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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

NRA's Palace Coup?

The National Rifle Association's future depends on the decisions made and actions taken 2-4 May in Seattle at the NRA's annual meeting. I am donating this page for a letter co-authored by four distinguished NRA past presidents: Joe Foss, Medal of Honor recipient and former governor of South Dakota; James E. Reinke, former vice president of Eastern Airlines and chairman of the NRA special committee that recommended creation of the Institute for Legislative Action; Howard W. Pollock, former congressman from Alaska and congressional adviser to the U.S. secretary of the treasury; and Robert K. Corbin, former attorney general of Arizona credited with 1981's passage of the nation's first hunter anti-harassment legislation.

A "palace coup" is underway, led by Neal Knox and his allies, to take over the NRA. As past presidents, we've witnessed such self-serving actions before. We're not going to stand idly by, and neither should NRA members.

Knox was fired as executive director of NRA-ILA and as an NRA board member, by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the full board, for violating board policy. Later, back on the board, Knox worked to gain control of the nominating committee and attempted a covert ouster of the President Tom Washington. Now he covets the entire operation.

By innuendo and deception, Knox and his followers have misrepresented the NRA's financial condition and systematically worked to ruin Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre. They would have you believe that the NRA is slipping hopelessly into "bankruptcy" amid what they label a "fiscal madhouse."

Some of us, with our decades of experience on the NRA board of directors and executive council, examined financial records and reviewed the annual audits. We spoke firsthand with high-level officers

from the First Union Bank, one of the nation's top 10 lending institutions, which financed the NRA's Headquarters building, and with our independent auditors from Coopers & Lybrand.

The experts say our fiscal trends are "steady, positive, and continue to build every year" by any measure used. Changes in the portfolio reflect the progressive actions taken by the NRA's board of directors in managing assets, based on committee and subcommittee recommendations. The board's decisions to spend from the portfolio (1991-3) funded a massive, sorely needed revitalization of NRA infrastructure and operations. The association was on the verge of collapse with a declining membership, a decaying headquarters building, outdated programs, and obsolete office technology.

What were the results of those efforts and disbursements?

In 1994, President Clinton credited the NRA with helping elect pro-gun majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. As a result, federal gun-control legislation remained on the back burner. All across the country, states adopt "right to carry" legislation. NRA programs were expanded and are in solid demand. And, the NRA's membership stands at a strong 2.8 million.

During 1994-6, NRA leaders clearly focused on rebuilding the NRA's financial strength through balanced budgets, increased operational efficiency, and investments. Revenue was reinvested in the portfolio to rebuild cash reserves: from \$41.7 million in 1994 to \$50.9 million in 1996. The portfolio is projected to stand at \$53.2 million this year.

Members, we ask that you cast your votes for the NRA board of directors based on the recommendations of the Committee for a Strong and Effective NRA. Do not vote for Neal Knox, Richard Carone, Michael Slavonic, Howard Fezell, J.O. McFalls, Joe Olson, Albert Ross, or Fred Grisser. ✘

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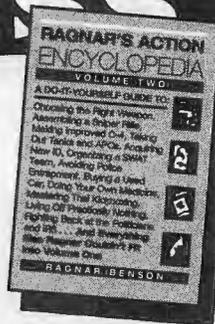


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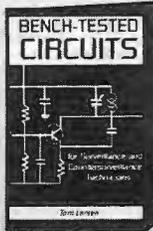
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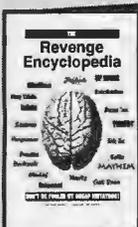
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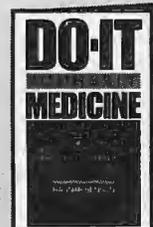
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UNKINDEST CUT TO CALIFORNIANS

Re your "No More Union Jack The Ripper" in "Bulletin Board" March '97: B.F.D.!! Britain is 6,000 miles from California; here in California it is already illegal to possess a dirk or dagger. The definition of "dirk or dagger" was recently changed to:

Any pointed object with or without hand-guards which can be used to cause bodily harm or injury.

"It won't be long before a Brit can't even have a sharp stick to defend himself. Well — and we're not making this up — that literally may be about to happen."

Hey!! It already happened in *America*!!

Kirk Peterson
Willits, Calif.

TRUE TEXAS TOWER HERO

I noticed one small error in your April 1997 "Command Guidance" column. In the Texas Tower sniper incident, the man who killed sniper Charles Whitman was Austin, Texas patrolman Ramiro Martinez. Martinez led a three-man entry team, which included a civilian named Alan Crum, who was armed with a rifle. The other team member was a fellow Austin patrolman with a shotgun.

After climbing the stairs to the observation deck of the tower, Martinez surprised Whitman from behind and killed him with six rounds from his police-issue .38 Special revolver. This heroic patrolman later joined the Texas Rangers.

Thomas J. Tremblay
Dracut, Mass.

You're right: Thanks for catching the error. A civilian employee of the University, Alan Crum was deputized on the spot because he intimately knew the guts of the building where the deranged Whitman was holed up. Carrying his private rifle, Crum and the two officers entered the building and made their way to the tower, where they were confronted by an anguished tourist whose family had been murdered by Whitman — and who tried to take one of their weapons so he could go after Whitman himself. After dealing with the tourist, the three made access to the parapet where Whitman had staged weapons, ammo, water and food, and officer Martinez took him down.



CZECHMATE HACKWORTH

I was very surprised, astonished I dare say, that you published the "Sound Off" by Col. Hackworth (Ret.) in the February 1997 issue of *Soldier Of Fortune*. What the Colonel wrote reminded me of the Marxist propaganda I heard from my colleagues at the State University of California at Chico. I heard all about nuns being tortured in Guatemala, pits full of decapitated human beings, etc. I am surprised to hear such Marxist twaddle from a U.S. Colonel. He does not, it seems, know very much about "Liberation Theology" or about the utter brutality of the Communists. If it were not for the CIA, Guatemala would have been, for many years, a "Worker's Paradise" like Cuba is.

The Colonel gives the game away in his book, *Hazardous Duty*, where he writes, "I felt like lining up LBJ, Richard Nixon, Maxwell Taylor and William Westmoreland against a stone wall and shooting them." (Page 1).

The good Colonel moved to Australia in 1972 where he gave away (how noble) his medals to some Australian children. A truly patriotic deed. Our Colonel worked for *Newsweek*, not a liberal rag, but certainly part of the Liberal press.

(Prof.) Jiri T. Vojta, PhD
Albuquerque, New Mexico

CONSPIRACY THEORIES? NOT US ...

Bob Brown's "Command Guidance" titled "Gun Confiscation: The Common Denominator" standing by itself appears to the untrained eye to be just another eruption of the One-World Conspiracy theory by another right-wing extremist. But then we have the "World Sitrep" item about the Swiss Army training in breaking up protests by civilians and the many articles, especially in *SOF*, about military training for our elite police units and the involvement of the National Guard and Special Ops forces in civilian law enforcement.

We have a conscious decision by police higher-ups in Great Britain to grant a gun license to a well-known sicko — against the recommendations of lower-ranking officers — so that he could arm himself with four powerful handguns and kill all those children. In Tasmania, a diagnosed paranoid schizophrenic with a long history of terrifying his neighbors uses two military-style rifles to kill 35 people.

At 101 California Street in San Francisco a lone gunman wanders about for over an hour shooting up office equipment and terrified unarmed employees, while the cops, in sort of a SWAT team wet dream, work their way up, methodically clearing each floor on the way.

In NYC, its mayor calls the .380 ACP pistol used by the Palestinian professor a "semi-automatic attack weapon," in contrast to a brick, which would be a manually-operated, multi-purpose, solid-state, silent

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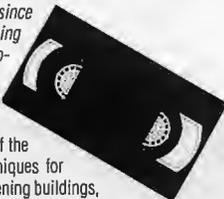


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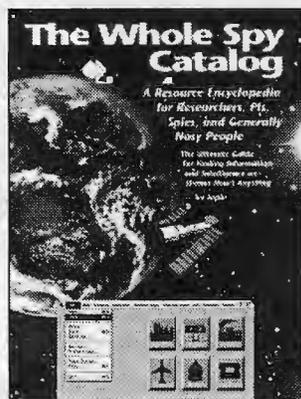
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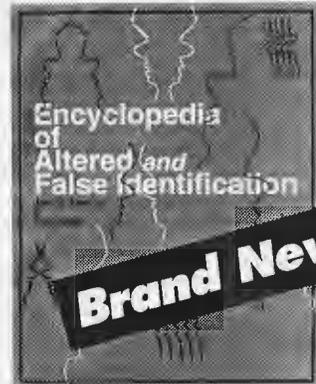
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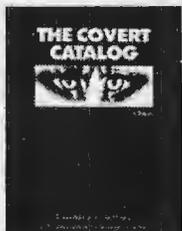
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attack weapon. Mayor Giuliani even called it an "automatic weapon" at one point.

One must listen very carefully to the news coverage of the L.A. bank robber shootout to learn that the gunmen used fully-automatic, illegal, assault rifles. But plenty is made of the fact that they wore body armor, the components of which are easily obtainable in gun stores. The body armor was even featured in one news show.

So much for disarming civilians. But it doesn't stop there.

Headline: Washington, D.C. (AP) 28 Feb. "Weekend Warriors Complain." *The National Guard Association contends the 1998 budget proposal falls \$740 million short of what is needed to maintain minimum readiness levels of the existing Guard force. "We need that money to sustain the Guard as we all know it today," said Maj. Gen. R.C. Alexander, National Guard Association president.*

General Alexander need not worry. There is no intention to retain the existing Guard force, as Karen MacNutt makes clear in "The Other Militia in Crisis: New Plans Could Disarm The National Guard" (*Gun News Digest*, Spring 1997). She details the inactivation of Guard divisions, the conversion of combat units to lightly armed support units and the splitting up of units between several states, effectively eliminating state control.

If, as the 9th U.S. Court of Appeals has recently held in *Hickman Vs. Block*, the Second Amendment only guarantees a

state's right to maintain a militia and, as others maintain, the National Guard is "the" militia, our federal government is now blithely violating our Constitution *even from the "collective right" point of view!*

Maybe there is no one-world conspiracy. But I wouldn't bet on it.

SGM William J. Durr, USA (Ret)
Cornwallville, New York

Top, read our coverage of the L.A. shootout starting on page 58, and you will see that not only did the murderous outlaws in question arm themselves with illegal weapons, they had been busted a short time before with similar weapons, served a few months in the slam, and got a court order giving their "legal" guns back — which would have been itself a violation of the 1968 gun law. Had an otherwise law-abiding citizen been caught with their original stash of illegal weapons and explosives, he'd still be doing time. And speaking of disarming those who defend us, see the sidebar regarding the cops having to go to a local gunshop and arm themselves. A massive, global conspiracy against individual liberty and those who defend it? Hard to tell. But if there is, how would those orchestrating it act any differently from those in positions of power now?

majority of my adult life obeying orders and largely not objecting to the sometimes unwise policies of our government. After all, I didn't have to like it, I just had to do it. When the government said I had to wait a while after purchasing a handgun, I thought "no big deal." I largely ignored the warnings of "gradual erosion of our rights" to bear arms. The recent legislation authorizing confiscation of firearms from anyone convicted of a domestic related misdemeanor and the establishment of a nationwide network of "firearms enforcement areas" is unconscionable. Certainly one who abuses a spouse or is otherwise unstable should be looked at unfavorably for a concealed weapons permit. In Texas, that is an automatic disqualification. But weapon confiscation automatically for any misdemeanor conviction for domestic-related matters? That could include a simple disturbance of the peace! A loud argument can cause a conviction in some jurisdictions.

The rule of transporting a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school is preposterous. I live within 1,000 feet of a school. Am I in violation by carrying my firearm from my house to my car? Will I be in violation of a federal statute while complying with a state law on concealed carry by merely driving by a school with my authorized concealed weapon in my vehicle?

My family and I have been victims of crime since my retirement from the Air Force. It is unconscionable to tell me I can

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no longer protect myself, my family, or my business from dirtbags who will carry a firearm irrespective of the law. You were right all along. This is a gradual erosion of our Constitutional rights.

Steve Southerland
Richardson, Texas

"AUTOMATIC" SUSPECT?

At a recent gun show in Toronto [I talked to] one of the members, a long-time collector of "restricted and prohibited" firearms, as they have been re-classified, who had a routine inspection of his firearms. That was about a four-hour event. Having the cops rummage through your house is one thing, but at the end, one of the inspectors identified himself as a "Firearms Special Investigator" and presented him with some papers to let him know that his phone has been tapped for the last four months. Last year his phone was tapped for six months.

No one is safe. They will go after anyone that owns guns, large or small collections no matter what you have.

Be careful what you say on the phone, and what you talk about. They can make a case about nothing and cause you a lot of grief. Call your MP and ask why they voted for a bill like this, and how wasting time and money badgering legitimate gun owners and anyone else that is seen as a threat to the dictatorship, can save any lives.

Also ask why he or she should seek your support in the next election when you could not count on their support.

In the old days you had to be suspect in a crime before the cops could get a search warrant and a wire tap.

But not in a police state.

Chris Host
Via Internet

HAPPY LISTENER



It was surprising to hear on the local NPR station 25 February 1997, that the Pentagon admits that thousands of Gulf War troopers may have been exposed to chemical agents. That documentation by the CIA claims, American troops destroyed the Khamisiya ammo complex in 1991. This was news to the liberal media, but *SOF* magazine had this information in print long before the NPR broadcast. Your printed article in the March 1997 issue provided detailed info that the liberal media would never consider releasing. Keep up the great work.

H.J.E., Via E-mail

P.S. It wouldn't surprise me that the liberal media picked up the intel from *SOF*

magazine. Heaven forbid one of their employees might have read your article.

*Well, we listen to NPR because sometimes it's the only place we can get good music — so it wouldn't surprise me if they read *SOF* because it's the only place they can get uncensored news.*

HAPPY DOGFACE

As a longtime reader of *SOF*, where would I go on my first time on the Internet? Where else but my favorite source of uncontaminated news, *SOF*. I am a U.S. Army warrant officer, who has had intentions of contacting *SOF* for years, and can now easily express my gratitude for the excellent service you provide. Keep up the good work.

WO1 Edward L. Cope
Via E-mail

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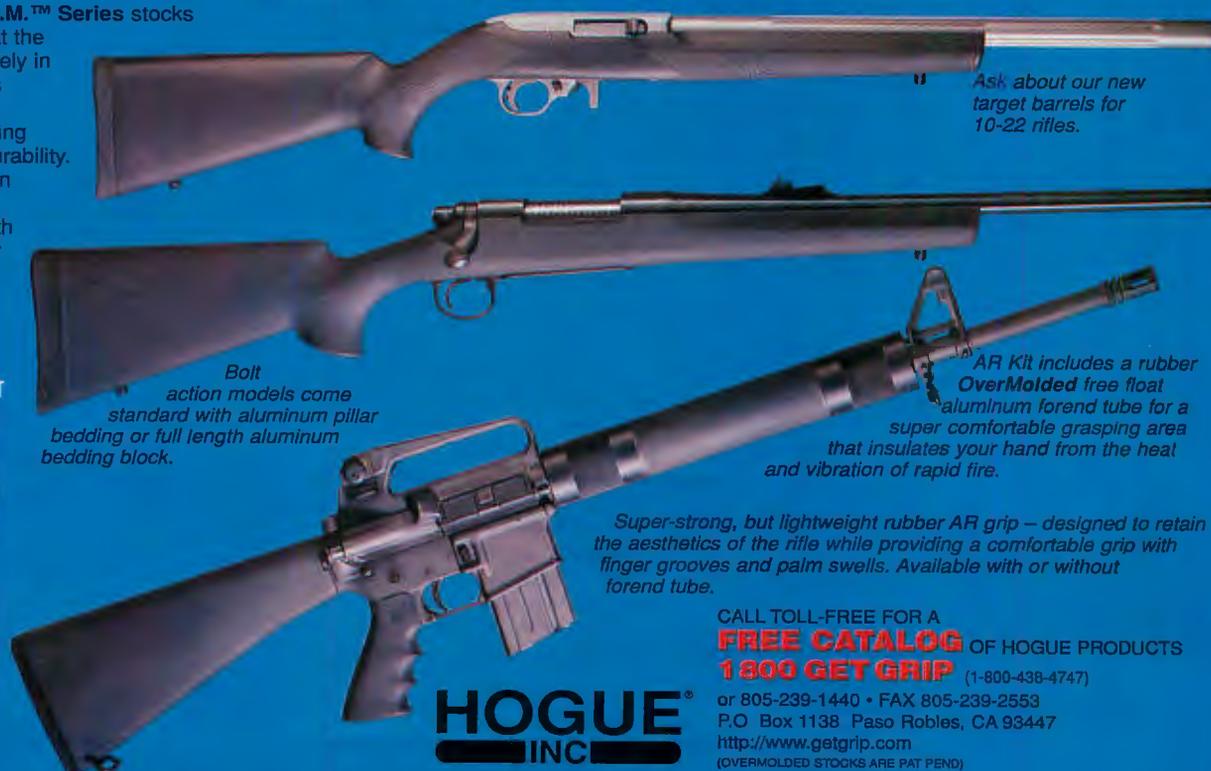
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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

The 21st century Leatherneck: "Hunter Warrior" desert exercises in California pit conventional Marine mech-infantry force against small, independently deployed strike units linked via digital communications; aided by GPS, battlefield sensors, and UAV recon drones; and capable of swift calls for air and artillery strikes. (Army, too, is looking ahead, experiments at Fort Hood with Bradley IFVs and Abrams tanks converted to high-tech, rolling command posts.) • Allied military leaders deride Secretary of State Albright's proposal for swift creation of permanent NATO-Russian brigade — confidence-building measure with Moscow during NATO expansion — as unrealistic, adding that money-strapped Russian army's cooperation in Bosnia peacekeeping already is all it can manage. • Senate testimony: DIA director and CIA acting director predict U.S. military (in next 10 years) more likely committed to humanitarian, counterterrorism, and counterdrug missions than a major conflict with Russia, China, or North Korea (whose collapsing economy, nonetheless, might trigger war with South). • "Smart" Tomahawks: Navy wants upgrade of sea-launched cruise missile enabling strikes against *mobile* land targets. If funded, demonstration possible in '98, officials say.

