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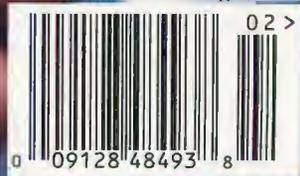
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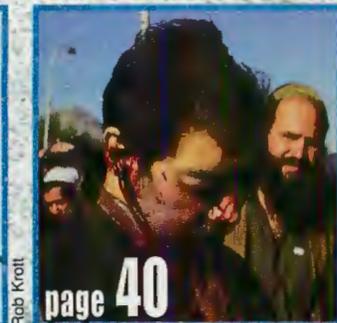
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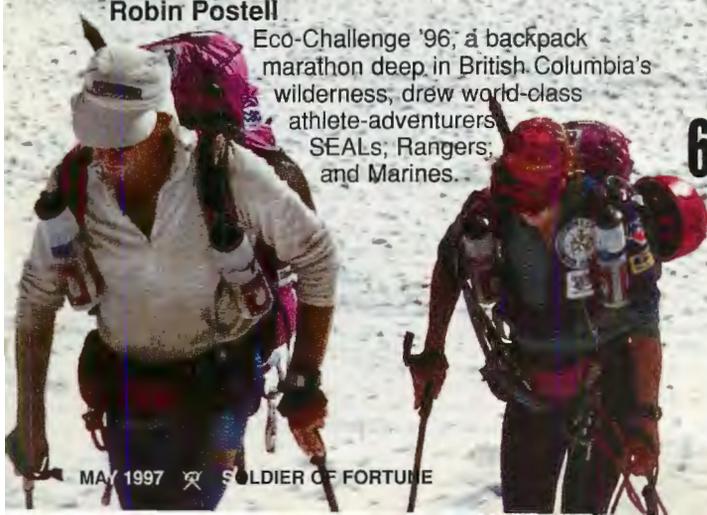
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Rob Krott

Mike Winchester



COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Neal Knox: NRA's Revolutionary or Opportunist?

Power. That's what it's all about. A vicious, no-holds-barred struggle for control of the National Rifle Association: A battle over who is anointed to lead to NRA and defend our Second Amendment Rights.

Neal Knox and his fellow conspirators are determined to depose Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, Institute for Legislative Action Director Tanya Metaksa, NRA Board President Marion P. Hamner and NRA Secretary, Major Jim Land USMC (Ret.) — no matter what the cost to the NRA or to our Second Amendment rights.

Knox and his supporters, using a smokescreen of allegations of financial mismanagement (which I will address later), suffered defeat in their efforts at the February Board of Directors meeting. But they have every intention of launching another attack on NRA leadership at the NRA Board of Directors meeting in Seattle in May, when Knox hopes to be able to rally additional supporters to his agenda.

Did I Help Create A Monster?

There is nothing complicated about the mess at NRA. It's all about power, and who has it. It's about democracy and its survival.

Twenty years ago at its annual meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, the National Rifle Association was shaken by a revolution — where the control of the gun lobby found its rightful place — in the hands of the NRA's voting members. That turning point for the NRA has come to be identified by a single word: "Cincinnati."

At the center of that revolution was a

man named Neal Knox, then a gun magazine editor and legislative gadfly.

Today, the reform movement, which saved the NRA from oblivion, is dangerously close to being extinguished by a small group of Board members seeking to consolidate power in what can only be likened to a Soviet-style Politburo. The forces of this dark counter-revolution are being led by the same Neal Knox, now the association's First Vice President.

The issues that drove the revolution in Cincinnati all centered on democracy.

Before Cincinnati, a voting member's only power was to vote for an "official slate" for the board. But like "elections" in the Soviet Union, the NRA voting was a sham. Every year, voting members were presented with

the official slate — names hand-picked by a Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors, usually 25 names to fill 25 slots. There was no way for ordinary NRA voting members to put up their own candidates.

Those who controlled the Nominating Committee could punish independent-minded Board members by turning them into non-persons: They would simply vanish from the NRA Board in the next election cycle.

Cincinnati changed all that.

Among the most important reforms was voting. The power of the Nominating Committee to choose candidates was diluted. The members could create their own board, nominating from their own ranks by petition. This stopped the packing of the board.

At the time of Cincinnati, Neal Knox

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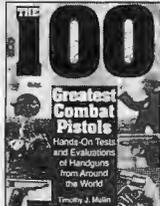
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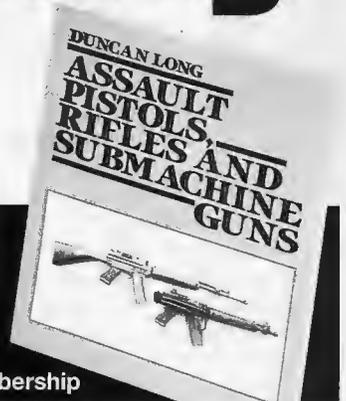


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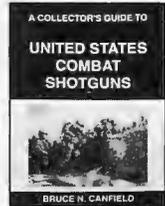
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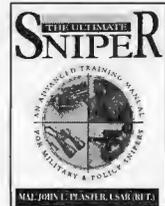
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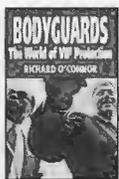


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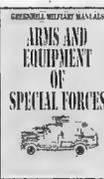
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GWS: GOVERNMENT WAFFLE SYNDROME



Regarding your series on Gulf War Syndrome, it is patently obvious that our GIs who served in the Persian Gulf have serious medical problems related to that service.

It's also obvious that the DoD really dropped the ball in getting going on finding out why, and what can be done to help them. Lack of government response may be partly "fog of war" syndrome, but I think most of the bureaucratic inertia stems from the fact DoD tends to regard anyone with a medical problem that doesn't demonstrate great loss of blood as a malingerer. It's a good thing our troops who fought there didn't have the same attitude when they were called to serve.

Ted Joseph
Longmont, Colo.

SHAME ON US

I think the way you portray the FBI, ATF, and other federal agencies gives a very bad stereotype. You never seem to talk about the good things that these agencies have done for the people of this country. Sure there are a few bad agents, but that does not mean that you have [to] portray them all the time and leave the good agents out of the spotlight. For example, while those psychos from Mt. Carmel were getting away with killing ATF agents, an ATF agent was recovering valuable evidence from the World Trade Center Bombing. All of you should be ashamed of yourselves for getting mad at the government because your [sic] not allowed to keep cop-killing bullets and miniguns at home.

A Proud American
via E-Mail

There's an old saw in journalism that when dog bites man, it's not news, but when man bites dog that is news. It is precisely the American tradition of rule by constitutional law, and the traditionally highest standards of American law enforcement, that lead us to expose the politicization, corruption, dishonesty, and incompetence when we find it. That's what journalists are supposed to do. We do this totally in support of the good guys of the American law-enforcement community. If you think otherwise, you must be a new reader.

GULF WAR SYNDROME



STAGE ONE: GET HOME FROM THE WAR, START FEELING TERRIBLE

STAGE TWO: SEE HOW THE PENTAGON HAS HANDLED THE CRISIS, FEEL EVEN WORSE

That ATF agent recovering evidence from the World Trade Center bombing — do you mean the one caught switching ATF evidence tags to material located and brought from the building by the FBI?

"Cop killer" [sic] bullets had never been used to kill a cop, and what irritates the shooting community is not being denied their use, but this palpable dishonesty in the generation of new restrictive laws that have no effect on the fight against crime. As for keeping "miniguns" at home, that term refers to an aircraft weapon, which can be kept at home if the appropriate tax and registration provisions are met. We welcome your opinions, but they'd carry more weight if you'd do your homework. Reading SOF is a good start.

SHAME ON THEM

I want to thank James H. Jeffries III for his in-depth article concerning what we should do when confronted by this federal pack of wolves. In short, it says, lay your hand on one of the King's men, and suffer as if it were an assault on the King himself. Secondly, it says, have faith in a system, managed by the King, to stem the tide of increasing police encroachment into the lives of American citizens. Thirdly, it says, suffer with dignity when under direct attack by traitors and thieves carrying the King's badge.

Sure. Sure. The politicians will throw us a few yellow scum to clean their ugly souls and demonstrate they care about the American citizen, but expect nothing else. Police power unrestrained by the U.S. Constitution will continue to grow until it meets a physical power equal or mightier

in force, and as for faith in our system of government, I think Gerry Spence, another well-respected attorney, said it best, "...although government still gives lip service to our constitutional rights, trials have largely become public trappings to reinforce the myth that in America we are still free."

I am not a young man anymore, so my ability to act effectively against the oncoming government, Nazi horde is small, but I can tell you what I have done. I folded my Stars and Stripes and put it away. It will never be honored again in this house until it cleans itself of this disease, and if it does not cleanse itself, then to the furnace with it. It may be little I can do against them, but I will never serve them. That I swear!

Mark Schuckert
Twin Falls, Idaho

In reference to the King: Our Constitution made the CITIZEN king. Don't let anybody BS you into abdicating your position by getting you discouraged. If enemies of liberty can make you believe they have won — then they have. As for the Stars and Strips cleansing itself, it won't. You must do it. That's why you have a vote. As long as you have a vote and don't use it to defend what's good and right in our republic, you're giving up without a fight.

As for Jim Jeffries' article, I can't read into it what you have at all. It says, in effect, these are your constitutional rights — demand them and the protection they grant you. Your constitutional rights are like muscle: use it or lose it. And your vote is the shovel left to you by our founding fathers so you can clean house when necessary. Use it first.

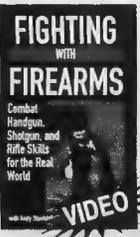


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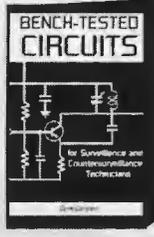
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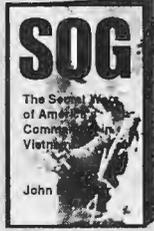
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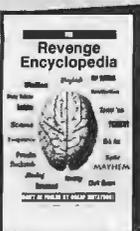
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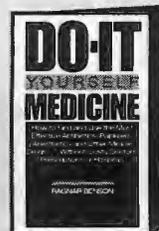
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by Lee Lupin
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CITIZENS IN THE SEVERAL STATES



I only got to the first letter in the March 1997 issue, before I felt compelled to add my two-cents on the subject of concealed carry.

Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution states: "The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states."

Now I've asked the same question as J. Degenhardt concerning CCWs, and while I make no claim to being a scholar or authority on constitutional law, it seems to me that Article IV, Section 2, spells it out pretty plainly, but has been disregarded by all officials concerned, the same as other things set forth in the Constitution they've disregarded, in the name of "public safety." It has become the national occupation for citizens to let government do their thinking for them rather than do for themselves, so now we are watching our rights being eroded almost faster than one can keep up with.

For Freedom,

Larry E. Bigham
Loma, Mont.

We're not lawyers either, nor do we lay claim to great scholarship — but we do make our living working with the English

language, and the language of the Constitution is very clear and its meaning obvious. If you study the men who penned the Constitution, there can be no doubt they were men who meant just what they said. We agree with you. And we think the men who wrote Article IV, Section 2, would, too.

STAND UP TO BE COUNTED



I sent money and words of encouragement to Al Woodbridge and received a nice card from his wife. However I did not send it anonymously. I sent a personal check with name address and phone number.

If you believe in what you are doing then sign your name. Let the government know you're not afraid. A submissive posture invites attack.

Steve McNeill
Nampa, Idaho

HE IS FALLEN

I served with MAC-V SOG back in May 1968 to April 1969 (FOB2/CCC Kontum, RVN).

I was referred to you by Mr. John Plaster at the Special Operations Association Reunion in Las Vegas last September. I am trying to get information on one of my buddies whom I served with in SOG. His name is/was George W. Bacon III.

George and I were discharged from the Army in April 1969 and we both attended the University of Massachusetts in 1969. In February 1970, George went to work for the CIA. Aside from a brief conversation with George a week before Saigon fell, I have lost all contact with him.

John Plaster seemed quite sure George was killed by Cuban operatives in Angola in 1976, and suggested you may have further details. Any information you may have about George (articles from *SOF*, books,



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other magazine articles, etc.) would be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy your magazine — keep up the good work.

De Opresso Liber
Joe Parnar
Gardner, Mass.

While working in Angola as a volunteer, Bacon was last seen by former English paratrooper Michael T. Sharpley as Bacon was mining a bridge in the advance of a large force of Cubans. George Bacon was never seen alive again and presumed killed. His story was reported in the Fall 1976 SOF, and we're forwarding you a copy from our archives.

George Bacon was a freedom fighter in the truest and best sense of the word.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO

My name is Andrew. I'm 14 years old. I am very interested in your magazine. Recently I asked my mom for permission to purchase your magazine but she refused to let me. She said that the money I was paying for "this bunch of trash" was going to go to some militia or anti-government terrorists, etc.

I was wondering if you could help me by giving me information on how the money I pay for the magazine is spent. This would help me greatly.

Andrew L.
via E-mail

Well Andy, first of all, listen to what your Mom says: With the possible exception of a Marine drill sergeant, nobody's ever going to have your best interests at heart as completely as your Mom. But we get the impression your Mom hasn't read SOF; if she'd like a sample copy to decide with, she can call and ask for the "Flak" editor, and we'd be happy to send her one. Our publication is not written for a youthful audience, but many schools subscribe to SOF.

We have never supported an anti-American-government organization; we have never supported a terrorist organization and never will, either philosophically or financially. Income from magazine sales and advertising goes to pay the help, pay taxes, and run the business. The only group SOF has ever supported with money is Refugee Relief International, a non-profit associate organization that has collected and shipped tons of free medical supplies to victims of wars and tyranny, and sent myriad medical teams to give medical aid.

As for groups calling themselves "militias," they vary from sincere patriots to people we wouldn't trust with a sharp stick. SOF has a political perspective editorially (pro-Constitution, pro-veteran, pro-law enforcement, pro-liberty, pro-gun, anti-communist, anti-tyranny, anti-terrorist) but has no relationship to any anti-government group or "militia." ☒

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BEWARE "MERC WORK" ZAIRE

Mr. Eeben Barlow, chairman of the South African security firm Executive Outcomes (Pty.) Ltd., tells *SOF* that media reports of their having personnel in Zaire are totally false — that EO does not have and never has had any personnel in Zaire. Barlow said, however, there are at least some South Africans in Zaire as we go to press, and they uncovered two shady characters "recruiting" for Zaire who were "mistakenly" (according to them) using Executive Outcomes' name.

Not only does Executive Outcomes have no personnel in Zaire at this time, Barlow said, but they are not at this time hiring any personnel except those with prior service in the South African Defence Force, the S.A. Police Service or the ANC's Armed Wing MK. If you are approached by anyone claiming to work for Executive Outcomes who claims to be recruiting for service in Zaire, or if you do not have prior South African service and anyone claiming to work for Executive Outcomes tries to recruit you, you are probably dealing with a fraud, a scam — or worse.

According to Barlow, media reports of EO in Zaire result only from disinformation put out by various African intelligence services, or the misrepresentations of scam artists, and are without basis in fact.

POC for the real Executive Outcomes is P.O. Box 75255, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria 0040, Republic of South Africa; fax: 27-12-348-1158.

BUY GUNS, CUT GRUNTS

The beltway buzz is that in order for DoD to pay for new weapons, the U.S. armed forces are going to have to cut troop strength. The Pentagon's Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), due 15 May, is meant to be a plan to reinvent U.S. strategy and force structure for the 21st century, while allowing for a shrinking annual defense budget. With the skyrocketing costs of the high-tech weaponry demanded by tomorrow's battlefield being a constant, one area where the purse strings will probably be tightened is in troop strength.

Streamlining infrastructure was supposed to have saved \$20 billion a year, but the Pentagon has only been able to identify \$9 billion a year in possible savings from such cuts in support structure. Cutting force structure, therefore, might save money not only through cutting personnel but also through reduced training costs, and in reduced costs for buying and maintaining equipment.

Current studies call for cuts of 195,000 active-duty Army troops (from 495,000 to 300,000), cutting four Navy aircraft carriers, and reducing the inventory of warships and bombers. The cuts are supposed to be offset by the creation of new highly mobile units, called New Maneuver Groups, that would rely on high-tech information technologies to know the enemy's location and call in sea, air or space-based weapons when required.

Sound familiar?

Some have called for mission shrinkage to parallel any force cuts.

PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER

Due to problems with the "protective" brown craft mailer sticking to and damaging *SOF* covers, we have had to discontinue that service. Some subscribers have written to say they have subsequently received their copy of *SOF* damaged in the mails. That unfortunate possibility should be taken up with your local postmaster.

CANADIAN CHIEFS CONTEST GUN LAW

Ovide Mercredi, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, has told the Canadian House of Commons justice committee that unless native hunters are exempted, they will go to court to challenge the draconian new Canadian gun-control law. The new law, which was enacted over the strong protests of the prairie provinces, requires registration of all firearms, including rifles and shotguns, and according to Mercredi breaks treaty rights guaranteed under the Canadian constitution.

Mercredi voiced no objections to restricting handguns and automatic weapons, but said he wanted Indians excluded from laws governing the registration, storage, and transportation of rifles and shotguns used for hunting. In a sharp exchange with Gordon Kirby of the governing Liberal party, Mercredi said, "Don't play that game with me about criminal law and the firearms act. The fact of the matter is we never agreed as a people that you could make laws for us. That's why we have treaties with you."

The controversial new Canadian law also faces a challenge in the Alberta Court of Appeal from the government of Alberta, which has sued, saying the law is unconstitutional because it deals with



courtesy Angel Fire



SOF / Marty Kufus



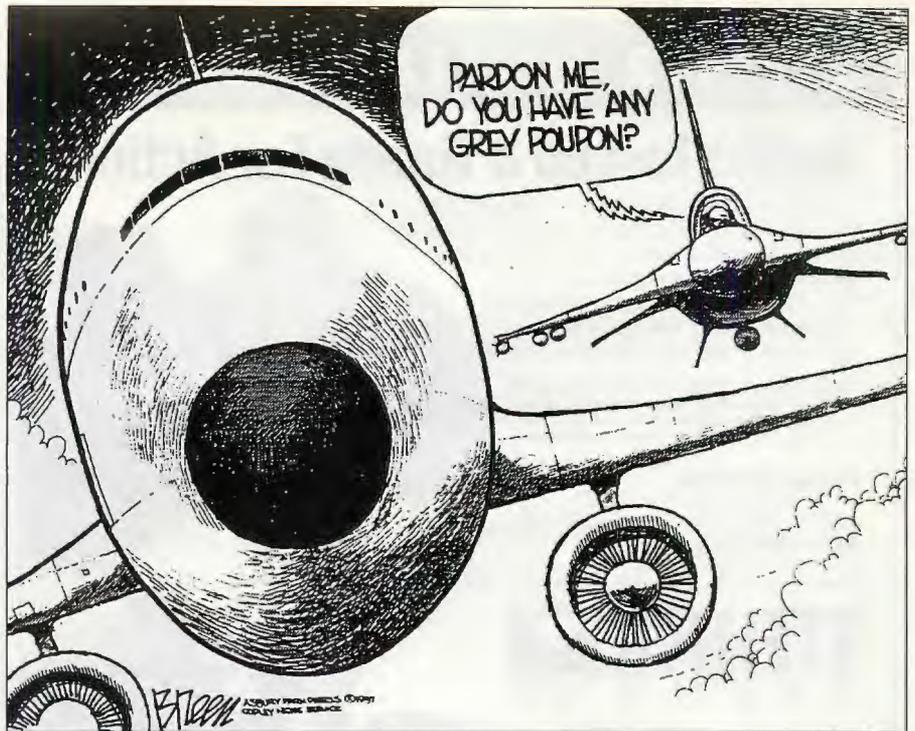
SOF / Marty Kufus

By and for Veterans: The DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial at Angel Fire, New Mexico — a 30-minute drive east from Taos — is one of America's best-kept military-historical secrets. Funded by the national Disabled American Veterans with local inspiration and design (ca. 1968), it houses donated and captured artifacts and multimedia presentations (including an interactive computerized archive) at the Visitor's Center. The nearby Chapel gives evocative tribute to Americans who fell in that war. This Memorial Day, 26 May 1997, troopers will march a majestic 30x50-foot American flag two miles to the memorial, to hear an address by former Capt. Diane Carlson Evans, Army Nurse Corps. Contact the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Box 608, Dept. SOF, Angel Fire, NM 87710; phone: 505-377-6900. Regarding area tourism, contact the Angel Fire Chamber of Commerce; phone: 800-446-8117.

property and civil rights that fall under provincial, not federal, jurisdiction.

MAOIST INSURGENCY SINCE VIETNAM

Frank Cass Publishers of England announces the publication of *Maoist Insurgency Since Vietnam* by *SOF* Senior Foreign Correspondent Dr. Tom Marks. Selected by *Choice* as an outstanding academic book of 1996, *Maoist Insurgency Since Vietnam* combines unparalleled academic research with Marks' own eyewitness accounts to weld theory to practice for a well-rounded understanding of contemporary revolutionaries. Marks' in-the-trenches reporting lends an edge to his analysis of the events, and his overview of the phenomenon of "people's war." Recommended: \$19.50 paper, \$39.50 cloth, plus \$4 shipping. Available in the United States from ISBS, 5804 N.W. Hassala St., Portland, OR 97213-3644; phone: 503-287-3093; fax: 503-280-8832. UK orders to Frank Cass, Newbury House, 900 Eastern Ave., Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex IG2 7HH, England.



THE SUN AND THE ART OF WAR

The Pentagon is working on plans to mollify the crippling effects of a Solar Maximum expected to begin around March 2000, which could have a disastrous effect on military surveillance, navigation and communications, as it is expected it will have sufficient force to disrupt, degrade or block radios, radars, and spy satellites.

This solar flare activity is cyclical and typically "mushrooms" every 11 years. During the Civil War, unusual solar activity induced sufficient current in telegraph lines that transmissions could be sent with no outside power source. During the last cycle, our military and comms satellites were robust enough to physically withstand the enhanced electromagnetic radiation (such as X-rays), extreme ultraviolet and radio waves, charged particle beams and other emis-

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The SUB-9 is a semi-automatic rifle for the 9 mm Luger cartridge. By changing the grip assembly the SUB-9 will accept most double column high capacity handgun magazines.

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sions from the sun. However, these space environmental effects are on the same wavelengths and frequencies used by U.S. military communications, radar and space systems — which means such systems could be useless during periods of intense solar activity — and at no point in history have we been so dependent on so many assets vulnerable to being crippled by such extraordinary solar activity.

It is considered likely that in the upcoming Solar Maximum, satellite commo (voice, data, and imagery) will be degraded and at some times wiped out when increased drag on low-earth orbit satellites causes them to miss intended targets and missions. Satellite navigational systems such as GPS are expected to be degraded to the point they produce errors from 10 to 100 meters during the best of times, and fail completely during the worst periods. Ground-based radar systems are expected to be useless at times due to background noise, or even worse, provide bogus information. This translates to false-target and unreliable launch-detection information for early warning radar systems.

The Air Force has hired NASA to develop and install an X-ray imager on a weather satellite being built for NOAA, to measure and predict the worst periods, so that communications can be re-routed. NASA is already developing a spacecraft called Advanced Composition Explorer that will watch for solar storm activity from an orbit 1.5 million kilometers from earth, starting in 1997. This is intended to provide warning of solar storm activity an hour before its effects are felt on earth. With warning, it is hoped satellites can be reoriented to protect them from particle bombardment, and various systems can be shut down to avoid Solar Maximum effects.

REFUGEE RELIEF INTERNATIONAL

Refugee Relief International (RRI), a registered non-profit agency, sends high-risk volunteer medical missions (toting medical supplies donated by loyal *SOF* readers and others) into the forgotten backwaters of the world such as in S.E. and S.W. Asia and Latin America. They go there to help the little guys and their families, suffering from the horrors and privations of war and the ensuing diseases and associated medical problems. *SOF* and RRI even smuggled fire-fighting and EMT gear into beleaguered Sarajevans. A medical team just got back from Burma and Cambodia.

Simply put, these endeavors require money and medical supplies. RRI will gratefully accept your tax-deductible donations of money or any medical supply or equipment that does not have to be refrigerated or locked up — even volunteers who are medically qualified for hazardous relief missions.

For more info, contact Alex McColl at phone: 303-449-3750; fax 303-444-5617; or by mail at P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306. You'll be glad you did. ✕

Now, You Can Destroy Any Attacker Using Never-Before-Seen "Killing" Techniques

Creator of Official U.S. Navy SEAL Combat System Releases Brutal New Gun & Knife Sections Of His Instructor Qualification Fighting Series

Can you disarm a man holding a knife to your throat? What if a car-jacker sticks a gun through your window — and your wife, girlfriend, or child is sitting beside you?

In an often brutal yet professionally direct approach, Jerry Peterson's new video series shows you how to destroy these attackers, while taking you to the ultimate level of fighting.

The culmination of a 2-year transformation from actual SCARS military archive techniques, his **Instructor Qualification Series** offers you the opportunity to learn what until now was taught to military Special Operations forces (SEALS, Rangers, Green Berets, etc.).

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

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

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

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

Amazing Scientific System

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

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

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

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

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

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

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

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

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

Officially Required SEAL Training

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

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

□ SEALS are trained to run 20 miles in soft sand. But Jerry (who really wasn't in great shape) had them gasping just 5 minutes into his first 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Free Special Report Reveals GUN AND KNIFE Fighting Secrets

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

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

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

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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

Deeds, Not Words

The president is very good with *words*.

Bill Clinton was a smart kid; educated well in Arkansas and in Oxford, England; inspired by JFK. Nowadays, Clinton lectures to America live through TV cameras, recording his place in U.S. history. His State of the Union address in February lasted exactly 1 hour. Washington elite and guests listened politely.

As commander in chief (CIC) he was obliged to talk defense, too.

America must be an "unrelenting force for peace." Our troops have done "a remarkable job" in Bosnia-Herzegovina. More praise: "America must do right by them [military]. ... They are the world's finest." Forces must be kept "strong and ready."

Nice words — to be matched by good *deeds*? That's what really counts. Consider this: Having performed well in *one* year of Balkan peacekeeping, the services' reward is the opportunity to do *another* 18 months.

His selection for secretary of defense was quickly confirmed by the Senate. William Cohen, retired *Republican* senator from Maine (a place where plain speech is the currency), has to keep the CIC honest.

Perceptions Of Clinton

Cohen must listen to the assessments and fears of the generals and admirals who have smelled the smoke and seen the body bags. And former SecDef William Perry won't be an easy act to follow. He was respected; Pentagon types apparently felt he did



SOF / Marty Kufus

The Arkansas Vietnam Veterans' Memorial (right) was authorized by the state legislature in 1983, during the governorship of Bill Clinton, and completed in '87. It occupies a solemn place on the lawn of the Capitol building in Little Rock.

his best — considering Perry's boss.

Many veterans, especially of Vietnam, swear Clinton really dislikes the U.S. military and his wife has a left-wing elitist's hatred of American military men. It's no surprise, and is unfortunate, that significant numbers of troops, in all branches, *do not* like or respect their commander in chief. (In contrast, many Americans left military service in the '80s with good will toward Ronnie Rayguns, *their* CIC.) Then there's law enforcement — another prominent segment of the "American gun culture."

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ment of incumbent Clinton wasn't even worth the ink in the newspapers, several law officers — municipal up to fed — griped to *SOF* at last year's Las Vegas convention.

Give Slick a saxophone, but not a pellet gun. He'd shoot his eye out. He did do a superb job of another form of '60s E&E: staying in school, avoiding the draft — like many other young men. He eventually became a vigorous southern-Democrat *apparatchik*, then a charismatic governor who emphasized public education.

Vietnam has followed him: Gov. Clinton's name is on the Arkansas Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at the state capital in Little Rock — the Clintons' stepping stone to Washington. Governor to president — just like Reagan and Carter. Only Clinton blundered badly over something his predecessors knew better of: A rookie liberal president immediately pushes for military acceptance of *openly* homosexual recruits. Georgia Senator Sam Nunn and allies outmaneuver and embarrass the president; discreet cheers (male and female) sound at places like Norfolk, Fort Benning, and the local VFW. If ever a CIC got off on the *wrong* foot, Slick Willie did.

His budgets favor post-Cold War rebuilding; money is tight. The military is stretched. *Army Times* newspaper has reported at length on "creeping hollowness." Yet Clinton shows Anglophile eagerness to commit U.S. war-fighting assets to noble-sounding nation-building missions that, like Somalia, sometimes fail.

Item: Army Special Forces at Waco — May '95 *SOF*. Here at home, observers and activists are alarmed: The line between *civilian law enforcement* and *military* has blurred. Meanwhile, the Clinton administration diplomatically beckons to China — where the *people's army* is used against the people.

The returning CIC still has a lot to learn. (Good citizens that we are, maybe we'll donate a subscription to *SOF*.)

M16s, MREs and MRCs

Cohen and Clinton have clashed before over broken promises in military policy.

Item: Clinton has pushed to secure congressional ratification of

Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) while curiously ignoring apparent Russian efforts to circumvent the proposed ban — February op-ed essay, *Wall Street Journal*.

Times are changing. The former doctrine of a U.S. military capable of two Desert Storm-sized regional conflicts simultaneously — two major regional contingencies (MRCs) requiring a staggering number of troops, bullets, MREs, Tomahawks, F-16s — has become "1+1+1": a Desert Storm + a Desert Shield + a Bosnia op. It is a hopeful goal for thinly stretched forces.

Coming soon: the Quadrennial Defense Review, a major Pentagon dissertation on future defense needs and capabilities. Facts, figures, projections, dollar signs, contingencies, stamped *Top Secret* for actual closed-door use; illustrate, package, ship to the Oval Office and Congress.

Let Cohen, a poet, explain to a president who truly is horrified by violence that DoD's function is defending this nation, not supporting an *armed Peace Corps*.

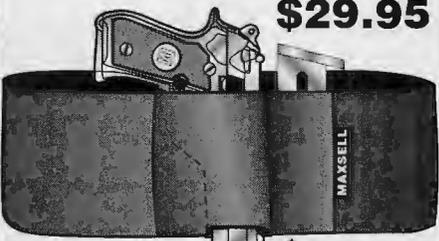
A Tired Cop

To his credit (and true to his nature) Clinton this year lent a sympathetic ear to complaints by Gulf War veterans suffering from mysterious ailments and Pentagon foot-dragging, and took action. With the right mix of advisers, even a jazz musician/career politician can intellectually grasp some military necessities. Taking care of the troops is an important one.

