. This strike package was a last-ditch effort to convince the Serbs the United Nations really meant business.

He rolled into a steep dive and fired smoke rockets at a clump of trees along the main road. But the Dutch TACP controller reported that the tanks seemed to have fled. "Let's work the field to the east," he called wearily.

"Hold altitude," Beletic told the other pilots. "I'm going down."

Dropping low across the valley, Beletic realized he was flying through the path of the BSA rockets and artillery shells arching into Srebrenica.

Time to earn my flight pay, he thought grimly. Knocking out Serb tanks with GBUs might blunt the attack long enough for more refugees to flee Srebrenica before it was completely encircled. Climbing steeply from a low pass, Beletic looked back in horror to see the telltale white-smoke trail of a SA-7 slashing straight toward him. In a sharp rush of adrenaline, he realized the shoulder-fired SAM had locked onto his plane.

Cringing instinctively under the F-16's bubble canopy, he stabbed his thumb on a button to dispense a string of glaring magnesium flares that might decoy the SAM's heat-seeker from the jet's tailpipe. It worked — barely. The missile blazed past, missing Beletic's canopy by only a few feet before exploding harmlessly above.

Shaken, Beletic threw the jet into a tight corkscrew, clawing for safer altitude. In his climb, he saw that the missile's smoke trail



AFP/Corbis-Bettmann

Bosnian Serb soldier guards French UNPROFOR troops taken hostage on 27 May 1995 in Sarajevo; another group of peacekeepers stands at gun point in Grbavica. British, French and Canadian hostages were shackled to BSA munitions bunkers as insurance against NATO air strikes.

AFP/Corbis-Bettmann

led back to a tin-roofed shed in a pasture south of the city.

"Request permission to bomb the cow shed in the field," Beletic radioed the Dutch TACP.

"Negative," the young voice replied. "You can only fire rockets." Amazing: The Dutch kid on the radio was hunkered down, artillery and mortar shells smacking all around his team's bunker, *still* bravely trying to follow the inflexible rules of engagement that U.N. committees — far removed from the fighting — had thrashed out.

Given this turn of events, Beletic had every right to declare this sector unacceptably dangerous and bring the flight home to the big NATO air base at Aviano, in northern Italy. Instead, he led the fighters to a KC-135 tanker above the Adriatic Sea so they'd have enough fuel to give the hard-pressed Dutch some close air support for another hour.

Waiting his turn for fuel, Beletic pulled off his oxygen mask and rubbed his face, trying to relax after his encounter with the SAM. He gazed north to the snowy summits of the Alps. Western Europe, prosperous and peaceful, filled the horizon; carloads of vacationers were crossing the mountains, bound for Italian beaches. But only a 20-minute flight across the jumbled mountains of Bosnia, a refugee-choked city was in

flames; panicked women and children were being killed by artillery as they fled through shattered streets.

As the war in Bosnia dragged on, NATO had massed more than 200 combat planes from eight countries at air bases stretching down the boot of Italy from Aviano to Brindisi. American, British and French aircraft carriers, decks crowded with war planes, steamed off the Balkan coast. For the past three days those planes had been on alert, their crews waiting impatiently for U.N. authorization to answer the Dutch peacekeepers' frantic calls for air cover over Srebrenica. But U.N. bureaucrats had dithered indecisively until that afternoon, hoping not to *antagonize* the Bosnian Serbs.

Beletic took 5,000 pounds of fuel from the lumbering tanker. He banked his F-16C east, leading his flight back toward Srebrenica. He did not need his satellite navigation system (GPS) to locate the battered city. From 30 miles out he could see columns of black smoke roiling up. When Beletic re-established radio contact with the Dutch TACP controller, he knew the situation had deteriorated further.

"We've been overrun," the Dutch soldier called frantically. "Do not, repeat do *not*, drop any bombs."

"Roger," Beletic replied sadly.

Discord Among NATO Allies

The Serbs then radioed a warning to NATO: They had captured 32 Dutch peacekeepers from the crossroads bunker and would kill these hostages unless air cover was immediately withdrawn. Artillery shells exploded along the north of the city, scattering hordes of desperate refugees streaming toward safety in the Dutch base camp in the village of Potocari.

The controller called again, his voice thick with resignation: "Request that all NATO aircraft leave this area." Beletic imagined the Dutch soldier speaking with a Serb's Kalashnikov at his head.

"Return to base," Beletic ordered, reluctantly turning his flight west toward Italy.

At the NATO air base in Vicenza, Italy, Dutch Air Force Colonel Artjen Koopmans replaced his telephone receiver and clenched his fist.

He had just taken a call directly from his defense minister, Joris Voorhoeve. The Serbs' threat to execute the captured Dutch peacekeepers had reached Voorhoeve in The Hague and he was frantically telephoning down NATO's chain of command to announce that the "Serbs have won." Voorhoeve ordered Koopmans to make sure the 18 Dutch F-16As supporting NATO remained at their base near Verona.

"Yes, Sir," Col. Koopmans replied



Reuters/Corbis-Bettmann

Emboldened by May 1995's seizure of some 400 U.N. peacekeepers as hostages, Bosnian Serb General Ratko Mladic (center) ordered his forces to enter U.N. safe areas and intensify the siege of Sarajevo.

U.N. Balkans Envoy Yasushi Akashi (left) shared "dual key" approval authority, for use of NATO air power in Bosnia, with a NATO official, U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, Jr. The two differed on military response to Bosnian Serb aggression: Akashi was overly cautious, allowing only retaliatory "pinprick" air strikes.

coldly. "I understand."

Voorhoeve's order put Koopmans in a rotten position. What could he do if U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Ryan, commander of NATO's southern air forces, suddenly ordered Dutch planes into action over Bosnia? The Dutch F-16 pilots were from the Frisian Dragon Wing, considered among NATO's best ground-attack units. For years they had trained hard with their NATO counterparts to repel a Warsaw Pact attack in West Germany's Fulda Gap. Now, with a single phone call, it was as if Koopmans' airmen no longer were loyal members of the alliance.