2

RUSSIA

Citing Israeli intel, Washington warns Moscow against transfers of missile technology to Iran, which seeks Scud-type weapon with range of nearly 800 miles. Kremlin response: If such sales happen, they are not sanctioned by government. • TASS news agency reports increase in espionage: in 6-month period, arrests of 11 foreign spies and 32 Russian collaborators. • Arms industry, struggling amid military downsizing, is undercut in foreign arms' sales by Belorussia and Ukraine, which inherited large numbers of aircraft and armored vehicles upon collapse of Soviet Union.

6

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

South Africa's Executive Outcomes has been subcontracted (by Britain's Sandline International military-advisory firm) to retrain PNG Defense Force troops battling Bougainville island rebels, EO's headquarters says.

8

BOSNIA

Rapid-reaction brigade, with 45 M-60 tanks and 80 M-113 APCs (from U.S.), will be fielded by the Bosnian [Muslim-Croat] Federation's joint military command as protection for Sarajevo. Main army will comprise 14 brigades. • U.S. Army combat engineers in NATO Stabilization Force to use sprayable mine-clearance foams: one, colored bright orange, hardens as protective barrier; another is inexpensive explosive. As many as 5 million mines remain in Bosnian soil. • President Clinton vetoes idea of using SFOR troops to hunt down indicted war criminals. (Former Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic claims he has 2,000 bodyguards and will never be arrested on war-crimes charges.)

9

GERMANY

Red Army Faction, an '80s terrorism bugaboo for U.S. troops in West Germany, apparently has withered away. Most members are in jail and there have been no serious attacks since 1991, according to media reports. • Somewhat belatedly, government formally blames Libya — indicts 5 people linked to Khadafi's secret police — for 1986's fatal bombing of West Berlin disco, which led to Reagan-ordered air strike on Tripoli. • Military officials say Bosnia peacekeeping has significantly improved recruitment for and morale in the *Bundeswehr*.

12

AFGHANISTAN

National economy faces devastation if some 100,000 farmers, displaced by fighting, cannot return to their lands in Taliban-occupied areas, U.N. reports.

13

SOUTH AFRICA

Pretoria government is (unpleasantly) surprised by neighbor Mozambique's agreement allowing Iran navy's surface ships and Kilo-class submarines to use its ports (in exchange for defense equipment). • Army deploys 1,250 troops to Zimbabwe for joint training in development of regional peacekeeping force under 12-nation Southern African Development Community.

14

PANAMA

U.S. Southern Command's headquarters begins relocation to near Miami; to be completed in September. As negotiated by President Carter, U.S. government relinquishes control of Canal Zone on 31 December 1999. (For analysis of future of U.S. military in Panama, see "South-Of-The-Border SpecOps," Oct. '96 *SOF*.)

3

NORTH KOREA

To forestall famine here, 2.3 million tons of grain are needed, international-aid officials say. U.S. and South Korea together have contributed nearly \$20 million in aid. Meanwhile, Seoul tells Washington it opposes any crisis response that would give Japan — Korea's historic nemesis but America's primary Asian ally — an active military role on Korean peninsula.

- U.S. Navy's final report on September spy-sub incident: SpecOps *Sang-O* (capacity: 30 men) of North Korean Reconnaissance Bureau submerged 5 nautical miles north of DMZ, traveled 65 nm south to release (lock-out) team to recon Kangnung Air Base. Sub ran aground 3 days later during team's retrieval; crewmen set fire to onboard equipment, and most were killed either by recon team or responding South Korean troops.

4

INDONESIA

Strongman President Suharto orders military districts to each create "vigilance command post": riot-control centers for monitoring of social tensions and response against unrest among various ethnic groups.

- Navy is clearing dozens of WWII mines, invites other navies to come and test mine-clearance capabilities.
- Acts of piracy off Indonesia increase: 51 incidents last year, compared to 34 in '95, international agency reports.

5

AUSTRALIA

Citing defense-treaty obligations, Prime Minister Howard urges New Zealand to increase defense budget, which is steadily declining while Australia's holds at (U.S.) \$7.7 billion a year.

- Rather than continue upgrades, air force considers early retirement (by 2005) of its tactical fighter force — 70 F/A-18 A & B models — to avoid huge retirement, around 2015, that will include F-111s and P-3s. Contenders: Eurofighter 2000, French Rafale, Swedish Gripen, or advanced F/A-18 Super Hornets.

10

LEBANON

Authorities arrest 6 members of the Japanese Red Army terrorist group in the Bekaa Valley.

15

NICARAGUA

Army's top commander gives final warning to armed gangs (leftovers from civil war) to disarm or be killed.

- Police find 134 rifles and other guns, ammunition, and explosives hidden on farm of former Sandinista army officer.
- Government and Sandinistas continue bitter dispute over property confiscated during pro-communist dictatorship.

16

COLOMBIA

State oil company launches advertising campaign, explaining that bombings of oil pipelines actually hurt the public; a week later *ELN* guerrillas again blow up a major pipeline.

- In an effort to obtain Washington's re-certification as Drug War ally, Bogota agrees to allow U.S. Coast Guard searches of Colombian ships on the high seas.
- Police seize 1,100 pounds of cocaine, 28 rifles, and 600 grenades from *FARC* guerrilla site.

11

TURKEY

Despite initial reluctance by Islamic-dominated government, Ankara increasingly looks to Israel as source of new tanks, aircraft, other equipment, and production know-how in 25-year, \$150-billion modernization program. Reason: U.S. and European governments' increasing condemnation of Turkey's human-rights record (particularly, against Kurd separatists) and threats at (Greek) Cyprus.

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.

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CHINESE SPIES IN U.S. ARMY?

As this issue goes to press, *Soldier Of Fortune* has obtained more than 60 pounds of Defense Department documents from sources in the CIA, FBI and U.S. Customs that confirm a wide-ranging and years-long investigation into "counterintelligence and espionage matters" focused on the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

The allegations against high-ranking Army scientists are nothing less than treasonous. The most serious is that highly classified nuclear weapons technology was sold by ARL personnel to the People's Republic of China. One document, in possession of the Department of the Army's Inspector General (DAIG), dated December 1995, cites the "fear [that] the nuclear bomb code called 'CTH' has already been smuggled to China," and notes that "agents from Communist China, [names provided], are still operating without interference at ARL ..."

A subsequent memo from headquarters from the U.S. Army's Materiel Command, which includes ARL and Aberdeen, states that IG's report of inquiry contains "evidence substantiating the allegation against selected ARL officials was preponderant and compelling ..."

The latest series of investigations into espionage and treason by Army scientists is the third time "the ARL-China connection" has been reported, according to a DAIG document. The first scientist to blow the whistle died in a car accident "of a highly mysterious nature," one CIA official familiar with the case told *SOF*. The second whistle blower also died violently, in what was later ruled a suicide. The third has been fired by the Army and is keeping a low profile.

As this goes to press, a second directed investigation into the ARL allegations ordered by Army Chief of Staff General Dennis Reimer is being completed. It may be superceded by a joint counterintelligence investigation by the CIA, FBI and U.S. Customs. But as a letter to FBI Director Louis Freeh cautioned, "the inspector general seems more concerned about protecting the Army's reputation instead of cooperating with the appropriate federal agencies. The CIA went through the same machinations in the Ames case, which resulted in damaging delays."

Watch for *SOF*'s upcoming series of features on the cesspool of spies and treason at Aberdeen's research labs. — James L. Pate

PRIOR WARNING, OR PROVOCATION?

A "FORCE PROTECTION message" sent by the Department of the Army's headquarters to all subordinate commands on 5 February smells suspiciously like a government-coined provocation:

"During the last week of January, two U.S. military commands and a U.S. government agency received a threat letter from a previously unknown anti-government group, Revolution 2000. In these letters, the group threatens to utilize bombs, grenades, mortars, rockets, missiles and nerve agents to attack politicians, government officials and government facilities within six months. The targets specifically mentioned include D.C. bridges, Langley AFB, Concord Naval Weapons Station, Bangor sub base and Edwards AFB.

"A common phrase used in the letters is 'the clock is ticking,' and the letters are signed by K-3. The address provided on the envelopes is 700 E. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89104, which is the address of the Las Vegas office of the FBI."



The Mexican Army is busy preparing for a counter-insurgency war, the armored forces receiving considerable quantities of personnel carriers and support vehicles. These elderly M3 half-tracks have been rebuilt with the help of NAPCO, ordnance facilities in Mexico D.F. and Monterey having upgraded 32 such M3s, as well as 40 Mexican-made Sedena 1000 recce vehicles, 40 Mexican-made Caballo and Toro APCs, plus 40 Roland APCs. The M3 above has a new diesel engine and automatic transmission, and the weapons suite resembles the M113 ACAV of the Vietnam War, with a 12.7mm M2HB forward, and an FN MAG-58 GPMG at each side.

The Army message goes on to say the alleged threat letters have been received by two U.S. Navy commanding officers and the director of the National Security Agency. It certainly suggests imminent action by domestic terrorists.

Observation: Why would a serious terrorist cell identify to the government its targets and means of attack? Might as well include the exact date and time, too. *Soldier Of Fortune* has been able to identify the mysterious "K-3." It is believed to be a reference to the mental acuity of the provocateur; kindergarten through third grade. Given that, the ticking clock mentioned is probably about half-past Mickey's nose and perhaps the return address is genuine after all.

— James L. Pate

CLINTONISTA'S COLLECTIVIST TWADDLE

Former federal drug cop Phil Becker just wanted to know the Clinton Administration's position on the possible reciprocity of concealed weapons laws from one state to another. And, by the way, just what is President Clinton's attitude toward the Second Amendment? He sent his query directly to President Clinton's E-mail address.

Imagine Becker's surprise when he got a response, not from Clinton or the White House, but from a high-ranking member of the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section of the Justice Department's Criminal Division. But more startling still was just what Ronnie L. Edelman, the section's principal deputy chief, had to say about "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms..."

"... The current state of federal law does not recognize that the Second Amendment protects the right of private citizens to possess firearms of any type. Instead, the Second Amendment is deemed to be a collective right belonging to the state, not to an individual. Accordingly, the Second Amendment is interpreted by this administration as prohibiting the federal government from preventing a

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

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

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

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

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

Amazing Scientific System

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

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

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

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

Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

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

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

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

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

Officially Required SEAL Training

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

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

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

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

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

Top Government Officials Amazed

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

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

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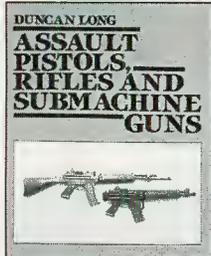
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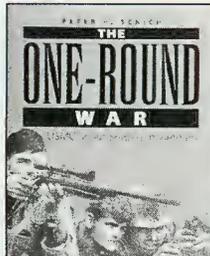


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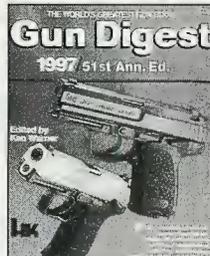
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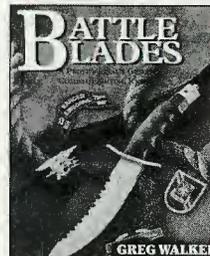
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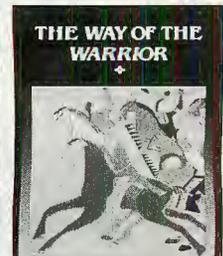
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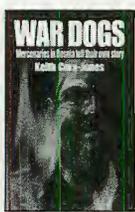
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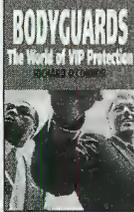
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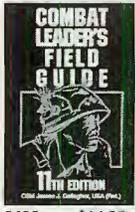
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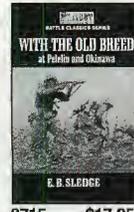
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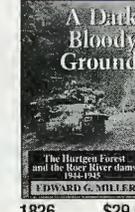
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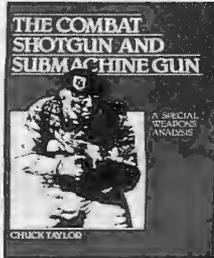


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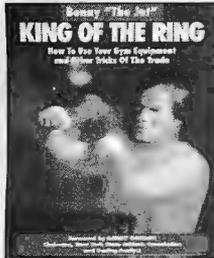


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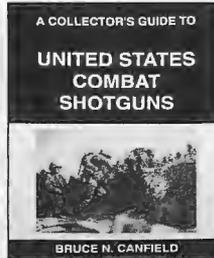
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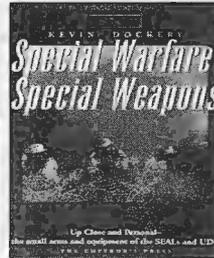
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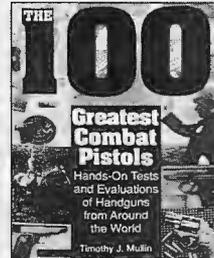
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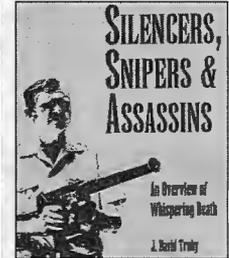
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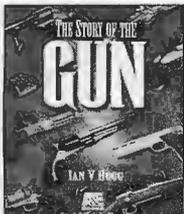
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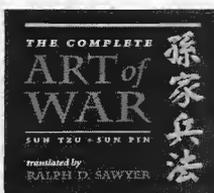
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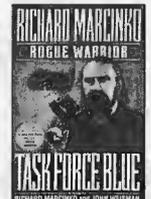
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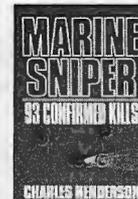
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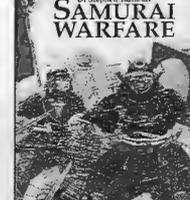
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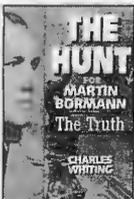
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state government from forming or having a state-recognized militia force. With this understanding in mind, the source of a citizen's authority to possess a handgun has never been particularly identified in American law ..."

How refreshing! Ms. Edelman states unequivocally the heretofore unwritten but unmistakable contempt of the Clinton Administration for the sanctity of the United States Constitution. To these tyrant lovers, it is not a document to secure the God-given rights of individual liberty, but one to guarantee the "collective right[s] belonging to the state ..."