Cohen is not an isolationist, but dislikes regular use of the DoD as global cop. In this White House's *weltpolitik*, DoD takes a lot of "911 calls."

"Mr. Clinton has been correctly criticized," the authoritative *Defense News* opined in December, "for a waffling foreign policy that has eroded the U.S. image in other world capitals." It extolled Cohen's competence in defense issues and speculated on future head-butting with an equally competent and respected personage, (new) Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The SecDef has a *big rucksack* to carry. ✖

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I Was There

by Col. Michael E. Haas, USAF (Ret.)

"Guardian Angel"

"Do as you were trained, and don't panic." Two simple rules that will keep most people alive in most combat, most of the time.

As most veterans will tell you, though, sometimes it takes a big dose of good luck as well. And finally, there's a third, extreme category of survival: Beyond training and keeping cool, beyond even luck, it is one in which your guardian angel, abused and thoroughly irritated with your irrational behavior, still saves you from your determined attempts to kill yourself.

On 23 April 1969, I was definitely in the third category, as I was doing everything humanly possible to join the crew of an assault helicopter flight from which no one returned alive.

In 1969, the "Robin Hoods" of the 173rd Assault Helicopter Company were stationed at Lai Khe, Republic of South Vietnam. Located some 60 miles northwest of Saigon, Lai Khe was a former Japanese airfield and now headquarters of the "Big Red One" 1st Infantry Division. As a captain and

assistant flight-platoon commander with the 2nd Platoon's "slice" helicopters, I was about to replace the soon-to-depart platoon commander, my roommate Captain Arnold Sanford. The replacement would take place all right, but not in a way anyone could possibly foresee.

Being based within flying minutes of the notorious War Zones C and D, as well as the Hobo Woods, kept the Robin Hoods and the 1st Infantry grunts busy chasing bad guys through the Iron Triangle most every day of the week; basic UH-1 "Huey" assault stuff. We weren't exactly up to our knees in grenade pins, but Charlie rated our efforts high enough to warrant rocketing and mortaring our base during one stretch that lasted 133 straight days. By the spring of '69 everybody had their routines down pat. By day we chased Godless Communists around the countryside, even catching the slow ones on occasion and punishing them for scaring us so badly. At night we "Running Dogs of the Imperialist Wall Street Bankers" got our payback, in the form of

82mm mortar rounds and nasty 122mm rockets. Then some clever "Big Red One" proposed a change in tactics that promised a nasty surprise on the Viet Cong in our neighborhood. In the end he had it half right: It would indeed be a nasty surprise.

The proposed "surprise package" would be a night helicopter assault flown by the Robin Hoods, with the 2nd platoon's slicks flying the grunts into an unlit and otherwise unsecured landing zone in War Zone C. To further ensure surprise, each slick was to fly as part of a totally blacked-out V formation, with the pilots of each helo flying formation only by the reddish glow coming from the cockpit lights of the aircraft to its quarter-front. The 1st Infantry command & control helo would fly overhead, timing the assault and ensuring free airspace for the flight.

There was only one problem: Vietnam-era assault helicopter pilots had virtually no training in night-assault flying; nor were night-vision goggles available then. In my six months in-country I had, up until then, exactly one night assault, and that with a

courtesy Michael E. Haas



Jared Mansfield

24 April 1969: "Your commander and roommate is dead, the platoon is yours, you'll fly them tomorrow. Good luck."

near-full moon. This operation would have virtually no moon. And as the mission was laid on for the night of the 23rd, the same day it was first briefed to the Robin Hoods, there would be no rehearsals or even a refresher night formation flight. Protests from a handful of the aircraft commanders were silenced with the "orders are orders" routine.

The morning of the 23rd found me at our battalion headquarters at Phu Loi, a 30-minute flight southeast of Lai Khe. Sanford had sent me there to handle some routine administrative matters that would take a couple of days. Later that afternoon I was surprised to receive a call from him, telling me to return at once to Lai Khe to fly as his copilot on the night assault. Then, inexplicably, he reversed himself in mid-conversation and told me to stay at Phu Loi to finish my work.

I wasn't having any of that! Extremely anxious to get night-flight assault experience as flight leader, I wasn't about to miss this rare opportunity just to push papers. In making my "final decision" clear to Sanford, a major argument ensued with my boss. A former NCO, Sanford quickly made it equally clear to me (in no uncertain terms) that roommate or not, he was still the boss. Further, that my "borderline insubordination" was putting me way over on the wrong side of the border; end of subject. I stayed at Phu Loi.

Sometime later I was awakened by someone shaking my shoulder, and reporting the results of the 1st Division's "nasty surprise." An hour earlier, a 1st Division UH-1 Charlie-model gunship had collided with one of the blacked-out Robin Hoods in the flight. A huge fireball lit the night sky before the shattered pieces from both aircraft tumbled to earth.

The Robin Hood that took the blow was Sanford's lead ship, the exact one that I had fought so bitterly to get on only hours earlier. Sanford, the pilot who replaced me, CW2 Roger Martin Auld, Jr., and 15 others died in the catastrophe.

The next morning I returned to Lai Khe to find that what was now my platoon still was in a deep state of shock. Of the five of us that shared our plywood hooch, one was killed and one wounded; my replacement would be rated by the VA as 100% disabled with Post-Traumatic Delayed Stress Syndrome; and his replacement also would struggle with the condition.

Other than myself, that left only former CW2 Lee Kohl, an excellent pilot with the charming if disconcerting habit at the time of donning his khaki uniform at night and, with the help of wine-sponsored genius, practicing his "Medal of Honor acceptance speech." What he got instead was a Purple Heart, escaping death by millimeters after an AK-47 round slammed into his flight helmet, merely grazing his forehead before exiting out the other side.

For some, the "longest war in American history" ended in a violent spasm of pain.

For others, it is still being waged. ☒

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Text & Photos by Jeff Hoffman

Sniping In A Winter Wonderland

Law-enforcement snipers in extremely cold weather face unique obstacles that are not immediately apparent. Excellent shooting ability and decision-making and the best field craft can be useless if the sniper is not prepared for the obstacles present in an extreme cold environment. If you ever have to exercise your sniping skills in a place like Montana in the winter the short notes presented here can mean the difference between a successful operation and complete disaster.

Once deployed, a sniper can enter his "shooting bubble" and tune out discomfort. But discomfort is not the issue. Extreme cold presents obstacles that can easily make it physically impossible for you to perform. The counter to this mission threat is preparation. You must have the ability during cold weather to perform on call, not "Well, let me think about it and get my stuff together." Situations don't wait for you. Use your gear in extreme weather training to evaluate it. Do not schedule your training for good shooting days.

Shoot with the weather that is present whenever you train, and be sure to schedule training in months when the weather is extreme. Trial and error will allow you to get used to your equipment, discover its faults, and correct them. And document your training.

While I don't believe that being a good hunter automatically qualifies one to be a sniper, I am a firm believer that it is benefi-

cial to spend at least a few days each year practicing your field craft while hunting in the cold temperature extremes you are likely to experience in a field situation. Among the specific things you will notice is the effect on your rifle. If your breath ever touches your scope in -10 degree weather, it will immediately frost it over. If this occurs while you are getting into position for a necessary shot you may have blown it right there. It is very easy to do this even when you are aware of it.

Two suggestions: One, have pop-off lens caps installed on your scope. Keep them on. Caps, such as those made by Butler Creek, protect the scope from other debris and scratches. You don't want to be constantly adjusting to changes in your equipment. Secondly, have tissue easily available to wipe away the frost if it occurs. This is no time to be concerned about fancy lens wipes or cleaners. Regular tissue will work fine. Keep several wads in outside pockets.

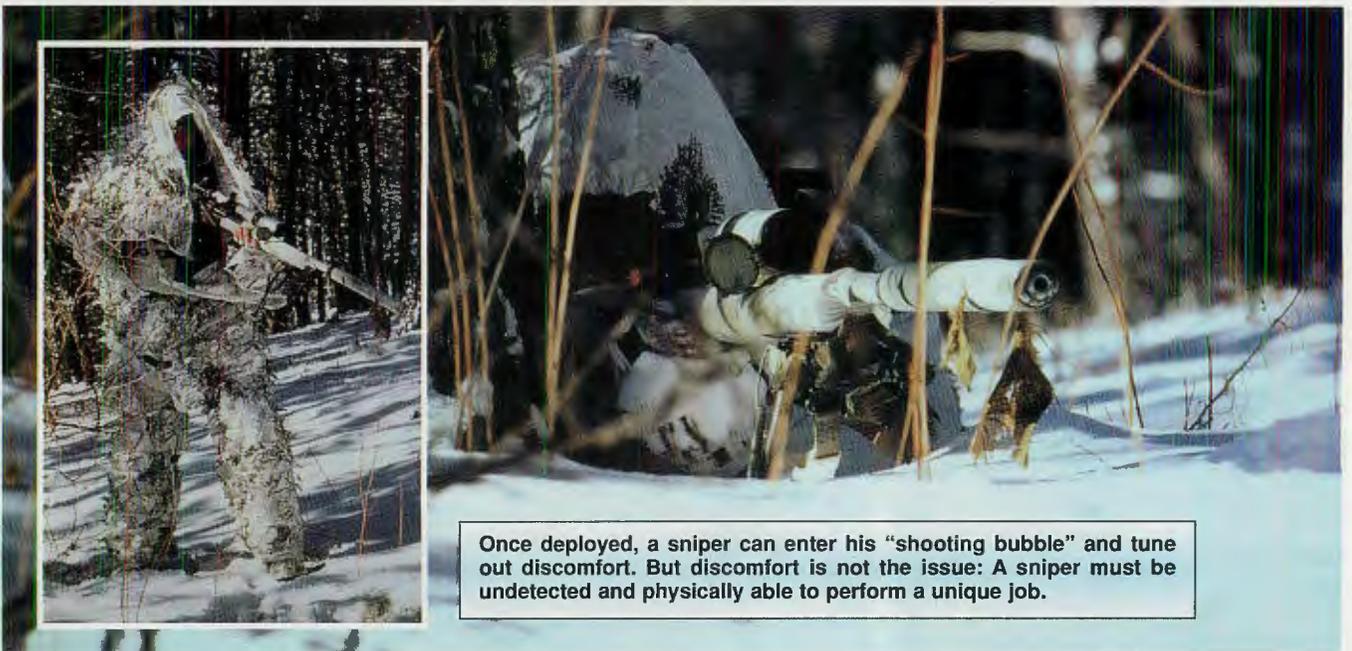
Eyeglasses are worse than scopes as far as fogging or frosting. The truth is many snipers wear glasses. In extremely cold weather, fogging of your eyeglasses is almost unavoidable, especially when it is so cold you need to wear a face-mask type knit cap. Two solutions: One, the tissue mentioned earlier. These will also be handy for your binoculars and spotting scope. Another very good option is contact lenses. I normally do not wear contacts but I wear them in

these situations. Specifically, the disposable daily-wear lenses are now available at low cost. Keep extra sets in your gear in case you lose one putting them in. Keep a spare set of regular glasses in case your eyes get irritated during the operation.

Along this same line, once your rifle is cold during an operation, keep it cold. If you get into a vehicle to warm up and bring your rifle with you, it will immediately collect condensation on all metal and glass including the lenses. The condensation will then frost over.

Extreme cold weather will congeal any excess lube on your rifle. This can slow and limit the impact of the firing pin. Avoid excess lubricant especially on your firing-pin spring and assembly. I suggest a light film of lightweight oil instead of any grease during extremely cold weather. If you are knowledgeable and authorized, you can disassemble the bolt and handle this yourself. Otherwise, advise your armorer of your concern and have him do it.

Metal conducts temperatures very well. If any bare skin, such as your trigger finger, remains against metal very long, your fingers will get cold, stiff, insensitive and useless. You and your commander need to be aware of this. A sniper's situation is different from the rest of the team: You need to be on scene, often exposed to the elements, constantly ready for hours. The rest of the team can more easily rotate to warm up or even



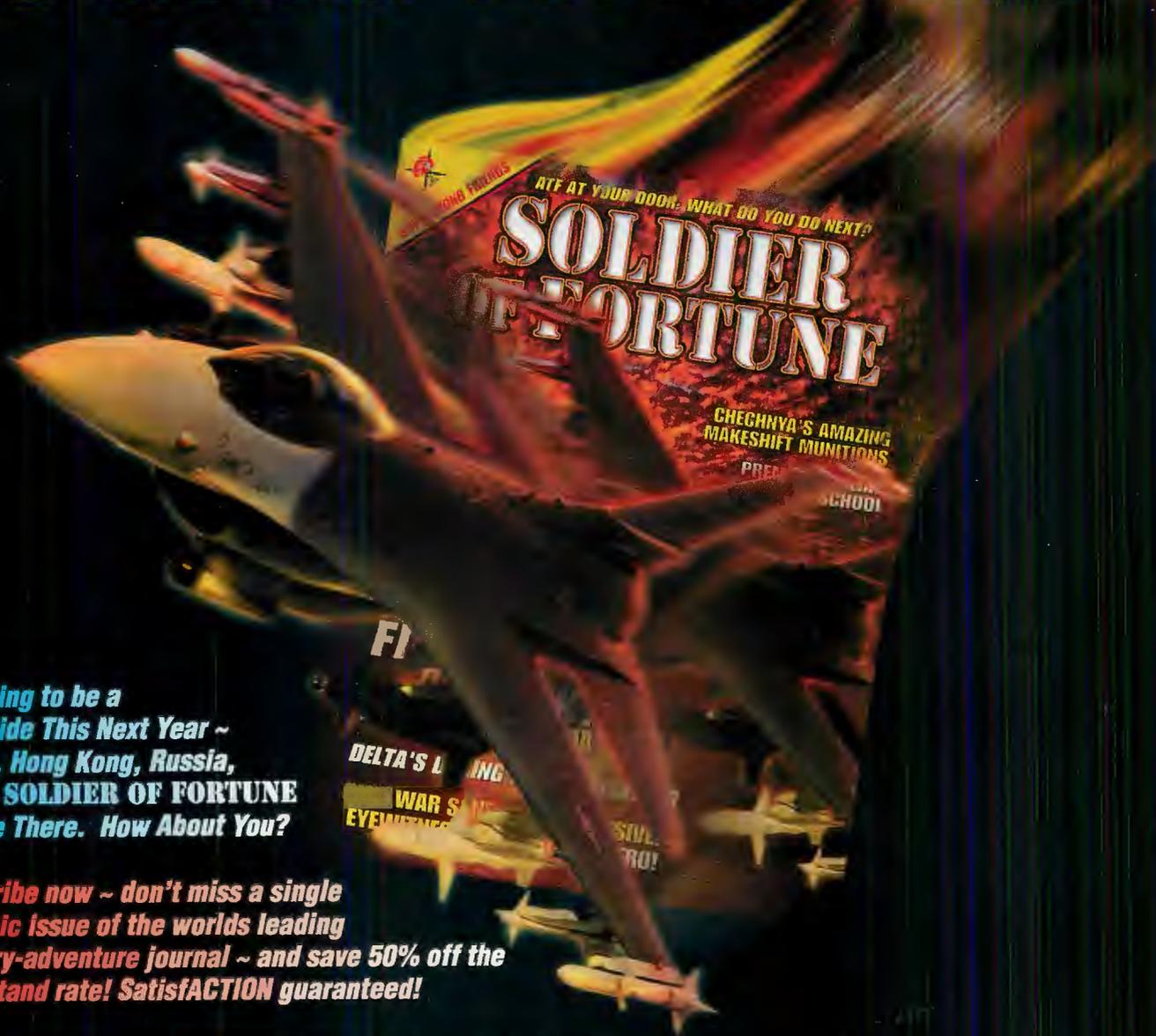
Once deployed, a sniper can enter his "shooting bubble" and tune out discomfort. But discomfort is not the issue: A sniper must be undetected and physically able to perform a unique job.

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If a commander requires you to be ready for an immediate, on-demand shot for more than a few minutes, your exposed finger on that trigger will be less capable of precision.

The problem of uselessly cold fingers can occur almost immediately when loading your rifle in the cold. Top-loading Remington actions almost always require bare fingers to handle individual cartridges and insert them into the magazine. Solution: Don't load in the cold, load ahead of time.

Keep a variety of clothing available in your call-out bag to adjust to any condition. Specific recommendations: Remember that you may be required to lie nearly motionless in the snow for hours while remaining vigilant, alert, and ready to shoot. Overdress, but leave your clothing well vented while moving into position. Avoid working up a sweat. Once in position you can close up the vents.

Good headgear, including face covering, is essential especially if there is any wind. A windproof covering is better than a plain knit cap. Boots must not be tight. I have had best results with the military canvas-covered "muckluks" with wool felt linings. Snowmobile-type boots also work well.

For outer wear I recommend insulated coveralls or a combination of insulated bib overalls plus a good parka. I know, I can hear commanders everywhere yelling that all team members, including snipers, must wear *standard* uniforms. Our SRT has a very good commander and a good policy: Our snipers wear what they need to do the job and let the balance of the team know what we look like. That might mean woodland camo in the pines, desert camo on the prairie, Ghillie suits or snow camo.

A sniper must be undetected and physically able to perform a unique job. A snow-bank 200 feet outside a trailer house that contains a rifle-armed hostagetaker is entirely the wrong place and time for the sniper to be wearing SWAT black just because everyone else is wearing it. Our team purchased the West German snow camo to solve this problem. It is loose-fitting cotton, worn over your "non-standard" but warm snowmobile suit. I highly recommend Gore-Tex as a shelf material for your warm clothes. It is wind and water proof. Otherwise, while you are lying in that snow, your body heat will tend to melt the snow you are on, thus getting your clothes wet and rendering you cold and ineffective. Your foam shooting mat can also be a great aid in these situations. Again, it's not "unmacho" if it helps you to do your job.

To cover your hands I recommend a thin pair of warm gloves to shoot with. Nomex pilot's gloves are the best I have used, but be sure they are not too tight. In addition, you should have a very warm pair of gloves or even mittens. You can slip the mitten off your shooting hand when you need to make the shot.

Avoid cotton for wear next to your skin; wool or synthetics are best. Cotton socks or long johns are inferior insulators when dry

Continued on page 71

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Applegate-Fairbairn Fighting Knife - By Boker

SOF readers will be familiar with the history of the Applegate-Fairbairn fighting knife: how it was developed during WWII by OSS close-combat instructor Major Rex Applegate and the British SOE's former commando instructor Captain W.E. Fairbairn for elite Allied forces as a replacement for the Fairbairn-Sykes commando dagger, but never produced. The Applegate-Fairbairn design was far ahead of its time then, and it has never been bettered for its intended purpose. The only problem associ-



ated with the Applegate-Fairbairn has been getting one.

We were pleased to learn at the SHOT Show that Colonel Applegate and Boker of Solingen have struck a deal whereby Boker will manufacture the Applegate-Fairbairn fighting knife from Solingen 440C stainless, with a glass-fiber reinforced Delrin® handle, in two iterations. Both are faithful to the original design and feature the superbly balanced, weighted handle and functional, slightly forward-swept cross guard. The A-F 11 has a partly serrated blade and comes in a Kydex sheath by Bladetech @ \$126, and the A-F 12 is sheathed in Cordura with a standard blade @ \$107.50. Both come in a presentation box, and both feature bead-blasted blades etched with the signatures of both Applegate and Fairbairn. The production examples we examined were flawless in every respect, as one would expect from Boker, and it is simply hard to believe the price for the quality. Boker has truly done justice to a superb design.

For more information, contact Boker USA, Inc., Dept. SOF, 1550 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80215-3117; phone: 303-462-0662; fax: 303-462-0668; E-Mail: bokerusa@worldnet.att.net.

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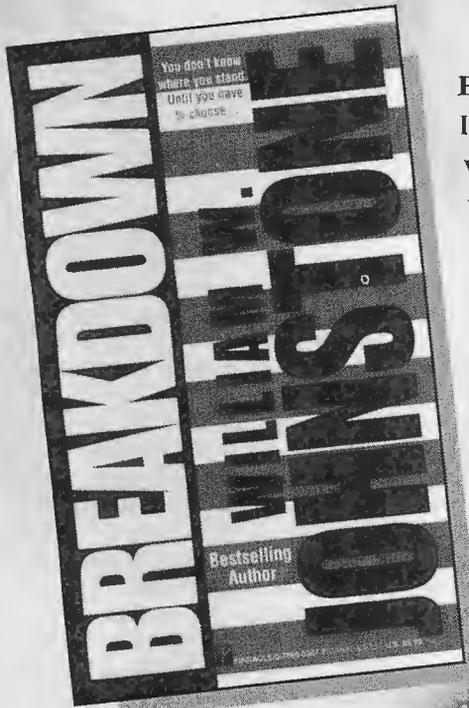
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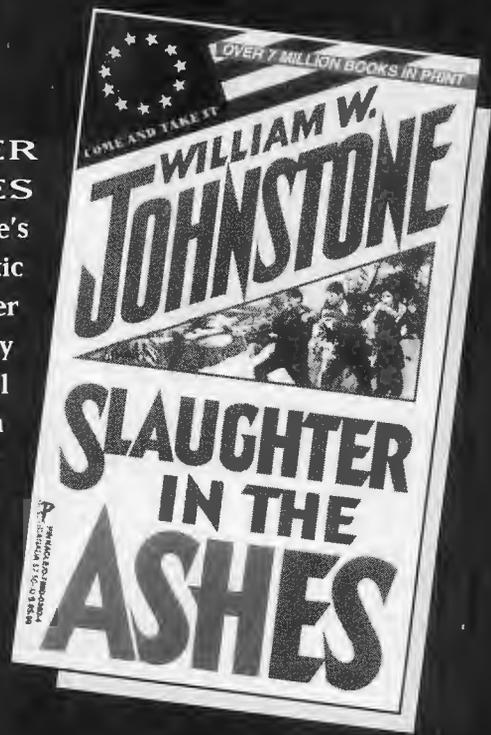


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For more information on the full line of Steiner optics for military, law-enforcement or outdoor applications, contact Pioneer Research, Dept. SOF, 216 Haddon Ave., Westmont, NJ 08108; phone: 609-854-2424.

Glock Sights

One of the Glock's most important salient features is that it's ready to go right out of the box. Just load the magazine, chamber a round, stuff it into the holster, and step out onto the street.

That is, with one exception: the sights. The Glock pistol's polymer sights just won't do. Armed professionals must practice the drawstroke on a continual basis. If you do, the Glock's issue polymer front sight will, depending upon the holster configuration, usually wear down quickly. Over a period of time this will cause the point of impact to drift upward. Furthermore, the fully adjustable Glock rear sights are simply not up to the standards required by those for whom handguns are tools of the trade.

When it comes to handgun sights there is no substitute for the robustness of steel. When it comes to sights for the M1911 or Glock, Miniature Machine Corporation (MMC, Dept. SOF, 2513 E. Loop 820 North, Ft. Worth, TX 76118; phone: 817-



595-0404 for information or 800-998-7483 for orders; fax: 817-595-3074 — send \$2 for catalog) has set the standards by which all others must be judged. They offer three types of fully adjustable, low-profile tactical sights for the Glock series and the M1911 in all of its many variations.

Their BLACKSIGHT rear sight has no white-outline, bars or dots of any kind. Many *pistoleros* prefer this type of rear sight, arguing with great merit that under stress in a daylight environment white or colored bars, lines or dots are never seen. The BLACKSIGHT can be combined with an enhanced white dot or tritium front sight for faster sight pictures under subdued light conditions. The WHITESIGHT is the same rear sight, but equipped with either a classic Glock-type white outline or two white dots. The BLACKSIGHT and WHITESIGHT rear sight assemblies cost \$69.95 and \$74.95 each, respectively. An enhanced white-dot steel front sight sells for \$24.95 and a tritium-equipped steel front sight is available for \$44.97.

However, my personal favorite is the LIGHTSIGHT which represents the smallest, most compact adjustable rear sight assembly available with tritium inserts. It costs \$99.95. When combined with a conventional bright green-dot front sight, the sight picture options include 1) the standard three-dot pattern, 2) a single bar under the rear-sight notch (exceptionally deep on MMC sights) for a bar-dot sight picture, or 3) a bar on each side of the rear notch for a bar-dot-bar sight picture.

Elevation adjustments are by means of a hex screw located on the right side of the unit. The rear sight can be adjusted for windage zero by drifting it in its dovetail in the slide.

MMC uses tritium inserts installed by Innovative Weaponry Inc. (phone: 800-334-3573) which is now located at the same address as MMC, and they are the best in the business. Most tritium self-luminous sights glow green simply because this color is highest on the night-visibility spectrum. However, operator alignment of three green dots in subdued light can be confusing, as this detracts from emphasis on the flash front sight picture and retards target acquisition.

The largest self-luminous dot is installed in the front sight and it is green. The two smaller (by 0.008-inch) dots in the rear sight are yellow, red, orange or subdued green. In use, I have found that the eyes instinctively focus on the bright green front dot with a strong 3-dimensional triangulation effect that helps to funnel the shooter's vision directly onto the target. Furthermore, law-enforcement training personnel report this system is especially beneficial with an officer down, shooting from an awkward position with the weak hand.

MMC LIGHTSIGHTs with this feature have been installed on both my Glock Model 29 10mm Auto and Model 30 .45 ACP pistols and I can personally recommend this sight system highly and without reservations of any kind. —Peter G. Kokalis

WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Reach out and tap someone: FBI estimates the nation's telephone system now must be able to handle 60,000 simultaneous wiretaps and traces in support of law-enforcement agencies' criminal and counterterrorism investigations. • Justice Department complaint of Saudi Arabia's lack of cooperation in investigation of last year's Khobar Towers truck-bombing (that killed 19 U.S. airmen) is among congressional grievances delaying kingdom's purchase of 102 F-16 fighters. • Navy and DoD select three industry teams to make competing concept designs and engineering and cost proposals for 21st century "arsenal ship": large, lightly manned, heavily automated surface vessel carrying nearly 500 vertically launched SAMs and land-attack missiles and advanced guns. • Electronic spying: Navy Aegis cruisers in eastern Mediterranean have secretly monitored several Syrian test launches of Scud missiles, a strategic weapon that U.S. ally Israel regards as major threat.

2

RUSSIA

Commander of army's conscription system complains that young Russians nowadays are uneducated, unhealthy, unpatriotic, and increasingly likely to dodge draft. • As Moscow warily eyes NATO's expansion, Defense Minister Rodionov declares "Cold War is not yet over." • Independent report: Russian army casualties in Chechnya in nearly 2 years of fighting estimated at 4,300 killed, 703 missing or captured, and 705 desertions. Kremlin officials acknowledge that Chechnya, which held presidential and parliamentary elections in January, might attempt to secede from Russia (which could restart the war there). • Decline of a once-proud army: Moscow press reports that thousands of Russian soldiers are malnourished and underweight. Pay is months in arrears, at least 110,000 troops lack proper housing, and last year 428 troops (many officers) committed suicide, defense ministry says. Rodionov warns government that reform of armed forces is impossible without adequate funding and realistic policies; his priorities for '97 include preservation of combat readiness, in particular, that of Strategic Rocket Forces.

6

SRI LANKA

LTTE rebels ("Tamil Tigers") reveal casualties in 15 years of civil war: 9,301 warriors, including 1,079 women (a few of whom were suicide bombers), killed. Government has not revealed its losses, which independently are estimated at 15,000 soldiers, 20,000 civilians.

9

SUDAN

SPLA and NDA rebels unite in westward offensive that overruns army garrisons along border with Ethiopia. Joint offensive likely is greatest threat yet in war against Khartoum's Islamic regime.

10

EGYPT

Air force's deep-strike, ground-attack, and air-combat capabilities have greatly improved through adoption of modern U.S. and European equipment and methods, Israeli think tank reports. Egypt's air force includes nearly 200 F-16s plus French Mirage 2000s, would be a significant factor in any future Middle East war, Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center says.

7

ZAIRE

Already beset recently by hundreds of thousands of refugees from Burundi and Rwanda, government vows to crush anti-government rebels (with help of "white legion" of some 300 European and South African mercs — Executive Outcomes denies involvement). Desperate for money, rebels in east threaten to seize gold mines if owners do not resume operations there.

14

ARGENTINA

Its military suffering severe budget cuts, government seeks U.S. "major non-NATO ally" status that would increase flow of second-hand military equipment and lead to defense-purchase loan guarantees. (Buenos Aires dispatched 2 frigates to Coalition force in '91 Gulf War, and supported U.S. intervention in Haiti.) Meanwhile, defense minister denies reports that Washington is pushing for Argentine military to take direct role against narco-trafficking.

15

TURKEY

Cyprus saber-rattling: Ankara strongly condemns planned sales of Russia's sophisticated Tor-M1 anti-aircraft-missile system and SA-10 SAMs (in '98) to Greek Cypriots, hints at possible military strikes, threatens economic retribution at Moscow. Chief of staff calls proposed purchases a Greek military buildup aimed at Turkey. Washington and London criticize the proposed weapons sales as destabilizing. • Iraq condemns Turkey for air and infantry attacks in northern Iraq against PKK rebels. (Turkey, so far this year, has killed at least 150 rebels in retaliation for PKK incidents in southeastern Turkey.)

13

14

3

CHINA

Seeking superpower status: Having already bought 4 Kilo-class diesel-electric subs, Beijing closes \$800-million deal with Moscow for future delivery of 2 improved *Sovremenny* ("Modern")-class destroyers with anti-ship missiles and SAMs; is negotiating purchase of up to 50 Su-30 multirole fighters. Big picture: Recent security pacts with 6 neighbors — Russia, India ("World Sitrep," March '97), Myanmar/Burma, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan — will allow China to gradually shift military emphasis from land borders to increased naval presence on shipping lanes in Pacific and Indian oceans, foreign experts say. Moreover, China says it hosted military delegations from more than 60 countries last year and sent its own delegations to more than 50 countries — a marked increase over '95. Beijing views Taiwan independence movement and U.S.-Japan alliance as potential threats; calling China "a comer," commander of U.S. Strategic Command cites that country's growing strength as one reason against swift, deep cuts to nuclear arsenal.