So Beletic's strike package was the only response — and token at that — the improvised NATO-U.N. partnership seemed able to muster.

The French, British, and Dutch at that time were assembling a large, heavily armed "rapid-reaction force" (RRF) in western Bosnia — ostensibly to protect U.N. peacekeepers from future hostage-taking. In reality, the RRF's mission was to cover UNPROFOR's planned retreat from Bosnia later that summer. (Over beers in an Italian beach town, a bitter NATO intel officer remarked that this retreat promised to be "the motherfucker of all bug-outs". Intel sources in Sarajevo reported the Muslim-led BiH planned to attack depart-



AFP/Corbis-Bettmann

ing U.N. troops and seize as much of their armor and artillery as they could.) Whatever its true mission, the RRF was not yet ready to help the Dutch and the refugees at Srebrenica.

To the Americans in the NATO operation, the prospect of Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters lifting beleaguered UNPROFOR troops off the shell-pocked roof of Sarajevo's Holiday Inn, leaving the desperate people of the city to the mercies of the Serbs, evoked painful memories of Saigon, 1975.

Srebrenica's fall highlighted the growing cracks in the NATO alliance.

For five decades of the Cold War, NATO had stood resolutely against Soviet aggression. The NATO insignia, an unvarying compass, had become synonymous with staunch determination. With the Cold War finally won, though, it seemed as if NATO's

unswerving moral compass had come adrift in the Balkans. While America had been the undisputed leader of NATO since 1949, its refusal to commit ground troops to Bosnia peacekeeping rankled Britain and France, which had done so. And Germany, which had one of the largest armies of the European NATO members, was bound by its post-World War II constitution not to deploy combat troops outside its borders.

Leaders of the alliance emphasized this disunity. President Jacques Chirac proclaimed France was ready to send a heavily armed ground force to recapture Srebrenica if the United Nations requested this bold move. But in London, Prime Minister John Major, fearful of British casualties, told the House of Commons that the seemingly invincible Serb aggression put the entire U.N. peacekeeping operation "at risk." Echoing Major, American Defense Secretary William Perry sounded even more mealy-mouthed.

Perry reversed the Clinton administration's earlier, shrill calls for a tough stance against the Bosnian Serbs, almost wringing his hands when he told reporters that the capture of Srebrenica cast doubt "as to whether the U.N. force will be able to stay in Bosnia." In fact, Perry knew perfectly well that the

secret contingency plans for the withdrawal of UNPROFOR from the Bosnian war zone were already well along. And, like the embittered intel officer who feared another Saigon, NATO officers in the region privately speculated about a chaotic retreat in which member countries would breach alliance solidarity to make "cut-and-run" deals with the warring factions, defying NATO orders by abandoning munitions in exchange for uncontested passage from Bosnia.

Refugees Tortured, Murdered

As the sun set through the smoke over Srebrenica, BSA Gen. Ratko Mladic arrived at the shell-torn Dutch headquarters. Hulking in his camouflage uniform, Mladic scowled at the Dutch officers, brushing aside their outrage over the savage assault.

Shaking his fist, Mladic ordered the Dutch TACP unit transmit a formal message that there would be no NATO air strikes on the Bosnian Serb troops streaming into the city. If there were, Mladic shouted, the thousands of refugees jammed behind the sandbags of the Dutch camp in Potocari would be massacred by artillery. Mladic further outraged the Dutch officers by forcing them to join him in toasting his victory with glasses of *slivovitz* while a Serb TV crew filmed the "celebration."

Within hours, drunken gangs of BSA troops roamed the dark streets of

Srebrenica, stalking Muslim refugees who had not escaped to the hills or the dubious protection of the UNPROFOR camp. The blacked-out city sounded with the rattle of AK-47s and the screams of women dragged from cellars.

In the smoky dawn, terrified refugees saw bodies of women who had been raped and murdered, and scurried under tree branches bent low with the tortured bodies of men. Mladic now arrived at the Dutch camp in Potocari, leading a column of trucks and buses accompanied by his television camera crew. As his troops began herding the Muslim men and boys toward the trucks, the women refugees howled in misery.

"No panic, please," Mladic called in soothing tones. He grinned for the camera as he handed a candy bar to a filthy, terrified child.

For hours, the grim selection continued. The women and children marched to the waiting buses bound for Tuzla, another "safe area," while Serb troops wielding rifle butts drove the men and boys into the trucks. Mladic explained to the U.N. refugee officials that the male refugees would be released later after they had been screened for "war criminals."

The truckloads of men and boys were delivered to abandoned stadiums, schools, and factories in surrounding towns. That afternoon several hundred men were savagely tortured, then murdered with rifle fire and hand grenades. Each day for the next week the surviving prisoners were led in groups to surrounding villages. Stumbling through the weeds, half-mad with thirst and terror, the blindfolded refugees were cut down with ragged blasts of machine-gun fire. When the killing was finally over, as many as 8,000 male refugees from Srebrenica had been slaughtered. It was the worst European massacre since WWII.

During these terrible days, U.S. reconnaissance satellites and Predator unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) transmitted confusing images of truckloads of prisoners being prodded through the hilly fields around Srebrenica. Then, in late July, a U-2 spy plane took clear photos of bulldozed mounds of fresh earth in those fields. But no spy plane or satellite managed to capture an execution in progress.

Shocked, heartbroken women and children from Srebrenica streamed into the U.N. safe area at Tuzla. They recounted the murder and brutality they had seen and waited in vain for their husbands, sons, and fathers to arrive.

A Lesson Of Vietnam

At NATO South Headquarters in Naples, the first week of August brought solid confirmation of the Srebrenica massacre. No one was more outraged by this atrocity than Lt. Gen. Ryan, commander of Allied Air Forces in Southern Europe.

Tall, husky and soft spoken, as a young F-4 Phantom pilot Ryan had flown 100 mission over North Vietnam. His blue eyes burned with anger as he studied intel pic-

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tures of the mass graves: Those Muslim refugees had been under the joint protection of UNPROFOR and NATO.