Are citizens supposed to swallow whole-hog Ms. Edelman's wonderful, liquid, shining collectivist clabber? *Not!* "Erosion" seems much too meek a term for such darkly disturbing twaddle. But don't forget, Becker cautioned *Soldier Of Fortune*, "the mighty Grand Canyon was formed by erosion." Stay tuned. And stay locked and loaded.
— James L. Pate

GAO EXAMINES BRADY BUCKS

Carefully choosing words in such a manner as to avoid getting caught in [yet another] demonstrable lie, the White House is fond of claiming that in the year and a half the Brady Act has been implemented it has "blocked" 100,000 felons from buying firearms. That, of course, is demonstrably a crock. There may have been +/- 100,000 questions raised by records checks, but from these one must deduct the number of false-positives, plus the even higher number of felons who, having already demonstrated their disregard for the law, simply went on to buy an illegal gun from another crook. When a "felon" [defined in the 1968 Omnibus Crime Control And Safe Streets Act as anyone who has ever been convicted of a crime for which the maximum penalty can be a year in jail], he is committing a new crime that warrants federal prosecution and five years in the slam.

Would the White House lead us to believe, then, that 100,000

felons have indeed committed this repeat offense? If that be the case, how many of this 100,000-strong legion of felons has been sent away for this new offense — i.e., how many has the Brady Act removed from the streets? Three. That's right; according to the General Accounting Office, as we go to press only *three felons* had been incarcerated after having been snared by a Brady check. Succinctly noted the GAO, "Brady may not result in measurable reductions of gun-related crimes."

Nor will other "gun-control" laws.

WORLD WIDE WEB, FOR WARRIORS

Viet-Vet websites: Courtesy of its creator Tom Downs, you are invited to check out www.cpeq.com/~wall/ which has an alphabetical listing of names on The Wall, a listing of women who died in the Vietnam War, and a buddy-finder service to help you track down lost comrades.

If you plan to visit The Wall, it's worthwhile to access Alan Oskvarek's search engine www.goodnet.com/thewall/ that will let you search the memorial by name, hometown and branch of service. When a name is returned it will locate for you which panel and line has the person's name, plus the birthdate, length of service and how they died.

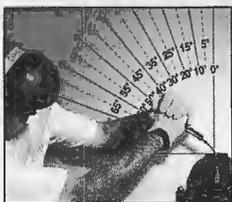
Sun Tzu: The Art of War — A Bibliography: Net-surfing historians fascinated by the machinations of Sun Tzu, Machiavelli and Jack London should check out this bibliography: <http://www.cnet.com/~suntzu75/stbiblio.htm>.

FIGHT HOMELESSNESS — BUY ONE

One of the most valuable benefits veterans receive for their military service is the VA home loan, as in most cases a VA loan doesn't require a down payment, it is assumable, it is easier to refinance if

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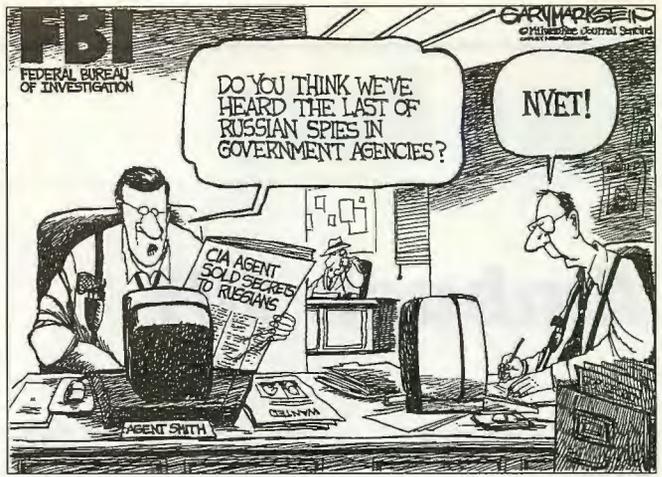
mortgage rates drop, etc. In spite of this, many former GIs don't take advantage of this benefit, probably because they are cowed by the specter of government red tape. That can be a headache, but that problem melts away if the borrower has someone who has been there before who can kick the rocks out of the trail.

One such mentor is former GI John Ellis, now a real estate weenie, who not only makes a specialty of helping vets get into homes, but has written a very concise, readable book for veterans. Ellis' book, *The Great American Dream: Home Buyer's Guide Using Your VA Entitlement* is the best \$9.95 a vet can spend if he's looking for a house. You can order it toll-free at 800-824-6637. Another good book to get if you're a house-shopping vet this spring is, *Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents 1997* (stock number 051-000-00212-1). You can order this \$5.50 book from the government printing office at phone: 202-512-1800.

Trust us: You'll get more chicks if you stop living in that old International Travelall.

THE TRIALS OF GRAN'PA JACK

Number Two in the "Gran'pa Jack" series, *Can You Get A Fair Trial In America?* by Daniel J. Schultz, Esq., is off the presses at JPFO — and a pithy little barn-burner it is. Anyone interested in the Bill of Rights (aren't we all) and the issues of liberty and justice (aren't we all) should have some of these on hand to study, and pass along to anyone headed for jury duty. Oh, and be sure to order one for your kid's civics class just in case the teacher isn't up to speed on the Constitution. The founding fathers vested the legislative and judicial power in this country in the hands of the *people* — but if the people don't understand what their rightful inheritance is, they'll never demand it. Get a copy of this succinct volume for only \$3 post-paid from JPFO, Dept. SOF, 2872 S. Wentworth Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207; phone: 414-769-0760.



SOCOM SEEKS CYBER WARRIORS

According to *SOF Visions 2020*, a report by U.S. Special Operations Command, future recruiting practices could change due to the demand for personnel already trained in such specialized skills as computing, while SpecOps Forces (SOF) change to become "warrior diplomats" who will "influence, advise, train and interact with foreign forces and populations."

Such "troops" are intended to assert an influence that "will act as a deterrent to potential adversaries by establishing a legitimate presence with host governments ... Future SOF crisis response capabilities will give life to innovative, unconventional, high pay-off alternatives where no other viable option exists."

Does this mean there will be no use in 2020 for Influential Infantry and Touchy-Feely Tanks? ☒



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F.

Ambush 101

The word “ambush” was derived from the Old French *embusche*, from the verb *embuscher*, to hide in the bushes. Ambushes are important tactical maneuvers in ground warfare, and especially so in counterinsurgency actions, where they represent one of the most effective means of killing terrorists. The goal of any ambush is to surprise and eliminate the enemy on ground and under circumstances of your own choosing. A decade ago, during the war in El Salvador when I was working with the famous Atlacatl Immediate Reaction Battalion, we constantly trained in both ambush techniques and reaction to ambush by the FMLN terrorists. In the latter instance, there was special emphasis on response to an ambush of our truck convoys to and from the area of operations (AO). Ambushes can take several tactical forms and may vary in size from only a few individuals as part of a patrol, up

to a major operation involving company-size elements.

There are basically two types of ambushes: *point* and *area*. Far more common, the point ambush involves the attack of a single kill zone, which is that part of the ambush site where fire is concentrated to isolate, trap and terminate the enemy. In an area ambush, men deploy to engage in two or more interrelated point ambushes.

The ambush site should provide good fields of fire, cover and concealment, if possible an obstacle between the fire teams and the kill zone and protected withdrawal routes. Of these factors, a proper field of fire and adequate cover and concealment are most important. Remember, concealment merely hides you from observation by the enemy, while cover will protect you from his fire.

The keys to a successful ambush are *control* and *coordinated fire*. Tight control of an ambush operation during movement to, occupation of, and withdrawal from the ambush site is absolutely essential and especially critical during the enemy's approach to the site. Control of the ambush requires warning of the enemy's approach, withholding fire until the enemy has moved into the killing ground, opening fire at the proper time, initiating the proper response if the ambush is prematurely detected, lifting of supporting fire during the assault on the kill zone, and a timely and orderly withdrawal after the ambush.

All weapons, including rifles, machine guns, small mortars and claymore mines, must be properly positioned and all fire during the ambush, including that of supporting artillery, must be precisely coordinated. The objectives are to isolate the killing ground, prevent enemy withdrawal or reinforcement, and to deliver as large a volume of highly concentrated fire into the kill zone as possible.

Successful ambushes require practice, as much as possible, as the choreography is complex. Never carry out a rehearsal at the ambush site. Select a rehearsal location that resembles the actual ambush position as closely as possible. Practice night ambushes at night. Remember, even the most brilliantly conceived operations order (OPORD) will not survive contact with the enemy. Even a hasty ambush can be rehearsed. Hasty attacks are maneuvers of opportunity presented when enemy forces are unexpectedly encountered during a patrol. If executed with rapid movement to an ambush site, proper fire discipline and complete tactical control of the final assault on the kill zone, a hasty ambush can result in heavy enemy losses with relatively few losses to the attacker.

The two most common ambush formations are *line formation* and the “*L*” *ambush*. In a line formation the assault and support elements are deployed parallel to the enemy's route of movement, which is usually on or near a road, trail or stream. This will provide flanking fire on the enemy troops. This formation is relatively easy to control and presents little chance that the attackers will fire on their own personnel.

However, in my personal experience, the most effective ambush formation is the “*L*”-shaped ambush, which is a variation of the line formation in which the long leg of the “*L*” is parallel to the kill zone to provide flanking fire. The short leg, composed of the support element, is positioned at the end of, and at a right angle to, the kill zone. The unit's machine gun(s) should always be placed on the short leg. Why?

As I have explained before, when a machine gun is fired in bursts, no matter how sturdy the tripod or how many sandbags have been placed on its legs, all of the bullets do not follow the same tra-



Limit stakes, in this instance on each side of a Yugoslav M84 (a derivative of the caliber 7.62x54R PKM) GPMG, can be simply and effectively employed to prevent machine gunners from firing onto their own personnel.

Chris Mayer

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Boker's latest issue features a 6" long, 1" wide blade, beefy all the way to the tip, in a traditional dagger cross section profile. It is forged of Solingen +40C stainless hardened to a Rockwell 58. The signatures of the two men are etched in the bead blasted finish.

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jectory like some sort laser beam. This is a function of vibrations induced by varying tolerances between the gun and the cradle and between the cradle (or flex mount) and the tripod itself. In addition, each cartridge will have enough of a difference in propellant charge weight and projectile weight and configuration, no matter how minuscule, to produce a slightly different trajectory. Furthermore, shifting winds and other non-homogeneous atmospheric conditions will also spread the trajectories in a burst group. This group of trajectories formed by a single burst is called the *cone of fire* by machine gunners. When this cone of fire strikes the ground it forms an elliptical pattern referred to as the *beaten zone*.

Placing the machine guns on the short leg of an "L" ambush provides *enfilade fire* that interlocks with the rifle fire from the long leg. Enfilade fire occurs when the long axis of the beaten zone coincides with the long axis of the target area, in this case the line of enemy troops within the kill zone moving toward the short leg. Enfilade fire makes the most efficient use of the machine gun's capabilities, as it places the greatest number of bullets on the target area. Only *grazing fire*, in which the center of the cone of fire from the machine gun does not rise above the height of a standing man (6 feet), should be employed in an ambush.

One potentially dangerous problem can arise from locating the machine guns on the short leg of an "L" ambush. In the heat of combat, the gunner can all too easily traverse the gun onto the long leg and place deadly sustained fire on his own men. I have seen it happen, with disastrous results. There is an easy solution, although it is no longer mentioned in machine gun manuals. Once highly regarded in the military, the science of machinegunnery has given way to mere trigger pulling.

Stakes driven into the ground to either or both the right or left side of a machine gun's muzzle will serve to inhibit the gunner from traversing onto friendly troops. I have used this technique often, and with great success. Called *limit stakes*, they are usually field expedients made of whatever wood is available. During World War I, the British Vickers water-cooled medium-machine-gun crews used pairs of sharpened steel rods, about 3-feet in length, with the top of the rod bent into a circular handle, just for this purpose. Another technique I frequently used in El Salvador when deploying either Ma Deuce off the M3 tripod or during the few occasions when an M122 tripod was available for the M60 GPMG, was to pivot the Browning tripod to either the right or left to the extent that the T&E mechanism could not be moved far enough in the opposite direction along the traversing bar to fire the gun onto the long leg of the "L."

Any of these techniques can be employed to prevent placing "friendly fire" on the men of your own platoon. It's tragic that no one apparently thinks that's important anymore. ☒

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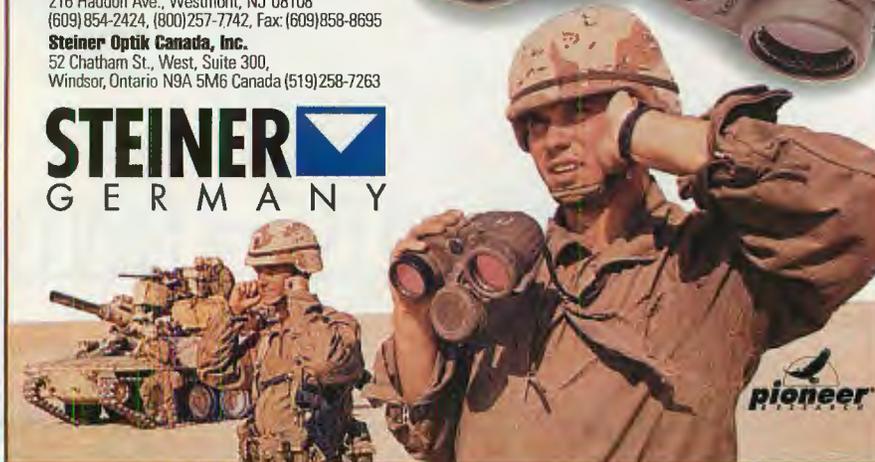
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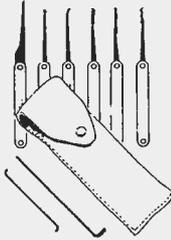
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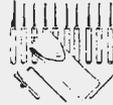
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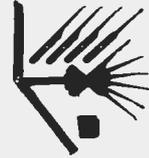
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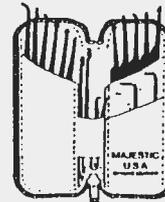
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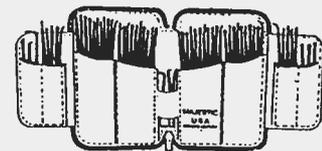
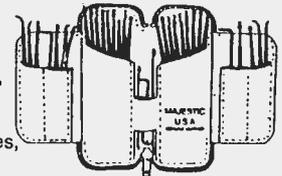


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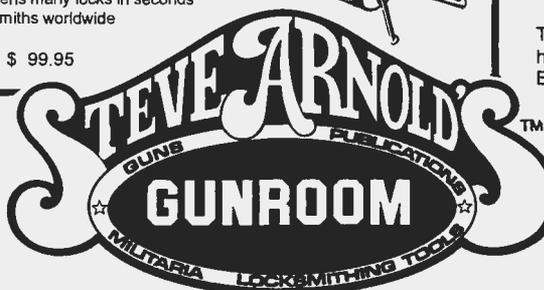
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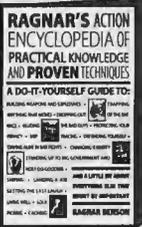
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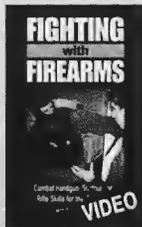
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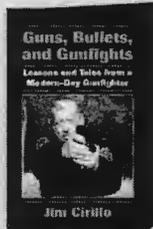
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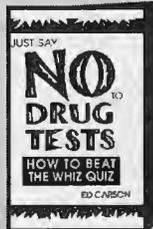
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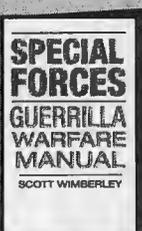
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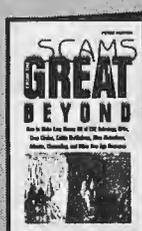
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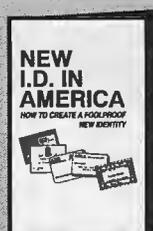
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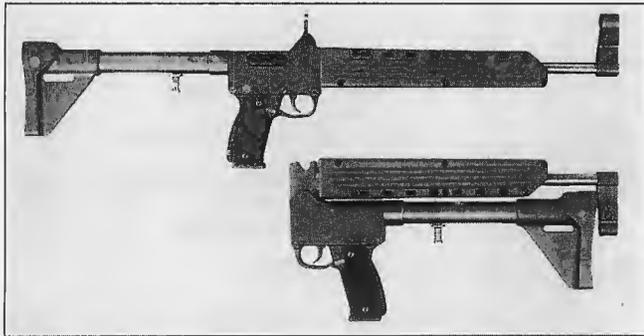
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a caliber with your favorite pistol, it shares the *magazine* as well (such as Glock 17, S&W 59 series, Beretta 92 or SIG 9mm) — and it folds neatly in half for compact stowage or carrying. As current regulations frown on “folding-stock” shoulder weapons, the Kel-Tec has a rigid stock, and the *action* folds, as do many break-open shotguns. Compliance is not the only benefit of this *arrangement*, as the folded weapon is substantially more compact than if only the stock folded, making it even more handy to stow in a patrol car, POV, plane or pack.