4

TAIWAN

Having lost political and economic links to South Africa (under President Mandela), Taipei now is developing ties with Central America, beginning with \$200-million aid grant. Taiwan warns mainland China against interference (including use of U.N. pressure) with its Latin America diplomacy.

5

AFGHANISTAN

Ruling out any power-sharing deal with coalition of local and regional foes, Islamist *Taliban* forces stubbornly push northward into Panjshir Valley. Coalition aircraft attack Kabul and other occupied cities; at least 2 jets are downed with old U.S.-supplied Stingers. Taliban ignores peace talks hosted by Iran.

8

SOUTH AFRICA

Despite Mandela's stated defiance of foreign pressure, Washington's arm-twisting apparently kills \$647-million sale to (terrorist state) Syria of South African fire-control upgrades for T-72 tanks.

13

VENEZUELA

Islamic guerrilla organization *Hezbollah* runs an office/safe house here, reportedly providing temporary refuge and new identities for operatives who have become "hot" in Middle East or Europe. Hezbollah members first fly to Colombia, then drive to Venezuela for stay of weeks or months, Western report says.

11

IRAN

Navy received its third Kilo-class submarine — no small concern to U.S. Navy — in \$750-million deal signed with Russia in 1991. Meanwhile, Iran is developing a ballistic missile (with North Korean help) that would propel a 1,690-pound warhead some 3,500 miles.

12

BANGLADESH

Government signs accord with huge western neighbor, India, to mutually crack down on cross-border movements by several (ethnic) guerrilla groups.

17

CZECH REPUBLIC

Air force is in bad shape — 50% of aircraft are not airworthy — and will be unable to function in 4 years without major improvements, defense minister says.

16

POLAND

Aspiring to NATO membership, Warsaw estimates it will cost nation nearly \$1.3 billion to implement major NATO-interoperability measures — a figure Western experts say is low. (U.S. studies had placed eventual cost of NATO/military interoperability in Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, and Slovakia at \$42 billion to \$125 billion.)

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, Dept. SOF, Amarillo, Texas 79114-8759; subscriptions are \$70 per year (26 issues), \$74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

NUCLEAR and Present Danger

The Threat Of Atomic Terrorism

The amount of plutonium necessary to create a Nagasaki-style bomb could fit snugly into the skin of this grapefruit," Hungarian national police Colonel Ferenc Varga said as he spooned out the last chunk of his breakfast at the organized-crime task force office in Budapest. "The equivalent amount of U-235 could fit into a basketball."

"I tell you, my friend," the slightly overweight law-enforcement veteran continued, "that's all it would take. The biggest threat to the West isn't the Russian army or lack of oil ... Someone with about 6 kilograms of [Uranium-235], along with enough money, brains and hate, could end life in your country or Europe as we now know it. A problem, no?"

I agreed.

With newspaper headlines increasingly urging that it was just a matter of time before someone walked off with — or bought — an old Russian nuclear warhead and used it, *SOF* decided to find out just what is the state of "nuclear terrorism" today and whether any means exists to counter it.

What our investigation (or this phase of it, anyway) re-

vealed wasn't exactly the stuff of dramatic headlines, but it did show a relative dearth of reliable information on the subject of nuclear terrorism, and this uncomfortable question: Why does only one Western power view this potential threat seriously enough to field a dedicated anti-nuclear terrorism force?



News item: Lithuanian officials determine that 100 kilograms (220 pounds) seized in 1996 from an armed gang was U-238 [lower-grade uranium] stolen from a company responsible for maintenance at a nuclear-power plant.

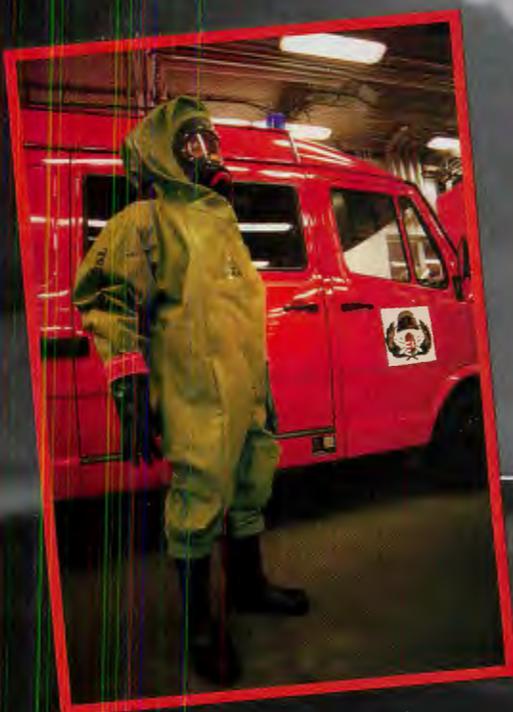
Next, I phoned Germany.

"We'd like to spend some time photographing and talking with your anti-nuclear terrorism squad," I slowly repeated to the surprised party on the other end of the telephone line. I had reasoned a security-minded country that created *GSG-9*, a top-notch counterterrorism unit, likely had a "GSG-235," too.

"Germany doesn't have such a squad," the German Federal Intelligence Service press spokesman told me. "So, I don't know how we can help you."

I explained that we were putting together an article on nuclear smuggling and the threat of

Text & Photos by
Mark H. Milstein



Firefighter in full protective suit at nuclear-power facility at Paks, Hungary.

nuclear terrorism, and understood that Germany had a recent spate of incidents in the past few years involving the smuggling of Russian-origin, weapons-grade plutonium (as well as some probable bogus-nuke scams, too).

Certainly, I continued, it's only a matter of time before someone or some group does the unthinkable. Didn't Germany have a department within its national law-enforcement agencies that resembles NEST, the U.S. Department of Energy's nuclear-emergency search team?

The response was more dead silence. Then, "I'll have to get back to you on this subject."



News item: A businessman is sentenced to 5½ years in prison for smuggling weapons-grade plutonium into Germany. Investigators made the first in a series of contraband seizures in 1994 when they raided the man's home in Bavaria and found a lead cylinder containing 6.15 grams (0.22 ounces) of Plutonium-239.



(above) Until last year, Paks' nuclear facility, 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of Budapest, lacked even a secure perimeter fence. (left) Commander of Paks' on-site security force, Attila Piros, displays some of the personal equipment that would be used by his "Neutron Team" in repelling an assault on the nuclear facility.



News item: Russian Federal Security Service arrests 9 members of a crime ring last year in Novosibirsk, seizes quantity of radioactive material identified as "enriched" U-235. The material had been transported there by middlemen, possibly from Kazakhstan.

Questions, Few Answers

A series of phone calls to the German army and various state police departments throughout Germany resulted in similar answers. Further, SOF's European bureau made many calls to British and French law-enforcement agencies and government and military officials. All said they would get back with us. None did.

Through a friend of a friend, I was put in contact with Dr. Karl-Heinz Kamp, a noted expert on nuclear terrorism at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation outside Bonn. I interviewed him there,

"You are right to say that there is a serious problem in Europe and the U.S. concerning the potential for nuclear terrorism," Kamp said. "With the demise of the Soviet Union, the number of threats and 'incidents' have gone up dramatically.

"However," he continued, "things aren't as bad as Hollywood or the press would like you to believe. First, as much as you might want to believe that terrorists view the threat of nuclear destruction as a particularly suitable means of emphasizing their demands, no major terrorist group has ever used nuclear blackmail as part of their scheme."

"Up to now," Kamp calmly said, "there has been no single case in which a non-government organization, a terrorist group or an individual has come anywhere near attaining nuclear capability. But, if someone or some organization were to attain those means, the results would be catastrophic."

Kamp's words were still echoing in my head as NEST agent Shawn Cantlin lectured to a roomful of eastern European police officers at the FBI's International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest.

America's Wake-Up Call

Disney World was the "target" of the world's first nuclear-blackmail case, Cantlin said, when a 14-year-old boy threatened to

"nuke" the Florida site in 1970.

"This case was a milestone for us," Cantlin told the 100 Croatian, Macedonian, and Hungarians cops at a two-day seminar. "It attracted little federal attention. It showed national law-enforcement officials they lacked the technical ability to assess the threat, and became the impetus for the creation of NEST."

NEST is a semi-secret organization under the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that is dedicated to, among other related activities, locating and dismantling nuclear weapons. NEST personnel include nuclear physicists, engineers, doctors, psychologists, firemen, and security specialists usually affiliated with nuclear-testing facilities such as Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore national laboratories. NEST is tasked with responding to a nuclear threat anywhere in the United States within four hours.



Shawn Cantlin, of U.S. Department of Energy's Nuclear Emergency Search Team, lectures on nuclear smuggling to eastern European police officers.

"We receive about three or four threats a year," Cantlin said. "The FBI has legal jurisdiction over anyone making such a threat, with the DOE and NEST doing the technical support."

"NEST works with a threat-assessment triangle to determine if the threat is viable or not," he explained. "First is 'behavioral resolve': Does the individual or organization sound like they mean business? Second is 'technical feasibility': Do we believe the individual or organization is capable of creating such a device? Third is 'operational practicality': Will the device the individual or group says they have put together actually work and how much damage will it create?"

Altogether, there have been about 600 cases of nuclear-material sales and threats worldwide since NEST began compiling data in 1979, Cantlin said. "Although most nuclear-material sales attempts have been hoaxes, they have involved some type of radioactive material: mostly cesium, cobalt, beryllium, californium, or plutonium-ionization sources like those found in smoke detectors or industrial gauges. Thankfully, however, very little of it has been weapons-grade uranium."

Somebody asked the *big* question: What about the Russians?



German news magazine *Stern* reports in 1994 that a highly placed Russian smuggling ring had stored 8-10 kilograms (17.6-22 pounds) of weapons-grade plutonium in Berlin.

"Quite frankly," Cantlin replied, "the Russians have come a long way in securing their nuclear-material supplies, and the notion that someone or some gang is just going to walk out of a missile base or weapons-storage facility with a nuclear bomb or highly enriched uranium is becoming more and more remote. ..."

Hopefully this is so. But rarely does a month go by without some expert warning that the Russian nuclear arsenal is poorly maintained and poorly secured.

Even the Russian government has readily admitted to the loss of tons of reactor uranium through "probable book-keeping errors." For a hungry and demoralized Russian military officer or scientist with access to these materials, the temptation might be great to make money on the nuclear black market. Retired General Alexander Lebed, former national-security adviser (under Yeltsin) and himself a major political figure, has warned that the situation has the makings of a disaster.



"World Sitrep," March '97 *SOF*: Citing social upheaval, military's discontent, and rise of organized crime, CIA reports say Russian nuclear weapons' security (against unauthorized launch or theft) are weakening. Moscow disagrees, saying safeguards are adequate; Clinton administration concurs.

While *SOF* was denied invitations to a number of Russian nuclear facilities, Hungarian officials gladly opened the doors to the country's only power and research facility, at Paks, 100 kilometers south of Budapest. Of Russian design, Paks was until recently poorly secured and might have been

just the kind of place where savvy terrorists bent on obtaining highly enriched uranium would do their "shopping."

Until early last year it did not even have a secure fence surrounding the facility; anyone wanting in only had to skirt a small forest, a parking lot, and a few watchmen. As luck would have it, no one except a few "Gypsies" looking for "scrap metal" ever walked off with anything from Paks, one official told me.

In A Tough Neighborhood

"No, we've been quite fortunate," said Attila Piros, the commander of the Neutron Team, Paks' on-site security force. "We've never had to deal with anyone attempting to break into this facility, but we have had a number of bomb threats."



News items:

Russian mafia reportedly was behind 1993 theft of radioactive beryllium from a nuclear laboratory and the failed attempt to sell the material in the West. Smugglers tried to sell to an Austrian middleman reportedly representing a buyer willing to pay up to \$24 million. Same year, 6 kilograms (13.2 pounds) of U-235, U-238, radium, and palladium are found in a Kiev, Ukraine, apartment occupied by 2 former army officers.

Piros is a veteran patrolman with the Hungarian national police and graduate of an eight-week course in Alabama conducted by the U.S. Marshall's Service.

"Hungary is a country residing in a tough neighborhood: Ukraine, Romania, the former Yugoslavia, Russia, and Slovakia," the mustachioed officer said. "We've got a serious problem with *mafia* groups from all of these countries, and they would all like to steal everything in this country — that includes nuclear materials from Paks."

Funded entirely by the state-run utility that owns Paks, the Neutron Team is headquartered about 6 kilometers from the plant. The team's office walls are dotted with framed pen-and-ink drawings of U.S. special-response teams.

Only a handful of Neutron personnel were around the headquarters as Piros gave me a quick tour of the arsenal, classrooms, and offices before settling down behind his desk for a cigarette and a frank discussion of his team's specialized capabilities.

"All of our team members are hand-picked police officers already on duty with either the Paks city or Tolna County police

forces," Piros explained. "The 30 active officers make more than the national average of \$250 per month for police officers; receive free housing [from] the power utility, better training than the average police officer; and have access to state-of-the-art equipment. However, they're responsible for a hell of a lot more than the average cop.

"Right now we're working primarily with Israeli-supplied equipment: batons, weapons, body armor, helmets," he said. "We've got a sizable number of UZIs, but we want to purchase all American equipment from Motorola, Point Blank, and new weapons from Heckler & Koch. The UZI is a terrorist weapon and we need an anti-terrorist weapon: the MP5. That's where my employer and I face off: funding and new equipment. Otherwise, everything is just fine."

I was not allowed to photograph any Neutron Team members, but was allowed to visit the tactical squad office deep within the central security ring around Paks' reactor.

"These eight men are responsible for security within the most secure section of the plant: the reactor rooms and the fuel-arrival and -departure docks," Piros said as he led me around the site. "All of them have been trained to fight in the reactor room, as well. They all have special suits and equipment that would allow them to carry out their jobs even if there was a problem here."

The eight on-duty Neutron Team members wore blue tactical uniforms and baseball caps. Their weapons were neatly stored in a rack against the wall. The men looked fit and quite capable.



News items:

Czech police in 1993 seize nearly 3 kilograms of material, later identified as 87.7% "enriched U-235," in Prague and arrest a nuclear physicist and 2 former Soviet citizens.

"In the event of a security alert, this team is charged with guaranteeing that no intruder successfully breaches the inner-most core of this facility," Piros said. "They also have the responsibility of making sure that when new stocks of fuel arrive and old stocks leave the plant by rail, that no one tries to steal it while it remains on Hungarian soil."

Piros said he believes Hungary recently has done a lot to ensure that its nuclear facilities remain secure, but he could not say the same for any of his country's eastern neighbors.

American G-Men Overseas

Warnings like that shouldn't be taken lightly, an FBI agent, based in Europe, told *SOF*. "And don't believe those experts who say that the problem is going away because the figures for nuclear smuggling incidents in 1995 or 1996 were



"World Sitrep," Dec. '96 *SOF*: FBI to reassign 500 agents (5% of force) to counterterrorism, including postings to 46 foreign cities; CIA had objected to FBI's foreign presence.

lower than 1993 or 1994."

He continued: "The first reported nuclear-smuggling cases were marked by their lack of sophistication. More often than not, these smugglers were amateurs and were quickly caught by Russian, German, Hungarian, or other central-European police agencies."



ed "that a very small group which did not have secret information at its disposal would be able to produce a basic, nuclear explosive device."

Not everyone I spoke with in Europe agrees that the difficulty lies mainly in procuring the material, and that everything else would follow easily.

"The idea that anyone in possession of a kilogram of highly enriched uranium or plutonium and who has access to a modern machine shop [can build a bomb] is countered by the fact that a number of countries in the past have tried but failed to build nuclear weapons," Germany's Dr. Kamp said during a follow-up phone call. "Iraq's nuclear program in particular, which was exposed after the Gulf War, is a clear example of the requirements and costs of nuclear capability."



(top left) Nuclear reactor at Paks dominates a cavernous central chamber. (above) Technicians stand beside reactor's cooling pool. (left) Supervisors in central control room monitor Paks' systems but have no video-surveillance cameras for internal security.

"No doubt, given the incredible amount of money involved in this business," the agent continued, "more and more professionals have gotten involved. That raises the stakes and makes the game that more dangerous. Adding insult to injury, many European governments have gone public and said that they've got the problem under complete control, that the problem is all media hype *blah blah*, and that their police have thwarted every attempt at nuclear smuggling at their borders. Quite frankly, it's total BS."

"If one were to use this logic," the FBI agent said with a sour look on his face, "we don't really have a drug problem back in the States because the DEA and Customs seize hundreds of tons of narcotics at the border every year."

Case In Point: Iraq

Time and time again I was told that once a terrorist organization procured enough weapons-grade materials, the creation of a simple, low-yield bomb would be relatively easy. That *worst-case* fear now is 20 years old.

A study published in 1977 by the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment conclud-

As early as the mid-1970s, he said, Iraq began recruiting nuclear experts from industrial countries. For the production of fissionable materials, Iraq turned to the methods of "American nuclear-weapons development applied in the 1940s, which had gigantic energy requirements.

"Worldwide trade links, as well as Iraq's intelligence service's network, were activated to obtain the necessary technology," Kamp said. "Nonetheless, Iraq was unable up until its defeat in 1991 to produce a functioning nuclear weapon. It's difficult to imagine that such an undertaking could be easier for non-government organizations or even individuals."

Let's hope he is right. But there is another nightmarish scenario, one requiring significantly less technology and nuclear know-how: a container full of radioactive material attached to a terrorist's high-explosive device — a contamination bomb. Now that's *really* scary.

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NOYET PROBLEM!

Building Commandos On The Baltic

Text & Photos
by Rob Krott

Ice-cold rainwater ran off the brim of my BDU cap as I bounced, on rappel, off the side of a building. Despite my Gore-Tex parka, I was shivering as drops trickled down my back; served me right for not putting the hood up. I wasn't completely in the snivel mode, though, surrounded by hardworking, young Estonian troops.

The Estonian Special Operations Group's tactical-entry team made its umpteenth rappel and mock assault down the five stories of the old Soviet naval headquarters building. By now they were dragging ass. Driving rain turned to sleet; on top of that, the SOG team's leader was not happy with his troops' performance.

I first met the team leader, Petty Officer Andres Ambros, a few years ago. A former Soviet soldier, he was working as a bodyguard but has since become the Estonian army's top gun for special operations. Dynamic entry, hostage rescue, hand-to-hand, sniping, explosives, scuba, free-fall parachuting, guerrilla warfare — Ambros is *the man* in Estonia.

At 6'4" and 240 pounds, he commands a lot of respect even before you see him in action. A graduate of Heckler & Koch's SWAT course and recipient of some specialized training from U.S. Army Special Forces, Ambros is team leader and its chief instructor. He is assisted by senior troopers "Rags" and "Ingmark." (They saw action previously when renegade soldiers seized one of



Resembling a special-response team such as might be found anywhere in the world, Estonian soldiers carrying H&K MP5 submachine guns and SIG-Sauer 9mm pistols rehearse tactics in vacant buildings on former Soviet military base.

Estonia's islands in a Kafkaesque farce bordering on total insanity.)

I watched the three NCOs put the team members, some of whom were lieutenants, through their paces. It was day 10 of a very hectic training cycle; the troops were beginning to look a little ragged. Ambros, suffering from the stress of his own self-imposed schedule, admitted that everyone was fatigued.

The morning had begun with a 10-man team practicing door entries followed by stairway maneuvers before progressing to room-clearing drills. Next, third-floor

entries through windows as three-man rappelling teams hit the icy, wet bricks.

The young soldiers, grim-faced with determination, pressed on with their training. They knew that lives — not just their own, but those of innocent hostages including women and children — someday might very well depend upon their skills. Highly motivated and in superior physical condition, their dedication to the mission showed. Two SOG troopers were already sidelined with injuries; one of the trainers had a bandaged forehead; and there was the usual assortment of bruised knees, skinned



Estonian SpecOps soldier, in protective mask, emerges from smoke-filled training site. (inset) Elsewhere, soldier assumes security overwatch during building-clearing exercise.



elbows, and aches and pains.

Young Force, Making Do

The Estonian SOG troops give 100% effort; unfortunately, some of their equipment isn't up to SpecOps standards. They lack proper communications, surveillance, and eavesdropping equipment and explosives and pyrotechnics for their specialized work. On the plus side, their pistols, 9mm SIG-Sauer P226s, are good; other issue weapons are 12-gauge pump shotguns, SIG-Sauer sniping rifles, and H&K 9mm MP5 submachine guns (including the "K" models). They are also proficient with the AK series of assault rifles and various light-automatic weapons, including RPDs. The SOG troops wear the old Estonian spotted cammie uniforms for training and the current Estonian camouflage, U.S. woodland-pattern BDUs, or black SWAT-type BDUs for more serious matters.

Standard personal equipment in Estonian SOG comprises Israeli Kevlar helmets with face shields, Israeli flak vests, and Israeli chest-pouch load-bearing equipment — serviceable but the wrong gear for this kind of work. Each SOG trooper needs a SWAT-style assault vest. The Estonians are issued folding-stock Galil-type rifles. Bad choice: The 5.56x45mm is entirely the *wrong* cartridge for this part of the world.

As of 1996, the Estonian government's defense policy regarding a Russian invasion basically is for Estonian troops to kill as many Russians soldiers as possible, fade into the woods, become guerrillas, and continue to kill Russians. A problem with this wartime scenario: Who would resupply Estonia with 5.56mm ammo? If logistics alone mattered, the Estonian military *should* have bought Bulgarian-made AK-74s in 5.45x39mm; then their soldiers could just strip dead Russians of their rifle ammo. (The choice of a 5.56mm weapon admittedly might have something to do with

Estonia's well-known desire to join NATO — and put the Cold War behind them.)

The preponderance of things Israeli comes from aggressive Israeli marketing of surplus weapons and equipment and some unorthodox training regimens to the Baltic states — some would say to bad effect. I would see more of the Israeli influence later in neighboring Latvia, where I observed a hostage-rescue unit practice *kata*-style pistol drills using the trademark Israeli "horse-stance" firing position. The performance was not impressive.



SOG team leader, Petty Officer Andres Ambros, prepares demolition charge on door that will be blown open during dynamic-entry training.

Moreover, the Latvian operators also were armed with mini-UZIs — a lousy choice for a dynamic-entry weapon. At least the Estonians have MP5s.

Just Another Training Day

Andres, along with "Ragnar," a Soviet- and Estonian-police-trained operator, met me at the airport the night before. (When you arrive at a foreign airport it's nice to be met by the military and secret police — *if* they're your friends.)

We lugged my gear outside and climbed into a Chevrolet CUCV, the U.S. military's version of the Chevy Blazer. The Estonian

army has received several U.S. surplus vehicles including 5/4-ton pickups. For the discreet transport of troops, SOG uses various civilian sedans and Ford Transit vans with tinted windows loaded with contingency gear. But Ambros said he'd rather have a Humvee: "I want Hummer, like Desert Storm!"

He was still a petty officer only because he's too valuable doing the SOG job to take time out to attend an officer's course. He will, however, sit for the officer's exam eventually. In the post-Soviet era, the tiny Baltic nation of Estonia is building its own military forces from the ground up. The new Defense Force is young — and so are the troops. So for Ambros and his crew, Saturday was just another training day.

We drove out to an old Soviet firing range complete with trench lines and foxholes on the berm. A two-story building and control tower also were used for entry drills with explosive charges, scaling ladders, and rappelling gear.

There I met Rene, an Estonian police officer and friend of Ambros. Dressed in American woodland BDUs, cap, and Gore-Tex parka, he was going to work out on the pistol range — or what was left of the range after the departing Soviet army had trashed it. He asked me to tag along and try out his SIG-Sauer semiauto pistols. We scrounged some trash and cardboard for targets. Rene is a real likable guy; very charismatic. He told me he was on his way to a Florida police academy. We cranked off a few rounds.

After blowing off Rene's pistol ammo we returned to observe Ambros' guys back in training. The SOG team was working *hard* and it was really beginning to show. Noticeably less sharp in the movements and in the conduct of their training drills, they were all dragging ass. One of the SOG



(above) As team leader Ambros looks on, SOG entry team takes places aboard BTR-70 modified for counterterrorist ops. (Vehicle's 14.5mm heavy machine gun is covered by canvas.) As teammates provide cover, (left) SOG troops scramble up ladder into target building's second floor.

troopers lost control of his rappel rope and, instead of braking, made a two-handed grab at the rope — and kissed the side of the building. Ouch.

Soviet Military Leftovers

Ambros later rigged a field-expedient explosive-entry device with two sticks of Amatol as he instructed his team on the entry technique. Plastique and timers are expensive, so for training the team uses Amatol rigged for electrical detonation via communications wire linked to an old Soviet blasting machine.

The door blew with a satisfying *Whoom!* As flash-bang grenade simulators detonated, a team busted through the smoke, gunning down the “terrorists.” Then a Soviet-made BTR-70 armored personnel carrier was brought in for a mock assault on the building under cover of smoke.

Some old Soviet army buildings standing nearby were perfect for entry drills. Ambros tossed some tear-gas grenades for added realism. I got to play the part of terrorist (not that difficult of a role).

The next day I found myself on the way to a local marina with Ambros to do some impromptu explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). It had started out as a normal day, with the petty officer handling routine SOG business as I tagged along. Ambros normally drives “aggressively” while his tape-deck blasts “technopop” music at a deafening level, so it’s doubly disconcerting when he answers his cellular phone and slides the Audi through an illegal U-turn without slowing down, the phone jammed to his ear. Now we were really screaming through the streets of Tallinn, the capital.

“Rob! What you know about mines?”

“Uhh, just the basic stuff.”

“What you know about Soviet mines?”

“Um, probably not as much as you, Andres.”

“Okay, we go.”

How do I get myself into these things?

The Norwegian ambassador’s “Norwegian Constitution Day” party was scheduled for the next day at the marina; there, a breakwater was being dug up to allow the sea into a man-made lagoon fronted by a large wooden party deck. SOG was providing security for the diplomatic event.

At the excavation site we found three Soviet antitank mines, minus the fuzes, that had been dropped neatly beside a bulldozer — whose driver was missing in action. They appeared to be TM-46s without the MV-5 fuze, although the mines were too old and rusted to be identified accurately. We soon found two more AT mines and inspected what looked like an OZM-3, an antipersonnel “Bouncing Betty” mine, with a damaged fuze. Real deal or what, we didn’t know. Andres called his Estonian police EOD friends.

A few days later the SOG had bodyguard detail for General Owe Wiktorin, the supreme commander of Swedish armed forces, during his visits to Tartu, Narva, and Tallin. The SpecOps troops, and Ambros in particular, were under the gun with VIPs to protect: Colonel Johannes Kert, commander of Estonian Defense Forces, and Andrus Oovel, the Estonian minister of defense, accompanied Gen. Wiktorin during an obligatory wreath-laying ceremony and visits to historic sites in the three cities.

There were no incidents; SOG stood down. After a high-profile protection detail like that, stressed-out operators usually want to catch up on sleep. Not Ambros.

From VIPs To Flounder

The very next day he had me, Ingmark, and Ragnar back out to the marina for some scuba diving and spearfishing. The Baltic seawater was very cold. When I saw some civilian scuba instructors don dry suits, my attitude improved a little.

“Okay, dry suits!” I said. Ambros just looked at me for a moment before slapping me across the back (and almost off the quay).

“Dry suits is for wimpies,” he boomed. “We dive wet suits!”

Visibility was okay, for a cold-water



SOG troops repeatedly practice rappelling down sides of buildings in full combat gear.

Baltic dive, but occasionally an eddy or current in the harbor would stir up some silt. After about 40 minutes of bottom time, during which we ran a compass course and shot some flounder, we surfaced for a position check. My feet were numb and my hands were beginning to cramp. Ambros looked at me and said, “How you doing?”

Pulling out my regulator, my cold lips quivering, I said, “I can’t feel my feet and your lips are blue.”

“*Nyet problem!* Only 10 more minutes,” Ambros replied. “We hunt more fish.”

Damn — I don’t even like flounder.

Spirit Of The Airborne

The next day I met Ambros, Ingmark, and Ragnar for parachute training. We piled into the SOG van. When we reached the airfield we were met by some veterans of

Soviet *Spetsnaz* and Afghanistan, and their lady friends. (Before its breakup, the Soviet Union maintained the world’s largest force of SpecOps troops. The military-intelligence directorate, GRU, controlled the *Voiska Spetsial’novo Naznacheniya*: special-assignment forces that, in World War III, would have tried to assassinate NATO leaders, attacked NATO command centers and nuclear-weapons sites, and sabotaged European power grids.)

Ambros had brought along something for them to play with: an unloaded MP5K. The ex-*Spetsnaz* admiringly passed around the German-made submachine gun. Their girlfriends all acted suitably bored. It was about 1000 hours, I hadn’t had breakfast, and everyone was offering me vodka.

Ambros gave me a tour of the airfield and the old Soviet army parachute-training facilities, which though spartan were still adequate. We each grabbed a sausage and cheese sandwich at a kiosk in a trailer park-like arrangement near the airfield. More vodka was passed around. Then it was down to business.

Out on the drop zone I was issued a Soviet D-5 parachute and received a hasty equipment orientation. The vodka was still flowing; everyone kept offering me a glass.

Most of the women were drinking a canned gin drink — wicked stuff. I think I was the only sober jumper on the DZ. When I explained to one of the ex-*Spetsnaz* that it was illegal in the United States for a parachutist, military or civilian, to use alcohol before a jump, he was dumbfounded. He felt sorry for us rule-bound Americans.

“But you must drink vodka, because jumping can be scary.” Yes, I agreed (especially if it’s with a planeload of sloshed *Spetsnaz* veterans).

One of the guys, Ivan, was telling me — between shots of vodka — how he was planning to make a jump at 500 feet *without* a reserve parachute. He was trying to talk me into doing the same. I

begged off, explaining that I’d never jumped with Soviet equipment and needed some practice. Ivan said he really liked low-altitude jumps: “Is good, *da*. You jump and then are on ground. Is very fast.” *Fast* — that’s what I was worried about.

Before long it began to rain and everyone worried our jump would be called off.