Ryan had the equivalent of three combat wings of the best-flown and best-armed combat aircraft in the world at his disposal, from Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR)-equipped F-16Cs of the 510th and 555th fighter squadrons at Aviano, to Royal Air Force Jaguars, Italian Tornados, to Navy and Marine F/A-18 Hornets of the *USS Theodore Roosevelt*. He also had a squadron of A-10s from the Maine Air National Guard whose pilots were all Gulf War vets; they had specialized in "plinking" Iraqi tanks. And the AC-130 Spectre gunships attached to the 352nd Special Operations Group in Brindisi could orbit at 10,000 feet on the darkest night and grind up truck convoys with 20mm Vulcan guns, 40mm Bofors cannons, and computer-sighted 105mm howitzers. Yet Ryan had no authority to use this massive air power against the BSA.

His immediate superior, NATO South's commander in chief, Adm. Smith, shared his frustration.

Smith had flown many dangerous strike missions over North Vietnam during carrier deployments as an A-4 and A-7 pilot. In fact, Smith had been the pilot who had finally destroyed the Thanh Hoa bridge in 1972, after 128 American planes had been shot down in the seven-year effort to knock out this vital logistics link to China. Smith often told friends that four-stars and Defense Department officials who had acquiesced to the White House's fears — that using B-52s against such targets in North Vietnam was an unacceptable "escalation" — were responsible for the deaths of those pilots.

During that seemingly endless war, Smith and Ryan both had friends who were killed or captured in air missions that had been micromanaged by Washington bureaucrats vainly attempting to exert political pressure on the North Vietnamese. The two combat flyers had vowed that, if they lived to reach flag rank, they would never allow their pilots to be wasted on half-hearted "demonstrations" of air power meant to intimidate an intractable enemy.

However, for the two years of the troubled NATO-U.N. alliance in Bosnia, Smith and Ryan had been obliged to accept crippling, U.N. restraints on the use of air power.

Attack The Enemy's Weapons

For months Smith had told U.N. envoy Akashi that limiting NATO to pinprick retaliatory air strikes would never deter Mladic from overrunning the U.N.-protected safe areas.

"What does he care if he loses a few tanks?" Smith asked in mounting exasperation. "We have to threaten a hell of a lot more than just the forces he uses to attack a particular enclave."

Akashi agreed in principle. But he always was reluctant to approve plans for a vigorous air campaign that would put U.N.

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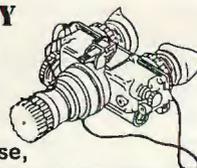
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peacekeepers at risk. After the fall of Srebrenica, Smith and Ryan were haunted by the spectacle of bomb-laden NATO planes sitting for three days on aircraft carriers and at Italian bases, their flyers awaiting U.N. authorization to attack BSA forces outside the helpless city.

The night Srebrenica fell, the Bosnian Serb government in Pale publicly scorned NATO threats of retaliation: "The more they bomb us, the more entrenched we shall become."

Smith met with Ryan that night to discuss their options. "Mike," Smith said, "they don't realize that they're challenging NATO to either fight or run."

For months, Mike Ryan's intel staff had been quietly assembling satellite imagery, transcripts of (translated) radio intercepts, and reports from clandestine agents. Using such multi-source information, analysts carefully weighed Mladic's strengths and weaknesses.

Although the Muslim-led BiH and the Bosnian Croat Army (HVO) had a numerical advantage, the BSA relied on superior, mobile firepower to control every front or engagement. BSA tanks and artillery could strike hard, drawing from the virtually limitless caches of munitions the Serb leadership of the Yugoslav National Army (JNA) had stored for them in underground bunkers. But Ryan's intel teams determined that Mladic needed a sophisticated command, control and communications (C3) system to effectively deploy his forces from one battle front to another.

Ryan's targeting officers realized the BSA's mobile forces, their C3 system, and munitions dumps were critically exposed to air power: C3 "nodes," which depended on line-of-sight microwave relays, were often located on open ridges; tank- and artillery-repair depots were in well-known former JNA bases; and almost all of the ammunition bunkers were dug into remote mountainsides. Some targets were on the edges of villages, but Ryan was confident his NATO airmen could hit them with little danger of collateral damage.

Ryan's staff code-named this projected air campaign "Deliberate Force."

Before NATO planes could destroy these targets, however, they would have to neutralize the Bosnian Serbs' sophisticated Integrated Air Defense System (IADS): a network of mutually supporting SAMs and radar-guided anti-aircraft guns linked by microwave radio and controlled by computers in hardened bunkers, connected to the even-larger air-defense management system in the Serb Republic.

The IADS was potent, indeed. It had been a SA-6 missile fired from a hidden, mobile launcher that blasted U.S. Air Force Captain Scott O'Grady's F-16 from the sky above Banja Luka. After that shoot-down, Ryan's staff completed plans for a complex Suppression of Enemy Air Defense (SEAD) operation using electronic-warfare aircraft to locate SAM fire-control radars followed by strike aircraft launching GBUs and

radar-homing HARM missiles. This operational plan, "OPLAN Dead Eye," was woven into the fabric of Deliberate Force.

Smith immediately grasped the ramifications of Ryan's plan.

"Once you neutralize their IADS," he said, "you can decapitate their C-Three, then cripple their mobile forces."

But, recalling their embittering experiences in Vietnam, Smith and Ryan knew they had to be prepared to go beyond the purely military "Option 1" targets if the Bosnian Serbs chose to hunker down and stand fast after the first round of bombing. So to increase the pressure, "Option 2" targets would include barracks and key bridges. Ryan also had prepared a controversial list of "Option 3" targets including power plants, airports, and fuel refineries.

NATO's Ultimatum

As the horror of the Srebrenica massacres reverberated through the international media, British Prime Minister Major requested a conference of NATO ministers. The NATO leaders were surprisingly unanimous in their resolution to stop further Serb aggression against U.N.-protected safe areas, especially the Gorazde enclave where some 20,000 Muslim refugees had sought shelter.

If Mladic's forces attacked Gorazde, the ministers proclaimed on 25 July, the Bosnian Serbs "will be met by substantial and decisive air power."

That afternoon, the International Tribunal in The Hague indicted Gen. Mladic and Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic for war crimes.