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An intriguing piece of engineering and concept, very well executed. Contact Kel-Tec, P.O. Box 3427, Dept. SOF, Cocoa, FL 32924; phone: 407-631-0068; fax: 407-631-1169.

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Watch for an upcoming T&E on this interesting new weapon by *SOF's* technical editor, Peter G. Kokalis.

For more information contact Paulette Kok, Dakota Arms, HC 55, Box 326, Dept. SOF, Sturgis, SD, 57785; phone: 605-347-4686; fax: 605-347-4459.

CORRECT DOWNSIZER POC

A recent piece on Downsizer and their compact .45 contained a garbled zip code and phone. Correct POC is Downsizer Corporation, P.O. Box 710316, Dept. SOF, Santee, CA 97072-0316; phone: 619-448-5510.

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For those who travel light and fast yet need to keep portable shelter at hand, you can't beat the Stealth Bag (aka LAND/Shark) emergency survival bag. The Stealth Bag is a generous 36x84 inches, has waterproof double-sewn seams, with a locking drawstring and sea dog hook. It is international orange for visibility in the water or on land; its

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Originally designed as aircraft survival stores, the Stealth Bag usually sells in the \$90 range, but its potential popularity as an all-purpose thermal protective aid has allowed mass production and a dramatic price cut — for *SOF* readers only \$39.95 plus \$6.99 S&H (\$4.99 shipping for each additional unit; call for shipping costs outside the continental U.S.), plus 8.25% tax for California residents. Corporate Air Parts, Inc., 7641 Densmore Ave. Dept. SOF, Van Nuys, CA 91406-2043; phone: 818-997-0512; fax: 818-997-0478. ✕



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I Was There

by Capt. Alex Larzelere, USCG (Ret.)

Three divisions of Coast Guard 82-foot patrol boats served with the Navy in Vietnam. Little has been written about the contributions of the nation's smallest armed force during the conflict.

Coast Guard cutters, attached to the Navy in Operation Market Time, interdicted infiltration trawlers and junks, disrupted enemy supply lines on rivers and canals, and supported actions ashore with naval gunfire. Explosive Loading Detachments and Port Security personnel assigned to the Army ensured an uninterrupted flow of arms, ammunition, and supplies through Vietnamese ports. A Coast Guard Merchant Marine Detail was attached to the embassy to resolve merchant ship

problems. Helicopter pilots flew rescue missions behind enemy lines with the Air Force's Jolly Green Giants.

Captain Alex Larzelere, as a lieutenant, saw action in command of two cutters with the first Vietnam deployment. He commanded USCGC Point Comfort and was Officer in Tactical Command (OTC) during the following amphibious raid described in his book, *The Coast Guard at War: Vietnam 1965-1975* (published by the Naval Institute Press; 1-800-233-8764). This work combines action narratives with historical detail to describe the USCG's varied roles during the Vietnam War, whose personnel distinguished themselves serving with the Navy, Army, Air Force and State Department.

Coast Guard Raid On Hon Mot

At the request of the Pentagon, the Coast Guard constructed a LORAN navigation system to provide accurate positioning data for air operations over North and South Vietnam. The electronic system — stations and towers constructed in remote areas of Vietnam and Thailand — was on-air in eight months. Buoy tenders and aids to navigation details ranged the length of the South Vietnamese coast, providing navigation support for military and merchant shipping.

On 21 September 1965, the 82-foot Coast Guard patrol boat USCGC Point Marone (WPB 82331) moored alongside Division 11's support ship, USS Krishna (ARL 38). Her CO scurried up the Jacob's ladder hot intel in-hand from the U.S. Army Special Forces

team at Ha Tien: A captured Viet Cong, survivor of a junk-engagement two days earlier, finally dropped word that his junk had launched from a VC base on the northeast coast of Phu Quoc island, across from Cambodia. When the Special Forces detachment at Duong Dong, on the west side of Phu Quoc, learned of the information, it requested Coast Guard assistance in an amphibious raid against the base.

On 26 September 1965, the cutters Point Comfort and Point Grey embarked a raiding party of 36 Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) strikers — Chinese and Chinese Nung mercenaries serving with the Vietnamese army — their Vietnamese Special Forces officers, and two U.S.

Army Special Forces advisors. The party, with their two assault rafts, weapons, and ammunition, was split between the cutters. After a

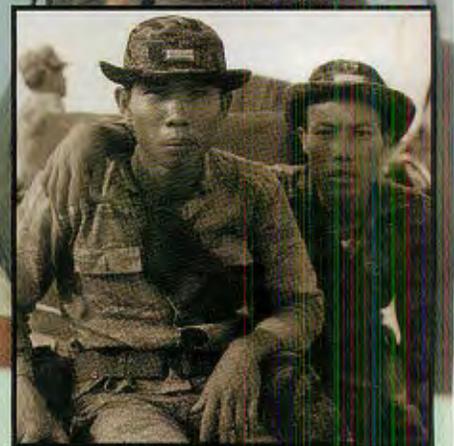
daylight rehearsal landing on a deserted beach at the south end of Phu Quoc, they hoisted their rafts aboard and the cutters knifed north at flank-speed. The raiding party, wearing camouflaged fatigues and soft hats, settled down to a gut-churning wait for nightfall.

Cutter cooks turned out pots of steaming rice for the above-deck strikers who were claustrophobic below.

Special Forces advisors laughingly warned cutter crews against sampling the CIDG's tea



U.S. Coast Guard Photos



Point Comfort's gun crew — gunner BMCS G. F. Treat and loaders L. R. Brandshaw and GM2 E. J. Hanson — fires on Viet Cong positions on Phu Quoc Island. (inset) Chinese mercenaries, Chau and Loi, aboard USCGC Point Grey (WPB 82324) en route to Hon Mot. The soldiers arrived with the CIDG, advised by the U.S. Army Special Forces.

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— it was spiked with a mild narcotic.

In calm seas, light winds, and total blackness, the two cutters sliced toward the landing site, a beach west of Hon Mot island. They eased in for shore on 27 September 1965 and stopped dead-in-the-water when soundings got down to 6 feet under the keel — the beach yet 200 yards away. At 0500, the troops climbed down scramble nets and into their rafts amid complete silence, shoved off, and paddled for the beach. The cutters backed slowly away, aiming the rumble of their stern exhausts seaward until they reached station, 1,000 yards offshore. They stood by at modified general quarters, poised to provide immediate fire support.

The raiding party made abbreviated reports on their progress via a PRC-25 field radio as they reconned each small river they found. When they reached Hon Mot Stream, they found fresh tracks on the beach.

At 1135, gunfire bit into the morning calm. The radio blared, "Ambushed! Hit while crossing the river! Heavy firefight, one dead, one seriously wounded!" Cutter crews, nervously manning their guns, heard the gunfire and saw the muzzle flashes from the jungle. Special Forces Sergeant James E. Pruitt was the first man cut down, dying instantly.

The raiders were under treacherously heavy fire from the opposite side of the stream and from Hon Mot island so couldn't evacuate the wounded. The remaining Special Forces advisor requested 81mm mortar fire from *Point Comfort* on Hon Mot. After seven rounds, firing from the island ceased. The raiders fanned out. Opting for caution the lone SF advisor did not call for additional fire to avoid friendly casualties. The party laid a colored panel marker on the beach and radioed for a boat to evacuate the wounded and KIA.

At 1210, *Point Grey* launched her small boat, the *Boston Whaler*. When it neared shore, her two-man crew guided her around the rocks.

Point Comfort edged closer to Hon Mot island to provide cover fire for *Point Grey's* boat. As she turned, she struck a submerged rock and knocked out the port shaft. Once the seriously wounded striker was aboard, *Point Grey* departed for *Krishna* to get medical attention. *Point Comfort*, operating on one shaft, and *Point Marone*, which arrived on-station to assist, pounded out heavy cover fire while the assault force sprinted for their rafts. When the party rendezvoused at the landing site, cutter crews swept their flanks with sustained .50-cal bursts. Just after the rafts shoved off, *Point Comfort* and *Point Marone* ripped the shore and jungle with heavy mortar fire to negate any VC attempt to move up automatic weapons for last-ditch counter-fire.

As the raiding party reboarded the cutters, they reported the location of the VC junk base.

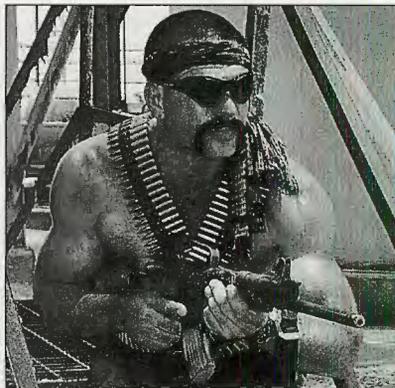
Point Comfort and *Point Marone* then sailed to Hon Mot island and devastated the base with mortar fire, for the WIA — and for Sgt. Jim Pruitt. ☒

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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

Couldn't Make This Up

In one ongoing Clinton scandal, the so-called China Connection, there are foreign intrigue, large sums of money, Washington politics, the FBI, NSC, NSA, CIA, guns, even fine coffee in White House cups (probably a Colombian blend or a good French roast) — we couldn't make this one up.

It's "very sinister," Bob Woodward of the *Washington Post* opined on the *Meet the Press* TV show in early March. The Watergate-muckraker-turned-political-book writer likened the scandal to an influence-buying scheme, perhaps with laundered money, "like the Mafia does, with cut-outs..."

In 1996's fury to bring in big bucks for Democrat campaigns, coffee-klatch access to Clinton was carefully made available for the right price to various high-rollers, including Asian-American businessmen with ties to China — that's old news. The White House denied that "contributions" — one reportedly was for \$600,000 — by such

guests had any bearing on administration foreign policy. Even if that's true, consider just the *thin ice* on which an administration can walk in dealing with polite foreigners bearing gifts.

One White House visitor had just obtained U.S. importation permits for some 100,000 Chinese semiauto rifles and ammunition, "a couple hundred million-dollar deal" in the pipeline — 14 March,

Scripps Howard News Service report: "The guns never made it into the country because Chinese government officials involved in their import were, at about the same time, the target of a massive federal sting operation" against Norinco and Poly Technologies. U.S. Customs and BATF were setting up a San Francisco sting on a shipment of 2,000 full-auto weapons and ammo from the same state-owned arms companies. Clinton recalled he did not discuss business with that particular Chinese visitor.

The FBI, in 1996, had begun an NSA-assisted (electronic sources & methods) investigation into suspicions that the Chinese intelligence service, through



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agents of influence in America, was trying to "buy" several Washington politicians. This is not hard to believe. In its way, the KGB certainly worked Washington. Now it's China's turn: It wants superpower status, expanded American markets, and a politically isolated Taiwan.

Clinton hit the ceiling in mid-March. Embarrassed by news coverage of foreign contributions, he angrily demanded to know why the FBI had not informed *him* of this ongoing investigation, rather than telling only two National Security Council aides — who didn't even tell national-security adviser Anthony Lake (future unsuccessful nominee for CIA director). *Time* magazine on 24 March described "a memorable shouting match [involving NSC, FBI, and White House] over who had been told what and when about the alleged Chinese attempt to throw some money around."

An unseen reality of *spook* work: FBI counter-intel investigations against foreign services operating here are sensitive, especially with the National Security Agency's considerable capability for interception of foreign communication signals — including dialects of Chinese speech. Perhaps, as *Time* noted, the two NSC aides "were too careful" by not warning White House superiors "that potential donors with China connections should now merit far more scrutiny."

Or ... maybe the spooks in the intel agencies couldn't trust Clinton and staff to keep a secret while chatting pleasantly over coffee. *This* White House has a bad reputation for ignoring security procedures and mishandling classified information— just ask ex-FBI agent and *Unlimited Access* author Gary Aldrich.

Different Standards?

President Clinton, ex-governor of Arkansas, is accused of a 1991 episode of sexual harassment against then-state employee Paula Jones. Her civil suit reaches the Supreme Court in 1997. Prognosis: Even if he loses the case, Clinton's career is *not* over. Sergeant Major of the Army Gene McKinney this year is

accused of sexual assault and harassment (during a 1996 business trip to Hawaii) by now-retired Sgt. Maj. Brenda Hoster. Army investigators take the case. McKinney, suspended from Pentagon duties, hires lawyers. Prognosis: If found guilty under the UCMJ, McKinney's career is *finished*.

Where The Buffalo Roam

OK, so he's not somebody the average *SOF* reader (whoever *that* is) might give a damn about. But to many readers of popular literature, Hunter S. Thompson is a drug-and-alcohol-charged weathervane to American political winds. Long a Colorado home-boy himself, Thompson managed to offend *SOF* Publisher Robert K. Brown enough several years ago to get *uninvited* to any future conventions.

Thompson left the Air Force in 1957 under less-than-ideal circumstances; in the '60s, rode with the Hell's Angels in California and lived to write about it. Then another book, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, in which (so the story goes) a galaxy of illegal drugs, a .357 Magnum revolver, and a very sharp knife were props; later, on-the-press-bus coverage of the '72 presidential campaign as *gonzo* journalist for *Rolling Stone* magazine. Thompson exulted in Nixon's downfall, said so in print for years to come.

In a March interview in the *Denver Post's* Sunday magazine, *Empire*, Thompson admits his support of Clinton "was one of my greatest tactical errors in politics.

"I don't want to go down in history or have my son have to read that his father endorsed Clinton two times. I had no real confidence in Clinton. I had no idea what a treacherous bastard he really is. I'm shocked he went so low. You'd think after grappling with Richard Nixon that you would know where the low road is. Nixon betrayed his friends and his family. But for the most part, Nixon was dishonorable just to his enemies. But Clinton's treachery is really sleazy. It's his character defects. ... I think Clinton will prove to be one of the great fascists of our time." ❧



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I was only two pages into the book *Covert Warrior: Fighting the CIA's Secret War in Southeast Asia and China, 1965-1967* when I realized that I was reading about the exploits of the most awesome warrior in the history of the Republic, a man named Warner Smith.

In my career as a SEAL, I have known a number of Team heroes — Bob Gallagher, Frank Thornton, Tom Norris, Mike Thornton, Bob Peterson, Guy Stone, Gary Gallagher, and Charlie Bump, to name a few — but not one of them could hold a candle to Smith, a former Naval Reserve officer. He is truly the embodiment of the warrior ethic: loyal, courageous, selfless, persevering, cunning, and strong.

In another century he might have been a samurai, a Teutonic knight, one of Alexander's "Immortals," or a Knight of the Round Table. Truly, Smith was forged at the anvil by mighty Thor himself, and Smith's autobiography is a remarkable account of how one man can influence the course of a

16." He managed to deceive a fine publishing house, Presidio Press, of Novato, Calif., which has published many books of military nonfiction.

Presidio Vice President Richard Kane, forewarned of this review, prepared a statement for *SOF*: "Presidio published *Covert Warrior* because, although we found Warner Smith and his memoir amazing, we also found the author and his work credible; we still do. It is important to keep in mind that this is a memoir, a work written from memory 30 years after the events. While it may contain errors, we also believe it is true."

SOF contacted the CIA, which apparently had not heard of the book. Twenty-four hours later, CIA spokesman Thomas Crispell responded: "We have no record of Mr. Warner Smith being employed with or having any affiliation with the Central Intelligence Agency. ... We have no knowledge of 'FRAM 16.'"

The problem is that Smith's experience in Asia consisted not of spewing hot lead from a Stoner rifle and carving up the

Anyway, after almost a year of intensive training in weapons, Ranger infantry tactics, parachuting, demolitions, Vietnamese language, communications, and the like, FRAM 16 found itself on a U.S. Air Force plane en route to the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) sometime in May 1965 — 16 young patriots ready to close with the communist enemy.