Some civilian skydivers were given the brush-off and told to come back tomorrow. The rest of us finished suiting up. Rain, *nyet* problem. Wind, *nyet* problem. Vodka, *nyet* problem.

I strapped myself into the Soviet-made parachute, which looked a lot like my OD-green Army laundry bag stuffed with a sleeping bag and tied off with clothesline. My reserve had an automatic-activation

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Gulf War Syndrome

Drumbeat of Denial

Congressional Hearings Provide Voice For Vets And Victims

by Dale B. Cooper

“**N**ever a single time that we were in the Gulf did we have a confirmed report of any chemical weapons being used or discovered. Not one single time.” — General Norman H. Schwarzkopf, on the *Today Show*.

This pronouncement echoed a 1994 statement by Defense Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs. “There is no information, classified or unclassified,” said Perry and Shalikashvili, “that indicates chemical or biological weapons were used in the Persian Gulf.”

But hours after Schwarzkopf appeared on the *Today Show*, a House panel chaired by Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., opened another congressional oversight hearing into the question of chemical exposure.

Asked how long the hearings would continue, an aide to Shays told *SOF*, “We will hold these hearings ’til hell freezes over if that’s what it takes to force the Pentagon to come clean on this issue.” There’s talk the panel may subpoena some major players, including Schwarzkopf and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Colin Powell.

That same day, three veterans of the Gulf War gave sworn testimony before Shays’ subcommittee. One by one, the men refuted what their former commanders said.

Marine Corps Major Randy Hebert had to be helped to his feet by his wife and father to be sworn in. Hebert, diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis — “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”), spoke through his wife and his father, who translated his garbled speech, but his written statement was clear and intelligible: “I believe my medical problems are due to low-level chemical exposure over an extended period of time.” Hebert had been assigned to the 2nd Combat Engineering Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, where he was officer in charge of breaching Iraqi minefields in front of the division, and creating emergency lanes to evacuate casualties, approximately 2.5 miles from the border of Kuwait near an area known as the “Elbow,” the Umm Gudair Oil Fields.



Major Michael Johnson, U.S. Army

GI directs Fox vehicles into position at Kuwaiti school for girls where container of mustard gas was found along the outer wall. British soldier (nearest Fox) picks up contaminated protective underwear of soldier who spilled some of the blister agent on his wrist, prepares to burn it. (below) Three members of decontamination team stand by to aid any soldier who might come in contact with the mustard gas.



Major Michael Johnson, U.S. Army

The first encounter with chemical mines came at 0630 24 February 1991. A Fox vehicle (see sidebar) confirmed positive readings for a nerve agent and mustard gas. A second detecting device confirmed it with the same positive reading.

At the time, Gen. Keys, 2nd Division commander, and Colonel Livingston, commander of the 6th Marine Regiment, told reporters they believed it was possible a chemical mine was blown up or hit.

The Pentagon says there is no evidence

to suggest such exposure leads to Lou Gehrig’s Disease, but DoD cannot explain why half a dozen other Gulf War veterans also developed ALS.

Detected, Confirmed, Reported

Hebert learned after the War that the chemical mine which detonated in Lane Red One was confirmed for the nerve agent Sarin and also the blister agent Lewisite mustard gas, by a Fox vehicle in that lane.

The chemical-mine confirmation was



(top) Vapor from container of mustard gas, punctured by a rifle bullet, stained wall of school (at left of nearest telephone pole). (above) Soldiers at tank near wall take final samples of mustard gas liquid before sealing the cylinder. (left) Brits and GIs spray decontamination solutions on the rear of the Fox vehicles after testing samples, and treating British soldier for mustard gas burns.

reported by the regimental commander of 6th Marines and also reported up the chain of command by the 2nd Marine Division commander.

Hebert says late last year at Camp Lejeune, the commandant of the Marine Corps told him the Corps believes "chemical weapons were used during the Gulf War."

SOF has obtained a target list of 27 airfields, ammo dumps, and storage facilities where Iraqi chemical weapons were known or suspected — targets hit by U.S. aircraft

between 17 January and 21 February 1991. According to records of the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing in Taif, Saudi Arabia, the unit's F-111 aircraft bombed 32 chemical targets, 113 bunkers, 11 Scud-missile sites and four mine portals.

After the first two weeks of the air campaign, Schwarzkopf reported 535 sorties against NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) installations, and a few days later cited "absolute confirmation" that 11 of Saddam's chemical and biological storage areas were

destroyed and three biochemical weapons factories damaged. The Defense Intelligence Agency reports, "All known or suspected Chemical Warfare and Biological Warfare storage sites were damaged or destroyed during Desert Storm with the exception of four cruciform bunkers at Al Muthanna and two refrigerated bunkers."

Iraq declared that 2,500 chemical rockets containing some 17 metric tons of Sarin nerve agent were destroyed at Al Muthanna, the primary Iraqi chemical-weapon production and storage facility 80 kilometers northwest of Baghdad, and 2.0 metric tons of nerve agents (12 Sarin-filled aerial bombs and 200 mustard-filled bombs) were destroyed during Coalition attacks on a storage site at Muhammadiyat.

U.S. military doctrine warns that under certain weather conditions the use of a nerve agent against a 2.5-acre target can create a hazard zone up to 100 kilometers in length. With this kind of dispersal, military units downwind would have to take protective measures. Unclassified U.S. satellite imagery confirms that debris from Coalition bombing was upwardly dispersed, causing chemical agents to be carried by upper atmospheric currents over a wide area in the Persian Gulf.

Making this more ominous is the discovery that entries in chemical warfare logs maintained by NBC officers at CENTCOM are missing. The very existence of the logs was kept secret until 1994. Senator Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va, believes someone deliberately got rid of the logs, but has no proof. Twenty-six pages of chemical warfare logs kept by the NBC desk at CENTCOM show Central Command received dozens of reports of chemical detections during the war, including reports from Czech soldiers whose detections were later found by the Pentagon to be valid. During the war, however, such reports were routinely dismissed as false.

Another Set Of Logs

During a hearing of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on 8 January, Rockefeller dropped a bombshell on Acting CIA Director George Tenet and two deputies, Executive Director Nora Slatkin and Sylvia Copeland, chief analyst for Gulf War matters, when he asked if they were aware of Executive Officer Logs that were maintained by an officer who followed Schwarzkopf everywhere he went, jotting down what he said, and what he was told. "No," replied the trio.

After informing the CIA officials that the so-called "XO Logs" covered every hour Schwarzkopf spent in the Persian Gulf, and "were kept exclusively for his own use," Rockefeller said he couldn't believe the CIA didn't know about the logs. Schwarzkopf has invited a committee member or staff member to come to his office in Florida and look at his logs first hand, but calls suggestions of a coverup "ridiculous." Schwarzkopf insists there is nothing in his personal logs about chemical exposure.

The missing CENTCOM logs would be

"critical" to computer modeling the "Pit Area" at Khamisiyah, were perhaps 1,000 Sarin-filled rockets were destroyed on 10 March 1991.

Although *SOF* has interviewed almost a dozen soldiers who have gotten sick after Khamisiyah, the Pentagon says there is no record of any soldier coming down sick after the pit and bunkers that contained chemical weapons were destroyed on 4 and 10 March. But the Pentagon is asking some 2,000 troops who were in the vicinity of the detonations to contact officials with details of the events and any subsequent health problems.

Precluding False Alarms

Chemical detection equipment in Fox vehicles was calibrated by General Dynamics, the manufacturer, only days before the ground war began. Fox vehicles, operated by highly skilled, professionally trained personnel, confirmed chemical agents in several locations — as did the Czechs, who are considered the best in the world at chemical detection.

Testifying before the subcommittee on possible chemical exposure to U.S. troops, Gunnery Sergeant George J. Grass also contradicted what Schwarzkopf said a few hours earlier about no chemical weapons being used, or any valid detections during the Gulf War. Grass, the commander of a Fox recon vehicle for 1st Marine Division's Task Force Ripper, says chemical detection teams didn't take any chances with faulty equipment. Approximately 24 to 48 hours prior to the breaching of Iraqi minefields in front of the division, Grass says all Fox vehicles were given a final operations and functions test.

On 22 February, two days before the ground war began, Recon Marines slipped into a double belt of minefields under the cover of darkness, and detected the presence of Viscella 69 mines — known to contain chemical warfare agents. After Task Force Ripper took Al-Jaber airfield, the mobile

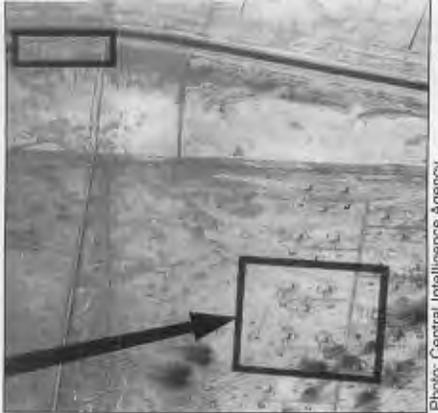


Photo: Central Intelligence Agency

CIA overall aerial photo of Khamisiyah Ammunition Storage Complex in Southern Iraq taken on 10 February 1991 shows "pit" storage area containing mustard gas rockets and bombs at upper left. Bunker 73, which contained Sarin and mustard gas, is at lower left of larger box. Both were destroyed by explosives, as were all conventional munitions in complex, by U.S. ground troops. Blackened areas show earlier USAF bombing, which had been ineffective.

mass spectrometer alerted Grass' crew to a lethal vapor concentration of mustard gas.

The next time Grass and his Fox vehicle had verifiable positive chemical agent readings was at an ammunition supply point for the Iraqi 3d Armored Corps just outside Kuwait city, where the alarm on the mass spectrometer sounded with a full and distinct spectrum across the monitor, indicating a lethal vapor concentration of S-mustard.

As Grass and his crew drove closer to the ammo bunkers, they could see skulls and crossed bones painted on yellow tape with red lettering, and boxes of ammo bearing red skulls and crossed bones painted on them.

Sick, Dead

As Grass drove on, the alarm sounded again in his Fox vehicle; indicating a lethal concentration of H-mustard, a highly volatile blister agent. Benzene bromide

was also detected.

Since returning from the Gulf War, Grass has spoken to almost every Fox vehicle commander from both the 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions. "Every one of them has verbally acknowledged the positive identification of chemical agents in their area of operation," said Grass. Grass told *SOF* that every member of the security team assigned to prevent fellow Marines from "lighting up" his vehicle, which resembles a Soviet armored vehicle, is either sick or dead.

Chemical warfare agents were also discovered in Kuwait after the war, by Major Michael Johnson, commander of the Army's 54th Chemical Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, on 7 and 8 August 1991. Like Grass, Johnson knew his Fox vehicles were operating properly and their crews were highly trained technicians.

On 5 August, British Royal Engineers had discovered H-mustard while clearing unexploded ordnance at Sabahiyah High School for Girls in Kuwait City: A large steel cylinder capable of containing 1,000 liters of highly volatile blister agent was leaking light, copper-colored vapor through a bullet hole.

While withdrawing some liquid from the container, a British soldier spilled a few drops on his left wrist and the blister grew from the size of a stick pin to a half dollar in minutes. Within seconds of sampling the liquid inside the drum, Johnson's Fox vehicle identified the substance as highly concentrated H-mustard with traces of phosgene, a non-persistent choking agent, and phosgene oxime, a non-persistent blister agent. A second Fox team confirmed the findings.

Like Grass, Johnson and Fox team leaders under his command removed printout tapes from mass spectrometers in their vehicles, which were turned over to personnel wearing desert camouflage displaying no rank or unit patches, and were never seen again.

After Johnson testified before

Nuclear-Biological-Chemical Recon System

The M93 "Fox" NBCRS is one of many mission-specific variations of Thyssen Henschel's *Transportpanzer 1* 6x6 amphibian APC, first fielded as Germany's NBCRS in 1988. The modified XM93 was selected by the U.S. Army in 1989.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait, Bonn offered Coalition coun-

tries Bundeswehr NBC vehicles "off the shelf." We received 60, upgrading ammo, weapons, air conditioning and other engineering features. Considering the drawdown at war's end and that we had 60 German vehicles, planned U.S. production was canceled in favor of a General Dynamics/Thyssen upgrade to M93A1 standard.

Commencing 1996, Block 1 upgrades should be fully fielded by 1998. Upgrades include crew reduction from four to three, improved mount for the M21 remote sensing arm, improved sensors to monitor air conditions, GPS for driver and commander, digital radio transmission, and a commander's monitor to display either mass spectrometer data or pictures from the M21, for enhanced monitoring and analysis of NBC threats.

The M93 series is powered by a Mercedes-Benz V-8 diesel, with a road speed of 105 km/hr and water speed of 10 km/hr. Combat weight is 17,000 kg, range 800 km. —Don McLean



Photo: Sgt. Terry J. Goodman, USA

Army Chemical School student talks with Fox driver from commander's position as he navigates amphibious NBC recon vehicle at Neely Henry Lake, Alabama.



Maj. Randy Hebert

Congressman Shays' subcommittee, he was taken immediately before the Army Inspector General for a taped briefing. Before Johnson was excused, the IG told him, "You're in a tough spot."

Johnson told *SOF* his career is over, and he expects to leave the Army soon. "I see the writing on the wall," said Johnson, "I'm not going anywhere." But Johnson will leave with the satisfaction of knowing he wasn't part of any alleged coverup.

At the time of this writing, Maj. Randy Hebert is waiting to be medically discharged from the Marine Corps.

Back To The Drawing Board

When Congressman Shays began hearings a year ago into possible exposure of U.S. troops to Iraqi chemical weapons, the Pentagon position consisted of three noes: *no* credible detections, *no* exposures, and therefore *no* provable health consequences among Gulf War veterans.

Those denials were echoed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, (VA) and, regrettably, are reflected in their research and treatment priorities. Today, two of the three pillars of denial have crumbled under the weight of reluctantly disclosed facts. There *were* credible, verified detections of chemical nerve and blister agents. The President's Advisory Committee on Persian Gulf Veteran's Illnesses concluded detections of chemical nerve agents by Czech technicians in January 1991 were credible, and the Department of Defense (DoD) investigative team is examining records from 20 other detections previously dismissed or discounted.

As a result, the number of U.S. Gulf War veterans presumed to have been exposed to chemical warfare agents has climbed from zero, to 400, to 1,100, to 5,000, to 15,000 to more than 20,000. In the months ahead, *SOF* was told, the number of credible expo-



Cpl. George J. Grass, USMC

Marines from 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion detonate mines from one of the medical evacuation lanes through Iraqi mine belts in Kuwait. Fox vehicles detected lethal levels or various war gasses after certain of these mines were blown. (inset) L/Cpl. Maison, driver, poses with Marine Fox vehicle the evening before they crossed into Kuwait.

sures may go much higher — maybe over the quarter-million mark.

When Rep. Shays opened his latest round of oversight hearings into U.S. troop exposure to Iraqi chemical weapons, he threw the gauntlet at DoD's feet: "Detections of chemical nerve agents in a combat theater should trigger protective countermeasures and decontamination procedures, but during the Gulf War, chemical alarms only signaled the beginning of denials and coverups," said Shays.

Congressional Inquiry

Recent revelations about the detection of chemical warfare agents in the Gulf War theater challenge widely held conclusions about the effectiveness of U.S. Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) defense doctrine. Throughout Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, thousands of chemical alarms were routinely dismissed.

Shays has concluded that these admissions compel a complete re-evaluation of all policies and medical protocols built on the shifting sands of DoD denials. The VA says it has always "remained open" to the possibility that toxic exposures play a role in Gulf War illnesses, yet it wasn't until October 1995 that the VA's Persian Gulf Registry Code Sheet, the basic screening tool used to evaluate a veteran's health, contained specific questions about chemical alarms, nerve agent exposures, or other toxins.

Had the VA been more open to capturing

data on possible chemical exposures among the 53,000 veterans it diagnosed between 1991 and 1995, we might today have in hand clinical data that could yield answers, and save lives. Instead, research on the long-term effects of low-level exposures is just beginning — seven years after the fact.

Chemical detection data is critical medical intelligence for a sick veteran trying to establish a service-connected disability claim, or trying to provide a doctor with a complete toxic exposure history.

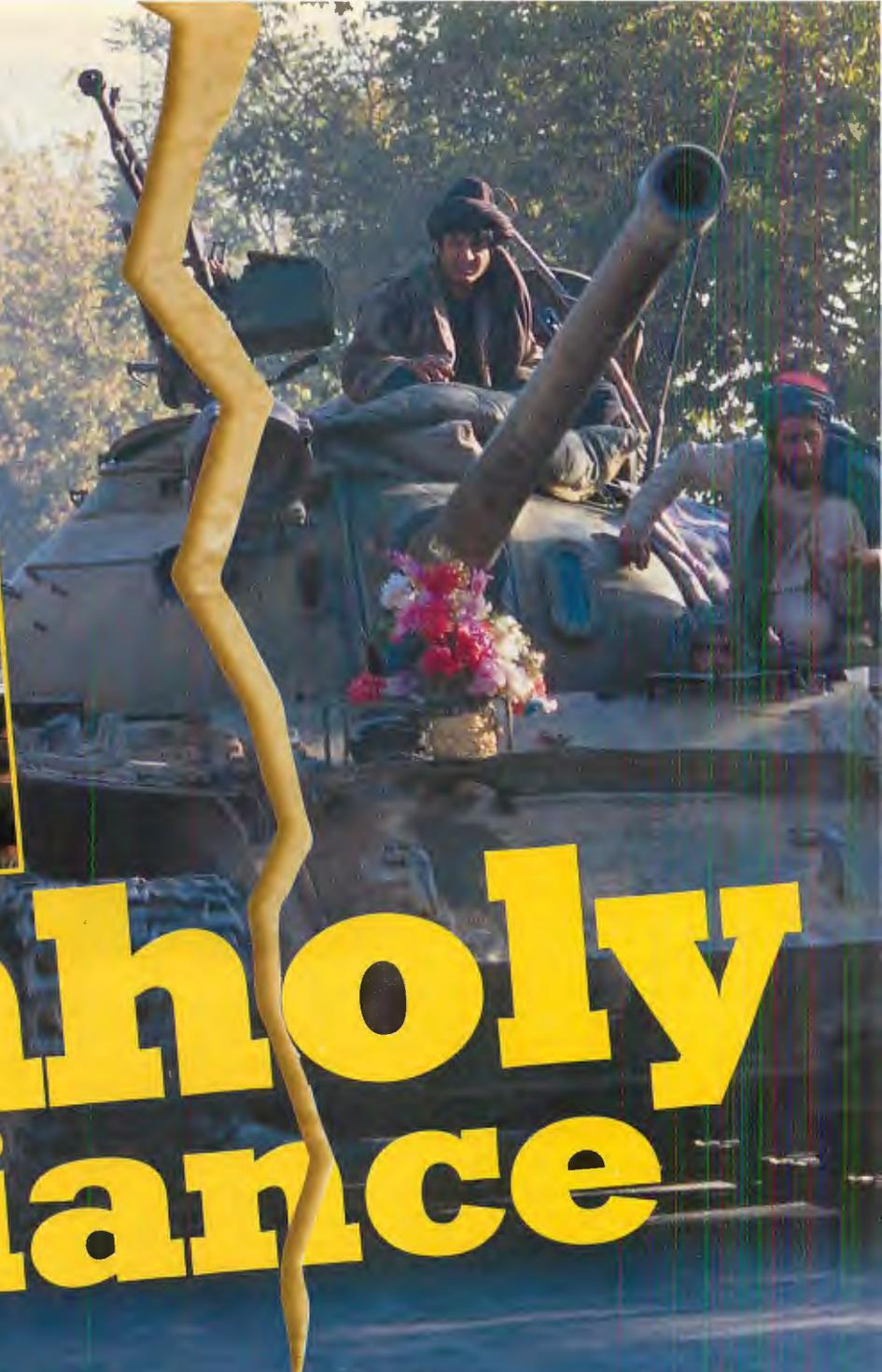
Sadly, the information has not been forthcoming from DoD. Evidence of toxic chemical detection in the Gulf War has been lost, destroyed or misrepresented, perhaps even suppressed, in an effort to bolster the premature, now insupportable, conclusion that coalition forces encountered no chemical warfare agents. Lacking that information, vital research into the effects of low-level chemical exposures has been tragically delayed and many Gulf war veterans have gotten sicker — some have died.

Only when all of this information is available will veterans, their families and their physicians be able to determine the role of toxic chemicals in causing the variety of illnesses now called "Gulf War Syndrome."

Only then can the "All Clear" be sounded.

Foreign correspondent Dale B. Cooper has covered the Gulf War and subsequent developments for SOF from day one. ✕

Victorious, and unopposed, Taliban militia arrives in central Kabul after heavy fighting outside city convinced government troops they should live to fight another day. (inset below) Unaccustomed to anything *but* fighting in their city, Kabulis initially received Taliban with more curiosity than fear.



Unholy Alliance

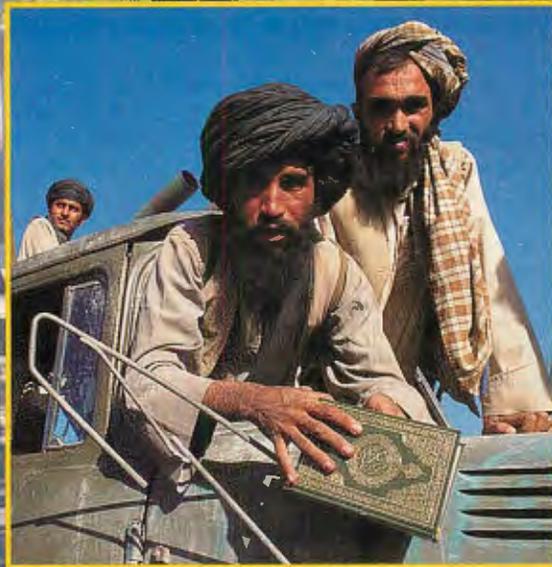
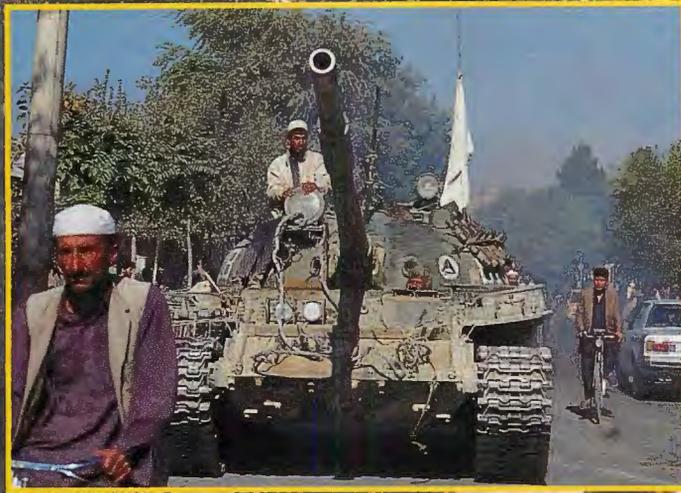
Inside Afghanistan's Taliban Militia

In Afghanistan there's one rule of thumb that never fails: The only thing you can reasonably expect is the totally unexpected. That's never been more true than with the latest and most bizarre phenomenon to emerge from the chaos that's overtaken the country — the *Taliban* religious militia. Nobody predicted the emergence of this ultra-radical army of zealots who've put real meaning into that much overworked term "Islamic fundamentalist." Nobody predicted that a movement with a "political agenda" consisting of executing TV sets, banning soccer, and confining women to their homes would sweep two-thirds of the country. And nobody predicted that in less than two years they'd seize the capital, Kabul.

For considerably longer than a year, the Afghan war — which, this time, pitted the ethnically Pushtun Taliban against the moderate

Islamic government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani — was locked in stalemate. Then, in late summer, events abruptly began to unfold with stunning speed. In mid-September the Taliban captured the eastern city of Jalalabad, advancing on the highway town of Sarobi, east of Kabul where Rabbani's military commander, former mujahideen *supremo* Ahmad Shah Massoud, had staked his defense.

Approached from the east by a long, narrow gorge, Sarobi is no easy objective. Sitting in Islamabad in neighboring Pakistan, I — and plenty of others — figured any Taliban offensive would be weeks or even months in preparation. So when on 25 September I learned that not only had Sarobi fallen the night before, but that the Taliban were still moving toward Kabul, it was horribly clear this was shaping up as another Afghan special. At 0530 the next morning I was banging on doors at the U.N. flight office and at 0800 was aboard a small tur-



(inset top) Well-equipped from the stores of individual militias and warlords they had defeated, the Taliban also received logistical support and command and control functions from the Paks — critical to the success of their well-orchestrated conquest of Kabul. (inset above) Koran in hand, Taliban zealots occupy the Afghan capitol of Kabul, abandoned by government forces of Ahmad Shah Massood.

Text & Photos by Mike Winchester

boprop flying into government-held Bagram airbase to evacuate foreign U.N. personnel. Coming out, it would be full: Flying in it was no big surprise to discover I was the only passenger.

Bagram itself is situated 50 klicks north of Kabul and since late '95, when Kabul airport was closed by Taliban rockets, it had been the city's only airport. The road into town was surprisingly quiet, as was the city itself — far too quiet. There were few civilians on the streets and not much military movement, but from the eastern edge of town, the thud of incoming artillery was clearly audible.

Before heading to the front, I checked in for a chat with U.N. Field Security. The guy in charge was Alan Brimelow, an ex-Australian Army colonel with two Vietnam tours and 26 years in armor behind him. He wasn't optimistic: Kabul had maybe a couple of days, he reckoned. Talib advance elements had already bro-

ken out from the mountains 20-odd klicks east of the city and were heavily engaged with government defenders at the village of Pul-i-Charkhi on the edge of the Kabul plain. Government armored reinforcements and airstrikes using Mi-24 "Hind" choppers and Su-22 bombers weren't stopping them.

Border Patrol

The sheer momentum of a multi-pronged advance was irresistible. Half an hour later I was driving out toward Pul-i-Charkhi in a battered Land Rover with another *SOF* man, Jake Border. Border, a Kiwi, was recently back in Kabul after nearly a year in and out of hospitals. He'd been wounded in fighting near Kabul in October 1995 when a mortar bomb being fired from a nearby position had exploded in the tube, killing the two mortarmen and critically wounding him. That had been Friday, 13 October, and the way I read it, the moral of the story was clear enough. But this was a Thursday and the 26th.

On the edge of town near the Mikrorayan housing complex, several T-55 MBTs had taken up positions and troops were digging slit trenches and reinforcing bunkers. We kept moving out along the road past what used to be Kabul's industrial belt. BMPs loaded with troops and tanks were roaring past at full tilt, last reinforcements for the battle at Pul-i-Charkhi that was still underway. We never got that far. Five klicks down the road we were halted by incoming artillery rounds falling ahead.

Then the road between us and the city began taking 122mm rounds, impacting directly on the tarmac less than 100 meters away. The message was clear both north and south of the highway: The Talibs were maneuvering around the main government block. It was time to be leaving. We headed back to town to prepare for what promised to be a night of bitter house-to-house fighting — or a violent orgy of looting.

Or, this being Afghanistan, most likely both.

To Fight Another Day

What neither of us knew, was that an hour earlier government commander Massood had already issued orders for all his forces to withdraw from Kabul. He was about to attempt one of the riskiest maneuvers any army can make: an orderly retreat under cover of darkness with rear elements still in contact with an advancing enemy. There were two reasons behind the decision: First, a battle for Kabul would inevitably have caused massive civilian

casualties. Second, fighting for Kabul would have meant the destruction of most of his forces. The rest would have risked being cut off from retreating north to their Panjshir Valley base by another Talib advance, which from Sarobi had pushed up the Tagab Valley and threatened Bagram. Military common sense dictated surviving to fight another day.

By dusk the streets were full: pedestrians, cyclists, trucks, armored vehicles and cars laden with bedding, furniture and even people piled into the trunk. Many northerners with private transport were already aware of the withdrawal and were getting out while they still could.

By nightfall, fighting had reached Mikrorayan. Bunkered down in the U.N. Staff House near the city center, I sat amid the last of the U.N.'s staff in the city. Acting head was a former Turkish

colonel; then there was Brimelow, and a couple of Brit deminers. Over the last of the beer and a growing pile of cigarette stubs, we sat and waited.

Also bracing for a long night was Kabul's best-known resident: former communist president Najibullah. It turned out to be his last. In April 1992, a U.N. attempt to smuggle the toppled dictator out of the city had been foiled at Kabul Airport by officers of his own National Guard. Since then he, along with his younger brother, an aide and a former bodyguard, had been confined to a U.N. guest-house in central Kabul. Life had not been too rough: he had access to satellite TV, literature, gym equipment and occasionally a sat-phone to talk with his family in New Delhi.

That day, though, Najib had been a worried man. Government security chiefs had urged him to leave with them for the north. But fearful for his own safety beyond the walls of the U.N. compound, he had refused to go, calling on Brimelow to intercede on his behalf. Finally, Massood's men had shrugged their shoulders and left.

Around 1900 hours an Afghan U.N. staffer phoned in from Mikrorayan: Fighting was in full swing around his apartment block. Then no more calls. Around 2030 hours I stepped out onto the street. Only then did I realize just what was going down. The sound of fighting had tapered off. But a steady stream of trucks and armored vehicles piled high with troops and weapons was grinding down the street. And on both sides of the vehicles moved silent files of government soldiers lugging rocket-launchers, machine guns and mortars. One army was clearly leaving town; the other had yet to arrive. But the city was changing hands.

I turned in around 2300 only to be waked at 0250 by a massive explosion —



Victorious Taliban fighters relax on the grounds of the presidential palace.

right outside. As I rolled out of bed and struggled to get my boots on, my first thoughts were that the U.N. compound was under direct attack; or that a tank battle was underway in the street outside. From the window I could see a barracks across the narrow street was consumed in a sea of fire, roaring flames leaping up into the darkness. Brimelow was already up, directing local staffers as they struggled to extinguish a fire in a U.N. vehicle parked in the compound: "Ammunition going up!" he yelled. He added that an hour earlier, a radio message had come in from the U.N. Guest House three clicks across town: Armed men had arrived and escorted Najib away.