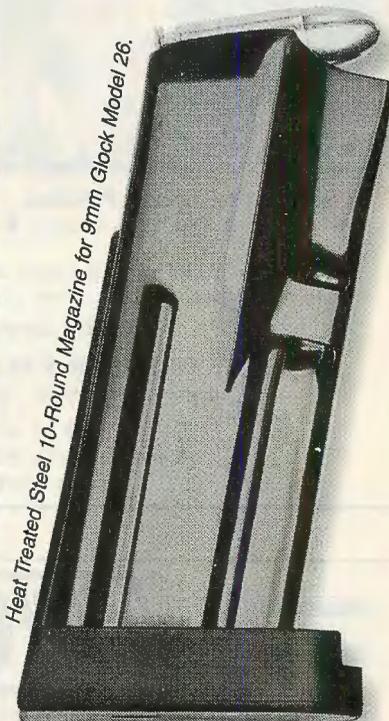
The next day, the Bosnian Serbs overran the safe area of Zepa, southeast of Srebrenica in the Drina River valley. United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali finally was pressured into acting. He removed the "dual key" veto power from the overly cautious envoy, Akashi, and assigned U.N. approval authority for air strikes to Lt. Gen. Janvier.

The ominous situation in Bosnia sparked an urgent meeting of the North Atlantic Council (NAC), NATO's principal military and civilian policy-makers. The somber meeting in Brussels produced resolutions that neither Adm. Smith nor Gen. Ryan would have thought possible a month earlier.

The NATO ambassadors proclaimed that any further Bosnian Serb aggression had to be met with "timely and effective" air power that would be employed "until attacks on or threats to safe areas have ceased." Such an air operation would be triggered if the Serbs concentrated their forces near safe areas or continued to shell any U.N.-protected enclave. The NAC authorized NATO to prepare an air campaign that would include targets in much wider "zones of action" than merely the 20-kilometer exclusion zones previously considered the military responsibility of the United Nations and NATO.

Admiral Smith now had authority to

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bomb Bosnian Serb military "assets" on the Option-1 and -2 lists, but would need U.N. approval before attacking Option 3's infrastructural targets.

"I think maybe we're getting somewhere," Smith told Ryan as they read the final NAC communique in early August. The two then briefed their U.N. colleagues on the details of the preplanned air campaign. Its scope and intensity shocked the other military men.

The campaign would encompass 300 specific "Desired Munitions Impact Points" in almost 60 target areas and included every important Bosnian Serb air-defense site, military communications center, and heavy-weapons maintenance facility. *They think we're trying to start World War III*, Smith mused with a chuckle.

"Look," he said, smacking a pointer against a map of the theater of operations, "if we want to deliver a message to these characters, we're going to have to hurt them where it really counts."

British Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith, UNPROFOR's new commander in Bosnia, supported the plan, as did the British-French-Dutch RRF which then was moving into positions near Sarajevo. But Gen. Janvier noted that unleashing the air campaign would mark "the end of the United Nations' mission as we know it." General Smith agreed. He added that he would immediately begin removing UNPROFOR troops from isolated outposts so they wouldn't again fall hostage to the Bosnian Serbs when the bombing began.

On 10 August, Adm. Smith and Gen. Janvier signed an agreement committing their organizations to "Operation Deliberate Force."

NATO was ready to punish the Bosnia Serb Army.

Next month SOF chronicles NATO's daring bombing campaign and nail-biting rescue attempt of downed French pilots. Freelance writer Jack Devlin frequently covers European military operations.

Fighting the Good Fight

Continued from page 33

can have a cease-fire but we hope that political talks will be continued. We have to agree on this before we reach a cease-fire agreement. Then after the cease-fire we can act freely on those things related to our political problems. We want them [SLORC] to work toward a solution for the political problems that we have between us.

SOF: *How has Khun Sa's deal with the SLORC affected the KNU? [Khun Sa: infamous Shan warlord and opium trafficker who negotiated a disarmament settlement. See SOF World Sitrep, April & June '96.]*

Bo Mya: Khun Sa is not a freedom fighter — he's just a drug dealer. He's not fighting for any ideology. He caused so



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many problems for us, for our struggle, because many in the international community confused us with him. There's a lot of heroin being exported to America and the rest of the world. So, because of the drugs there's a lot of money being given to the SLORC government for the [poppy] eradication programs. But once they got the money they used it for offensives against us. So whether Khun Sa is dealing with the SLORC or not dealing with the SLORC — that's not our problem, and it's not going to affect us.

SOF: *The Karen people's survival, not just physically but also culturally, as an ethnic group, is endangered. What hopes do you have for the continuation of your traditional way of life — will we see more Karen children wearing "Nike" T-shirts and watching Star Wars on the VCR?*

Bo Mya: The Karen people love their culture and their country [Kawthoolei]. They will keep not only our revolution alive, but will preserve our culture. They know their heritage, their history ... there will always be people who don't care. But they don't matter; they are useless. But there will always be those who will preserve and promote their culture and traditional customs. I see there being more progressive development, technologically and socially. I think we can make a better life for the Karen people as we all work together.

SOF: *In closing, what message do you have for the people of the United States and especially for its government?*

Bo Mya: I want to address the United States' government and the international business community: Please stop doing business with the SLORC. Also, we don't want to see more investments in Burma because these people [SLORC] are depriving us of our rights. Under the Japanese occupation, we fought alongside the British and the Americans. We suffered so much for our allies, the Americans and the British. I hope they haven't forgotten us. ✕

Belfast Polls

Continued from page 57

approaches in strategy, and saw the southern-dominated leadership of PIRA as out of touch with realities on the ground in Ulster. PIRA did not then control Ulster, but did have the allegiance of most IRA units (nine of 13) in Belfast, where the action was. Eventually, it would emerge under local leadership as the most prominent faction of the new PIRA, which it did as the "protectors" of the northern Catholic population. Adams was officer commanding (O/C) of Belfast when arrested in July 1973.