What, exactly, was the mission of this FRAM 16? Smith "quotes" a CIA representative as follows: "Ultimately you will become a study and observation group (SOG), also referred to by some as a special operations group." Here again, Smith exhibits the ignorance of the wannabe.

During the Vietnam War there was a single Studies and Observation Group, and its charter was to conduct special operations outside South Vietnam. It most assuredly did not consist of numerous SOGettes like FRAM 16.

Each of the principal combat actions Smith recounts in *Covert Warrior* is so full of holes as to tax this reviewer's stamina. Let's look at FRAM 16's first operation, a

COVERT WARRIOR: *Overt Fantasy*



Walter Mitty At The Helm

BY CAPT. LARRY BAILEY, USN (RET.)

enemy with a Ka-Bar in Vietnam, Laos, China, and Cambodia, as *Covert Warrior* would indicate; rather, he spent 1964-6 at Sangley Point Naval Air Station in the Philippines, where he performed various non-combat duties, including Mess Treasurer of the Officers Club. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Full Of Holes

Smith claims in his "non-fiction" book, released last year, that he and about 50 other junior officers volunteered for "a special operations team. ... I volunteered out of curiosity ... [But] I never foresaw muddy jungles in my military future." Indeed.

What Smith claims he volunteered for was a CIA-sponsored group known as FRAM 16. (To this day, Smith says that he never learned what "FRAM" stood for. The "16" apparently indicated its membership: 16 of the original 50 volunteers having survived an excruciating selection process. In the Navy, FRAM has meant "fleet rehabilitation and modernization.")

planned "body snatch" of a North Vietnamese Army (NVA) officer in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

When a FRAM 16 buddy, Larry, was killed in a fight with superior NVA forces, Smith was ordered by an Army Special Forces (SF) sergeant to leave Larry's body behind when the unit was forced to retreat. Of course, Smith ignored the orders and carried his buddy out anyway, but he was read the riot act by an SF major upon return to base camp. Now, there is no way that any American military man, especially a green beret, would *order* another American to leave a buddy's body behind. In fact, there were dozens of cases in which additional casualties were taken because combat troops refused to leave dead friends behind.

On Dung Island

The next combat op involved simultaneous missions by the three "teams" (A, B, and C) into which FRAM 16 had been divided. At the time, the unit supposedly was operating out of Soc Trang, correctly located by

"Covert warrior" Warner Smith writes at length about taking the fight to the communist enemy in the jungles of Southeast Asia — as these two real SpecOps combatants did — but his book smacks of fiction.

conflict through the focused application of the principles of unconventional warfare. There's just one problem.

It's all fiction.

While it's common knowledge that there lurks within the souls of most men a bit of Walter Mitty, in Smith's case Mitty has taken charge, resulting in the creation of a fanciful CIA-run SpecOps unit, "FRAM

Smith as being 36 miles southwest of Can Tho. (There's a problem here, though: I have a friend who was a Naval Intelligence operative in Soc Trang during the period Smith writes about, and he roared with laughter when I read him Smith's account. He assured me that he would have known of *any* special unit operating out of Soc Trang.)

According to Smith, A Team was "assigned to join a UDT Team ... for a search-and-destroy mission on 'Dung' Island, at the mouth of the Mekong..."

Whoa! Let's look at this again.

First of all, the Navy Underwater Demolition Teams were not operating in the Delta then or ever. Next, Dung Island (or

of the facts is once again his undoing.

For starters, C Team is choppered in to "a small outpost, a mini-firebase" on an estuary feeding the Bassac River. This outpost, manned (according to Smith) by both U.S. Navy personnel and ARVN soldiers, is a U.S. Patrol Boat-River (PBR) facility. But something's wrong with this scenario: The only PBR base on the Bassac or any of its estuaries was at Can Tho. While there *were* USN advisors assigned to such outposts, they were part of the Vietnamese Navy Riverine Assault Group (RAG). While PBRs occasionally visited these "Beau Geste"-type mud forts, they were never assigned there.

Wait - It Gets Better

Now to C Team's combat story. Smith says a PBR he was aboard intercepted a large VC craft and shot it to pieces, killing at least 35 communist troops. *Sure* they did.

My SEAL platoon was stationed on the Bassac with-in a few months of this alleged operation; we most certainly would have heard about an engagement of *that* magnitude. It was very seldom that more than four or five VC troops were even *aboard* a single vessel, let alone killed. This story is clearly a shameless concoction.

The crowning touch to *Covert Warrior*, however, is the account of a fantastic POW rescue in Cambodia. This is the most blatantly

false episode in the entire book, because *not a single U.S. POW was ever rescued from a prison camp during the entire Indochina conflict* — and Smith claims to have participated in the rescue of more than a dozen American pilots. His account of this event would be laughable were it not so pathetic.

Then there's the story of Smith's daring solo mission into southern China (yes, *that* China) to determine whether the SAM-2s being brought into North Vietnam were of Soviet or Chinese origin (as if it made any difference). Smith was parachuted in, evaded capture for several days, killed a couple of bad guys, and — eureka! — confirmed that the surface-to-air missiles were of Russian manufacture. The story of his airborne extraction by a Caribou aircraft using a system of rubber bands and paper clips —

well, not really, but close — is a real hummer, but it's so complicated that I'll refrain from describing it. Suffice it to say that it was not the Fulton Skyhook extraction system.

Another tall tale concerns a limpet attack on merchant shipping in Haiphong harbor. This demolition op was to be undertaken by 12 UDT men and five from FRAM, operating from a submarine. Fortunately for Smith, the mission was "canceled," otherwise, I'd now be punching holes in his account of how, say, he sank a dozen Russian merchantmen and swam 20 miles to sea, towing two wounded frogmen, to be rescued by a Taiwanese special-operations water-skiing boat.

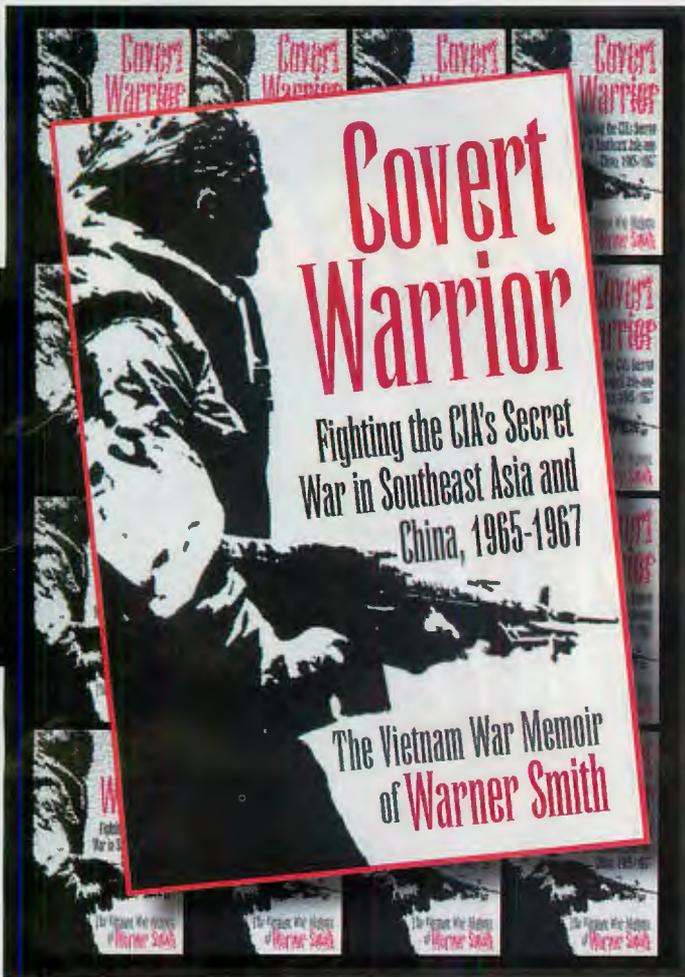


U.S. Navy/ SOF archives

Nothing, it seems, was beyond the scope of *Covert Warrior's* "FRAM 16" (which the CIA says never existed), including participation in the interception of Vietcong boats. Elements of the "brown water" Navy, including SEALs, in actuality were a significant presence on some rivers in South Vietnam.



U.S. Navy/ SOF archives



"Cu Lao Dung" in the Vietnamese language) is in the mouth of the Bassac River, not the Mekong. My own SEAL platoon was the first U.S. land-combat unit to set foot on that lovely isle.

B Team was to go with "some Army Special Forces" into southeastern Cambodia to destroy a radio tower that "directed small boat traffic in the various rivers of the area." Neither I nor any other military people assigned to the Delta region ever heard of a need for the enemy to direct small-boat traffic by radio. It's not as if traffic jams on the rivers were a major problem for the Viet Cong (VC).

Finally, Smith's own C Team "was assigned to a U.S. Navy river patrol operation near the South Vietnam-Cambodia border on the Bassac River." Smith's lack of knowledge

Along A Path Of Error

As might be expected, *Covert Warrior* is replete with both technical and historical inaccuracies.

The author tells, for example, of combat operations conducted in the Mekong Delta by the UDTs. Not true. While the UDTs did conduct numerous operations in other parts of RVN, it was SEAL Team 2 that was the first U.S. land-combat unit employed in the Delta — and it didn't arrive until some 20 months after Smith alleges the UDTs were operating there. (SEAL Team 1 at that time was operating in the Rung Sat Special Zone, which is not part of the Delta.)

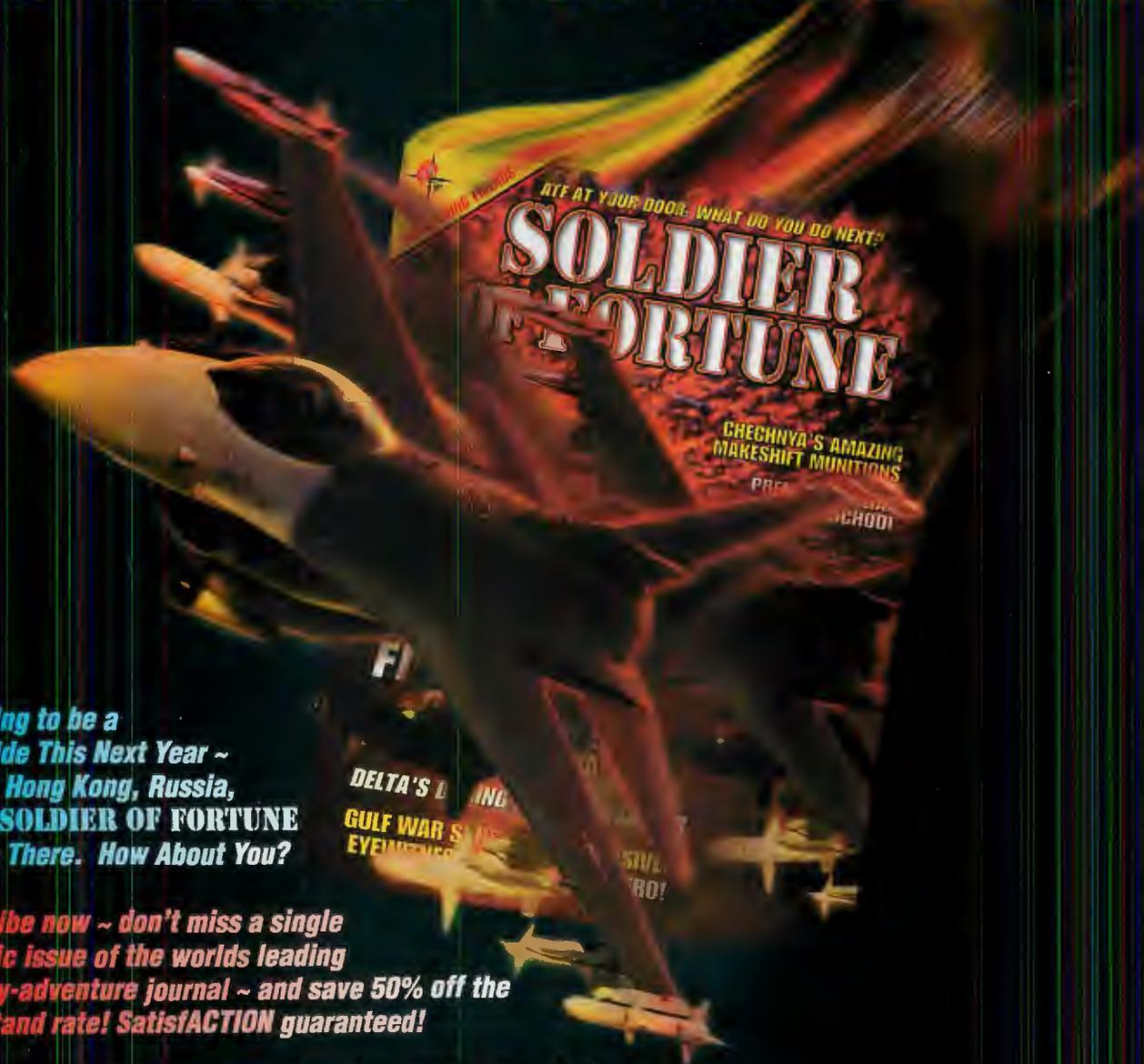
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All-American ENTRAPMENT

Third Time No Charm For ATF Vendetta

by James L. Pate

Billy O'Dell and the BATF go back a long way. More than two decades, matter of fact. It hasn't exactly been a love affair, though.

O'Dell's dealings with the ATF comprise a 20-year history tainted by bureaucratic treachery, travesty and entrapment, a chronicle of pervasive abuse and long-standing contempt for the rights of law-abiding citizens. His story suggests the Bureau's reputation for incompetence and lack of integrity is not a recent aberration,

but a deep-rooted problem.

Over the years, ATF's actions against O'Dell have cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees and lost business. A gang of gun-wielding, foul-mouthed agents once terrorized a teenaged O'Dell, his younger brother and their parents in the family home. Ten years later, ATF entrapped a close friend on gun charges in hopes of getting O'Dell. In 1996, ATF tried to revoke O'Dell's federal firearms license (FFL). No reason. Just because.

From left, Gene Seissiger, Billy O'Dell and Wayne Scott, posing with their favorite "toys" at a machine-gun shoot in Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1988. Seissiger was a character witness in Scott's trial, who was acquitted after jurors decided he was entrapped in an ATF scheme to get O'Dell.



courtesy Billy O'Dell

All of which might lead one to conclude that O'Dell must have criminal connections. There must be *some* shady side of O'Dell that would lead a federal law-enforcement agency to spend so much time, money and effort over more than 20 years to put Billy out of business and into jail.

That would be a mistaken conclusion. Quite the opposite, O'Dell is a respected businessman with a straight-arrow reputation in Ft. Pierce, Florida. He is president of a citrus packing company founded by his father, and also helps manage the family's gift shop. An ardent capitalist, he has turned his recreational passions into profitable pursuits.

His boyhood love of water eventually led O'Dell to become a nationally certified CPR and first aid instructor, and a master instructor in all deep-water diving specialties, including nitrox mixes. He is certified to operate extreme-depth submersibles and is a marine captain licensed for all tonnages, and also is a licensed commercial jet pilot.

O'Dell had another boyhood passion: guns. Growing up in the 1960s, Ft. Pierce was a small, quiet place. Game was plentiful. There were remote places along the wooded shores to target shoot. As Billy's gun collection grew, so did the range of his interest in firearms. Eventually, he became a dealer licensed to sell machine guns, sound suppressors, grenade launchers and destructive devices.

O'Dell was born and raised in Ft. Pierce, with an idyllic beachfront childhood not unlike those halcyon, pre-drug days of the *Flipper* TV episodes. Pleasures were simple then, marine life abundant. Good clean fun was only a few steps from his parents' front door: swimming, SCUBA diving, fishing, boating, skiing, surfing. Grass was what neighborhood kids mowed to get extra pocket money. Coke was what they drank to cool off on those hot summer days. Cops were admired and trusted.

Dark, Darker Days Coming

But darker days were ahead. Dope was no longer that goofy guy down the block. New people, many with no visible means of support, began to move up from Miami, attracted by the same backwater coves and deserted beaches that, in the 1920s and 30s, drew the attention of such rum-running families as the Kennedys and Bronfmans.

By the late 60s and early 70s, the contraband commodities were different, but the easy money and the tears it caused in the social fabric were the same.