Under New Mismanagement

For the rest of the night there wasn't much sleep. And at dawn I headed out to check out who, if anyone, was in control of the city. Many locals, relieved but still cautious, were doing the same thing. Word on the street was that the Talibs had already taken over — and that they'd just strung up

Najib outside the Presidential Palace.

It took only 10 minutes to reach Aryana Square in a taxi, weaving down the main avenue past newly arriving Taliban tanks and scores of citizens on push-bikes. And sure enough, on the farther side of what is in fact a large round-about outside the palace grounds, two bodies were swinging from a traffic control tower. There was also a large crowd of locals and Taliban troops on flatbed trucks and pick-ups. I pushed through to the front, still unsure whether this could really be the man who had dominated Afghan politics for more than 10 years, first as head of the KGB-trained secret police, then from 1986 as president.

But it was indeed Najib. He looked older and smaller than when I'd last seen him in 1992. Added to which, most of the side of his skull had been battered in and there was blood across his face and body. He'd either been bludgeoned to death or, as one bizarre rumor had it, dragged behind a speeding truck. His brother Shahpur Ahmadzai had been hung beside him, strung up and throt-



Former communist President Najibullah, in quarantine at a U.N. guest house, was extracted by the Taliban to become a victim of the drug wars, i.e. he was unceremoniously "drug" behind a truck and then strung up. (right) Taliban militiamen use whips and rifle butts to constrain crowd of curious onlookers at public hanging of former President Najibullah.



On the afternoon of 26 September, this BMP-1 loaded with exuberant government troops heads out of Kabul toward front lines to engage Taliban militia. Exuberance did not last long.

tled to death a few inches off the ground. Both of them had had cigarettes thrust into their dead fingers and near worthless Afghan currency into their pockets — parting gestures of Taliban contempt.

But the crowd was not in a festive mood. There was no jeering, no laughter, no smiles. Najib may not have been popular but he had been respected by Kabulis and the brutality of the end shocked them. Pushto-speaking country boys, the Taliban were now masters of a relatively sophisticated Persian-speaking city. And even on that first morning they began to show their arrogance, pushing back spectators from around the hangings with whips and bayonets. Within hours came edicts closing girls' schools, banning women from the work-place and enforcing male attendance in mosques. These were victors with a direct line to God: Winning human hearts and minds was not even on the agenda.

Roots Of The Taliban

What was this army of religious zealots that had taken Kabul and now looked ready to sweep the whole country? The movement of the Taliban — from the Arab word *talib* or Koranic student — traces its roots to southern Kandahar and to the brutal misrule by the province's squabbling mujahideen warlords 1993-4. Led by Mullah Mohamad Omar, a 39-year-old former muj who'd lost an eye in the war against the Soviets, the Taliban at first counted only 30 adherents — united in their anger over the lawlessness in the south. Abuses at highway checkpoints where extortion, robbery and rape were the daily norm was a major cause of popular discontent that was to fuel the rise of the Taliban.

As the Taliban movement grew, its ranks were filled from religious colleges (*madrasah*) across the Pakistan border, where tens of thousands of Afghan refugees were studying. Most of the colleges were run by the *Jamiat-i-Islami*, a traditionalist Pakistani party influential in Pakistan's ethnic Pushtun belt along the Afghan border and represented in Benazir Bhutto's government in Islamabad.

Taliban determination to break the warlords' grip on the highways soon attracted the attention of Pakistan's wily Interior Minister, Naseerullah Babar. A retired general and old Afghan hand, Babar had become point-man for Afghan policy in Benazir Bhutto's government. He understood that Pakistani penetration of the markets of Central Asia hinged crucially on free



(left) Mostly of rural Pushtun background, Taliban includes many individuals trained in Pakistan, and fellow Pushtun of Pakistani nationality. (below) Forming a coalition backed by various internal Afghan and outside interests, Government commander Ahmad Shah Massood holds a council of war north of Kabul during a counter-offensive in early November.



the gates of Kabul. By this time their ranks were up to several thousand.

The student-led movement was relying less on its military skills — which had yet to be tested — than on its immense popularity and moral prestige and the feebleness of the petty warlords in its way. Their battle-cry was simple and appealing: imposition of Islamic law and an end to mujahideen misrule.

For Allah ... And Pakistan

Mysteriously well-funded, the Taliban were also happy to pay off local commanders. Where moral persuasion and cash didn't work, military force took over. The first major casualty of the Taliban juggernaut was Hekmatyar's *Hizb-i-Islami* party. A mainly Pushtun party with close links to Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI) and bitterly opposed to Rabbani and Massood, Hizb had made an abortive bid to seize Kabul after the fall of Najibullah in 1992. Since then they'd been dug in south of Kabul, rocketing the city mercilessly. But in early 1995 the Taliban routed Hizb, forcing Hekmatyar to flee his HQ, abandoning helicopters, tanks and artillery.

But outside Kabul the Taliban had

Continued on page 65

EXCLUSIVE

GLOCK'S *Plastic* *Powerhouse*

New
Combat
Compact
.45 ACP



Handgun cartridges used in the Glock series, left to right: 9mm Parabellum, .40 S&W, 10mm Auto and .45 ACP.



Black Hills .45 ACP and 10mm Auto ammunition is loaded with Hornady's superb XTP Jacketed Hollow Point bullets.

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

Rumors have persisted for some time that a compact caliber .45 ACP Glock was under development. Some articles in the popular gun press mistakenly referred to it as the "Model 28" and also maintained that it would feature a single-stack magazine. As usual, they were wrong. In January 1997 Glock announced two new compact pistols. They are the Model 29, rather surprisingly chambered for the 10mm Auto cartridge, and the long-awaited Model 30, chambered for the .45 ACP round, without doubt a cartridge of almost mystical proportions among armed professionals in the United States.

The envelopes of these two new models are almost as startling as were those of the Models 26 and 27 when they first appeared. The slides of both the Model 29 and 30 are slightly longer and somewhat wider (to safely accommodate the greater pressures generated by the 10mm Auto and .45 ACP rounds) than those of the Model 26/27 series. The frames are also somewhat longer, but in the grip area are almost identical in size to the Model 26/27. The Model 30 has a magazine which slightly protrudes out the bottom of the grip frame to accommodate the tenth round of .45 ACP. With this magazine in place the Model 30's envelope is close to that of the Model 19/23 compacts. With the optional 9-round magazine, the Model 30 approximates the size of the Model 26/27 series, except for its increased length.

Glocks Past

Gaston Glock's 9mm Parabellum pistol was first introduced to the American public by *Soldier Of Fortune* almost 13 years ago ("Plastic Perfection," October '84). Since that time more than 5,000 U.S. local law-enforcement and federal agencies have adopted or authorized the Glock as a duty weapon. By any stan-

dards that's an astounding number. Glock pistols represent more than 60% of all new law-enforcement semiautomatic handgun sales in this country. Law-enforcement agencies and military units from more than two dozen other nations have also adopted the Glock. Hundreds of thousands have been sold in the United States and worldwide.

The Glock series commenced with the Model 17, a pistol of service-sidearm size, chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge, that was developed for the Austrian army trials and subsequently adopted by them. The Models 18 and 18C are selective-fire machine-pistol versions of the Model 17, while the Model 17L is a long-slide competition version. In 1988, a compact version of this pistol, the Model 19, appeared and quickly became quite popular in the United States.

In May 1990, Glock made available two pistols chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge: the standard-size Model 22 and the compact Model 23. Their external dimensions duplicated exactly those of the Model 17 and Model 19, respectively. The Model 24 is a caliber .40 S&W version of the Model 17L. That same year, but in July, saw the introduction of the Glock Model 20 chambered for the 10mm Auto cartridge. In December 1990, Glock added the Model 21 to their line. Chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge, it has become a popular model, especially in competition pistol circles. Both the Glock Model 20 and 21 are large service-size handguns. Compensated versions of Glock pistols feature milled slots on the barrel and slide to reduce muzzle jump and carry a "C" suffix after the model number.

A caliber .380 ACP Glock — the Model 25 — which is identical in envelope to the Models 19 and 23, was introduced in 1995 and is quite popular in Europe. It has not been imported to the United States, principally because its size and caliber pre-

Glock Models 29 10mm Auto (top) and 30 .45 ACP compacts (bottom).

clude meeting the requirements imposed by the BATF's import "factoring" system.

In October of 1995, Glock rocked the firearms industry throughout the world with the introduction of two ultra-compact models, the Model 26, chambered for the 9mm Parabellum round, and Model 27, chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge. Glock was immediately inundated with both law-enforcement and civilian orders for these pistols and at one time reported backorders of more than 40,000 units for both models. Subsequent to this, the Model 28, a caliber .380 ACP version of the Model 26, was introduced for sale in South America only, where many countries forbid civilian ownership of firearms chambered for so-called military cartridges.

Glocks Present

Overall length (the distance from the muzzle to the rear of the slide) of the new Model 29/30 series is 6.77 inches (172 mm). Including the sights, the height of the Model 29 is 4.45 inches (113 mm). With its magazine extension, the Model 30's height is increased to 4.76 inches (121 mm). The width, at the grip portion of the frame is 1.27 inches (32.5 mm) for both the Model 29 and 30. The barrel length for both is 3.78 inches (96 mm). These dimensions put the Models 29 and 30 in between the Models 26/27 and 19/23 models in size, no small accomplishment for pistols in these chamberings. Weight, empty and without a magazine, of the Model 30 is 23.99 ounces (680 g). Because its barrel weighs more, the



Model 29 tips the scales at 24.69 ounces (700 g). Model 29 and 30 magazines weigh 2.4 and 2.5 ounces, respectively.

Since first imported to the United States, the Glock pistol has received a great deal of publicity concerning its high-impact polymer frame, which can withstand heat up to 400 degrees F. While many perceived this aspect of the design to be unique, it was not the first of its type, as Heckler & Koch's P9S pistol, which featured a frame consisting of a plastic trigger-guard/front-strap and a sheet-metal receive-

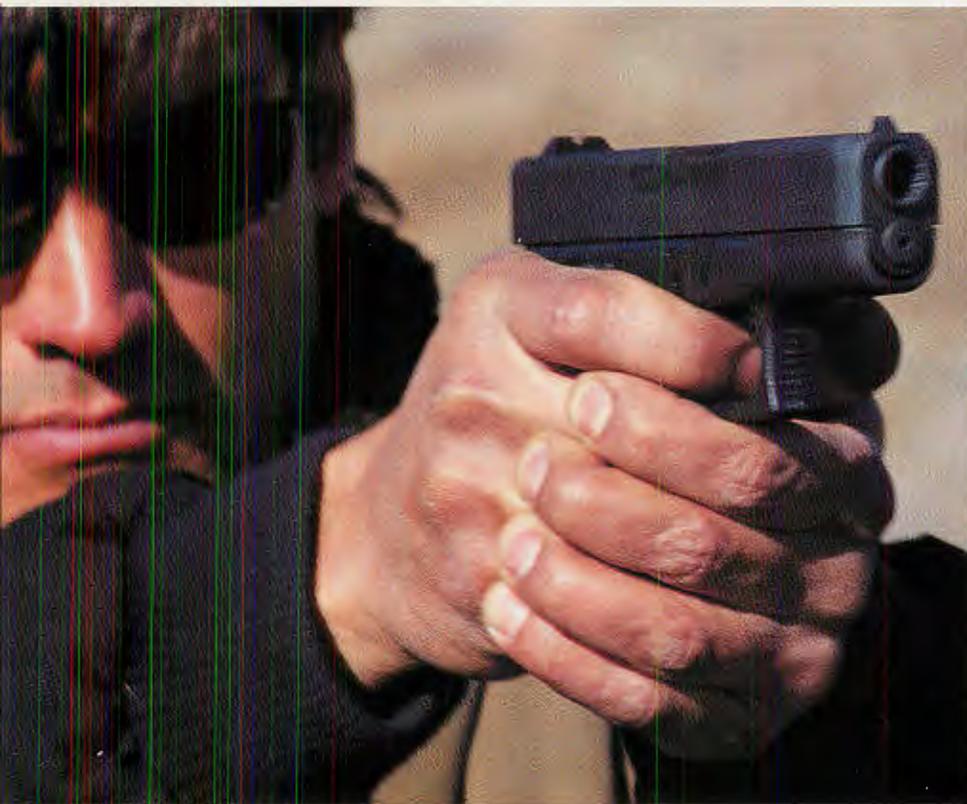
er, was introduced in the 1960s. Furthermore, the H&K VP70 machine pistol and VP70z semiauto pistol equivalent, from this same time frame, had frames made entirely of plastic, although they were reinforced with steel at appropriate points.

Plastic Copies

However, the Glock's incredible popularity has certainly resulted in the introduction of subsequent designs developed around polymer frames. One of the first was S&W's Sigma, a blatant copy of the Glock in almost all regards, and which in fact was labeled as such by the popular gun press when it first appeared. In addition, the highly regarded Heckler & Koch USP series, together with its Mark 23 Special Operations Pistol derivative, the Spanish Star Ultrastar, Ram-Line .22 Exactor, Ruger P95 and the new Walther P99 and Czech CZ100 as well as the yet-to-be-produced Colt LEP all have polymer frames.

Four steel guide rails (each about 0.4-inches in length) for the slide have been integrated into the Glock Model 29/30 injection-molded frame, in pairs at the rear of the frame and above the front of the trigger guard. To meet BATF regulations, a steel plate carrying the serial number has been embedded into the frame in front of the trigger guard.

The trigger guard is recurved and serrated. The grip-to-frame angle (that angle prescribed by a line perpendicular with the bore's axis and the front leading edge of the grip's front strap) of the entire Glock series is about 22 degrees, somewhat steeper than



The Glock's high-impact polymer frame and telescoping recoil spring system reduce perceived recoil to a considerable extent.

most competing designs. There is a non-slip, stippled surface and a thumb rest (which adds points to the total required for acceptance under the BATF's import factoring system) on each side of the grip frame and the rear strap is grooved and checkered. There are two finger grooves on the front strap to help secure the firing grip, as the abbreviated frame will not accommodate the little finger of a normal-sized hand, unless the Model 30's extended magazine is in place. The space between the two finger grooves on the front strap is now checkered.

The locking block, which engages a 45-degree camming surface on the barrel's lower lug, appears to be the only investment-cast component on any model of the Glock pistols. It has been shortened and relieved to accept the same type of telescoping recoil spring/guide rod system (albeit larger and with stronger springs) found on the Models 26 and 27. It's retained in the frame by the same steel axis pin that holds the trigger and slide stop. The trigger housing is attached to the frame by means of a polymer pin. A spring-loaded, sheet-metal pressing serves as the slide stop, which is protected from accidental manipulation by a raised guard molded into the frame.

The slide lock, operated by a single bent flat spring (shorter and with a different configuration on the Models 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30), engages a step on the front of the barrel's locking lug to prevent the slide and frame groups from parting company during the counter-recoil stroke. The magazine catch-release, another polymer component — located where it belongs, on the left side of the frame, directly to the rear of the trigger guard — is held in place by an uncoiled piece of spring steel. The magazine catch-releases on the Models 20, 21, 29 and 30 are slightly extended, when compared to those of the other Glock models. Both interior surfaces of the magazine-well's mouth have a beveled contour to assist in the insertion of magazines.

Diamond Durability

Distinctively rectangular in configuration, the slide is milled from bar stock using CNC (Computer Numerical Control) machinery. Model 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 slides are distinctively beveled at the front end. Three hardening processes are employed on both the slide and barrel. The final tenifer finish, 0.04 mm to 0.05 mm in thickness, produces a patented 69 Rockwell Cone hardness (just below a diamond) by means of a nitride bath at 500 degrees Centigrade. Scratches, which are in this instance no more than deposits from the other object, can usually be removed with a cloth and solvent. This matte, non-glare finish is 99% salt-water corrosion resistant and meets or exceeds stainless steel specifications. It's also 80% more corrosion resistant than any hard-chrome finish.

Milled into both the top and right side of the slide, the Glock's large ejection port enhances functional reliability. A large claw extractor, fitted to the slide at the rear of the

ejection port on the right side, maintains its tension from a spring-loaded plunger, which together with the firing-pin assembly are held in place by a polymer backing plate. The cocking serrations on all Glock pistols are cut deeply and provide an excellent purchase when the slide is retracted.

Both the Glock Models 29 and 30 are equipped with fixed polymer sights. A fully adjustable rear sight is available for an additional \$28. This white-outline, open-square-notch rear sight rides on an elliptical cam and will move up to its maximum elevation point and then back down as the adjustment screw is turned clockwise. There is a windage adjustment screw to the right of the elevation screw, both on the right side of the rear sight's base. The white-dot front sight is also a polymer component. The sight radius is 5.95 inches (151 mm). Fixed, self-luminous tritium sights are also available from Glock. They are priced at \$90 for the Trijicon unit and \$72 for those supplied by Meprolight.

Glock's hammer-forged barrels are innovative. Called "hexagonal" or "octagonal" (.45 ACP caliber only), the rifling lies somewhere between conventional land-and-groove and H&K's "polygonal" bores. The rifling's hexagonal or octagonal profile (in cross-section a series of six or eight small arcs connected by flat surfaces) provides a better gas seal, more consistent velocities,

superior accuracy and ease of maintenance. Glock's .45 ACP barrels have a right-hand twist of one turn in 15.75 inches (400 mm). Their 9mm Parabellum, .40 S&W and 10mm Auto barrels feature a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.84 inches (250 mm). Never shoot cast lead bullets in any Glock pistol as they will leave an ever-growing lead smear on the hexagonal/octagonal rifling that could result in a potentially dangerous increase in pressure.

Back To The Future

The telescoping recoil-spring system was first employed by Glock on the Models 26 and 27. This is not new technology, as telescoping recoil-spring systems were used more than a half-century ago in the German MP38/40 submachine gun and many times since in both pistols and self-loading military rifles (such as the Swiss StGw 57). This concept is most often encountered in compact handgun envelopes where a given amount of potential counter-recoil energy must be stored in a small space. The Glock's telescoping recoil-spring assembly cannot be disassembled as the inner polymer guide rod, which is still hollow to serve as a cooling air pump, is capped at both ends. It thus retains not only the single-coil spring which rides on its outer surface but a larger-diameter guide rod made of sheet-metal tubing

Glock Disassembly Procedures

While somewhat different from the norm, there is nothing complex about the Glock's disassembly procedures. First, remove the magazine and remove any round in the chamber. Then, and only then, pull the trigger. Wrap the four fingers of the right hand over the slide, from the right side with the thumb wrapped around the rear of the frame, and retract the slide about an 1/8-inch (any more than that and the trigger will move forward to prevent separation of the slide and frame). Pull the slide lock downward with the thumb and index finger of the left hand. While the slide lock is down, push the slide forward and off the frame. Push the guide rod forward and remove the telescoping recoil spring assembly. Push the barrel forward, lift up and pull it back out of the slide. No further disassembly is recommended.

The additional reinforcing cross pin through the frame, directly in back of the locking block, which was introduced with the .40 S&W Glock Models 22 and 23 is present on both the Models 29 and 30 also. It provides additional support for the locking block and prevents it from driving back and down to damage the polymer frame. Those qualified for detailed disassembly of the Glock series must remember that this locking block pin must be removed first and re-installed before the slide-stop lever, as the slide-stop lever spring rests on this cross pin.



The first step in separating the slide from the frame is to retract the slide about an 1/8-inch in the manner shown.

Do not attempt to manipulate the trigger system after the slide has been removed or you may damage the inner trigger's spring. Reassemble in the reverse order. To disassemble the magazine, merely squeeze the side walls at the base, and with a punch depress the projection on the polymer follower-spring-backing-plate and slide off the floorplate.

Glock pistols are treated at the factory with a copper-based, anti-seize lubricant. However, this is a break-in compound intended for a one-time application only. Subsequent to use, after cleaning and prior to re-assembly Glock pistols should be lubricated sparingly with conventional formulations only. I prefer G96 Gun Treatment and a thin film of gun grease on the slide channels. — P.G.K.

with an additional single-coil spring, also of greater diameter than the inner spring.

Glock magazines are of the single-position-feed, staggered-column, detachable box type. Model 29 and 30 magazines hold 10 rounds. The Model 29 will accept all of the Model 20 10mm Auto magazines. All Model 21 .45 ACP magazines can be used in the Model 30. However, you should check them for reliability with the ammunition you intend to employ. Furthermore, never use the portion of a magazine that extends well below the frame as a gripping surface as this can induce failures to feed, just as it will when a submachine magazine is gripped in this manner.

Glock magazine bodies, followers and floorplates are fabricated from polymer. The magazine bodies have steel liners and reinforcement plates with indicator holes starting with round No. 4 up to the capacity of the magazine. An optional nine-round .45 ACP Model 30 magazine that fits flush against the bottom of the frame will soon be available.

Both the Glock Model 29 and Model 30 are issued with two magazines, a polymer magazine loader and cleaning rod, rear sight adjustment tool and a nylon bristle bore brush. The polymer storage box has been designed for armory stacking and retention with a steel rod or chain. Suggested retail price is \$658 for either the Model 29 or 30 with polymer fixed sights. Spare magazines cost \$25 each.

Home On The Range

There can be no question about any Glock pistol's level of reliability or durability. The Glock design has successfully passed rigorous milspec tests throughout the world, involving hundreds of thousands of rounds. *SOF's* test and evaluation of the Models 29 and 30 did no more than confirm impressions already built from the tens of thousands of rounds I have personally fired through all of the previous models of the Glock series. There were no stoppages attributable to the pistols themselves during the course of the more than 1,000 rounds fired to date through each of our test specimens.

The polymer frame's inherent elasticity dampens felt recoil considerably and the telescoping recoil spring/guide rod system is also of some benefit in this regard. As the barrel's axis on all Glock pistols lies close to the hand, the recoil momentum is perceived as an almost straight rearward thrust with much less muzzle climb than that of other pistols in these

two calibers that approximate this envelope. Felt recoil of the 10mm Auto Model 29 is stout. The Model 30's recoil impulse is no greater than most steel-framed .45s.

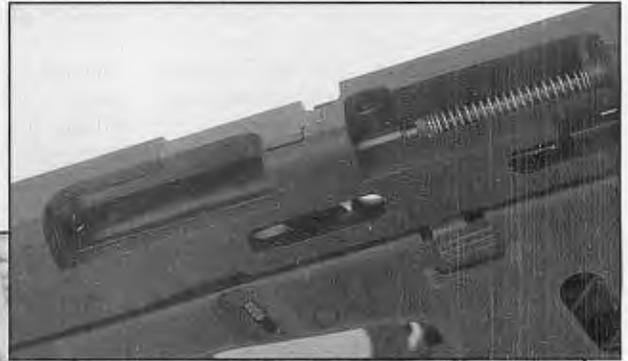
Target re-acquisition times between shots are minimal, as the front sight barely leaves the point of aim if a strong Weaver hold is employed. Both the Models 29 and 30 point instinctively and come on target with great speed. With their clean and constant trigger system, the hit probability is high. There is, of course, no hammer bite to distract the shooter. The accuracy potential is more than adequate for gunfighting. These are, after all, not target or plinking pistols. Most engagements with a handgun takes place at distances under 21 feet.

All of the ammunition used in *SOF's* test and evaluation of the Glock Models 29 and 30 was provided by Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. *SOF*, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150 — call for the location of your nearest dealer, if there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail). All of it was loaded using Hornady's superb XTP Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) bullets.

Not-So-New 10mm

Two different bullet

weights were tested in 10mm Auto: 155-grain and 180-grain JHPs, with muzzle velocities of 1,250 and 950 fps, respectively (considerably under the original Norma factory loading of 1,340 fps for their 170-grain JHP with a mean chamber pressure of 37,000 psi). Although supposedly *introduced* in 1983 when Jeff Cooper and Tom Dornaus mated this round to a copy of the Czech CZ75, called the Bren 10, there was really nothing new about caliber 10mm handguns. In 1901, a 10mm cartridge, called either the *Hirst* or *Hohlegeschoss*, of undetermined German or central European origin, was adapted to one of the early Roth pistols. Nothing much came of it. In 1911, Colt demonstrated throughout the Balkans a version of the Model 1910 pistol chambered for a 9.8mm round. It fizzled. In 1924, a Joplin, Missouri, gunsmith developed a handgun cartridge that he called, without modesty, the .40 Eimer Colt Special. It was



Glock Model 30 .45 ACP (top) and Model 29 10mm Auto (bottom), right-side view. (inset) Unique factory cutaway shows the Glock's spring-loaded firing-pin safety blocking the striker's forward movement.



made from .401 Winchester Self-Loading Rifle semi-rimmed cartridge cases cut back to a length of 1.25 inches. It remained a wildcat, and interest quickly waned.

In 1972, a similar, but rimless, wildcat appeared. Called the .40 G&A, it was made from cut-down .30 Remington brass and featured the 180-grain Jacketed Soft Point (JSP) bullet developed for the .38-40 bottleneck rifle/handgun cartridge (introduced in 1874 as a black-powder round). Nobody but its promoters got enthusiastic until the almost identical round made its appearance in the Bren 10. After the Bren 10 fiasco, Norma, who loaded the ammunition, was left with a mountain of unused brass cases. They were temporarily bailed out by Colt with the introduction in 1987 of their short-lived Delta Elite. This was followed the next year by Springfield Armory's Omega 10mm Auto pistol.

However, interest in the 10mm Auto round remained at a distinctly low level until the FBI decided they wanted to adopt an S&W pistol chambered for a "down-loaded" version of this round. Smith & Wesson failed to provide pistols that met the required FBI standards of reliability and the project died with S&W denying any culpability. In the meantime, S&W decided that the down-loaded 10mm Auto's performance could be duplicated in a shorter case that, with some minor design efforts, could be dropped into a 9mm Parabellum handgun's envelope. Glock immediately commenced development of the Models 22 and 23 after Gaston Glock saw the .40 S&W cartridge at S&W's booth during the 1989 Shot Show.

While Glock's Model 20 has remained a steady but unspectacular seller, the 10mm Auto cartridge has remained popular only with a small group of gun writers and their myrmidons who worship at the high-velocity altar. The new Model 29 will certainly find its niche among those who believe that "speed kills." It cost Glock no more than a 10mm Auto barrel mandrel to add this model to their product line.

Pistoleros' Pick

I and most professional *pistoleros* in the United States, on the other hand, when given their druthers will, without exception, choose the venerable .45 ACP round. It's really quite simple and we don't need counterfeited "one-shot stop" data to demonstrate what is required to maximize a handgun's limited potential with regard to wound ballistics.

Penetration is, without doubt, the most important single parameter. The bullet must penetrate deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the human body's vital structures and organs. Most authorities in the field of wound ballistics believe the desired penetration range is at least 12 inches up to 18 inches of soft tissue. Once we've obtained the required penetration (which all of Hornady's XTP bullets are designed to do), the bullet that makes the

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GLOCK MODEL 29 AND 30 SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:** Model 29 — 10mm Auto; Model 30 — .45 ACP.
- Operation:** Short recoil, barrel locks with single lug into ejection port, semiautomatic, hammerless, Safe Action double-trigger system with two additional internal automatic safeties.
- Feed mechanism:** 10-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazines with removable floorplate; polymer construction with steel liners, reinforcing plates and indicator holes. Optional 9-round magazine for Model 30.
- Barrel:** .45 ACP: octagonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 15.75 inches (400mm);
10mm Auto: hexagonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.84 inches (250 mm).
- Barrel length:** 3.78 inches (96 mm).
- Overall length:** (the distance from the muzzle to the rear of the slide) 6.77 inches (172 mm).
- Height:** (with sights and magazine in place) Model 29: 4.45 inches (113 mm)
Model 30: 4.76 inches (121 mm).
- Width:** (at the grips) 1.27 inches (32.5 mm).
- Weight:** (empty and without magazine) Model 29: 24.69 ounces (700 g)
Model 30: 23.99 ounces (680 g)
- Magazines:** less than 2.4 and 2.5 ounces, respectively.
- Sights:** Fixed polymer front sight with white dot; fixed, open square-notch rear sight with two dots. Optional polymer adjustable rear sight and either Trijicon (\$90) or Meprolight (\$72) self-luminous tritium front and rear sights. Sight radius: 5.95 inches (151 mm).
- Metal finish:** Tenifer process — non-glare matte; 99% salt water corrosion resistant; meets or exceeds stainless steel specifications.
- Price:** \$658, complete with fixed sights, two magazines, magazine loader, cleaning rod, nylon bristle bore brush, and storage box; spare magazines at \$25 each.
- Manufacturer:** Glock GmbH, Produkte aus Kunststoffe, Metallwaren und Holz, Dept. SOF, A2232 Deutsch-Wagram, Hausfeldstrasse 17, Austria.
- Importer:** Glock Inc., 6000 Highlands Parkway, Dept. SOF, Smyrna, GA 30082; phone: 770-432-1202; fax: 770-437-4710.
- T&E summary:** Long-awaited compact version of the Glock caliber .45 ACP Model 21. High-impact polymer frame and telescoping recoil-spring system reduce perceived recoil. Three safety systems eliminate the need for a manual thumb safety. Hammerless design eliminates need for hammer-drop lever. Highest possible level of reliability. Hit probability and accuracy potential also at high levels. Recommended without reservations of any kind for all military, law-enforcement and self-defense applications — especially deep concealment.



METHOD OF OPERATION

All models of the Glock pistols are short-recoil-operated, with the barrel locked to the slide by a single lug, which recesses into the ejection port in the manner of the SIG-Sauer series. During the recoil stroke, the barrel moves rearward approximately 3 mm until the bullet leaves the barrel and pressures drop to a safe level. At this time the barrel drops downward, separating from the slide and terminating any further motion. The slide's continued rearward movement and counter-recoil cycle are those of the Browning types.

Hammerless and striker-fired, the Glock's trigger and firing-pin mechanisms are innovative and mostly unique. There is no manually-operated safety or de-cocking lever. A so-called "Safe Action" trigger system, patterned after that encountered on the Sauer Behorden ("Authority") Model 1930 caliber 7.65mm pocket pistol, constitutes the first failsafe. A wide, serrated outer trigger encompasses a small, spring-loaded inner trigger, both fabricated from polymer. The outer trigger cannot be actuated, such as by contact with a holster, unless the inner trigger is depressed first. Thus the trigger can be pulled only from the center, not the edges.