Released in due time, but already replaced several times over (as new O/Cs were arrested), Adams again rose to the top. By this time he had become an advocate of expanding the struggle to socio-economic issues, of building a "people's war" as opposed to a mere armed rebellion. When

continued disagreements over approach, particularly to a 1975 cease-fire called by the southern PIRA leadership, led to a spin-off in 1976 of an independent PIRA "Northern Command," Adams eventually became its head. Subsequently, he was to become PIRA chief of staff. This rise gave him a solid position from which to explore new strategies, but another arrest in the aftermath of an ugly hotel bombing in February 1978 put a temporary rein on his influence.

His thinking, however, was shared by Martin McGuinness, another product of the civil-rights-movement years. They were to move in tandem for a decade — with the result that the shift towards political struggle remained a strong option, and the focus of PIRA shifted to a younger, northern generation of leadership. This new blood favored a multifaceted approach to the struggle, so Adams increasingly focused upon building a true movement, using Sein Fein as his vehicle. The older members of the leadership kept their focus on armed struggle. The balance struck at any particular moment depended as much upon the personalities and designs of the seven or so members of the PIRA Army Council as it did upon any reasoned strategic discussion.

The "political approach" achieved significance through the hunger strikes of 1980-1981 (best known for the death of Bobby Sands) and the opportunity they provided for popular mobilization at home and abroad. Also, captured documents reveal the 1982 Falklands War demonstrated that the British Army would be a formidable force in a no-holds-barred fracas. Indeed, the growing totality and effectiveness of London's approach, most evident in its military aspect but in reality multifaceted, gave further impetus to a PIRA shift towards politics. This culminated in the PIRA cease-fire declared on 31 August 1994, followed by a Protestant paramilitary stand-down on 13 October.

Strategic Realities

Though the particulars leading to the cease-fire are well known, the underlying strategic rationale remains hidden. That Gerry Adams and his allies, particularly Martin McGuinness, were able to convince the Army Council that the time was ripe to achieve through political means what had not been gained militarily is unquestioned. What that *means*, is the issue.

On one hand are those who claim that PIRA made a genuine decision to participate in the political process, to compete peacefully for the unified Ireland it had sought through violence. Others hold that PIRA simply made a tactical decision to push "by other means," for the moment. Reality seems to be a combination, or "all of the above." And therein lies the rub.

A central tenet of political competition, as PIRA interprets the concept, is to internationalize, or broaden, the conflict. To that end, PIRA has long sought to involve Britain's allies in pressuring London to



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withdraw from Ulster. The United States, with the largest Diaspora Irish population, is the linchpin. Over the years, Irish-Americans have regularly provided considerable funding for the IRA and later PIRA. Thus, the leverage point is the large and politically potent Irish-American community, particularly the "Kennedy wing" of the Democratic Party.

The post-1992 world situation appeared to offer Adams a window of opportunity: The Democrats still controlled the White House, but were more beholden than ever to traditional constituencies of the left, including the Kennedy wing (a Kennedy was, and is, our ambassador to Dublin); a weak British government desperately needed some sort of "victory" to shore its domestic situation before elections; the public in Ulster was war-weary; and the international climate favored negotiated settlements to internal conflicts. The prize was a united Ireland. The bait would be a new constitution with guarantees for the minority, the Protestants. The schedule was negotiable, with interim "cross-border mechanisms" substituting for actual unification while particulars progressed. All would bargain in good faith, and violence would be forsworn. Internationalization would bring in outside actors, especially Washington, who would nudge the process along.

That such a scenario stood almost no chance of becoming reality seems never to have entered the calculations of PIRA or its allies. Whether the approach was genuine or but a gambit is irrelevant to the judgment, for it erroneously assumed the bedrock position of the Unionists, the majority in Ulster who favor "union" with Britain, was open to negotiation — which it was not. Furthermore, it assumed that the goal of "Ireland for the Irish," the PIRA bedrock position, was a given — which it likewise was not. The majority in Ulster said as much directly, repeatedly, and to all who bothered to ask their opinion.

More bewildering still is the apparent Adams-sponsored notion that Britain could be forced into either washing its hands of Ulster or, even more farfetched, that of extracting concessions from the Unionists through coercion. Neither represents a plausible scenario. In the first instance, a Britain mobilized to deal with PIRA terrorism is one thing, but unprepared and militarily insignificant Ireland attempting to deal with Unionist terrorism is quite another. In the second instance, a Britain unable to quash PIRA is one kettle of fish; a Britain attempting to coerce the majority population of the province is quite another.

The Game

Nonetheless, early on all played their expected roles, especially the Americans. Adams and John Hume, leader of the majority republican force in Ulster, the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), which renounces violence as a means to unification, came together in a pan-republican front under the cover of

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"peaceful means." This earned Adams audiences with various figures, including Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland. Reynolds, in turn, convinced President Clinton to allow Adams to visit America to raise funds, and ultimately to meet with President Clinton. Strongly pushing this course of action was American Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith (sister of Senator Edward Kennedy), subsequently reprimanded for punishing two diplomats in the embassy who opposed her. "Peace" was on all lips, but few seemed to examine what was meant by the term, at least as advanced by the key player, PIRA.

Instead, at center stage was the roadblock to "talks" posed by the British demand that PIRA disarm prior to any substantive negotiations. This, predictably, PIRA was unwilling to do, as were the Protestant paramilitary forces.

United under the Combined Loyalist Military Command (CLMC), these "Loyalist" forces — the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF, a cover name for the banned Ulster Defence Association, or UDA) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) — were a politically insignificant force, but the real muscle behind the Unionist position. Judging wimpish Whitehall positions to be nearly as great a threat as either Dublin or PIRA, the Loyalists existed structurally in relation to the Unionist majority — represented by Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and James Molyneaux's Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) — in much the same position as did PIRA vis-à-vis Republicanism. And just as PIRA was unwilling to let "politics" deal with unification, so was the CLMC unwilling to leave unionism to the whims of politicians.