"Ft. Pierce was a quiet little one-horse town," O'Dell remembers. "The marijuana industry moved in first, and then the cocaine industry. And a lot of the locals were upset ... by the corruption."

O'Dell's father, now in his 70s, was foreman of one of the first grand juries to look into bribery and corrup-



ATF Special Agent Mike Molinari, seen here filing papers against Wayne Scott, is a "vicious" man, according to Molinari's undercover informant, Gene Schneider. Molinari failed to inform defense attorneys of Schneider's vow to "say whatever I have to say to get [Scott] convicted."



SOF files/J.T. Dunkin



(above) Former ATF informant Gene Schneider in 1986, during his trial for soliciting a bribe from Wayne Scott to tell jurors the truth about Scott's entrapment by unscrupulous ATF agents. After serving a few months on his four-year sentence for bribery, Schneider left the United States and now lives in the Bahamas. He worked 18 federal cases as a snitch; three for the FBI in and around Tampa and 15 of them for the ATF. He was paid close to \$30 grand. (left) ATF informant Gene Schneider (right) leaving court during his trial for bribery. Schneider had told his control agent, Mike Molinari (we use the term "control" advisedly here) that "if he had to testify against Scott, he would say 'whatever I have to say' to get him convicted" Molinari recorded in his investigative notes that Schneider "was a good witness who would say whatever he had to to convict a person."

tion engendered by the illegal drug trade.

"He was one of the people who was significant in getting the local police department investigated," the son said. "They cleaned house ... from the street level on up. As a result, some high-ranking law-enforcement officials had it in for the local families who were outspoken against the smugglers. They were looking for a way to discredit the credibility of the people who were accusing law-enforcement officials of wrongdoing."

In his last years of high school, Billy developed his interest in hunting and firearms. By graduation, he had collected his first three or four guns, and bought ammo at a local gun shop. Coming out one day, he was approached by "some scroungy looking character [who] tried to sell me a gun. It was an AK-47."

Military-type rifles were an oddity in those days, especially Warsaw Pact weapons. As a budding collector, O'Dell was intrigued.

"He started out at \$200, and I told him I just didn't have that kind of money," Billy said. "So he finally came down to \$20, because he said he needed the money real bad. I was a kid, so it didn't occur to me then that there might be something strange about this deal. I bought it, took it home and hung it up on my bedroom wall."

O'Dell was working at the time, 1977, as a security guard at a new nuclear power plant. A newly hired guard almost twice O'Dell's age began to buddy up to the teenager.

The Set Up

"The next thing I knew, this guy, Robert France, was suddenly trying to become my best friend, out of the clear blue," said O'Dell. "He was a newcomer in town and particularly worked on the angle of my interest in target shooting and guns. It wasn't long before he came over to my family's home and walked into my bedroom one day and immediately singled out the AK-47. He wanted to buy it from me. He offered me \$900."

That was a couple of months' pay and the young O'Dell eagerly agreed. It just so happened France had that much cash on him. But first, the buyer said, he wanted to meet O'Dell's father, the federal grand jury foreman.

"My dad was unaware of what was going on, other than I was selling a gun," O'Dell said. "He wasn't into hunting or shooting, so he didn't even know that much about guns."

He just met the guy and shook hands.

"The next thing we knew, we had about 12 guys armed with machine guns and shot-guns come swooping into the house," Billy recalled. "They had surrounded it. They threw us on the ground. I had a guy put a gun in my ear ... talking a string of filth, saying he was going to blow the side of my face off."

The ATF had come calling. The young O'Dell did not know that the man who had sold him the gun, and the man who had just bought it, were informants. And he had never discovered that the safety bar on the AK-47 had an extra position. It was full-auto.

"This was an act of terrorism, pure and simple," O'Dell said. "This incident was designed to instill terror in us. And it was designed to serve as an example of what happened to people who spoke out against the drug trade. From that day forward, my dad will not serve on a jury. And I won't either."

O'Dell was charged with the possession and transfer of an unregistered automatic

Billy O'Dell (right) crews a Ma Deuce at a machine-gun shoot in Florida in 1988. At left, with his thumbs on the butterfly of joy, is Robin Meritt, a European weapons dealer and sometimes soldier of fortune.

weapon, and his father was charged as an accessory. The charges against the father were dropped before the case got to court — but not before his name was smeared in bold headlines across the front pages of South Florida newspapers. When Billy's case got to court, the judge dismissed it.

Fast-forward to the mid-1980s. By now, O'Dell had had his FFL for about four years, and he was also selling full-auto and other weapons regulated under the National Firearms Act, or NFA. He had registered with the State Department's Munitions Control Office to sell military-type and other weapons to foreign customers. One such buyer who saw O'Dell's ad in *Shotgun News* was an Arab prince. He flew to Florida to meet with O'Dell.

The paperwork O'Dell filed with the State Department and ATF in sales to the Arab apparently drew the attention of federal firearms agents in Florida. They saw O'Dell's legal business as another opportunity to set Billy up for arrest.

According to several secretly tape-recorded conversations that were to come out in the trial of one of O'Dell's closest friends, ATF sent an undercover informant named Eugene Charles Schneider to a gun show in Ft. Pierce just to entrap O'Dell.

Schneider's work for ATF is troubling. As a paid informant, he did not get a pre-arranged salary, but a series of variable cash payments based on whether or not defendants were convicted. Thus, Schneider had a financial incentive to *make sure* an investigative target was successfully prosecuted. He had worked 14 prior cases for ATF, and had been paid more than \$27,000.

On 3 May 1986, O'Dell was at a gun show at the Ft. Pierce Civic Center with a longtime friend, Wayne Allen Scott, also a licensed NFA dealer. O'Dell said he and Scott noticed that "we were being followed around ... by a rather scroungy looking character," namely Gene Schneider.

Set Up No. 2

Schneider later admitted that ATF Special Agent Michael Robert Molinari had shown him paperwork documenting O'Dell's sales of NFA weapons to the Arab prince — an illegal disclosure of supposedly private tax information — and had equipped him with a hidden tape recorder.



courtesy Billy O'Dell

After striking up a conversation with O'Dell and Scott, the ATF snitch began asking questions about parts to convert semi-automatic rifles into machine guns, and about buying machine guns illegally.

"It became apparent that he wasn't interested in doing it the right way," Scott said. "We told him several times how things had to be done (to be legal) and he wasn't interested in that," a fact later confirmed by Schneider's tape recording.

O'Dell, wise to the ways of the ATF after their entrapment attempt of nine years earlier, blew off Schneider. But Schneider, realizing he knew Scott from boyhood summers spent on Abaco Island in the Bahamas, zeroed in on Scott. Directed by the case agent, Molinari, Schneider would subsequently exploit two points of vulnerability to ensnare Scott: an interest in guns and Scott's deep sense of family loyalty.

"It wasn't the first time I'd had people ask questions like that," Scott said. "You tell them it's not difficult to do it legally and how to do it. He told me that he was not a citizen of Florida, that he was not a U.S. citizen, although he lived here. He told me that he was a Bahamian citizen. ... He [said] his family was Bahamian and they lived on Abaco."

As it turned out, Scott's family had a house on Abaco Island, where Schneider

claimed to have citizenship.

Schneider lied about his citizenship to win Scott's trust. Actually, Schneider was a U.S. citizen. In numerous phone calls in the days to come, Schneider continued to plead with Scott, telling him that as a Bahamian citizen he couldn't legally purchase automatic weapons, which he said he and his father desperately needed to protect themselves from drug smugglers and pirates.

"I had probably seen him as a child, when I was about 10 years old," Scott said. "I was told later by my mom that I had spent some time around him when we were kids, he and his family. But I didn't recognize him."

"In hindsight, it seems so clear ... He

didn't need me to do what he wanted to have done," said Scott. "He seemed to have a technical knowledge about these things. That should have been a tip right there that he didn't need me to do what he wanted ... He was interested in MAC-10s. I continued to tell him how things had to be done" to be legal.

Scott's encounter with Schneider would ultimately result in Scott being charged with three federal counts of illegally possessing machine guns and two counts of illegal transfer. The charges involved a MAC-10, a MAC-11 and an UZI. Scott faced up to 50 years in prison and \$50,000 in fines.

"In my ignorance, I did" convert the weapons from semi- to full-auto, Scott conceded. "Over a period of several weeks, he called me many, many times. He really put the pressure on me and stressed the family connection ... He said he needed these weapons for his personal protection and the protection of his family."

On the night of 14 May 1986, after Schneider had picked up the second weapon from Scott, Schneider and Special Agent Molinari were driving back to West Palm Beach together. Schneider "stated that if he had to testify against Scott, he would say 'whatever I have to say' to get him convicted," Molinari recorded in his investigative

notes. "Schneider further stated that he had never lost a case in court and that he was a good witness who would say whatever he felt he had to say to convict a person. I immediately advised Schneider that this was improper. ..."

The Fall

Molinari's supposed caution to Schneider was overshadowed by Molinari's failure to turn over the notes of that conversation to Scott's defense attorneys, as directed by the prosecutor. Prosecutors are required by law to reveal to defense lawyers any exculpatory evidence that might cast doubt on the truthfulness of prosecution witnesses.

Scott's arrest a few days later "was a horrible night," he said. Schneider brought Molinari to Scott's gun business in late afternoon and Molinari attempted to purchase an M60 machine gun "off paper." Scott told him that would not be possible.

Scott left for home shortly after 1700 hours. He was followed by a team of ATF agents armed with arrest and search warrants. He was arrested in front of his home as his wife, who was in her final trimester of pregnancy, watched through a window. She initially refused agents entry, and by the time they convinced her to unlock the door, the family's attorney was on the scene and witnessed the execution of a search warrant.

"They were reasonably polite, pretty much under control," Scott said. "Of course, our attorney was there. That made a difference."

Because he was a licensed dealer, could it not be argued Scott should have known better than to be coerced into such a deal?

"I have no defense for that," he acknowledged. "I was ignorant of the fundamentally dishonest way that government agents conduct themselves. Especially ATF."

But the treachery got worse. On 24 May 1986, three weeks after Schneider had first approached Scott and O'Dell at the gun show, Schneider called Scott to "straighten things out."

No Honor Among The Wretched

"He was very understanding, sympathetic almost," Scott said. "He again used the pretext that our families had known each other for so long. I didn't really say much to him. I heard what he had to say and I realized he wanted a payoff of some kind."

"He was very sympathetic and apologetic about the situation. He explained that he could be of help, that his lack of testimony would be beneficial to me. He wanted to talk to me about it, but said he couldn't do that over the phone. He wanted to meet with me. I immediately called Billy O'Dell, because he'd ... had a similar experience with ATF."

O'Dell encouraged Scott to bring the informant's bribery solicitation to the attention of the FBI. They did so. The FBI advised Scott to arrange a meeting between Schneider and a third party representing



Author

Wayne Scott, a law-abiding businessman from an upstanding family, said his entrapment by the ATF "destroyed my faith in government." It also temporarily drained his pocketbook, ruined his health and scuttled his marriage. Once an outgoing man who enjoyed other people, Scott is now cautious and reticent, saying, "You just don't know who you can trust."



Author

Billy O'Dell sitting by the seawall at his home in Ft. Pierce, Florida, just a few yards from where he was first arrested by ATF more than 20 years ago. After being entrapped on a gun deal, ATF agents screaming obscenities and brandishing machine guns "terrorized" the O'Dell family. "I've been through it ... watching them put a gun to my father's head and threatening to kill him. You relive that moment thousands of times."

Scott. A Scott family attorney, Edward Becht, was chosen.

In a subsequent tape-recorded conversation with Scott, who then suggested that Becht act as an intermediary, Schneider said "it's a matter of economics. I got 12 bucks in my pocket."

According to one court document, Schneider solicited \$50,000 from Scott, which Scott refused. So Schneider "began pressing for a lesser amount to cover his expenses. [Schneider] explained to Scott that he was to meet with the government and sign a document involving Scott's case ... [Schneider said] he would not sign the statement if Scott would give him \$2,000 'now.' He re-emphasized that for \$50,000, he would give Scott a dismissal."

Schneider also acknowledged to Scott that Scott had been entrapped in hopes of enticing Scott to set up O'Dell for ATF.

"You could be working out a deal with them for William O'Dell," Schneider told Scott, according to a transcript of the conversation. "That's what [the ATF] said, that they thought you'd come around and give 'em" O'Dell. Schneider emphasized that "my deal [is] between you and me ... With O'Dell, it's entirely different ... I know what's gonna happen to him and I don't want nothin' to do with it. ..."

In a later tape-recorded conversation with Becht, Schneider offered to "go to the grand jury ... [and] tell them my part in setting him [Scott] up."

He Who Diggeth A Pit ...

The FBI advised the U.S. attorney's office and the ATF that the ATF's informant was soliciting bribes from a defendant. Schneider and Becht finally met in a parking lot, sitting in Becht's Cadillac. As soon as Becht passed Schneider the \$50,000 in cash, FBI and ATF agents, including Molinari, moved in and arrested Schneider.

The snitch was charged with accepting a bribe and sentenced to four years in prison. He served a few months in a minimum security prison in California, then returned to his mother's home in the Bahamas. He declined in a phone conversation to be interviewed, except to describe Molinari as "vicious."

The federal government couldn't very well call Schneider as its star witness now, but that did not stop them from trying to convict Scott anyway. Scott's attorney argued that his client was entrapped by Schneider. Scott was a licensed gun dealer and had no predisposition nor any monetary gain to be realized from illegally converting weapons. He was acquitted on all counts.

Despite the acquittal, which cost him well over \$100,000 in legal fees, the whole experience "destroyed my faith in our government," Scott said. "It was an economic drain, obviously. I had health problems. I had ulcers. It was a strain on my marriage," which ultimately failed as a result.

Let's Try Again ...

The Scott case didn't end ATF's efforts to get Billy O'Dell, however. In February

1995, O'Dell's three-year FFL was to expire. Being a good businessman, O'Dell mailed in the renewal papers and \$300 fee in December 1994. On 9 February 1995, O'Dell received a letter from the licensing section of ATF's Compliance Division, advising him that his renewal application was *still* being processed and giving him permission to continue operating his firearms business.

O'Dell heard nothing further from ATF until May, when the \$500 annual special occupational tax came due that allows him to sell NFA weapons. That yearly fee runs from 1 July to 30 June.

On 2 October 1995, O'Dell received a letter from ATF, dated 12 September 1995, stating that his FFL was being revoked because he had made a "false statement" on his application. ATF alleged that O'Dell "knew" his firearms business, which he conducts out of his home, was prohibited by state and local government ordinances.

This was odd. Each year, for the previous 13 years, O'Dell had scrupulously paid all the city and county taxes and had a gen-

erally made a false statement in a phone conversation with an ATF inspector, when he told the inspector his business was in compliance with all state and local ordinances.

By now, O'Dell had been effectively put out of business. Suppliers could not ship him weapons, parts or ammunition, because he did not have an updated license, notwithstanding the fact he had turned his application in two months in advance. A third allegation was added by ATF in March, stating that O'Dell was not engaged in a gun business and did not intend to engage in gun business.

No Cause, No Evidence, No Justice

ATF's chief witness at the hearing was a municipal clerical employee from Ft. Pierce, Florida, a woman who "had no legal authority nor factual basis for her testimony in support of ATF's vendetta" against O'Dell.

No evidence was heard that O'Dell made any false statement. Curiously, the local ATF inspector instead testified that he

Atorney that Mr. William E. O'Dell is in compliance with the requirements ... allowing home occupations."

John P. Pendley, a staff attorney in ATF's Atlanta field office, responded in a letter, still objecting to the renewal of O'Dell's FFL, questioning the professional abilities of the city attorney, who is a former prosecutor, suggesting that Brennan was not competent to ascertain facts on which to base his legal opinions. Pendley's letter also challenged Brennan's professional integrity, stating Brennan's conclusions were "biased."

In a sharply worded, six-page letter to Pendley's boss, Larry J. Moore, Sanders rebuked Pendley's "audacity to suggest that Mr. Brennan should have contacted a BATF Inspector or the government's attorney before rendering an opinion on a pure matter of local law."

Pendley, Sanders said in his letter, "gives good insight into the world view of the modern-day federal bureaucrat. Local government officials are incompetent, biased against the federal government and lack the authority to enact, implement and enforce their own laws."