A spring-loaded firing-pin safety in the slide blocks forward movement of the striker, and is raised and deactivated by a projection on the sheet-metal trigger bar as the trigger is pulled to its final rearward position.

When the trigger is in the forward position, the firing pin's spring remains lightly compressed. As the trigger is pulled 10 mm through its first stage (with a pull weight of approximately 2.2 pounds) its full compression is almost complete. Removal of the finger from the trigger at this time will return the firing pin spring to its partially compressed, "relaxed" and completely safe state. Continued pressure at this point will 1) draw the firing pin fully rearward and its spring into complete compression and then 2) draw the T-shaped end of the trigger bar to its final rearward position in the trigger housing's stepped safety notch so that 3) it is free to drop downward away from both the "connec-

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It

was a story of triumph over adversity, the story of a venerable civil rights organization ending its annual meeting with a renewed sense of unity, as reported by the Associated Press

Second-Amendment

by
James L. Pate

in February. The non-profit advocacy organization had emerged rededicated to its sacred mission after years of sometimes vicious internal political warfare.

The egos and personal agendas of various leaders had, for a while, overshadowed any sense of the association's mission or direction, according to the news report. The bickering and back-stabbing "included infighting over which faction should run the organization and how to shift blame to opponents for financial disasters."

The AP's explanation describes well the long-simmering turmoil inside the National Rifle Association of America. It was accurate in every respect to the NRA. Almost. But it wasn't about the NRA. And, there was a key difference: The annual meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had a happy ending.

While the NAACP is poised to enter a new millennium with a unified sense of purpose and direction, another old champion of individual liberty — the NRA — may instead become irrelevant in the public policy debate or, as some critics of NRA's current financial management claim, maybe even extinct.

In contrast to the harmonious tone of the NAACP's annual meeting in February, the NRA's quarterly board of directors meeting a week earlier was a nasty, bitterly fought coup attempt and powergrab that closely divided the 69 board members attending (seven were absent).

NRA President Marion Hammer cautioned members in her opening report to avoid "the malicious trashing of fellow board members" and instead urged them to "take the high moral ground and fight the enemies of the Second Amendment and the Bill of Rights — not each other." It was not to be.

"This was just like a little family argu-



NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, and NRA President Marion Hammer, at podium, listen as members debate during Board of Director's meeting in Arlington, Va., on Sunday, 9 February 1997.

ment," board member John Milius, a successful and respected filmmaker, told *Soldier Of Fortune*, after a peacemaking effort by he and another prominent board member, Senator Larry Craif of Idaho, failed to negotiate a settlement. "Only this time, it was almost like this was a Mafia family."

According to several longtime board members, it was the longest and ugliest NRA board meeting in memory, at times paralyzed by parliamentary gridlock. Advocates of dumping Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre succeeded in changing the agenda, but failed in their attempt to make major by-law changes that would have given them enough votes to fire LaPierre on the spot. The final board session lasted until 0400 hours. It was Sara Brady's fondest dream-come-true.



FRATRICIDE

Inside NRA Infighting

"This is the worst board meeting I've ever attended," said Anchorage lawyer Wayne Anthony Ross, well into his second decade on the board and also a vocal critic of NRA's management. "I think it's deplorable that this group should attempt to stage a coup when we have so many more serious problems."

Other board members disagree, saying no danger the NRA faces is as serious as its fiscal health. That debate rages around whether LaPierre, also NRA's chief executive officer, has provided sound financial management, and whether he has too much discretionary power over how money is spent.

"There are strong passions for and against the chief executive officer," said board member Roy Innis, who also heads the Congress On Racial Equality and is in the NAACP. "That is not unusual in an organization this size."

National Rancorous Association?

What is unusual is how those strong passions among board members at times turned mean-spirited and bitterly personal. Some are stalwart defenders of LaPierre's tenure.



Others who share the financial concerns of LaPierre's critics, such as Wayne Ross, believe he is being treated unfairly, suspicious that the efforts of hardliners to dump LaPierre, such as by Neal Knox, are motivated by hidden agendas or personal ambition for power.

Even LaPierre's most vocal critics are divided. The hardliners, who revolve around Knox, the NRA's first vice president, want him removed, no matter what. Others say LaPierre is a valuable NRA asset who should remain as its most visible and persuasive spokesman, but that he should turn over the financial responsibilities to a better-qualified and lower-profile executive.

Among the latter group is Richard Carone, a corporate executive in the oil and gas business in California who once did risk analysis as head of technical services for Chase Manhattan Bank's energy portfolio. Until his resignation from the NRA board immediately after the February meeting, Carone chaired its finance committee.

Two of the last three chairmen of that committee resigned abruptly from the NRA board. The other to quit, Max W. Goodwin, the former executive vice president of Coors Brewing Co., was no babe in the financial woods. In a 20 January 1994 letter distributed to board members, Goodwin warned that the finance committee has "been set up for failure. We can approve the budget, but we have no control over management when the budget is grossly exceeded."

"Commitments are being made for large sums of money and for multiple years without the approval or even the knowledge of the board or the finance committee," Goodwin wrote. "The disintegration of the assets of the NRA under current spending policies have eroded our future viability... Wayne is arguably the best lobbyist... but promoting him to this job was like taking your top toolmaker and making him shop supervisor."

No one has accused LaPierre of dishonesty, though.

"Wayne's motives have been pure," Carone told *SOF*. "There is nothing to indicate he benefited personally. But we gave the keys to the treasury to a lobbyist. There's no one better at lobbying when it comes to Wayne. But serious business and financial mistakes have been made. Almost \$1 billion has gone through the NRA in seven years. There aren't adequate controls over business vendors. The NRA is financially sick."

Carone, whose name was already printed on the ballot for reelection now being circulated to voting members, said he resigned "over my differences with [NRA President] Marion Hammer and her leadership. I'm not going to return ... as long as Marion is president."

Beseiged From Within And Without

The ugly tone of February's feuding is but a prelude to the upcoming annual NRA members' meeting in Seattle the first weekend in May. The emotionally charged division comes at a time when gun-control advocates, encouraged by victories in President Clinton's first term, are preparing to push a new round of even more restrictive gun laws.

If that's not bad enough, the NRA has been undergoing an Internal Revenue Service audit, one of about a dozen conservative public policy groups to come under IRS scrutiny since 1994, when President Clinton specifically attributed the Republican takeover of Congress to the NRA. The IRS audit is costing the NRA \$1 million a year, and the IRS has demanded the NRA turn over its confidential membership list. The NRA refused and the matter may end up in court.

While the NRA is not the only Second Amendment champion in the bitter battle to disarm law-abiding citizens, it is the biggest, with 2.8 million members (more than 1 million are voting members). If ever it was vital for voting members to pay attention and, if possible, attend the annual meeting, it is now. By all indications, the shootout in Seattle promises to be the most momentous NRA board meeting ever, with the potential to make or break the association for a long time to come.

The battle is not just over money, it's over the heart and soul of the NRA; whether the crusade to save the Second Amendment

maintains intellectual integrity and a tone of reason in the 21st century, or is lost to arguments sometimes as shrill, selfish, and devoid of logic as those who seek the absolute abolition of private gun ownership.

LaPierre, a 19-year NRA employee who rose through the ranks, took over as executive vice president, or EVP, in May 1991, another time when internal problems were reaching a critical juncture. As the new EVP, LaPierre inherited a \$10.8 million deficit budget that included \$3 million a year to a New York ad agency. Membership and donations were down.

"That's when we had the semiauto threat going on, we had the waiting period threat going on," LaPierre told *SOF*.

"This is a time when we're usually gaining members, and the NRA was paying this ad agency \$3 million a year to lose a half-million members. "At the same time, the NRA had put no money into its headquarters building since 1958. It had bought a \$6 million computer system that didn't work."

LaPierre said he chose to dip into the NRA's \$80 million in cash to reinvigorate the association. The NRA's operating costs dipped further into red ink — a \$15.6 million cash deficit — during LaPierre's first full year as EVP. But \$15 million of that was approved by the board, he said, such as a \$5 million NRA campaign to oust NBC President Mike Gartner, who called for abolishing the Second Amendment.

The next year, 1993, NRA operated on a \$13 million cash deficit, LaPierre said, and it acquired NRA's new \$32 million headquarters building.

Around The Corner ... And Uphill?

That's when NRA's financial picture brightened, LaPierre said. In 1994, it showed an operating cash surplus of \$5.5 million. It rose another \$2.6 million in the black, to a \$5.9 million surplus, in 1995, and showed a \$9.1 million cash surplus for 1996, he said.

Neal Knox, LaPierre's most ardent opponent, challenged the figure for 1996, saying a budget deficit was avoided only because the NRA sold membership upgrades at discounted rates, suggesting that the discounts were unfair to members who'd paid more earlier for the same upgrades.

Knox claims the NRA lost \$70 million in assets under LaPierre's watch, and said LaPierre has repeatedly dipped into NRA's stock portfolio to pay bills.

LaPierre challenged Knox's figure as being inaccurate. Instead, he said, the audited financial statements show an increase in total assets of \$33.3 million for the years 1991-95. As for the stock portfolio, LaPierre said Knox is using that as a red herring.

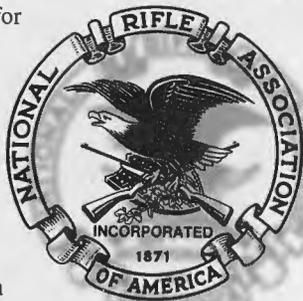
"What Knox doesn't tell people is that NRA finance committee has always spent the stock gain to help fund the budget year," LaPierre told *SOF*. "It's been approved by the finance committee at the beginning of every single year. He conveniently neglects to mention that."

"The craziest thing about all this is that we have a good story to tell, in terms of turning around an organization which should have collapsed," LaPierre continued. "We're in a good financial position, plus we've got our payables down to the lowest point they've been in five years. We've got about \$4 million in payables. They were, at one point, about \$15 million or more."

NRA President Hammer, who said she feels she is also being targeted for ouster by Knox, agreed with LaPierre, noting that "for the third straight year, we've been operating on a balanced budget. And that's after buying a new building, installing a new communications system and reorganizing our management structure. The NRA is in a great position to continue our fight for the Second Amendment into the next century."

Knox, a well-known gun writer and longtime Second Amendment activist, denied to *SOF* reports that he wants to also dump Hammer and Tanya Metaksa, director of NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, the association's lobbying arm.

"That's nonsense," Knox said. "It's just Wayne" LaPierre that Knox wants fired. "Contrary to all reports, Neal doesn't control



this board. If I did ... this would have been a walk."

One headline opposite *The Washington Post's* editorial page described Knox as "the Real Power at the NRA." A front-page headline in *The Wall Street Journal* said "...Neal Knox Gains Control Over NRA..."

Even if Knox won't say he controls the board, he likes to think he does, say many board members, many of whom support his end, if not his means, of ousting LaPierre. But a few at the February meeting questioned whether Knox was a player, or merely being played. One longtime NRA staffer said Knox's motives are honest, that he "means well, but is easily manipulated."

For his part, Knox acknowledges that "I've tried to get people on the board who are in general concert with what I've wanted to do, but I think any reasonable person would do that."

While some question whether Knox controls enough votes to actually get what he wants, there is no argument that he exerts great influence. Still, some say that influence is waning, not growing.

Board member Sue King, a Texan who sits on the finance committee and is revered for her unvarnished opinions, is typical of many who were recruited by Knox for board membership, but who have since broken ranks with him.

"I was interviewed by some of his people to see if I was suitable," King told *SOF*. "You're told that you better vote with the people who bring you to the dance. They tried that with me. I told them I wouldn't follow anyone blindly, that I call 'em like I sees 'em."

The breaking point with Knox came at the last meeting of the NRA's executive committee, she said, because "what was presented was not a business report, but a simple character assassination ... The financial problems are being used by these people as a witch hunt to bash Wayne LaPierre, when the truth is that these management problems are the result of practices that have existed at the NRA years before Wayne ever took his present job. It is a fact, we do need to bring our management practices into the 20th century, at least.

Divisive Vs. Decisive

"I told them how divisive and destructive this was, and begged them to stop it," she said. "We can't allow the ends to justify the means. It's not in the best interests of the association. I told them that such an approach tainted their credibility and tainted any conclusions they drew. Their methodology has tainted their results."

A subplot to Knox's sometimes Machiavellian efforts to dump LaPierre suggests that he is motivated by a desire to have the \$190,000-a-year job himself. During the Saturday morning session on 8 February, Knox stated unequivocally that he was not running for executive vice president.

King immediately objected, saying she had personally heard Knox say he wanted Wayne LaPierre's job. In a later interview, she described Knox as "a man who's always wanted to be EVP. I've looked him eyeball to eyeball and asked him and he's told me he wants the job."

"I haven't lusted for that job," Knox said, denying emphatically that he was trying to take LaPierre's job for himself. "It's an exceedingly difficult job ... at the February meeting ... I think we've had the votes ..."

Knox demurred when asked point blank if he's seeking election as EVP at the annual



NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, left, meets privately with *SOF* publisher Robert K. Brown to explain his side of the dispute over NRA finances and management.

meeting in Seattle in May, when all the executive officers, including Knox, Hammer, LaPierre and second vice president Albert Ross can be turned out by a simple majority vote.

"That issue hasn't been decided," Knox said coyly. "The number-one qualification for EVP is the ability to have the confidence of the membership. I have that, I believe," although he finished near the bottom in a long slate of candidates in the last board election.

Some of Knox's most stalwart lieutenants in trying to oust LaPierre are emphatic when asked if they'd support Knox for EVP.

"I'm not supporting Knox for EVP," said Ronin Colman, a member of the finance committee who, with committee chairman Carone, conducted a management review that damns LaPierre's business performance. "This is not the Neal Knox Show. It's business, trying to get the NRA on a sound business footing. Neal Knox is not going to be EVP. He doesn't have the votes.

"Wayne LaPierre is a good spokesman, but a bad businessman," said Colman, who runs a company that sells ballistic timers. "Wayne LaPierre is a good man. He's not the enemy. He is a corporate asset. We shouldn't just throw him away. It would be a waste. But having Wayne LaPierre as EVP of the NRA is like having Michael Jackson as the CEO of Pepsi."

On the other hand, board member T.J. Johnston of California, a retired production manager for ABC television who endorses the idea of a standing militia, broke briefly with the Knox camp at the February meeting, but thinks he might make a good EVP.

"This was not a power grab," Johnston said. "I honestly believe Wayne is spending the NRA into bankruptcy. He's been using the portfolio like a checkbook. And Neal has a valid point. We're gambling with the future of the NRA. Neal doesn't care who runs the NRA. But I think Neal would be a good leader..."

Hard Knox

One cannot appreciate the high drama of the battle between Knox and LaPierre without understanding Knox's long history with the association. He has twice been toppled from high places, each time his career arising from the ashes to ascend once again to lofty heights.

Knox's first big moment in the NRA limelight came in 1977, at the annual NRA board meeting in Cincinnati, widely regarded as the most crucial in its history, but one which could easily be overshadowed by events in Seattle in May.



Neal Knox breaks for coffee during bitter and protracted floor debate that gridlocked the NRA board meeting and delighted such 2nd Amendment foes as Sarah Brady.

(c) Any officer may be suspended or removed by the Board of Directors, by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors present at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors.

NRA Board Member Howard Fezell sent LaPierre this 2x4 inscribed with a portion of the by laws to make a point, but said it was not meant as a threat.

In those days, the NRA power structure was every bit as monolithic as in the old Soviet Union. The nominating committee controlled absolutely who ran for board slots, and if a board member displayed too much independence from the old guard, he simply was not renominated. Voting NRA members would receive ballots with a list of names equal to the number of board vacancies. Like "voting" in the old Soviet Union, there was no real choice. Some reformers, such as Harlon Carter, even referred to the executive leadership as the "troika."

The old leadership had endorsed a consultant's report, known as the ORAM report, which advised that the gun issue was not respectable and urged that the NRA reposition itself strictly as a conservation and hunting organization that would not take public positions on gun control. The board had plans to do just that, to the point of moving its headquarters to Colorado Springs.

The policy shift outraged rank-and-file membership who wanted to stay in the gun control debate, but because of the Draconian power of the board, had been powerless to change the board's action. But David Kaplan, a nuclear physicist and attorney from New Jersey who is now a board member, devised a plan by which members successfully dumped the president, EVP and two vice presidents.

During the floor vote in Cincinnati at which this NRA coup occurred, it was Neal Knox who jumped to the stage, grabbed the microphone and took the spotlight.

"It was like Boris Yeltsin standing on the Soviet tanks in Moscow," said one witness, a longtime NRA activist, who asked not to be named. "Neal was seen as a hero. But now this ugly effort to dump Wayne and change these by-laws for short-term political gain is the same as if the guy who threw off the yoke of the Soviet system wanted to reinstall it just for the sake of power."

Knox's star began to rise in the NRA. A year after the coup in Cincinnati, he was appointed to head ILA. But four years later, in 1982, Knox was fired from the job because of "a personalized and centralized management style" that made him ineffective.

Undaunted, Knox got himself elected to the board of directors. That resurrection, too, was short-lived. In January 1984, Knox was expelled from the board as "a source of discord and disunity," then-

New \$32 million NRA headquarters in Arlington, Va., illustrates one of many heavy expenditures from NRA coffers over last several years. LaPierre's supporters note most such obligations were inherited by LaPierre; his detractors note that nearly a billion dollars has gone through the NRA during his tenure, question how much has been received in return.



EVP Harlon Carter said. While ILA had indicated its willingness to compromise on some measures of the Volkmer-McClure firearms bill, Knox opposed compromise and undertook his own lobbying effort on Capitol Hill. His involvement caused confusion among senators about what the NRA's desires were, delaying action.

Carter wrote at the time, in 1984, when Knox was sacked from the board, that "it is unforgivable that any NRA director should take differences of NRA family opinion to the public press and make his fight there, marked by personal vilification, vituperation and alleged infidelities to the cause."

The same could be said of Knox's conduct in the recent furor over LaPierre and his financial management, Sue King said. Knox counters that it was LaPierre, not he, who first aired their differences in the press.

New Rules For A New Regime?

The most contentious by-law change sought at the most recent board meeting in February would have changed the number of votes required to dump LaPierre from three-fourths to a simple majority. It fell six votes short of passage. It will come up again in Seattle, supporters say, along with other changes.

But the zeal to win for Knox has resulted in "a lack of maturity" by some of his followers, said board member T.J. Johnston, who supports Knox. Sue King, who opposes Knox, also described the conduct of some board members as being like "junior high school student body politics."

Probably the best example of this was that of board member Howard Fezell, a Maryland attorney who paid \$77.20 to the Frederick Sign & Banner Co. to laminate a 4-foot-long 2x4 board and print on it an NRA by-law subsection that said, in part, that "any officer may be suspended or removed by the Board of Directors by a majority vote..."

The board was an "attachment" to a personal letter Fezell sent by courier (another 40 bucks) to Wayne LaPierre. It was picked up at 1020 hours on 10 January and delivered at 1148 to LaPierre's office at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia. In the letter, Fezell reminded LaPierre that he was a "close personal friend" and cautioned LaPierre to "think ahead six months" to what it would be like to not have a job if he did not "step down gracefully." Fezell said he did not intend for LaPierre to perceive the letter and the 4-foot-long 2x4 board as a threat.

Another erstwhile Knox supporter who was uncomfortable with the conduct of some of his allies was Jim Church, a Detroit auto worker. He said he was upbraided for speaking in support of Marion Hammer, whom he thought was treated discourteously.

"I'm standing at the front mike so that all of you standing behind me can see the dried blood on the back of my pant legs," said Church, implying he'd been stabbed in the back by his own people. "I was visited by two board members, one of whom we fondly call 'The Enforcer,' and admonished like a child for having paid the chair [President Marion Hammer] a simple courtesy. It was not my intention to say that I approved of every single thing the chair did yesterday. I disapproved of a fair number. But she is the chair ... and we owe her our courtesy."

Whether courtesy prevails in May, or it turns out to be the Battle in Seattle, remains to be seen. Better yet, sources say, would be to restart the negotiations that failed at the February meeting. The outcome is crucial to the survival of private gun ownership in the United States — whether the Second Amendment is gutted, and whether the NRA remains a viable option in its defense. What will emerge from Seattle? Will the association survive as the National Rifle Association? Or become *Neal's Rifle Association*? Or just become *Not Relevant Anymore*?

James L. Pate is SOF's National Affairs Editor. ✕

was all for democracy. How about now?

Neal Knox and democracy? Men and women tapped for service on the NRA Board or other bodies are asked to take a *loyalty oath*. One potential appointee asked, "An oath? To the United States? To the principles of the NRA? To what?" He was told, "to Neal Knox."

Neal Knox and democracy? The shadow of this personality cult has been extended over the staff, all of whom have an interest in the good health of the association. Many staffers are Life Members or Endowment Members. They have been told — under threat of firing — to lie or dissemble to inquiring NRA members about corporate matters that could concern them:

"The members are going to be asking you questions that you shouldn't have to answer, and probably shouldn't answer (plead ignorance: 'I'm so busy doing NRA's work that I don't know what's going on...')." In other words, lie.

"Keep your heads down, my friends... NRA will survive; be sure that you do..."

Those are the words of Neal Knox, in an e-mail to all the staff at NRA. And the staff is ripping mad.

Neal Knox and democracy? An advertisement in the current issue of the *American Rifleman* taken by a group chaired by Neal Knox, declares, "The NRA Board of Directors Nominating Committee has nominated the following *official slate* for election to the NRA Board" (original emphasis). The ad urges that members vote for only the 26 names on the "*official slate*."

This might lead a voting member to believe that those names nominated by members through the open petition process are somehow not "official" — not worthy of their consideration. It's almost as bad as the pre-Cincinnati process.

Neal Knox and democracy? At its February Board meeting, the Knox group attempted to enact bylaw changes that would concentrate more power in the hands of a fewer Board members — *their* hands.

The revolution has come full circle.

Usurping Control By Manipulation And Leverage

When the Knox-controlled Nominating Committee meets to consider all applicants and determine who the committee will endorse, Knox gives his supporters a list of whom to endorse. During the most recent committee meeting, their deliberations only took half a day; individual folders containing information on "non-approved" applicants were not even opened. I heard one member of the committee even observe that candidates nominated by petition should be ignored, because "that's not the regular way."

No better example of Knox's Machiavellian scheming can be found than

his attempt to thwart Tom Washington, long-time Board member and president of the incredibly successful Michigan United Conservation Clubs, from retaining the office of NRA President at the 1994 NRA Board elections in Minneapolis, Minnesota. When I arrived in Minneapolis, unsubstantiated allegations concerning why Tom Washington was unfit to represent the NRA were running rampant.

I cornered Knox and asked him to detail precisely why he opposed Washington becoming President. He listed any number of reasons and ended his response by saying, "And you know, Tom was elected by the old party and they're not in power anymore." I told Knox that if he persisted in pursuing a campaign of unsubstantiated allegations to bring down Tom, "I will fight you on the Board floor and, if necessary, in the pages of *SOF*."

DO NOT VOTE FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Neal Knox, Richard Carone,
Weldon Clark, Howard Fezell,
Fred Griisser, J.O. McFalls,
Joseph Olson, Albert Ross or
Michael Slavonic.

When the issue arose, there was a heated floor fight, with the Knox-controlled Nominating Committee opposing Washington and a group of us supporting him. When the issue went to a secret ballot, Knox was defeated roughly 41 to 30. A significant number of his nominal supports, when they heard both sides of the issue regarding Tom, voted *for* Tom against Neal's wishes. They could do so because this was a secret ballot, and, therefore, they did not run the risk of incurring his wrath.

Later, I spoke with directors who attended Knox's customary "secret meeting" the night before the elections. Knox had at some length gone through the list of allegations against Tom. According to my sources, two individuals objected to his tactics. One said, "...you'd never go to print with a story that sounds as much as bullshit as this one because you'd get sued ... and I'm not prepared to destroy a man's career and his life's work on the basis of what amounts to heresy." A second Director agreed, at which point Knox said, "Yes, we shouldn't be talking about this here." Keep in mind, he and his closest associates were the ones promulgating these spurious allegations right up to the election.

These days, Neal Knox has a different agenda: He is in a blatant power play, a "coup," if you will, to take the reins of the NRA's leadership. His misguided campaign rests on the repeated, though false, notion that NRA is "insolvent" and facing "bankruptcy."

Let me expose one of Knox's rallying cries, that the NRA management willy-nilly spent down its portfolio by \$70 or \$85 mil-

lion (like everything else coming from the Knox camp, the number varies depending on who you're talking to or the company line on that particular day). In truth, according to NRA's audited financial statements, the portfolio was at \$80.6 million in 1991, at \$49.6 million at the end of 1996, and it is projected to stand at \$51.9 million at the end of 1997. In truth, the NRA Board of Directors spends the funds: It is *not* left to the sole discretion of the Executive Vice President or any other Officer. Budgets that embodied withdrawals and resulting expenditures made from the NRA's portfolio were approved by the NRA Board of Directors and its elected officers — president, first and second Vice Presidents.

Funds were allocated at crucial junctures in meeting NRA's goal of revitalizing the Association: by supporting the NRA Institute for Legislative Action in legislative and political battles, providing NRA with long-overdue new facilities and systems, and rebuilding its membership and broad-based programs. In effect, these accumulated funds were used as intended: to support growth opportunities and respond to Second Amendment challenges. All expenditures were not only needed, but fully approved, even by those BOD members who now find it convenient to criticize these actions. In fact, Neal Knox himself chaired the subcommittee of the Board of Directors that scouted out and recommended purchase of NRA's new \$32 million facility.

The irony in all of this, and one that could affect us all, is that the NRA is faced with fighting a tyranny from the federal government, marked by an erosion of our national democracy. And it can't fight government tyranny, when it is itself governed by those who would denigrate democracy within its ranks.

Parliamentary machinations, intrigue, innuendo, veiled threats ... Are these the tools of a selfless and effective leader, or of a power-hungry schemer?

A track record of incidents typified by the above have proven to my satisfaction that Neal Knox is a power-hungry man who is likely to stop at nothing in his ruthless campaign to seize total control of *our* NRA. Worse yet, his power-grab is an affront to the principle of diversity of viewpoint that is intended to make the Board of Directors an effective oversight body. Under Knox, the Board would be no more than a rubber stamp for his extremist rhetoric and policies, and a weapon against those with the temerity to oppose him.

Is this the type of individual we want running the NRA? I don't think so.

To save the NRA today and keep the Second Amendment freedoms in our future, voting members must join together and dump Knox and his key supporters.

In voting for candidates for the NRA's Board of Directors, *do not* vote for the following: Neal Knox, Richard Carone, Weldon Clark, Howard Fezell, Fred Griisser, J.O. McFalls, Joseph Olson, Albert Ross or Michael Slavonic.

Your vote is critical: *Make it count.* ✕

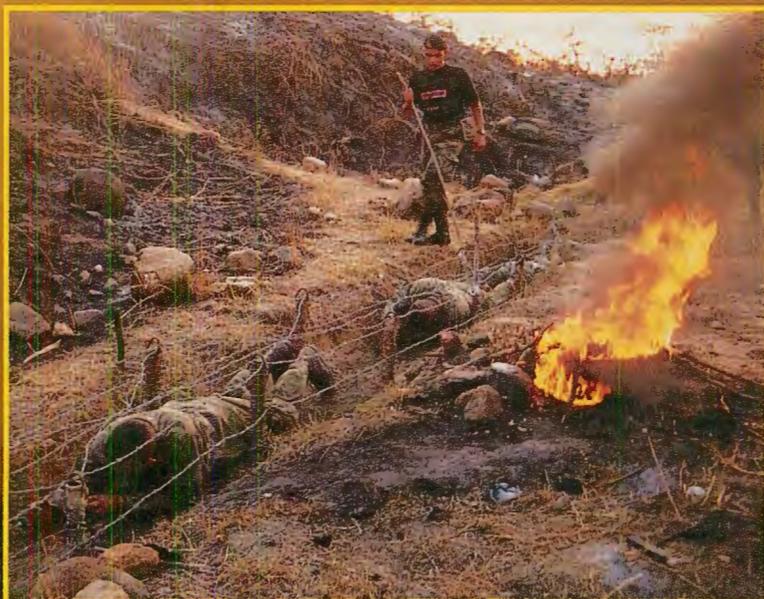
Colombia's CRACK Troops

Roadblock To Anarchy In The Amazon

Text & Photos By JoMarie Fecci

In a remote corner of Colombia, along her border with Peru, a labyrinth of rivers flows through the Amazon basin, where Jungle Infantry patrols scour the dense growth for guerrillas and narco-traffickers. In June 1987, the second most important operation against the cocaine cartels' production facilities occurred deep in the jungle in the Department of Putumayo, when government forces uncovered 500 square kilometers of coca plantations and more than 50 clandestine laboratories. The impenetrable Amazonian jungle continues to provide cover for narco-trafficker's operations and the guerrillas protecting them: It is here that the Colombian army is trying to break the unholy alliance between the two that facilitates the anarchic violence plaguing this picturesque, beleaguered country, and spreads misery worldwide.

As the blue-eyed soldier with the do-rag tossed a bandoleer over his shoulder, crisscrossing his chest with ammo, his buddy futilely swatted at the ever-present mosquitoes. Carefully checking his equipment, each soldier was preparing for war, though everyone knew the patrol was routine. La Tagua, a tiny town on the Rio Caqueta, is home to the *Battalion de Infanteria de Selva No. 49*, and ordinary street patrols rarely result in



Colombian Special Forces Commando with Galil sniper rifle breaks through the smoke on training exercise. (left) *Lancero* trainees negotiate trench under barbed wire and watchful eye of instructor. His stick is for disentanglement — and encouragement — of trainees.