Where the populace stood in all this was simple: They wanted the gunmen of every side to go away. Historically, PIRA support at the polls had steadied at approximately 11% of the Ulster vote (less than half of the Republican vote), while the DUP and UUP overwhelmingly dominated the Unionist side of the spectrum. The CLMC, represented politically by the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), had gained but one representative in local elections. Still, like PIRA, it was a significant factor, because it had the muscle. Its bottom line, the opposite side of the PIRA coin, was that there would be no unification gained through subterfuge.

Thus, all too predictably, came the cease-fire to grief. An "International Body," chaired by former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell, was called in to break the impasse. It issued a report in January 1996, recommending that disarming ("decommissioning") occur in stages as talks progressed, and, virtually as an aside, that "an elective process" be brought into play. When London seized onto the elective process and announced plans for a ballot to select 110 community representatives who would meet to discuss "peace" particulars, PIRA strenuously objected. These objections finally became

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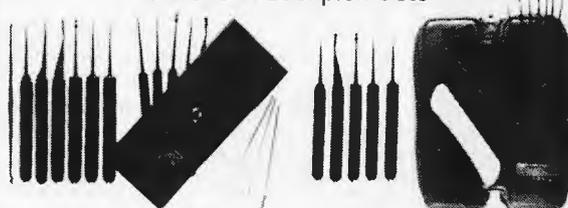
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the renewed bombing campaign.

Although London might be criticized for rigidity on the decommissioning issue, it had successfully called PIRA's hand. There was no way PIRA could allow an Ulster vote of any sort, because on the Ulster electoral map — even on its own Republican turf — PIRA was not the key player. Only when exercising politics from the barrel of a gun did it command an audience. And only if a means were devised for an all-Ireland poll could it hope that Republicanism could achieve a majority (though, it should be noted, in Ireland's elections Sein Fein itself regularly tallied less than 2%). London's refusal to force such a vote upon the target population, the people of Northern Ireland, was checkmate.

Still, the very dynamic of peace had for the moment changed the playing field. PIRA never did shrink from violence in its own neighborhoods, simply turning from guns to beatings and such. Beatings, though, were *not* bullets and bombs. The overwhelming sentiment for normalcy, especially among its own constituency, presented PIRA with a dilemma and prevented it from resuming its murderous campaign on Ulster soil. To do so would have risked a strong backlash.

Similarly, the Protestant paramilitaries refused to abandon their own cease-fire and thereby provide an excuse for a new PIRA campaign. The majority community remained in control, because PIRA's resumption of violence alienated all but its most die-hard supporters, such as the Kennedy wing. Even Ireland, headed by Reynolds' replacement, John Bruton, came out in support of the Ulster vote scheduled for 30 May.

Sensing disaster should Sein Fein not appear at the gate, Adams thus led his party into a reversal of its earlier position of non-participation in the election. It garnered 15.5%, to earn 17 seats in the "Ulster Forum." (In contrast, the Protestant UUP and DUP took, respectively, 24.2% and 18.8%, for 30 and 24 seats; Catholic SDLP polled 21.4% for 27 seats.) Unfortunately for the party, the government had made clear in advance that without a formal commitment to a renewed cease fire, Sein Fein would not be allowed in the democratic process. Not only was Adams unable to deliver these goods, but PIRA itself responded with further attacks, including a massive bomb in Manchester that injured more than a hundred civilians.

Though they did not strike back, Protestant forces were obviously outraged, the more so when U.S. Special Envoy George Mitchell was seated, against their will, as chairman of the Ulster Forum. The majority was bound to erupt: They were outraged at the continued presence of the political arm of PIRA, Sein Fein, even as bombs were going off; they were fearful lest London ultimately cave to pressure from Washington, rooted not in Irish interests but in the expediency of American politics — and they realized Sein Fein/PIRA's "poli-

tics" were but a cover to facilitate their objectives by feigning compromise tactically and operationally. Thus, the July 1996 "marching season" brought hard-core Protestant and Catholic elements toe-to-toe. Police errors compounded the volatile situation, and massive rioting occurred. The culmination was a return of bombing to Ulster itself.

The Future

There the situation in Ulster remains, with the only clear losers being the politicians who so naively believed that terrorists would bargain away their *raison d'être* for something as silly as *peace*.

Commentators and politicians in the Irish Republic have argued that British shortsightedness or duplicity is what triggered this return to the bloody status quo — a position that can only be maintained if one believes, in concert with PIRA, that the real issue is the need for a solution to the "Irish problem." To the contrary, the crux seems to be that PIRA and its minority of supporters are unwilling to accept what the democratic majority of a small piece of real estate, historically determined and defined, has decided that it wants.

Since reform within democratic process will not change this scenario for the foreseeable future, PIRA's only weapon remaining is terrorism. That such terrorism is wrong, even considering governmental missteps in London and Belfast, should be a given: Democracies have license to bungle. In contrast, however, small, self-serving groups within those democracies do not have the right to unilaterally substitute violence for the possibility of political reform.

Dr. Tom Marks is an SOF senior foreign correspondent. ✕

The Land Peace Forgot

Continued from page 43

correspondent Steve LeVine nervously remarked, looking out the window for any signs of incoming ordnance. (Last year a missile killed Dudayev near Grozny, Chechnya, after the Russians pinpointed his satcom transmitter during a lengthy diplomatic call to Moscow.) The similarities between the two military leaders struck all of the foreign newsmen in the room. We offered excuses: time to go find dinner or take care of personal business. Cameras and notepads in hands, we hastily departed. Massood, unconcerned, spoke with Dostum, his former north-country enemy turned anti-Taliban ally (reportedly due to diplomatic pressure from Moscow and Tehran).

Just because you're a paranoid foreigner doesn't necessarily mean someone *isn't* trying to blow up the muj leader seated beside you. But not this time, as it turned out.

The next morning we again headed south for the front lines. A Taliban MiG-19 fighter circled above, drawing anti-aircraft

fire before dropping a single bomb near the Baghram airbase. Massood had taken to ordering inoperative BMPs and tanks parked along the Kabul highway in an attempt to attract Taliban fire. Maybe that MiG pilot had been suckered into wasting an "iron" bomb.

Meanwhile, vehicles filled with reinforcements were making their way toward the southern front pushing toward Kabul. The united advance on the capital seemed to finally have gone into high gear.