Sanders concluded by quoting to the ATF its own regulation about timely license renewal absent appropriate evidence that renewal was not warranted. He demanded a letter furnishing such evidence within 10



courtesy Billy O'Dell

Billy O'Dell, left, and his wife, Liza, cave diving in Peacock Springs, Florida. Before being submerged by the natural springs, the caves were used as an Indian burial vault. Liza is holding up a Native American skull — which, O'Dell emphasized, they left behind. O'Dell's idyllic oceanfront youth led him to become a licensed commercial jet pilot, a licensed deep-water diving instructor and a merchant marine captain. He is a successful businessman and firearms dealer with no criminal record — just the kind of guy to draw the attention of ATF.

eral business license. Florida does not require a separate state license to sell guns. O'Dell retained Robert E. Sanders, a former ATF assistant director who specializes in defending cases involving federal firearms law. (Sanders had also been an expert witness for Wayne Scott's defense team.)

O'Dell's license extension had expired in May. Sanders requested another immediate extension (the request was ignored), a compliance hearing and, as is customary, asked ATF to disclose its witness list and the legal theory behind ATF's claim that O'Dell had made a false statement. ATF did not respond, except to schedule a hearing for March.

In the meantime, on 25 January 1996, O'Dell received a second notice of revocation from ATF, alleging that he had know-

never believed O'Dell had made a false statement and did not recommend denial of O'Dell's FFL renewal on that basis.

Sanders responded by obtaining a three-page letter from John T. Brennan, city attorney for Ft. Pierce, who listed and explained each of the 11 requirements for a home-based business in that jurisdiction. Brennan said O'Dell had been in full compliance since first obtaining his local business license in November 1982.

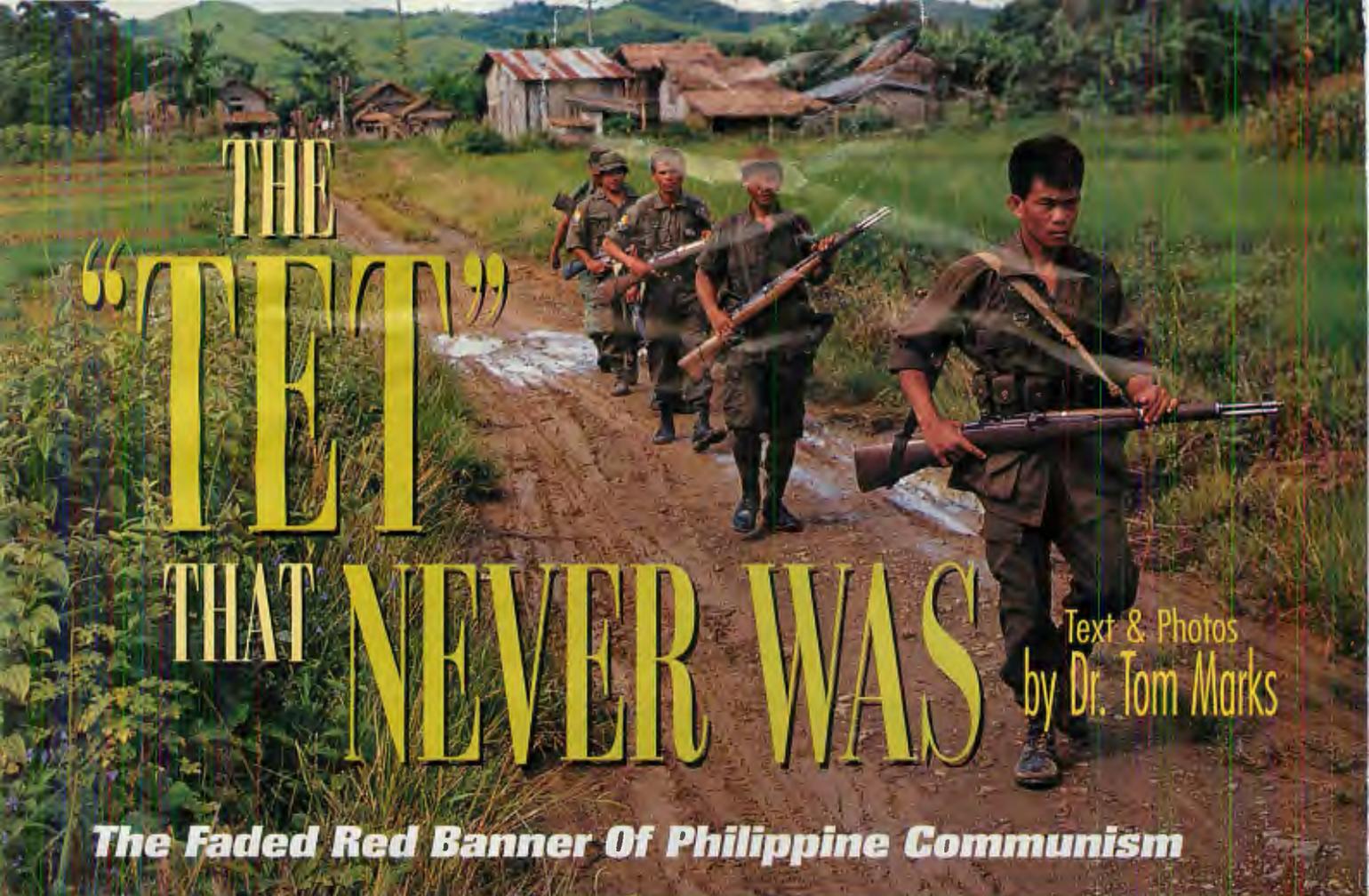
"There is no record in the files ... of any complaint against ... O'Dell by any person or any governmental agency in all that time," Brennan wrote. "In addition, I have personally questioned ... O'Dell as to each of the 11 conditions enumerated above and he states to me positively that he has not violated any ... It is my opinion as City

days, or "I will take other appropriate action. ... The whole point here is that the laws ensure due process and BATF's flaunting of them deprives my client of that constitutional guarantee."

On 17 June 1996 — almost two years after he had applied for FFL renewal — Billy O'Dell was issued a new FFL. He received no credit for the lost time, nor was he credited for the annual \$500 special occupational tax stamp he had paid for but could not use.

"Believe me, I've been through it with the ATF," O'Dell said. "Especially watching them put a gun to my father's head and threaten to kill him. I've relived that moment thousands of times in my mind, and I'll relive it that many more before I die. And I'm sure I'll hear again from the ATF."

James L. Pate is SOF's national-affairs editor. ✕



THE "TET" THAT NEVER WAS

Text & Photos
by Dr. Tom Marks

The Faded Red Banner Of Philippine Communism

Pity the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its New People's Army (NPA). One moment it was the post-Vietnam darling of the revolutionary left; the next so forgotten that no one could quite remember the last time that it was really a threat!

Oh, it's still out there — with 5- to 6,000 combatants still under arms. It kills folks now and again. But gone forever are the days when an estimated 24,000 armed men had begun to form their first battalions and seemed on the verge of making their move. Gone are the days when CPP leaders talked confidently of "strategic stalemate." Instead, they're a nuisance, something folks talk of as a childhood nightmare.

Beginning of the End

Even as Allied air power and ground forces mauled the hapless Iraqi legions in the Gulf War, on the other side of the world, Philippine security forces prepared for the worst. Field units stepped up patrols, and security around American facilities was tightened.

Intelligence pointed to a possible nationwide "Tet" offensive by the CPP. In the end, with the exception of several minor bombing attempts, nothing happened.

Much ado about nothing? Perhaps — but perhaps not. As frequently happens in war, the manner in which events happen them-

selves out did not necessarily mean someone planned that it should be so. And in this case, the CPP was hoping its hour had come.

It may be flawed CPP logic when viewed from afar but, for a brief moment, the Party thought it was on the verge of World War III.

As the Middle East went up in smoke, the CPP figured, oil prices would skyrocket, wreaking havoc upon the Philippines, which had no domestic sources. Social chaos would follow.

Fully committed in the Gulf, Washington would be unable to rush to Manila's aid as the NPA launched its final offensive, its hardened fighters borne along on a tide of dissatisfied humanity. The raging torrent would cascade out of the hinterland and turn into a whirlpool of revolutionary victory, sucking in Manila itself.

So went the scenario. Of course, it never came to pass. Oil prices stabilized; the Allies, led by the United States, did not get bogged down; and the conflict, rather than weakening the U.S. position, actually strengthened it.

Here was the America that Filipinos remembered from their own liberation during World War II: massive power striking down the evil foe. "No Blood for Oil" read Filipino protesters' signs, their slogans copied, like virtually everything in the Philippines, from U.S. models. But "Blood for Freedom" read the banners in Kuwait



City — and it was a sentiment shared by most Filipinos. The U.S. bases in-country, long the bogeymen of the left and constantly denounced as useless, had played an important part in the deployment of U.S. might, just as Washington had promised would be the case if Manila itself was ever threatened from afar.

It was a disappointing moment for the CPP. With no chance of deliverance via international spasm, it was back to the difficult, time-consuming business of winning the hard way, village by village.

Unfortunately, that war offered as little promise of success as had the Party's pipe dreams of a Filipino Tet. Because "the moment," if ever it existed, had passed.

The Fog of War

Incredibly, just about everyone, save the likes of *Soldier Of Fortune*, missed the moment. Indeed, there are some observers, notably left-leaning Australians, who are still babbling about the revolution to come.

Talk about missing the banana boat!

To be sure, nationwide, social and economic conditions are as rotten as ever. The political system, in particular, remains mired in inefficiency. Yet, increasingly, under the leadership of the former Defense Minister, West Pointer (USMA '50) Fidel Ramos, the Philippines is looking like a country on the move. Not even doubters believe, in any case, that the CPP has any answers to the country's problems in the new environment at millennium's end.

How is it we never got this picture? Because what we were fed about the Philippines by most sources was just as often a reflection of us as it was of reality. The left needed a "next Vietnam," and even the established media couldn't get the story right for fear of losing its hotel reservations in Manila.

Most of what was filed "from the Philippines" was rubbish, mainly because, as best I can tell, the people who wrote it did so from the safety of the capital. They rarely

ventured out into the field. Had they done so, they would have found a war distinctly at odds with the one they "reported."

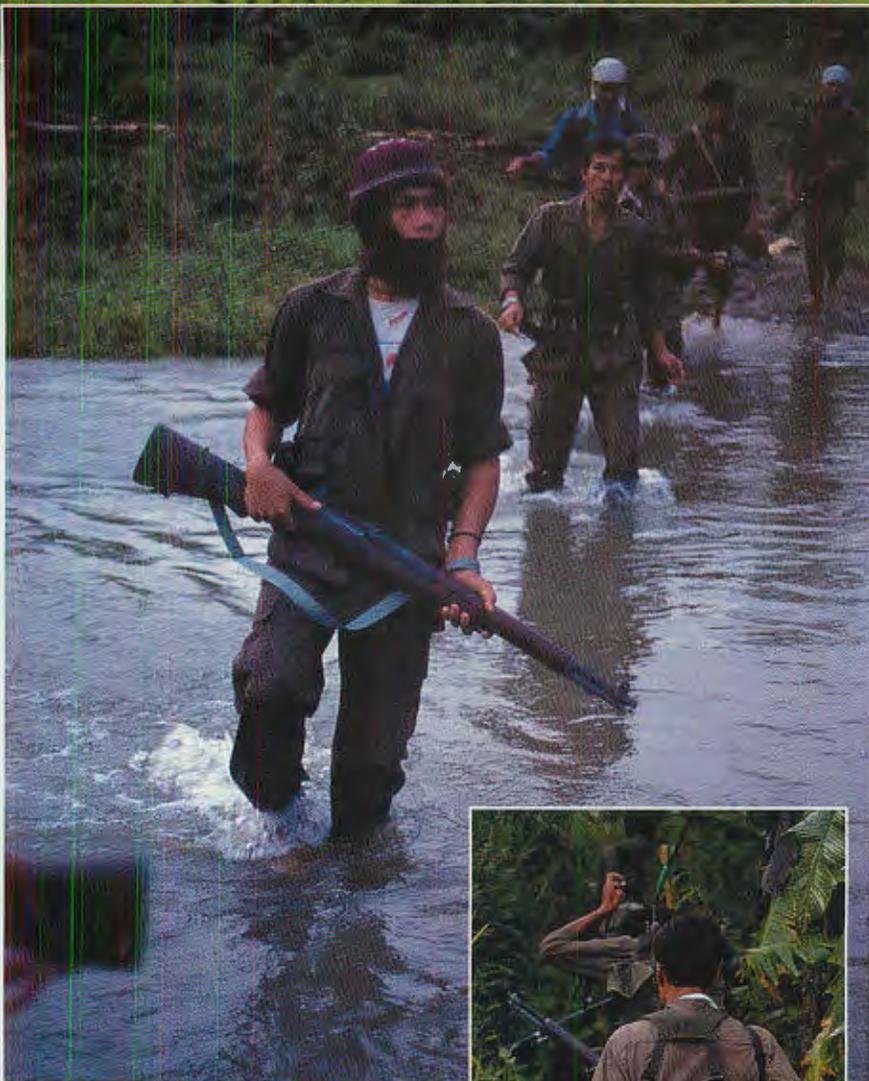
I think of one piece, in particular, from a mainstream magazine. The writer was bemoaning the fact that the Philippine Army was repeating America's mistakes in Vietnam. It had wedded its tactics, wrote the author, to airmobile search and destroy. The critique might have made sense had there not been at the time, in all of the Philippines — an operational area the size of North and South Vietnam combined — all of fifty helicopters, of which fewer than half were operational. Those must have been some assaults!

From the ground level, things looked decidedly different. There, following a systematic strategy of dismantling the CPP infrastructure, the security forces put the Party in a real bind. The CPP's own documents said as much, but journalists didn't seem to read them. Neither did they seem to have much time to talk with the hundreds of

(left) Armed here with [venerable, reliable, *heavy*] Garands, militia units provide around-the-clock security for home villages. Although some always guard static positions, most keep communists at bay through constant patrolling. (below left) Local militia now forms backbone of Philippine counterinsurgency effort. Communists rail against their use, claiming they are an American LIC import: In reality, Manila reinvented wheel with this version of citizen-soldier concept. Here a regular officer adjusts LBE of his charges before militia patrol goes to secure its area in southwestern Negros. (below) A

salient virtue of militias is illustrated as patrol leader bums light, chats with ox-mounted farmer: As locals, everyone knows everyone else, making infiltration very difficult for CPP. Here, patrol members carry CAR-15, bloop gun — and sandals with bare feet. Footgear tends to be more practical than official in this clime. (bottom) Farmers of Garand-toting militia patrol cross paddy dike and head into jungle. Nobody seemed to think they were on a thrilling mission, but displayed good morale, passable soldiering skills and a businesslike attitude.





Bush uniform often includes incongruous ski masks (some troops said they were to hide identity, some just giggled and shrugged), and the ubiquitous sandals (inset), footwear *de rigueur* for troops constantly in and out of water in warm, humid climate of the Philippines.



defectors who poured into the arms of the government.

Incredibly, even the CPP wasn't quite sure what was going on. By 1990, though things had been getting tougher, they seemed still to be reasonably on track. By 1992, all was over save the shouting. In the years that followed, the wounds could not be stanchd, and the CPP saw its life force bleed into the dirt.

Unable to figure out what had happened, the Party blamed the American strategy of "low-intensity conflict," habitually referred to in CPP communications by its acronym, "LIC." The CPP leadership claimed that American "advisers" and "operatives" were everywhere, directing the Filipino security forces in a nefarious scheme to "militarize" the country.

What they meant was that everywhere their infrastructure found itself exposed, and its forces found themselves locking horns not with the Americans or the regular military but with the Filipino people — a

popular storm rising — it could not withstand the force.

This, like all true guerrilla wars, has been essentially a war of battalions, the basic tactical element of which all armies are comprised (a ballpark figure worldwide would be 600-800 men, though at one point in the mid-80s Philippine battalions as low as 300 men were recorded). Manila fields roughly 75 infantry battalions deployed over a land area, as mentioned earlier, nearly as great as all of Vietnam (115,830 square miles versus 127,246). Though assigned to higher headquarters in the familiar U.S. triad pattern, they operate quite independently. Thus, they have been the essential elements in battle with the CPP.

Strategy For Victory

To be clear, a battalion as a whole rarely does anything. Rather, its component companies break down into myriad small-unit patrols. As such, they are called upon to do all things, from civic action to ambushes to

militia control-team duty. Though lines of authority are frequently muddled, normally other services in the AO fall under army control when the going is heavy (and under police control when not).