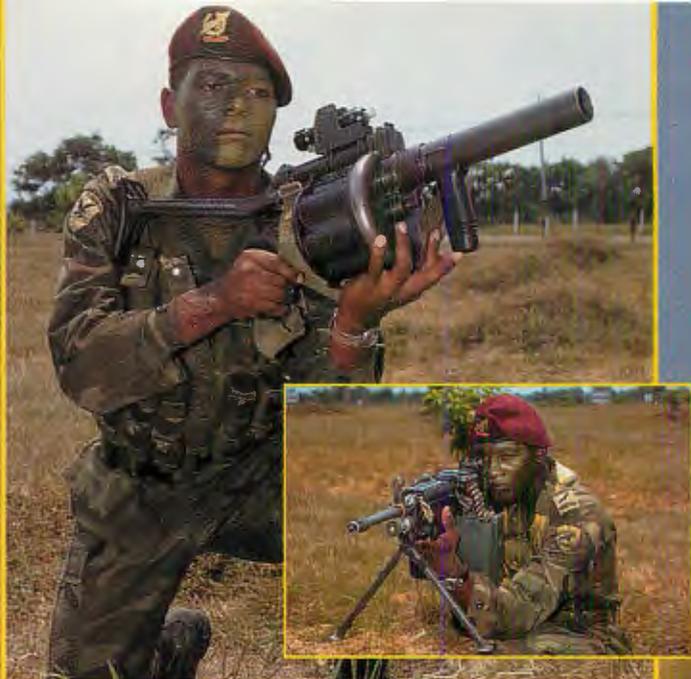
a confrontation — but the soldiers know better than to get too comfortable. Relaxed security is just what the guerrillas are looking for when they select a target for ambush. On the streets of La Tagua, the patrol moves freely. Residents sitting in the cool shade of their doorways shout familiar greetings to the soldiers, and barefooted children follow along on bicycles, unafraid of the men with guns in camouflage uniforms. The 49th is in friendly territory. “Here around La Tagua and Fort Amazonas, the army and the people have formed a very interdependent relationship and in this area the people support the army. Local people with boats provide river transport for the soldiers. Local people work in the fort and the army gives them food and other supplies, but just down the river there are areas that the guerrillas control completely. When the army comes there, no one will talk to them or even sell them food. In these places, the guerrillas have succeeded in convincing the people that the army is their enemy,” Captain Jorge Vera told *SOF*. The 49th is the only unit actually permanently based in the hot, humid Amazon. From La Tagua, there are no more roads — the only way to move is on foot through the jungle, or by boat up the Río Caqueta, an oft-un navigable tributary of the Amazon. It is an isolated place, where heavy tropical foliage is ideal concealment for guerrilla armies and clandestine drug labs.

Drawn Into The War On Drugs

The army has only reluctantly been drawn into the counter-narcotics effort, having a preference for leaving that mission to the police. But with the coca plantations and jungle labs often located in guerrilla-controlled areas, the traffickers and guerrillas have fallen into an alliance of convenience. Thus, it is not uncommon for army operations against the guerrillas to uncover the traffickers’ operations, and army forces end up engaging guerrillas who are protecting the lab sites. “The guerrillas are actually gaining in strength with the income from the narco-traffickers, the ‘taxes’ they charge to the peasants who grow the coca, and the money they extort from those who traffic in drugs,” said Vera. The guerrillas also benefit indirectly from the integration of local *campesinos* into the drug trade on the lowest levels. When peasants earn their livelihood growing coca, government-sponsored eradication programs have the undesirable effect of turning these alienated farmers into enthusiastic guerrilla supporters. “The government is far from these people. They make no effort to reach out to these people, but the guerrillas are there with their talk of communist ideals, and they convince the peasants to help them. Besides, in guerrilla-controlled areas, people must cooperate with them or they will be killed,” Vera continued. Cutting the ties between the people and the guerrillas is a slow and complex task that encompasses many levels, including stopping the people from moving equipment and supplies into the Red Zone. Soldiers from the 49th, posted along the river, stop the



Proper jungle training includes a little mud: Jungle Infantry Battalion novitiates train as they will fight, by taking their spit-shines on a low crawl through the muck. (right) Trainees with eclectic assortment of weapons load Huey mock-up. From left to right are M16A2, Galil sniper rifle, M16A2 and MGL grenade launcher.



Colombian SpecOps troops are not only well trained, but well equipped for their mission. Troopers demonstrate six-round South African MGL 40mm grenade launcher, and (inset) M249 SAW.

peasant’s small boats to search the cargo for contraband. Such operations are intended to hamper the work of the traffickers as well as the guerrillas. As a yellow and blue motorized canoe whirred up the river carrying sacks of produce, it killed its motor and turned to approach the bank of the Caqueta at La Tagua. An erect, proud man with clear traces of Indian blood stood on the narrow bow, guiding his fragile boat across a river alive with piranhas.

On the bank, three soldiers from the 49th waited. As the over-laden canoe slowly docked between two others, the soldiers boarded, methodically searching through the sacks and boxes, looking for drugs, weapons or chemicals destined for drug labs hidden further up the river. “The army command is using a combination of combat actions and psychological operations to rip the population away from the guerrillas and bring them to the army’s side, leaving the guerrillas only the jungle,” explained Lieutenant Colonel Orlando Galindo.

While soldiers with their faces painted in camouflage grease paint slowly made their way on foot through the thick jungle vegetation on the first day of an eight-day patrol, rural residents came by canoe down river to Fort Amazonas. The ones from farther away started arriving at 0700. A banner, proclaiming “United For Progress,” hung from the watch towers as soldiers greeted the visitors from the isolated jungle who had come to participate in a Civic Action program. The idea was to bring the army and the community together. As the tricolor flag was raised, the soldiers saluted and some of the older *campesinos* removed their straw hats.

Most people were there to take advantage of the free medical care and dental clinic, but they stayed for the dancing. Special forces sol-





Over target LZ, Lanceros rappel to their assault positions, where they will assault through objective and remount chopper. (inset) Colombian airborne trooper alights beneath his T-10. Airborne, airmobile forces are important for rapid reaction.

diers dressed like clowns led the children in games. Adults were given farming utensils as gifts. With the canoe races and other contests, the Fort seemed more like a fairground than a military outpost in a forgotten corner of the jungle.

Meanwhile, deep inside the tangled greenery of the Amazon, the platoon inches forward on a seemingly endless patrol where suffocating humidity, mosquitoes and the timelessly haunting sounds of the jungle are their only companions.

Training The Elite

On the other side of the green expanse of Colombia, the stillness of the midday heat is broken by the drumming of a lone chopper — just a speck on the horizon. Then suddenly it was there, hovering 20 yards away. Lines dropped and within seconds a team of *Lanceros* were on the ground. With lightning speed they attacked their objective, lobbed grenades, and assaulted through the smoke at the cutting edge of a sword of automatic weapons fire. Almost as quickly, they returned to the UH-1 which was now wait-

ing for them on the other side of the objective. The whole exercise — an assault on a “guerrilla” command position — took only minutes.

Major Hugo Bahamùn, commander of the *Escuela de Lanceros*, Colombia’s Special Forces training center at Tolomaida, ordered the sweat-soaked soldiers to repeat the maneuver. The elite of the Colombian army, the *Lanceros* were training for the confused reality of this country where experienced guerrillas and powerful narcos are in league against government troops.

The *Lanceros* were created in December of 1955, when the civil war known as *La Violencia*, that had begun in 1948, degenerated into chaos that left bandits and peasant commandantes and their armed followers free to terrorize certain zones of the country. The army command sent a small group of officers to the U.S. Army Ranger course at Fort Benning. These men were tasked with creating Colombia’s own elite irregular combat units. And while the *Lancero* course they developed is based on the Ranger model, incorporating operations behind enemy lines and counter-guerrilla operations, the intervening 40 years of Colombian history has led to an emphasis on counter-insurgency tactics.

As the first *Lanceros* were being trained and deployed in the 1960s, armed peasants and bandits began to organize into guerrilla

armies along varying leftist ideological lines. Throughout the 1970s and ’80s, Colombia was plagued by four major guerrilla groups which, despite several attempts, never managed to form a successfully functioning unified command. The ELN (*Ejército de Liberación Nacional*), a small pro-Castro group, was primarily active in rural regions, as was the Maoist EPL (*Ejército Popular de Liberación*). The M-19 (*Movimiento 19 de Abril*) with its mixture of Marxism-Leninism, nationalism, and populism, was most well-known for spectacular terrorist operations such as the 1985 takeover of the Palace of Justice in Bogotá. During that infamous incident, 50 hostages, including 11 supreme court justices, were killed before security forces could retake the building and free the remaining 400 hostages. However, the largest, best trained and most effective insurgent group was the FARC (*Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*), also with a pro-Cuban Marxist-Leninist ideology.

Fighting The Great Corruptor

Full-scale guerrilla war continued until 1984, when these four groups signed a cease fire with the government. Though talks led to the establishment of a legitimate political arm of the FARC, the *Union Patriótica*, the cease-fire soon eroded and in some parts of the country, the war resumed again in full

force. The breakdown in legality that afflicted Colombia during La Violencia had returned, thanks largely to the principal produce of many jungle regions — coca.

Colombia, the biggest cocaine producer, supplies and controls some 80% of the world market. Clandestine laboratories for refining coca paste are hidden deep in the jungle and during the mid-1980s the cocaine cartels were forced to reach an accommodation with the FARC, which had been operating in this region for several years. In return for FARC protection of narcotics interests, the guerrillas have received money to purchase weapons and supplies. Some FARC fronts are also allegedly involved in processing coca.

After the fall of monolithic communism, the guerrillas lost their ideological supporters. But they still need supplies and weapons, so now they are working even more closely with narco traffickers. With the money from the traffickers, the guerrillas can buy weapons and the loyalty of the people, explained Bahamùn. The intermingling of the drug traffickers and the guerrillas has created unique problems for the Colombian military, as police activity and government eradication programs spark anger among peasants involved in the lucrative drug trade. Irate campesinos lend their support to guerrilla action, increasing the insurgent activity in some areas of the country, despite an overall decline in numbers of guerrilla forces over the last five years.

"The guerrillas rely on surprise and mobility to make it look as if they are everywhere and they are taking control, but it's not like that," Bahamùn told *SOF*. In such a chaotic environment the Lanceros give the army the option to use small highly trained,



Lanceros learn rappelling on tower at Tolemaida, including (inset) inverted Australian descent.

mobile units with the flexibility to initiate and complete a wide range of operations.

At the Escuela de Lanceros, the elite of the Colombian army are put through a grueling 10-week Lancero course that is both physically and psychologically demanding. Volunteers are selected from among the Army's best officers, upon recommendation by their units. Before being accepted into

the program, the men must demonstrate an exceptional level of physical strength and endurance and pass an examination of weapons proficiency.

The *pieeng* of a bullet ricocheting off a stone made one soldier look back over his shoulder as the Lanceros passed closely

Continued on page 69

The Escuela de Lanceros

Since its establishment in 1955, *Escuela de Lanceros* has held 207 Lancero courses, including 39 international courses, training a total of 7,841 Lanceros. Over the years, soldiers from more than 18 countries, including France, Spain and the United States, have participated in the Colombian course. The training center at Tolemaida also offers a series of other Special Operations courses. *Paracadista* training is given in an intensive four-week program that begins with three weeks of rigorous ground training that gradually leads up to a final week of jumps using the T-10 parachute and the MC-1-1B steerable parachute. Training is also offered for jumpmasters. The two-week jumpmaster program stresses the procedures for before, during and after the jump, personal check of equipment, demarcation of drop zones, and the rescue of injured paratroopers. Additional courses are given on the packing and maintenance of parachutes, and for pathfinders.

Fuerzas Especiales

Once each year, a small group selected from the best of the Lanceros returns to Tolemaida to go through another 10 weeks of intensive training that will turn them into the commandos of the Fuerzas Especiales. These maroon berets are the elite of the elite. To qualify for entry, they must have completed both the Lancero and the Paracadista course. Special-forces tactical preparation focuses on airborne operations, infiltration, evasion and escape, and advanced training in weapons and explosives and demolition. The course consists of three phases: The first three weeks

prepare the men with PT, marches, firing range and other basic skills. Then the troops go through four weeks of tactical training in airborne operations, evasion and escape, command procedures, infiltration methods, patrolling techniques and special-forces jungle operations. The final three weeks are the "specialist" phase, when each man is trained for a different tactical specialty in areas such as weapons, explosives and demolition, communications, or planning and command. Standard weapons carried by the Fuerzas Especiales include the 40mm MGL (South Africa's Mechem six-shot revolving grenade launcher), the 5.56x45mm M249 Squad Automatic Weapon, the M16A2 rifle, and the Galil 7.62x51mm rifle.

Guerrillas and the Current Political Situation

The Colombian government is, once again, engaged in talks with the guerrillas aimed at ending the 40-year-old conflict. Many military officers are angry that the government has allowed the talks to go on without a ceasefire in place. The three guerrilla groups still active in Colombia are the EPL, ELN and FARC. While estimates of their strength vary, informed sources say the FARC, the largest group, has about 5,500 armed combatants, plus a larger number of unarmed supporters in rural areas. The EPL and ELN count for less than 1,000 fighters each. The M-19 became a legal political party, Democratic Alliance M-19 (AD/M-19) in 1990, fielding a presidential candidate and several congressional candidates in 1993.

—J.M.F.

Bushwhacking In B.C.

ECO-CHALLENGE

'96

**Survival Of The
Fittest And
Smartest**

Text & Photos
by Robin Postell



Leading early on in the race is the Franco-American Team Life Extension International.

A small number of Army Rangers, Navy SEALs, Marines, and other U.S. military personnel — gluttons for further punishment — were sure that “Eco-Challenge 1996” would be *their* kind of civilian marathon competition.

The climax of months of training, planning, and logistical preparation, it was almost like war without gunfire. Highly trained teams of athletes from nine countries would battle fatigue, hunger, weather, and the rugged, breathtaking terrain of British Columbia, Canada, along a 320- to 330-mile course featuring mile-high mountains, frozen glaciers, frigid rivers, and dense forests. All in less than 10 days.

There were many rules to the first-annual event, which began on 24 August northeast of the ski-resort town of Whistler, which is about 100 miles north of Vancouver. Five team members in, five out: If a team lost even one member to injury, it would be disqualified (but could finish the race as “unranked”). If a team was caught littering or building a campfire — disqualification. Some portions of the course were so treacherous that nocturnal travel was forbidden. Extensive packing lists featured mandatory safety gear. Pre-event literature even included instructions on what to do in the event of an encounter with a bear. (Firearms were not allowed.)

All safety rules were enforced by Eco-Challenge’s British founder, Mark Burnett, a veteran of the Falklands War and two major French-sponsored “adventure races,” and his ever-vigilant staff that included trauma physicians and EMTs. (Burnett’s first Eco-Challenge, covering 370 miles, was held in 1995 in Utah. It also drew competitors and corporate



Eco-Challenge teams perform tyrolean traverse to cross river in the breathtaking terrain of British Columbia. (inset) Team U.S. Cavalry’s Luke Green (commander of Army’s 5th Ranger Training Battalion) snaps carabiners onto rope and drags rucksack and hiking sticks behind him.

sponsors from across the globe.)

Eco-Challenge rules specified there would be at least one female competitor per team. Means of transportation for the teams would vary from horses (only two team members rode at a time) to mountain bikes, canoes, mountaineering ropes, rafts, and "leather personnel carriers": jogging shoes and hiking boots.

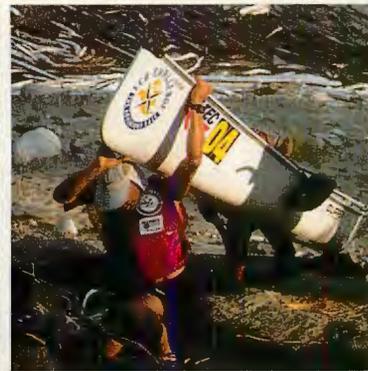
"It was a very hard race; physically, the hardest thing I've done since I went through [U.S. Army] Ranger school," Lieutenant Colonel Luke Green remarked. "Probably mentally it was almost as tough as Ranger school because you dealt with sleep deprivation, long movements, difficult terrain, heavy [rucksack] loads, and accomplishing the mission — which meant making it to the next checkpoint.

"I got asked if I thought parts of the course were too hard. I said no, at first," said Green, commander of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion at Camp Frank D. Merrill in the mountains of northern Georgia. "But now that I think about it, it might have been too hard from the standpoint that only a small percentage of teams could complete the course."

Fourteen intact teams finished the "ecologically correct expedition competition."

Friendly Rivalries

Staff Sergeant Matthew Grucella, a 5th RTB instructor, had heard about the Eco-Challenge on NBC's *Dateline* show.



Teams must cover 50 miles by canoe: (left) Team Foxtel-Australia crosses river with mountain bikes onboard. (right) At portage, New Zealander and American members of Team Reebok/Eco-Internet haul canoes to next lake.

Interest piqued, he did his homework — which included getting Army permission to participate in the non-military event, still nearly a year off.

Initially taken aback by Eco-Challenge's \$10,000 team-enrollment fee, he nevertheless forged on until he found sponsorship with "Brigade Quartermasters," a major supplier of outdoor gear (Brigade Quartermasters, 1025 Cobb International Blvd., Dept. SOF, Kennesaw GA 30152; phone: 800-338-4327; catalog: \$4).

"In the beginning the scope of it was very small," said Grucella. "It was \$10,000 and I figured we'd use what gear we had. But then we realized we had to pour more money into it for extra gear and training."

The tab eventually rose to \$60,000.

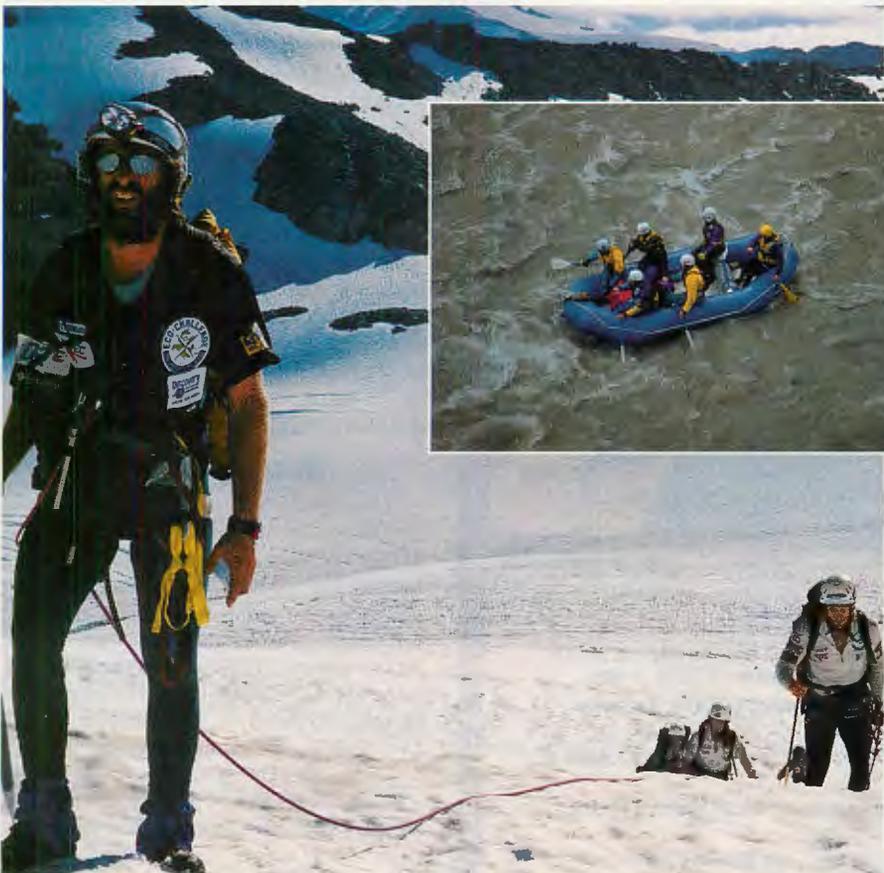
Grucella assembled a team: staff sergeants Kevin Ott and Cole Shepherd and Sergeant David Blum of the 5th RTB, and Specialist Catherine Callahan, a marathon runner and rock climber at Fort Benning, Ga. The team's vehicle-borne support element (which would provide additional food, changes of equipment, clean clothes, and topo maps at resupply/event-transition points along the course) comprised Ranger Staff Sgt. Mark Wilton and Sgt. 1st Class Lou Solis.

Meanwhile, a second group from Camp Merrill, led by Lt. Col. Green, formed an Eco team. It received backing by "U.S. Cavalry," another major outdoor-equipment supplier (U.S. Cavalry, 2855 Centennial Ave., Dept. SOF, Radcliff, KY 40160; phone 800-317-9455; free catalog). Team U.S. Cavalry also comprised Staff Sgt. Johnny Long, Captain Dan Knight, 1st Sgt. Art McCann, and civilian Julie Dauphine, an outdoor-sports instructor from North Carolina. Support members were 5th RTB's Sgt. 1st Class Scott Carter and North Carolina kayaking instructor Billy Richards.

"The disadvantage with the military teams in the past has been thinking that everything they've done in the Army would be enough to win this thing," Team Brigade's Blum explained. "But we've gone beyond that, training in each event to failure and beyond. We didn't run one hour, we'd run all day; we wouldn't boat a couple of hours, we'd boat two days. It wouldn't be fun any longer in the recreational sense; it would be fun in the challenging sense. Then you'd go mental."

Shepherd added: "At first I figured we'd go out there [Eco-Challenge] and smoke ourselves from start to finish. But there are so many things you have to think about: how fast and far you can go without sleep, how fast you can go and maintain that speed throughout the days, how much food and weight you're going to carry, and keeping hydrated."

Off-duty time increasingly was filled with conditioning and technical training. A friendly rivalry developed among the Camp Merrill Rangers. They knew the '96 event



American and New Zealander members of Team Hi-Tec Adventure ascend glacier to checkpoint. (inset) White-water rafting further taxes competitors' technical skills and ability to work together under duress. Safety gear is worn at all times; Eco-Challenge rescue crews are on standby.

likely would be dominated by more experienced, civilian teams from Australia, France, and New Zealand. But the two Ranger teams all harbored a secret goal: finish ahead of the four SEALs of Red Team, three SEALs of Team Faultless Starch, five Marines of Team Brunnick, and two Marines of Team Benincasa/Mountain Dew.

Dawn's Early Light

The 70 teams had been studying maps of the Whistler, B.C., area, trying to intuit where the course might wind through the untamed land. The course had been kept secret until the day before the race, and then only the first leg of the race was revealed.

At 0500, teams were issued two horses each for the first leg of the course: a 22-mile horseback ride/run. At 0700, the teams charged from the starting line, dust flying. Several people fell off their horses only minutes into the race. Otherwise, it was a relatively simple leg, ending several hours later at a river.

During that crossing, the cold water's violent current snatched a number of racers and carried them a short distance downstream, to be fished out by rescue teams. One group, Team Pathfinder/Clarke's, was disqualified when all of its gear was lost when a tow line snapped.



Team U.S. Cav's Julie Dauphine puts on rock-climbing helmet for movement through rough country. (right) Team Brigade Quartermasters enjoys lighter moment at campsite.

In the lead was Team Life Extension International: three American veterans of the '95 Eco-Challenge and two French veterans of the famous *Raid Gauloises* international event, on which the Eco-Challenge is based. Team Hewlett-Packard, an all-French team (also Raid vets), was a close second. Team Brigade Quartermasters, along with all the other military teams, did very well in the first leg.

However, it would get steadily worse.

Race organizers said the second leg was 35 miles long — on the map, perhaps. In actuality, it was nearly twice that when considering the gains and losses of elevation in the coastal mountain ranges. En route, teams started running out of food. Injuries mounted. Most were to legs from missteps while bushwhacking through miserably dense alder forests. Under the load of rucksacks, steps became agonizing. Knees buckled and ached; feet swelled and bled.

One team was disqualified when it lost a member who was stung in the back of the throat when a bee flew into his mouth.

Burnett, aloft in one of the four helicopters on constant patrol, radioed the teams: "Remember, no team *has* to do this."

Eco-Misery Loves Company

"Coming out of TA1 [first transitional area], going into the mountaineering phase, we severely underestimated how much food to take," recalled Green of Team U.S. Cav. "We realized our mistake at the end of the first day and started rationing food. That slowed us down because when you're working that hard you're burning a lot of energy. When your output is greater than your intake, you get progressively weaker.

"We heated water, cooked one Alpine meal, and everybody would sit around and share it," he continued. "You might get two spoonfuls out of it and that was it. We'd split a Power Bar and keep going."

Like other first-timers, they soon realized their packs were too heavy.

"It got to the point where ounces mattered," Green said. Veteran teams from France and New Zealand were already wise to the weight factor; rumor had it they went to great lengths to lighten their loads: cutting off buckles or drilling holes in them, pulling fibers out of utility ropes, even foregoing the "required" sleeping bags and tents.

On day 2, Team Brigade's Grucella injured his knee. Reluctantly, he dropped out of the race. Devastated by the loss of the team captain, the four remaining members nevertheless chose to continue in the race unranked. Grucella was transported by his support crew to TA2, located in a large wooded clearing at the base of several looming mountains.

On day 3 the top nine teams — most of them veteran foreign teams — struggled to get back on track after being missing in action for several hours in thick forest and darkness. After traveling most of the night without sleep, exhausted front-runners finally reached TA2 early in the morning.

By now, the Eco-Challenge had whittled its 70 teams down to 59. Several were disqualified for rule infractions or injuries.

Nearing Halfway

Once past TA2, teams began the third leg: canoeing several hours down a huge, glacier-fed lake to a large log jam that marked the start of the portage section. Each team carried its two canoes, plus gear, up steep embankments and then several miles to return to the next lake. After paddling another 7 hours or more — for a total of some 50 miles — they would transition to a 72-mile ride on mountain bikes.

Canoeing, Green recalled, "was kind of a break because you got to sit on your butt for 20 hours and just paddle, rather than being on our feet — and our feet were killing us by then."

By now, two more members of Team



ECO-CHALLENGE '96 WAS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN LEGS TOTALING 320 - 330 MILES:

- Leg #1: A 22-mile horseback ride and run northwest through deep forests and alpine meadows and along deep rivers. While 3 team members jogged, 2 rode.
- Leg #2: After a cold swim across the Lillooet River, 40+ miles of hiking northward through mountains and across glaciers.
- Leg #3: Total of 50 miles of canoeing along a series of lakes interrupted by 3 miles of portage.
- Leg #4: Southwestern route of 72 miles on mountain bikes, which later are loaded on canoes for river crossing.
- Leg #5: Second round of alpine hiking, mountaineering, and glacier traversal stretching 40 miles to the west then south.
- Leg #6: Forty-four miles of white-water rafting down Elaho River into the Squamish River.
- Leg #7: From city of Squamish, on the Howe Sound, 45-mile hike north-northeast through Cheakamus Pass to finish line in Whistler.

Continued on page 70

Professional Locksmithing Tools

LOCKAID

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

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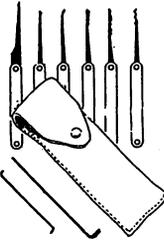
PIX MODEL 13

This deluxe yet compact kit features 11 of the most commonly used tools. Comes in a slim cowhide leather case for discreet undercover operatives. As a special bonus, a 5-piece set of warded picks is included. A 16-piece set total. Also included, a copy of "Lockpicking Simplified." Receive all this at a low price of Pix 13 \$42.95



PXP 8

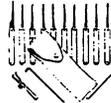
- Shirt Pocket Size.
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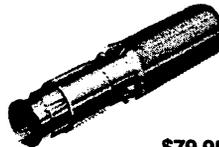


\$17.95

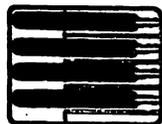
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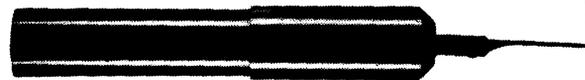


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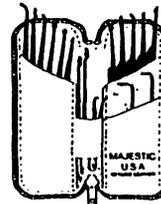
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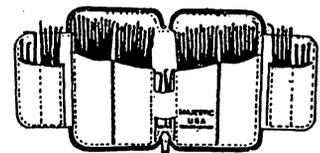
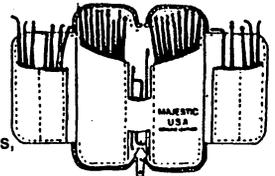
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NYET Problem!

Continued from page 35

device (AAD); I would activate it after the jumpmaster signaled that the plane had risen above 600 feet. One of the ex-Spetsnaz was putting on his gear: no helmet, no AAD. I asked him about this.

"Nyet problem! I have over 2,000 jumps," he replied. "Besides, I am perfect!"

The sturdy Antonov biplane cranked up. We walked out to the aircraft as the jumpmaster beckoned us to get our asses in gear. The wizened little jumpmaster looked to be in his late 50s; he also looked as if he ate nails and shat shrapnel. He was a little concerned that I might not know how to deactivate my reserve's AAD after the main canopy opened. I nodded that, yes, I knew what to do. He didn't look convinced. I think he was expecting the *Amerikanski* to screw up.

As the An-2 gained altitude, Ivan stood up. He weaved back and forth down the short aisle, laughing. Then he turned and grinned at me with the cheek-to-cheek smile of a happy drunk. Two troopers held him up by the open doorway while the jumpmaster checked his static line. Then they threw him out: no reserve and out like a sack of dirty laundry at 500 feet.

My exit was sweet as could be. I felt myself being stabilized and slowed by the drogue chute (a feature not found on American military parachutes). I didn't pull my ripcord, just counted to five and waited for the opening shock. As soon as my main canopy opened I grabbed the steering toggles, gained control of the canopy, and then deactivated the AAD. (Of course, every Estonian trooper in the sky was yelling, reminding me to deactivate the AAD.) The landing fall was soft. *Now* I would have a vodka.

I expected the rest of my week in Estonia to be fairly uneventful and planned on some sightseeing and shopping. I'd already been to the ballet (yeah, really) so I was going to spend some time one evening in my favorite Irish pub in Old Town.

It was late that night when Petty Officer Ambros gave me the word: SOG was on standby for possible real-world action.

He explained that a group of *Kaitselite* (Estonian reservists) had occupied a building at the University of Tartu. The *Kaitselite* had used it for a headquarters in 1938 and in the fervor of post-Soviet nationalism were now demanding it be returned to their organization.

Fortunately the whole situation was eventually resolved through negotiation, not by dynamic entries, stun grenades, and automatic-weapons fire. Nyet problem.

Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott's previous article from Estonia was "Sweden's Blue-Water Sappers," Nov. '96 SOF. ✕

Next Month In

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

- ★ **Failed Commie Coup in Philippines**
Dr. Tom Marks' usual thorough analysis.
- ★ **Peru: Inside the Japanese Embassy Hostage Standoff**
Steve Salisbury reports.
- ★ **Bagwell on Bowies**
Bill looks at knife fighting in the 1800s – would you have survived?
- ★ **SOF Chief Foreign Correspondent in Jail in Cyprus**
Mark Milstein phones home.
- ★ **Kimber .45** Peter Kokalis looks at an out-of-the box 1911A1 with lots of the good stuff.

ON SALE APRIL 29

Unholy Alliance

Continued from page 43

reached a border of sorts. An overwhelmingly Pushtun force from the southern villages, they had arrived at an ethnically mixed city where Persian — not Pushto — is the language and locals are not used to having their womenfolk locked up. They were also now up against the battle-tested Tajik forces of Ahmad Shah Massood — who is no small-time warlord. Having defended Kabul against Hekmatyar's attacks for three years, Massood, a university-educated modernist, was not about to step aside and surrender the city to provincials from the Pushtun south who believed in publicly hanging TV sets, closing girls' schools and confining women to their homes. Aside from their medieval social and religious policies, Massood also distrusted the Taliban for another reason: They were now being supported logistically and financially not just by Babar but also by the Pakistani ISI. With its traditional protege Hekmatyar sidelined and the Taliban making a bid for national leadership, ISI had decided to switch horses.

In March 1995, Massood repulsed the Taliban decisively from Kabul — and at the same time defeated the militia of the Iran-backed Shi'ite minority who had controlled much of the western part of the city since 1992. The offensive dealt a black eye both to Tehran and Islamabad, leaving him master of Kabul for the first time since 1992. But neither the Taliban nor the Pakistanis were giving up that easily.

Through the summer of 1995 the Taliban sat outside Kabul and consolidated their hold on the south. Then in September they struck again, making a lightning advance on the government-held western city of Herat. The city's fall triggered the sacking of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul by a mob enraged over Pakistani backing for the Taliban. The battle lines between Islamabad and the Massood-Rabbani regime were now unmistakably drawn.

Even Too Radical For Iran

Growing Pakistani backing for the Taliban was pulling in other powers as well. Shi'ite Iran viewed the rise of the hard-line Taliban as part of a policy of strategic containment logistically backed by Pakistan, financially supported by the Saudis, and diplomatically masterminded by Washington. When in September 1995 the Taliban arrived on its eastern flank, Iran began flying aid to Kabul. Russians were also alarmed by the prospect of Islamic fundamentalists arriving on the border of Central Asia where 20,000 Russian troops are already tied down in a war Tajikistan. Moscow was more than happy to sell military hardware to Massood.

In October and November that year the Taliban launched further offensives on Kabul's southern and eastern perimeter. In

the east they pushed as far as Pul-e-Charkhi before being halted in heavy battles. The conclusion that their Pakistani backers appeared to draw from the campaign was that the direct approach was not going to work. The result in the summer of 1996 was an indirect strategy that proved devastatingly successful.

The Taliban moved first in August into Paktia province on the Pakistani border, defeating the remnants of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's forces. After a brief period of political and financial "softening up," they drove on into neighboring Nangarhar province to capture the city of Jalalabad on 11 September with scarcely any resistance from a local mujahideen council. Then, without pausing for breath, they kept on moving north and east toward Sarobi. The eventual assault on Sarobi that most analysts — and government commanders — thought would be weeks in preparation followed days later, a well-planned three-pronged attack on the night of 24 September. And again, without a pause, they kept on moving toward Kabul in a multi-pronged *blitzkrieg*.

There's no doubt high morale among fresh Talib troops and battle-fatigue on the government side played a part in the dramatic eastern campaign and the fall of Kabul. But the key elements were meticulous planning, unrelenting speed, unflinching logistics support and, not least, impressive command and control and coordination between several fronts in a fluid tactical situation. It's worth stressing that in the last 17 years of war in Afghanistan no Afghan force — government or opposition — has ever pulled off such a swift and complex series of operations over such a wide operational area.

To expect semi-literate Afghan *mullahs* to be capable of this level of planning simply defies belief. Nor is it any more credible to suggest — as some have done — that ex-officers of the former communist regime now in Taliban ranks could have put together such a plan. In the two years since they emerged, the Taliban had never achieved anything approaching this level of military sophistication. In short they had plenty of help — and not just in a war-room in Islamabad. On the ground, Pakistani nationals were involved at two levels. First, ex-Frontier Corps personnel from Pakistan's Pushtun belt who speak the same language as the Taliban were in key staff positions. Second, hundreds of Pakistani fundamentalist volunteers were eager for some hands-on jihad in Afghanistan.

Will The Dog Turn On Its Master?

But since the fall of Kabul, the limitations of the Taliban — military, political and diplomatic — have become all too apparent. Clearly this crusade from the Middle Ages is neither going to sweep Afghanistan nor succeed in putting together anything approaching a credible government in Kabul.

Overwhelmingly Pushtun, their drive north from Kabul into the ethnically Tajik

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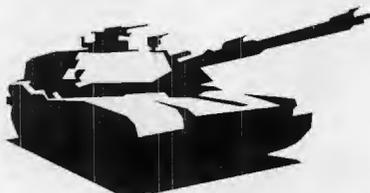
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region was a disastrous failure. Even as they consolidated their hold on the city, they pursued Massood north into his Panjshir Valley bastion. Given that during the early 1980s Massood's men had mauled repeated communist offensives backed by a full range of Soviet air and armored and artillery assets, this was not a particularly smart move. Before they retreated, they moved a grand total of one klick and suffered scores of dead. By then they were already facing uprisings by Tajik townfolk and a rash of guerrilla attacks in their rear.

Their seizure of Kabul had also handed Massood a powerful new ally. This was Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam, a former communist militia boss who since 1992 has run northwestern Afghanistan as a private fiefdom. Under heavy pressure from Moscow and Tehran, Dostam sealed a pact with Massood and the Iran-backed Shi'ites to stem the northern advance of the Taliban. In October the northern coalition succeeded in recapturing Bagram airbase and pushing the front line back toward Kabul where it remained this winter.

Just where Afghanistan goes from here is a very open question. But it's a fairly safe bet that the favored western scenario — reconciliation and a broad-based government comprising all the warring parties — is about the least likely outcome. Two other scenarios are far more probable: In the first, the present ethnic and geographic line-of-divide along the Hindu Kush mountain range becomes a *de facto* partition of the country. The Taliban rule the Pushtun provinces of the south, while in the north a more moderate coalition provides Central Asia with buffer-zones against the advance of Taliban fundamentalism.

The alternative is that the Taliban, politically inept, diplomatically shunned and administratively incompetent, fail to hold together. Incapable of running a government and divided by traditional Pushtun tribal loyalties, they slowly (or rapidly) disintegrate.

In both these scenarios the dangers to the stability of the region, particularly Pakistan, are considerable. For starters, partition or ongoing war will torpedo Pakistani hopes for trade routes and natural gas pipelines across Afghanistan. More seriously, if Taliban-style fundamentalism has the potential for export in any direction it's surely toward the volatile Pushtun belt of Pakistan itself. Pakistan's military has already been called in to put down one armed uprising in the tribal area of Maada that was demanding the imposition of Taliban-style Islamic law. Islamabad, moreover, has succeeded in making Massood an implacable foe. Pakistan, like Britain and the Soviet Union in their day, may yet discover that those who meddle in Afghan politics often end up getting their hands badly burned.

Intrepid Brit photojournalist Mike Winchester is an old Afghanistan hand, having made innumerable tours there for SOF during the past decade. ✕

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#143 September 1989: VIETNAM TODAY — Ho Chi Minh City's ARVN vets; AFRICA — Combat tour to central Angola; Insider's account of Rhodesian Fire Force's air component; ELITE UNITS — SAS ops in Northern Ireland; MERC WORK — CTU rescues American held overseas; WEAPONS — H-S Precision's takedown sniper system.

#144 October 1989: MIDDLE EAST — Delta/SEAL hostage rescue plan betrayed; AFGHANISTAN — SOF correspondent treks to Panjshir Valley, interviews commander Massoud; SOUTHEAST ASIA — American aids rescue after Cambodian massacre; WEAPONS — U.S. Army's next combat rifle; U.S.-made Hind helicopter clones.

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#150 April 1990: PANAMA — Operation Just Cause defeats Noriega; CONVENTION — Three-Gun Match's 10th birthday in Vegas; MERCs — Professional work on the Panamanian border. WEAPONS — Italy's 9mm Spectre submachine gun.

#151 May 1990: PERU — The Shining Path, Peru's violent guerrillas. PROFESSIONALS — Patrick Chauvel, ace combat photographer. EL SALVADOR — The FMLN's version of the Tet Offensive; WEAPONS — Assassin's bullet from FMLN arsenal.

#152 June 1990: USSR — Afghans strike back; PERU — Private sector's answer to the breakdown of law and order. VIETNAM — Details of a SEAL rescue operation; WEAPONS — Glock's model 21.

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#154 August 1990: VIETNAM — A six-year nightmare in a Hanoi prison camp. THAILAND — A success story in southeast Asia; ANGOLA — UNITA and FAPLA troops battle for Mavinga; WEAPONS — Colt attempts to remake Browning's .45.

#155 September 1990: DRUG WAR — The Coast Guard's 200-year legacy; PANAMA — Heroes of operation Just Cause; LAOS — Government again

using chem/bio warfare on H'mongs; WEAPONS — Stallard Arms' new 9mm handgun.

#156 October 1990: MERC WORK — Brit mercs in Suriname's jungle; LIBERIA — American Journalist in African revolution; PROFILE IN COURAGE — SEAL-turned-cop wins the Medal of Honor; WEAPONS — 15 years of weapons coups.

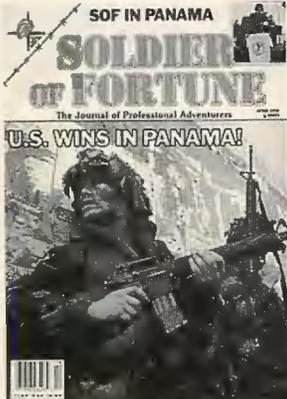
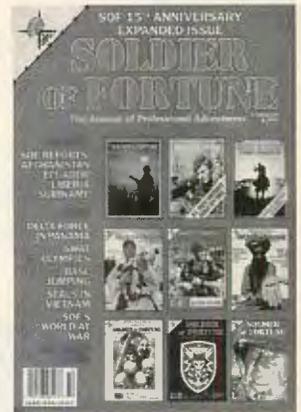
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#158 December 1990: MIDDLE EAST — Special Desert Shield coverage section; CANADA — Civil war pits Quebec vs. the Mohawk Indian Nation; WEAPONS — Smith & Wesson's Model 640 Centennial.

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#160 February 1991: MIDDLE EAST — Kuwait's top guns; U.S. Marine attack helicopters; CONVENTION — Best shooters come to Las Vegas; VIETNAM — Charlie Rangers "kill for fun"; WEAPONS — Smith & Wesson's Model 4516-1 compact .45 semiauto.

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Continued from page 49

biggest hole will do the most damage.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to determine that that means we want a bullet in the largest caliber that can be controlled by the shooter. And, in addition, moderate velocities will usually provide better performance. Bullets traveling at excessive speeds will invariably over-expand and thus under-penetrate. In my experience, Hornady's line of XTP bullets generally expands somewhat less than competing

designs, and thus penetrate more deeply.

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I predict that the caliber .40 S&W Glock Model 27 will continue to dominate as a backup piece in the law-enforcement arena, where so many agencies have standardized on this excellent cartridge. But, among civilians and those armed professionals not bound by departmental restrictions, the new .45 ACP Glock Model 30 will immediately

become the red-hot ticket to reliable and effective performance in a compact concealment pistol.

Only the new Para-Ordnance ultra-compact P10.45 is any smaller (and just slightly). But, Glock pistols can be stuffed into your holster right out of the factory box. It has been my experience that Para-Ordnance pistols usually require extensive and expensive gunsmithing before they will come even close to the Glock's record of reliability. ❌

Method Of Operation

Continued from page 49

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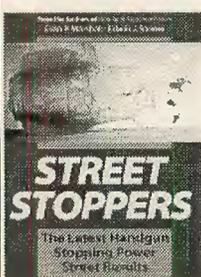
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tor" (sear) and a projection at the end of the striker to release the firing pin and fire the round.

The firing pin is rectangular in cross-section with a chisel-shaped tip. Although primers are left with an instantly identifiable indentation, the striker's unorthodox configuration produces less drag on the primer (diminishing the possibility of firing pin breakage) and concentrates its momentum onto a smaller area to insure positive ignition. Fluted firing-pin cups, which permit the Glock pistol to be fired underwater, are available to legitimate government agencies only. A stamped, sheet-metal ejector is permanently attached to the polymer trigger housing.

Further explanation of the connector is required. This sheet-metal component also serves as a disconnecter. When the slide moves forward in counter-recoil, a hump above the rail on the right side pushes the connector away from the trigger bar to prevent another round from being fired until the trigger is released and the trigger bar moves forward.

The angle between the connector's upper face and its bottom face determines the trigger-pull weight of the second stage. An angle of 90 degrees will produce the standard pull weight of 5.5 pounds. A pull weight of 8 pounds is achieved by increasing the angle to 105 degrees (stamped with a "+"). A pull weight of 3.5 pounds, available only with the Long Slide Target Models 17L, 24 and 24C, is obtained when the angle is reduced to 75 degrees (stamped with a "-"). At the request of the New York State Police, a small polymer and steel component was designed to increase the trigger-pull weight. There are now two versions, both of which should be installed only with the 5.5-pound connector. The original version will produce a trigger pull of 7.5 to 8 pounds. The so-called New York "+" component will provide a pull weight of 10 to 11 pounds. If the pistol is to be stored for any length of time, the trigger should remain in the retracted position to remove all tension on the firing pin spring.

— P.G.K.

Crack Troops

Continued from page 59

behind a live-fire range. A volley of shots, some far over their intended targets, kept the troops in the prone through the tall grass before continuing toward their destination, a small clearing in a wooded area. They hurried down the steep mountainside, over the loose rocks with a quick agility that masked the ease with which a wrong step could knock one stone out of place, carrying them down the mountain in an avalanche of rocks. On the plateau at the path's end, plumes of black smoke rose from a line of fires where instructors waited. One by one the soldiers jumped into a trench, just wide enough for a man, lined with barbed wire on all sides and bordered closely by fire. They crawled forward, prodded on by the searing heat of the flames and encouragement from a stick in the hands of instructors, as the sharpened steel points ripped their flesh and shredded their uniforms. Their deep voices repeated the chant, "Lealtad. Valor. Sacrificio."

Loyalty, Valor, Sacrifice - For Victory

"Loyalty, Valor, Sacrifice. It's the motto of the Lanceros. At Tolemaida, they learn the Spirit of Lanceros: to be able to do more things than you think you can do," explained Bahamùn. The soldiers were going through the first part of a process designed in part to help them endure pain. Their course includes more than just intensive physical training combined with special weapons and tactics. Before a soldier earns the right to wear the black beret, he must also endure special tests of bravery and demonstrations of courage. Only about 65% of the men will make it.

The training is broken into five phases. The adaptation phase lasts three weeks and consists of physical conditioning, martial arts training, marching, obstacle courses, marksmanship, map reading and other basic infantry skills, as well as special tactics for airborne operations, infiltration methods and evasion and escape. On that foundation, the soldiers move on to the second two-week phase which focuses on patrolling techniques in a normal environment, and is followed by two weeks of training for mountain operations.

The final three-week phase, the jungle course, covers patrolling in the Amazon. The physical requirements of the training are extreme, as the mountains and the jungle terrain have difficult access and are very sparsely populated. In such regions the guerrilla groups have prospered, often controlling large territories. "Because they have the advantages of surprise and mobility, the guerrillas almost always take the initiative. Most of the time, we can only react, and so we have a well-trained reaction force," explained Bahamùn. But recent improvements in intelligence gathering have increased the frequency with which the

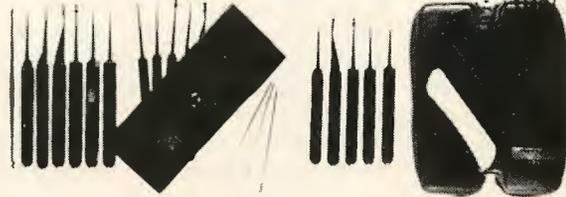
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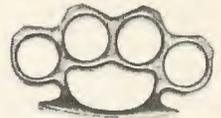
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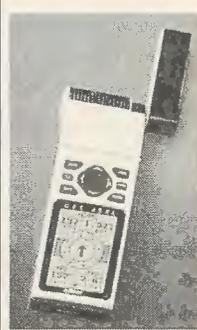


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Army has advance knowledge of planned Guerrilla actions, allowing the special operations units to launch preemptive strikes. Bahamùn continued, "Since three years ago, we have been defeating the guerrillas because of better intelligence. In a typical operation, Lanceros and Special Forces infiltrate by chopper, airdrop or other means and engage the guerrillas directly, using regular troops to cut off the escape routes."

The scarred hull of a helicopter with its insides torn out rests on concrete blocks in the middle of a green field at Tolemaida. On their company commander's order, a group of soldiers scramble out of the gutted chopper and assault in a zig-zag course toward an "objective" further along the range. Just behind them, other men are rotating through the stations of the special forces obstacle course. Once they finish their training, these Lanceros will be dispersed to battalions all over Colombia, spreading flexible small-unit special-operations capability across a country facing guerrillas on 55 geographically dispersed fronts. "To survive is a 'victory' for the guerrillas. They have no real hope of winning and taking over the country. They are sure they can't," Bahamùn stated with unwavering conviction. "For 40 years they've been trying and they couldn't. They know that while Lanceros exist they will never destroy our democracy."

A frequent contributor, New York-based photojournalist JoMarie Fecci has covered hotspots such as Bosnia for SOF.

Eco-Challenge '96

Continued from page 62

Brigade suffered injuries. The team decided to drop out of the race — a very difficult fate, having trained so long and hard. They rejoined Grucella and the support crew at TA2.

Team U.S. Cav, meanwhile, was maintaining its standing in the top 20 along with Team Mountain Dew and Red Team. Although they had run out of food during the second leg, they gorged themselves on a patch of blueberries and made it to the next transitional area.

Day 4 found Team Reebok at the end of the 50-mile canoeing leg. The five racers mounted the bikes provided by their support members and began a 3,000-foot climb in the first 3 miles. The teams biked along a road of steep climbs and descents, then pedaled along the lake shores. To get to TA3, teams had to board canoes (with their bikes) to cross a river.

Team Hewlett-Packard held a sturdy second place, with Team Southern Traverse-New Zealand close behind. Team Foxtel-Australia was close behind. Military teams continued to maintain their Top 20 positions, although Team Faultless pulled out due to injuries.

By day 5, only 41 teams remained in the running. The lead teams found themselves on the windswept glaciers. Team Reebok remained in the lead; Team Hewlett-

Packard followed diligently. The mountaineering and glacier traverse had been estimated to take even the top teams at least 24 hours, putting them at the next transitional area early the next morning.

Injuries, Errors, Isolation

Injuries became the norm. As the days wore on, more team members would hobble into the transitional areas. It began to look like a combat zone: bloody bandages, crutches, medics carrying people in on stretchers.

During the second phase of mountaineering, members of Team U.S. Cav experienced many challenges, including crushing navigational errors and feelings of isolation. Team member Julie Dauphine fell on a log and cut her arm. Teammate Johnny Long, in the role of medic, sewed the wound to stop the bleeding.

"We didn't have scissors and he was using his mouth to bite off the thread," Dauphine recalled. "Then we just kept on going."

The front-running teams spent most of days 5 and 6 on the mountaineering and glacier-traverse leg. The 40-mile route, across ice fields at an altitude of 7,000 feet above sea level, introduced life-threatening hazards: ice falls, crevasses, and thousand-foot cliffs requiring a tyrolean traverse and several arduous rope climbs along several miles of fixed ropes.

Descending to the next leg, teams faced 44 miles of river rafting. Teams rode "class

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IV" rapids of the glacier-fed Elaho River, battling raging chutes and troughs. Ahead lay Devil's Elbow, one of the most dangerous river crossings in British Columbia. Where the Elaho meets the Squamish River, rapids changed to "class III" and teams navigated through towering canyons of sheer granite to reach the final transitional area and a final leg.

Team Reebok/Eco-Internet crossed the finish line first in an amazing 6 days, 17 hours, 44 minutes. It captured the \$10,000 first-place prize and a free entry into 1997's by-invitation-only race, to be held in August in the outback of Queensland, Australia. Team Hewlett-Packard and Team Hi-Tec Adventure, whose members became friends along the grueling course, finished together in second place at 7 days, 10 hours, 48 minutes.

Team Mountain Dew — Marine captains Owen West and Paul Montanus and civilian adventurers Robyn Benincasa, Alex Hall, and Mitch Utterback — finished eighth, in 7 days, 22 hours, 32 minutes. Team U.S. Cav finished 11th in 8 days, 8 hours, 7 minutes. In 13th place was Red Team: East Coast SEALs Joe Burns, Jody McIntyre, Arthur Toehike and John Hoffman, and Navy personnel officer Pamela Kunze.

"It's a challenge," Team Brigade's Blum commented, perhaps in understatement. "It's satisfying. It might suck while you're doing it but ... the more gratifying and satisfying it is after it's all said and done."

With two successful Eco-Challenges under his belt, event founder Burnett

emphasizes this competition is not necessarily won by the most physically fit, or even youngest, individuals. The average age of competitors is 35.

"I'd like to make it more problem-solving oriented," he said. "I don't want it to be that this is won by the fittest, strongest team; I want this to be won by the team who uses their wits very well, and their resources, and who *thinks*. Like how to get stuff across the river with the rope, the equipment available.

"It's not about cardiovascular strength," Burnett added.

Georgia-based freelance writer Robin Postell specializes in coverage of adventure sports. She accompanied the support element of Team Brigade Quartermasters in Eco-Challenge '96.

For information about the 1998 event, contact Eco-Challenge, 9899 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 208, Beverly Hills, CA 90212; phone: 310-553-8855. ✕

Combat Weaponcraft

Continued from page 20

and are virtually useless when you get them damp with sweat.

Your job is to be in a position undetected where you can provide detailed on-scene intelligence and be able to shoot to resolve the situation if necessary. In some situations

this means you have to get fairly close while remain undetected. That means good camo as well as field craft. White clothing designed for coyote hunting is available. Do not forget your rifle and binoculars. I have found that white athletic tape is a durable, removable camo. Be sure, however, not to allow it to interfere with any operation of your rifle or scope. Do not wrap it tightly around your barrel and fore end, as the pressure will affect your point of impact. I run it lengthwise in strips, again being careful not to bind the barrel to the stock.

One last tip: Remember that when you are looking through the scope and have a clean view of the target, that doesn't necessarily mean you have a clear shot. Your bore is 1.5 inches below your scope. If you are prone in a snow drift and the bullet hits anything, including the snow drift, it will throw your shot off. Be sure you have sufficient clearance for the bore. Check this when you assume your position and again before the shot. I find the fully adjustable Harris bipod to be very useful aid, almost like a portable adjustable bench rest. In taking a high-prone shot, such as when you are in 4 inches of snow, it can make the difference between a successful shot or not being able to take it, or — worse — missing.

Remember: To do it on demand, you must think ahead, prepare for it, and train for it. You then have the odds on your side.

Jeff Hoffman is president of Black Hills Ammunition. ✕



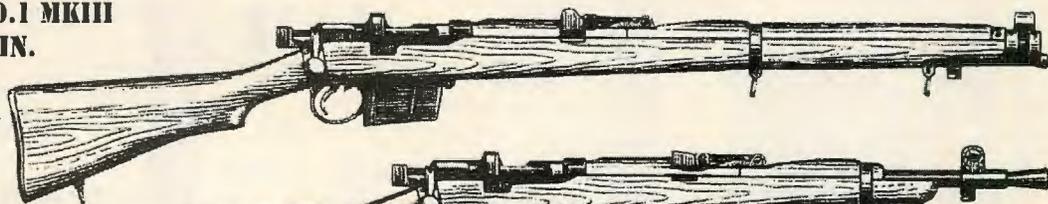
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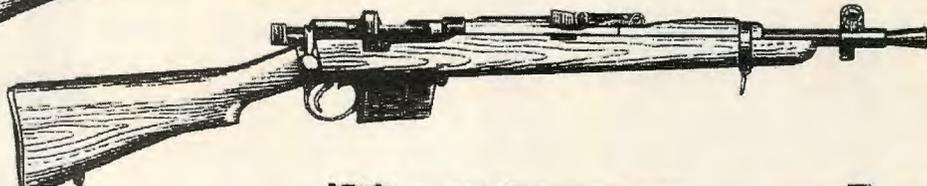


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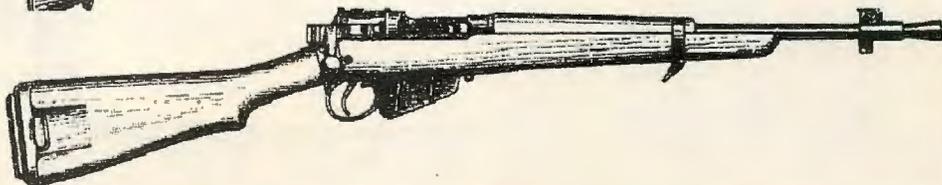
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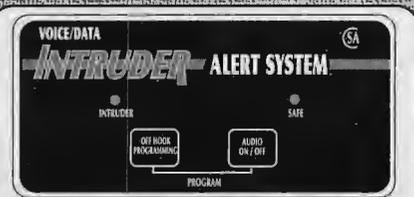


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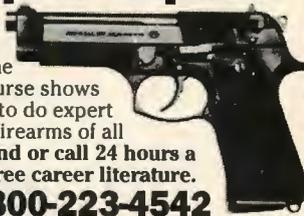
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SOUND OFF

by Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.)

Women As Weapons Of War

There's a hard-core group of women in America that wants its younger sisters to do the worst thing that a man has to do, and that's to be a grunt in combat.

The proponents for integration now want to go all out. They say the only way to stop sexual harassment, break the glass ceiling and give women full equality and opportunity is to knock down all the barriers.

Few of the advocates know from being there what a grunt's life is about, or how we even got the term *grunt* — the sound a warrior makes as he lifts himself off the ground with a full rucksack, ammo, water, rations, rifle, flakjacket, and other gear.

The infantryman in combat is not only a beast of burden, he's a moving target who lives an existence so horrible the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would have outlawed the same conditions for pets years ago.

Having spent almost eight years as a grunt in combat, and covered nine wars as a correspondent, I know that even professional football is kid stuff when compared to the violence and terror grunts have endured, from the shores of Tripoli to the mean streets of Mogadishu. Even on womenless Super Bowl teams, limbs aren't ripped off or body bags filled.

There are millions of "been there, done that" grunts who say that putting women in direct combat won't work, and will cost lives just as it did in Israel's 1948 war. But for leaders on active duty to say this publicly is a total job terminator. When the grunts do sound off they are viciously attacked by the militants, who call them cavemen from the dinosaur period.

The feminists ignore this battle savvy while sanitizing future war, insisting it will be push-button easy. Yet, would they take a similar stance if their dead daughters were being dragged naked down a Somalian street as our Special Ops warriors were in 1993, or raped and sodomized by Iraqi soldiers as American female POWs were during the Gulf War?

I'm convinced that if the advocates had their way, women soldiers would soon be walking point, slitting throats, fighting hand-to-hand, and doing the meanest job in the world. Sure.

Female low-rankers, who do the dirty work, aren't hot to be mud soldiers. In 1992, I interviewed hundreds of women vets, fresh from the Iraqi desert. Ninety-five percent said, "Hell no," when asked if they wanted grunt duty. A recent Harvard University survey reveals that 90% of women soldiers interviewed did not want direct combat jobs.

The main pushers for 100% integration of our armed forces seem to be senior women officers looking for a better shot at top



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.

jobs and biased sociologists, reporters, and members of women's equality groups bent on ignoring the facts for their own agenda.

Women soldiers I've talked with hold that the female brass want stars at their expense. Many say that most of the feminists don't know what they are talking about.

The main pushers for 100% integration of our armed forces seem to be senior women officers looking for a better shot at top jobs and biased sociologists, reporters, and members of women's equality groups. ...

Sadly, the top Pentagon brass, especially the civilian leadership, refuse to tell the truth about the serious problems integration of women in the military has already caused.

The way to find the truth is for Congress to order that fully integrated combat units composed of infantry, tank, artillery, SEALs, Green Berets, aviation and direct-support elements be fielded. Its skipper should be a seasoned combat leader, recalled from the retired ranks, the type of leader who would not be one of the president's men and who could be trusted to conduct a fair test and put truthfulness and the mission of defending America before political correctness.

These test units should train for an extensive period under the most demanding simulated combat conditions. During these tests, there would be no gender-bending or double standards such as exist in all services today.

There would be one standard. Everyone would be treated equally. Women would be required to march, run, climb, throw grenades, fly, swim, tote that 100-pound rucksack, and live in the filth just as the grunts do now.

Let's test during peacetime, not take a chance of failing in battle. If it works, I'll be the first to demand 100% integration.

[Http://www.hackworth.com](http://www.hackworth.com) is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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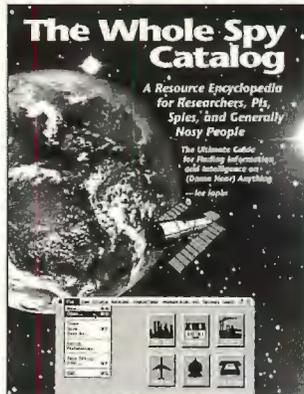
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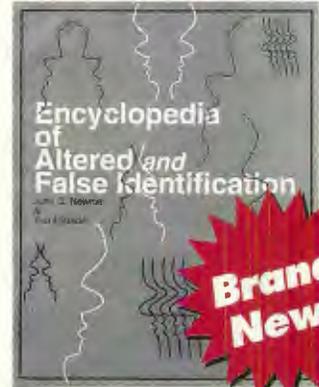
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