South To Kabul

Around the village of Saraj Quaja, about 6 kilometers from the Kabul airport, the fighting was fierce. Artillery shells landed every few seconds. Our driver swerved the Volga to avoid a dead Taliban fighter laid out behind a small truck. The corpse's big toes were tied together with string and his head turned towards Mecca.

More shells came in. We parked beside a long wall paralleling the road and dug in. A government multiple-rocket launcher began firing from behind a nearby garrison as a half-dozen of Dostum's tanks ground through the village. This combined-arms movement indicated a strengthening of the initially uneasy alliance of government forces under Massood's command and Dostum's troops. The Taliban continued to counter artillery fire with their own.

Two days later, however, the "northern alliance," as the Massood-Dostum forces were now known, was no closer to Kabul than it was before the latest push. Negotiations between Taliban and the former government had broken down.

At a site used by government artillery and anti-aircraft batteries southeast of Baghram airbase, two trucks of Dostum's elite *Zanipa 1* unit arrived just as we pulled up. They brought with them a truckload of tank shells and 15 fresh soldiers. They were ready to man the trenches and take on the Taliban.

"The Taliban are good fighters," said Zanipa commander Abdul Gofor. "However, we are much more powerful and will win. The people want it, so it must be. They told the Taliban to leave these villages. We are here to protect them and to take Kabul without harming any civilians."

Perhaps tiring of our picture taking and non-stop questioning, Gofors told us that he didn't think there would be any more fighting that day. "It's quiet here," he said. "Maybe you should go towards Charikar. There you'll see something." We took the hint and left for Charikar.

Gofor's words about not harming civilians during their push for Kabul still rung hard in my ears when we learned from an American television crew that an alliance artillery round hit a bus full of civilians fleeing Kabul along the old highway, only a few hours ago, injuring five and killing one.

The following morning Taliban MiGs were again active over Baghram and Charikar, dropping bombs on artillery positions — but never coming in low enough to strafe the increasing number of convoys

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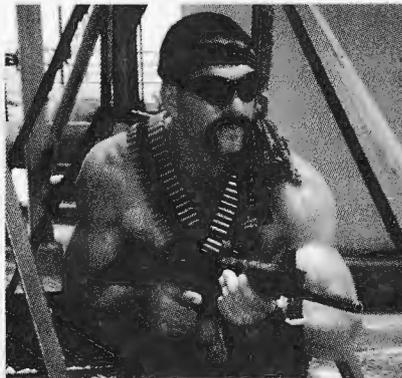
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coming south from Dostum's headquarters in Mazar. BBC radio then reported that a cease-fire was in the works and Massood had ordered his guns to fall silent starting at noon today.

Although *unbiased* as members of the foreign press, we nevertheless were a bit disappointed, having hoped that Massood and Dostum would finally make the big push into Kabul. For whatever reason, the Lion of Panjshir had halted within sight of Kabul, unable to force the Taliban to leave and not ready to share power with them in order to stop the fighting.

The old guard, having made their bones as young muj bloodying superpower invaders, now defended Afghanistan's post-Cold War status quo against Islamist militiamen led by a new breed of warriors. It was Afghanistan-style fighting, plain and simple.

SOF Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein is based in Budapest, Hungary and has covered other vacation spots around the world. ✕

The Kevlar Tourist

Continued from page 42

were about 100 Uzbek, Tajik, Kyrgyz and Mongol guest workers, some of whom were rough-looking characters.

Hours later we landed in Tashkent. The arrivals' terminal was a long, thin heap of concrete and slate with glaring fluorescent lights — a product of Soviet architecture. I needed a strong drink of cheap vodka, something Uzbekistan thankfully has in abundance.

Like every other former Soviet republic, Uzbekistan still requires all visitors to have a "letter of invitation" from a local business, ministry, hotel, or friend. Without this letter and a notation in an official log that you've been ok'd for a visa, you don't get your passport stamped and are sent back on the first bird west. Fortunately none of the customs officials that morning at the Tashkent airport could read English; a long-forgotten junk fax stuffed in my coat — encouraging me to buy a time-share condo in the Canary Islands — got me a one-year, multiple entry and exit visa for (U.S.) \$50. Also in line were two British businessmen and the mid-level German bureaucrat whose official letters of invitation got each of them a one-month visa (single entry and exit) for \$100. It felt great to be an American.

Now, off in search of the Afghan embassy for a visa. While the Taliban militia might physically hold the capital Kabul, it was the former government that continued to run Afghanistan's embassies as well as control its northern and western borders. (Pakistan and some Taliban groups controlled the eastern entry into Kabul through the Khyber Pass.)

Twenty-four hours and \$20 later I had

my Afghanistan visa and stood on the tarmac at the Tashkent airport ready to board an Antonov-24B turboprop for the 90-minute flight to Termez, Uzbekistan, a former Soviet garrison town on the border with Afghanistan.

The flight was filled with Kyrgyz and Uzbek mercenaries, most wearing baseball-style caps with "John Deere" or "STP" logos. These twentysomething muj for hire — looking forward to pay of \$30 a month — were accompanied by two non-talkative Russian army officers on their way to fight alongside General Dostum against the Taliban. Most of the young mercs spent the bulk of the flight scratching their names into the airplane's windows with bayonets or throwing around balls of paper. In-flight service was our choice of either water of questionable quality or lukewarm Coke served in urine-specimen cups. I chewed on stale Uzbek bubble gum and dreamed of dining on an American MRE.

South of Termez, border guards won't allow civilians to cross the bridge over the Amudar'ya River into northern Afghanistan. The traveler either has to wait for the twice-daily bus or luck out as we did: We breezed through hours of customs' formalities in less than 20 minutes with the aid of an official with the Afghan Islamic Unity Party and his friend, a Turkish consular officer, who gave us a lift in their convoy of Land Rovers.

We were soon over the bridge, dodging camels and winding through massive sand dunes on our way to Mazar-e Sharif and the headquarters for General Dostum and his army. The 90-minute road trip to Mazar was an eye opener. Hundreds of destroyed or cannibalized BMPs, tanks, and trucks littered the roadside as reminders of the decade-long Soviet invasion. A half-dozen demolished bases that had housed Soviet logistics and helicopters went by in a blur as we entered Mazar's labyrinth of streets. Muj, mercs, and Dostum's soldiers watched us with some amusement as our Land Rovers sped past, splattering mud on anyone who got too close. Chador-covered women scurried by on their way home or to the city's bazaar.

At the Mazar Hotel we met up with a British TV crew, were briefed by some U.N. field operatives, and arranged for two Volga station wagons, two drivers and a translator. The next leg of the trip would be along mountain passes, through the Salang Tunnel and on to Jebul-us-Siraj. Jebul is the headquarters of Ahmad Shah Massood and Halo Trust, the British government-funded mine-clearing operation that also offers journalists a place to sleep, eat, charge their batteries, and set up their satcom phones.

As Soviet soldiers learned years ago, the Hindu Kush are as severe a mountain range as exists anywhere on this planet. And now, add to this mile after mile of unmarked mine fields, villages full of eager muj fighters, unexploded ordnance, and dozens of destroyed military vehicles and you have one of the most forbidding war zones in the world. — M.H.M.

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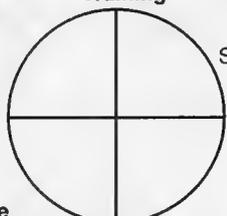
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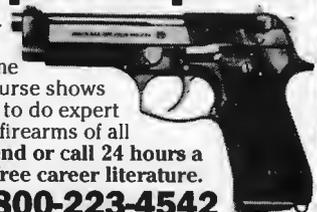
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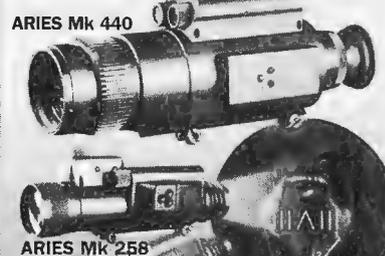
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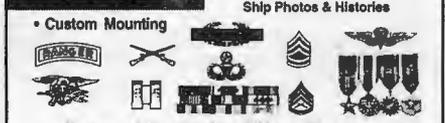
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SOUND OFF

by Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.)

America's Dirty War In Guatemala

"God has no attribute that could take sides with an oppressor. I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever."

— Thomas Jefferson

In 1989, Sister Dianna Ortiz, a young American nun who taught Indian children in Guatemala's hinterland, was abducted at gunpoint.

At the Guatemala city prison she was repeatedly gang raped and tortured. She was burned scores of times by cigarettes and lowered into an open pit. She said there were "bodies of children, women and men, some decapitated, some lying face up and caked with blood, some dead, some alive, and all swarming with rats."

She says a tall American came into the torture chamber. He cursed in American-accented English, ordered her release and told her he'd take her by jeep to the American Embassy. The thugs, who called the man "Alejandro," immediately obeyed his commands.

Alejandro told Ortiz that her "shameful experiences" had been videotaped, and if she told anyone about her 30 hours of horror, the tapes would be released. The longer she was with this man the more her senses screamed she was in danger. She jumped out of the jeep at her first opportunity — at a stoplight in heavy traffic — and escaped.

Since then, Ortiz, who believes Alejandro is connected with the CIA, has been fighting for justice.

She wants to know why the "American Alejandro" is being protected by our government. She wants the world to know the full truth about the thousands of human beings who have been abducted, tortured and assassinated over the last 30 years in Guatemala.

It has been proven that our CIA has colluded with Guatemalan military and security creeps. I have personally seen CIA drunks, whores, misfits and sadists in operation, consorting with killers, torturers and rapists all over the world.

Sadly, America became so obsessed with its fights with Fascism and then Communism that we rationalized that it was okay to copy the evil ways of the Gestapo and KGB. Since its beginning, the CIA has run riot in Third World nations such as Guatemala with excesses that come close to rivaling the Nazis and the Reds at their worst.

In Guatemala, the CIA has employed its unique form of jackboot terror since the late 1950s. It came to that once free land at the shameful orders of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and his brother Allen, then head of the CIA. The brothers Dulles were former attorneys of the United Fruit Company, which owned vast



Col. David Hackworth (Ret.), also 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.

properties in Guatemala. When company land was turned back to the people, it soon became clear that democracy wasn't going to be as good for business as tyranny.

Sadly, America became so obsessed with its fights with Fascism and then Communism that we rationalized that it was okay to copy the evil ways of the Gestapo and KGB.

The CIA took the government back from the people by installing and supporting local dictators who predictably gave the land back to United Fruit. Then the killing began in what has become the longest civil war in the Americas. It's estimated that over 100,000 people have been murdered by Guatemala's death squads and over 40,000 "disappeared."

Ortiz has done everything but douse herself with gasoline and become a human torch to get the truth.

- She has written President Bill Clinton, as has this writer and hundreds of others, who have received only a computerized runaround form letter reply.

- She has talked to Hillary Clinton, who assured her "good people are working on your case and trying to come up with the truth."

- She has secured the promise of 103 members of Congress to help in her crusade.

- She conducted a five-week vigil outside the White House last April and May.

- Television, radio and the print media have broadcast her story. Sister Ortiz was promised she would receive documents relating to her case by June 29th. But she's still being stonewalled.

San Antonian Bob Guinee, a decorated, two-war veteran, wrote to Clinton: "After hearing about Dianna Ortiz, I blush with shame. How low we have sunk. The United States of America has taken sides with the oppressor."

"If our government cannot correct this," Guinee asks, "what makes our government different from the Nazi government?"

It's time America started listening to its citizens and returned to the ideals of our founding fathers.

We need to clean up our totalitarian act *muy pronto*.

Http://www.hackworth.com is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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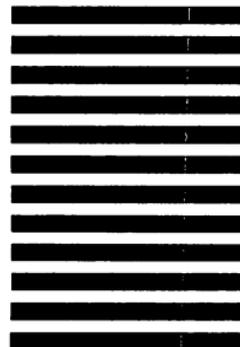
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