This is essential, because in the past the entire country had in place a territorial defense structure of sorts, manned by the Philippine Constabulary (PC). The PC was a force of very uneven quality, which is now disbanded, with its members parceled out to either the army or the National Police. It remains to be seen, even some years following the switch, how this disbandment will actually play itself out. But before the change, the presence of the PC, which normally operated in company-strength units, added approximately another 75 under-strength battalions of regional forces to the government's Order of Battle (OB).

It is the peculiarities, then, strengths and weaknesses, of any battalion that influence the situation in its Area of Operations (AO) nearly as much as the conditions giving rise to revolt. Leadership is the crucial element in deciding whether a battalion is effective or not. The same battalion can change dramatically in character in a very short time.

Such could also be said for the CPP. Though the Party's manpower and weaponry historically were considerably less than those available to the government, the doctrine for deployment was similar. Indeed, the CPP, like the government, utilized U.S. manuals for its military tactics and procedures. The two sides, in fact, arrived at the point, just as Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in February 1986, where they were in most respects clones of each other.

Still, it was the government that seized the initiative. Ironically, the CPP bore at least part of the blame for that. It had inspired the very strategy that was used with such effect against it.

In 1970, a junior officer in a special PC unit, Victor Corpus, caused a sensation by defecting to the CPP. The blow was doubly harsh to the security forces, because Corpus was a graduate of the prestigious Philippine Military Academy (PMA), the country's West Point.

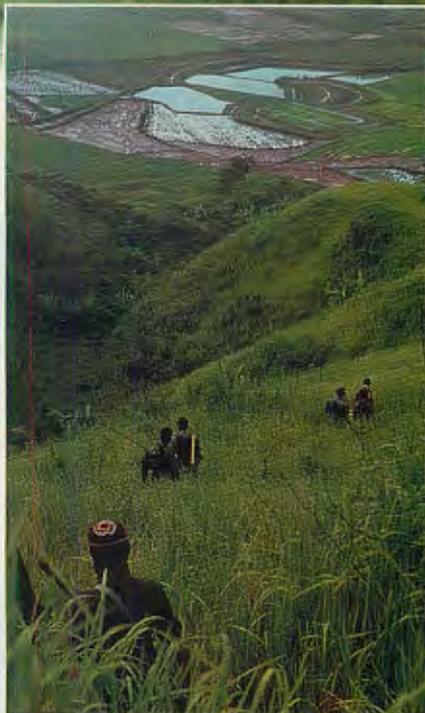
Six years later, however, disillusioned with the Party, he returned to the fold, only to be imprisoned for 10 years. Released when Marcos fell in 1986, and later reinstated in the military, he became a key force in radically reorienting Philippine counterinsurgency strategy away from a fruitless emphasis upon military operations and toward an emphasis upon political warfare.

Cutting through the verbiage, what Manila adopted was what Americans might see as a combination of our CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support) and Phoenix (anti-infrastructure) programs in Vietnam. Certainly this had been done previously by more than a few Filipino commanders. But by 1989, the entire army was carrying out directives that explicitly targeted the CPP's political apparatus.

It is easy to see why the CPP felt the United States must have been behind the switch, but the approach had strength precisely because this wheel had been reinvented by the Filipinos themselves.

"We drew mostly upon my experience," Corpus told me one day during a discussion on the matter. "We didn't refer to any books. We had read U.S. manuals on low-intensity conflict, but we blamed those manuals for introducing COIN [counterinsurgency] doctrines that only aggravated the situation. They apply conventional methods to an unconventional situation. Really, they only offer the same methods which brought no significant results in Vietnam. It doesn't fit our situation. In particular, traditional civic action is a mere palliative. It does not go to the root causes of the problem, to the lack of democracy."

Actually, as Corpus has always been quick to point out, there were numerous Philippine officers who thought as he did. One, for instance, a lowly captain (and a colonel when I was back in-country this past summer), Alex Congman, was already using a version of what came to be called Special Operations Teams (SOT). They were used to counter-mobilize villages targeted by the CPP. His SOT concept was integrated with a larger vision of operational "gradual constriction" and strategic societal reform worked out by an army



From rice paddies to tropical mountains, militia patrols scour their AO for waning signs of insurgent activity in what used to be CPP stronghold. Militia are force multiplier for regulars, as small control team can run many militiamen. Good comms, excellent intelligence at grass roots gives advance warning of communist infiltration efforts. Regular strike force is held in reserve to deal with any surprises.

study group of which Corpus was a part.

Completed in late 1988, OPLAN "Betag" ("Net Trap") was to have gone through a preparation phase in 1989. Instead, it was pushed directly into application. In its essentials, it called for units to "clear, hold, consolidate, and develop" their areas of operation.

All classic counterinsurgency, these steps were unified by one overriding operational goal: to neutralize the CPP infrastructure. The villagers themselves became the objectives, with the NPA only a nuisance to be dealt with as dictated by circumstances.

Instead of body count, "village count" became the order of the day. The status of every population center was carefully recorded, as determined by the CPP's level of infrastructure present. The infrastructure, in turn, was delimited, and the identities of its members determined. Only by neutralizing the operatives could a village be reclassified as cleared.

A People's War

To nip in the bud the inevitable outcry about assassination squads, it may be noted that a good part of the infrastructure, once exposed and guaranteed government protection, simply switched sides. In the CHICKS area of Negros, for instance, when

Continued on page 69

And Then There Were Two

Manila has enjoyed considerable success in convincing a number of CPP splinters to return to the national fold. Bringing in the entire Party, however, has remained an elusive goal, as the CPP is no longer one body but at least two.

Attempting to play the spoiler in any peace talks is CPP founder and current self-proclaimed party head, Jose Maria Sison. Now 55, "Joma" was imprisoned for a decade during the Marcos regime but freed in the amnesty that accompanied the return to democracy.

He quickly resumed his activities, setting up shop with other released CPP personnel in the Netherlands. He did not attempt to reassert control of the Party, however, until the 10th Plenum of the Central Committee in July 1992.

His move was prompted by what he saw as a dangerous drift from the correct Maoist "people's war" approach — encircling the cities from the countryside — to a strategy favoring a mix of urban and rural work. This Sison denounced. A "rectification" campaign was launched, and "renegade" regional headquarters were ordered to stand down.

These elements would have none of it. Pointing out that Sison had been elected by a "quorum" of just eight of 44 Central Committee members, they deemed his elevation illegitimate and gave their loyalty to the "Secretary General" on the scene in the Philippines, Ricardo Reyes.

The split quickly grew into a breach, with Sison's support centered on Luzon, at least the areas outside of Manila, and his rivals controlling Mindanao and the Visayas. Significantly, it is these latter areas where the

preponderance of CPP strength lies.

As befits the peculiar position of the CPP within the Philippine political structure, neither side has been reluctant to publicize its views. Perhaps predictably, the renegades have been the more candid of the two. In a remarkable interview given in January 1993, Reyes observed, "There is that waning appeal, reflected very clearly in the data. Fewer and fewer are joining the New People's Army, fewer and fewer are joining the underground, especially the best and brightest of the generations that followed in the '80s and '90s. That is fatal for a revolutionary movement, if you fail to inspire the young...and so we say, 'Let us reexamine the strategy of encircling the cities from the countryside'...We even told him [Sison], 'The flaw in your analysis is fundamental'."

Driving the debate, of course, are aspects of Marxist doctrine. In practical terms, the conclusion of the anti-Sison faction is that the CPP's proper strategy should be a dual urban-rural approach closer to that of the Sandinistas in their overthrow of Somoza than to that of the Maoists in their seizure of China.

Such dispute may soon be a case merely ideological metaphysics if present trends continue. Long listed in CPP documents as "the banners of the revolution," the most heavily communist-infiltrated islands, Negros and Samar in the Visayas — those upon which the CPP envisaged making its "last stand" if ever necessary — have witnessed a virtual collapse of the insurgent infrastructure.

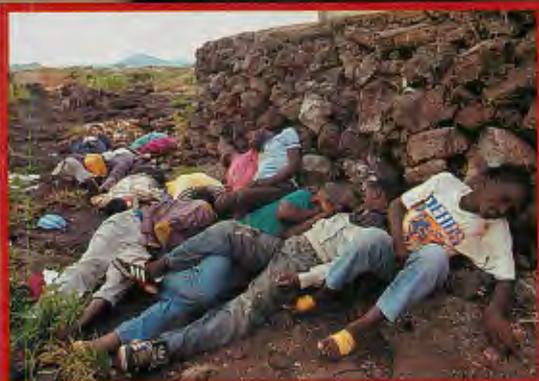
Indeed, while the improvement of the situation on Negros came after several years of intense operations, the Samar turn-out was largely bloodless, a victim of the continuing evolution of the larger strategic dynamic.

Thus, we see that the security forces' greatest weapon has not been the rifle, but political warfare. —T. M.

APOCALYPSE AFRICA

by Rob Krott

Photo: AP/Wide World



**The Ghost Of
Che Guevara
Rolls Over Zaire**

Lying dead center in Africa, halfway between the Atlantic and Indian oceans and halfway between Cairo and Capetown, eastern Zaire is surrounded by an impenetrable jungle primeval, a great tropical wilderness rivaled only by the Amazon rain forest. Beautiful, wild, and mysterious, the jungle is also a foreboding place where witchcraft, cannibalism, and ritual murder are still practiced. The sheer immensity of this landscape evokes awe and wonderment mixed with a visceral dread. It truly is deepest, darkest Africa.

Today eastern Zaire is consumed by war and rebellion as a previously unheard-of guerrilla group, the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), came out of the deepest reaches of the wilderness in October 1996 and quickly overran Kivu Province near the Rwandan and Ugandan borders. In this remote jungle of a poverty-stricken nation known for corruption and its crumbling infrastructure, the ADFL is a force to be reckoned — or collaborated — with. Local government officials, for several months unpaid by the national government, joined the ADFL after its leaders began disbursing funds looted from banks in the border towns of Goma and Bukavu.

Poorly led Zairian army troops flee the ADFL — a scene reminiscent of 1964 and the Congo's Simba Rebellion. Although ADFL strength was initially estimated at about 6,000, this is old Simba territory and rebel ranks have swelled. Bereft of food and pay, hundreds of demoralized government troops and their officers have

defected to the rebels.

The ADFL, as of this writing, continues to march toward Zaire's third largest city, the regional capital of Kisangani on the Zaire River. Meanwhile, government forces aided by European and South African mercenaries on the ground and jets and Mi-24 "Hind" helicopters flown by Ukrainians have attempted to blunt rebel advances in several areas. The instability in eastern Zaire has forced dozens of international-relief workers to fall back to Kinshasa, the capital.

The ADFL released hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees from their two years of internment in squalid refugee camps. It's just as well: Zaire, beset by malnutrition and starvation on a large scale, has no resources to spare for refugees. [SOF World Sitrep, July '96: "Fearing creation of refugee 'towns' — like Palestinians' in Lebanon — Zaire to gradually close 40 camps holding more than 1 million Hutus who fled tribal genocide in Rwanda."] The situation in the remaining Hutu camps is bad: As late as February of this year a representative of the European Commission for Humanitarian Affairs reported that conditions were below acceptable levels of "human dignity" for approximately 200,000 refugees.

Earlier this year, as the rebels earlier gained ground, captured more communities, and routed increasing numbers of government troops, press announcements were made by Laurent Kabila, the ADFL's "spokesman." Suddenly everyone was asking who were the ADFL and who the hell was Kabila?

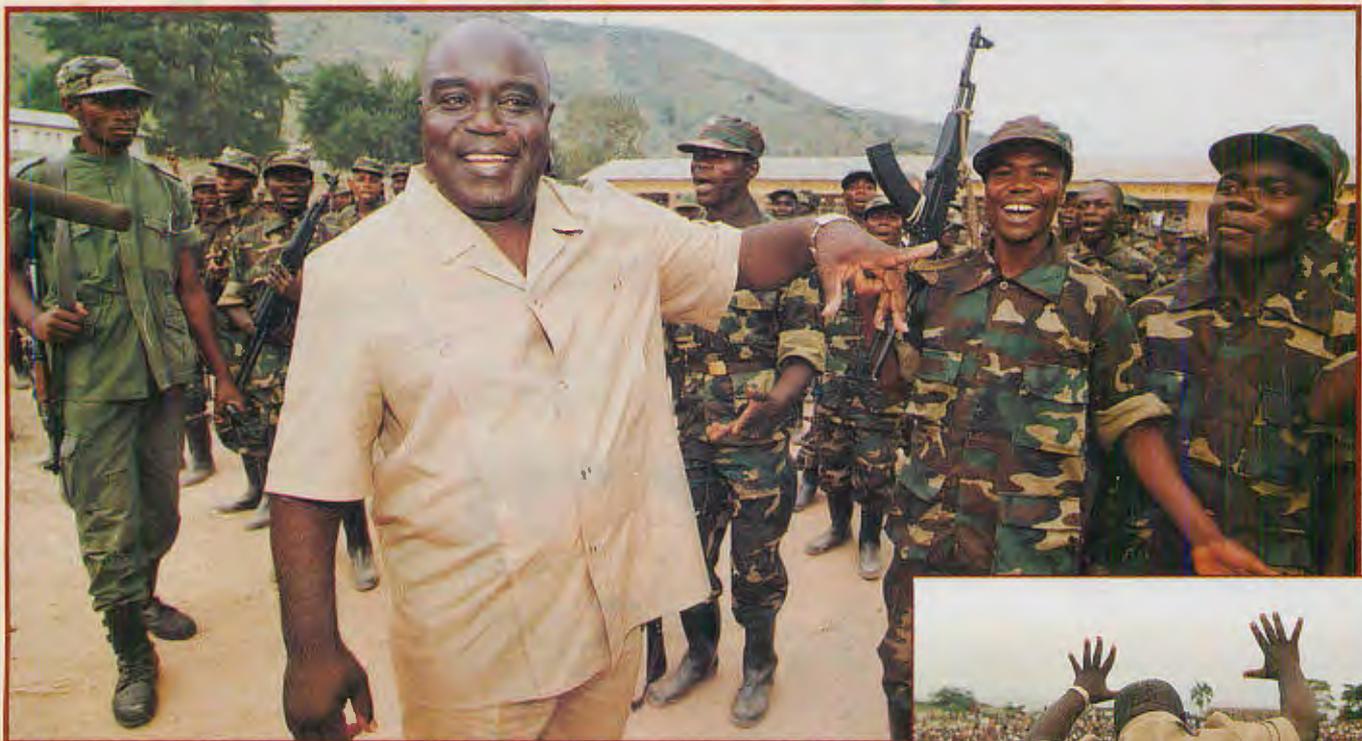
The ADFL is an umbrella organization of the east-Zairian foes (political or otherwise) of ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko, including the Revolutionary Movement for the Liberation of Zaire, the People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), the People's Revolution Party (PRP), and the National Resistance Council for Democracy. The PDA and the PRP both support and represent the ethnic Tutsis in Zaire and the Banyamulenge and Banyamaisi minorities in Kivu Province.

Zaire's army, which has never been in the business of winning *hearts and minds*, has attempted to push the Banyamulenge (who have fought the Hutus) out of Zaire. That and Zaire's support of the Hutus have fueled the current rebellion. As the fighting has spread so has the breadth of the popular support for the ADFL, which was soon joined by the Hunde *Mai-mai* and *Ngilima* militias. Yet the question yet remains: Who is Kabila?

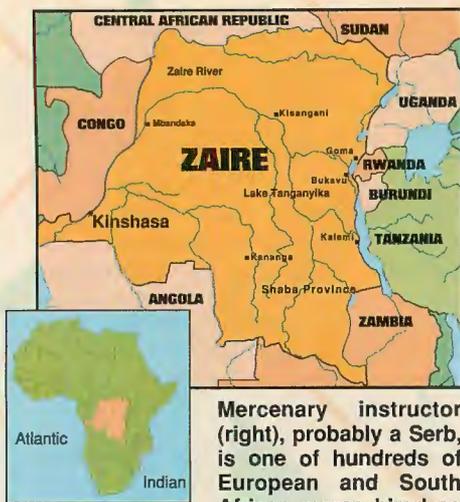
Che And The Simbas

Luba tribesman Laurent Desire Kabila, 58, was born in Ankoro near the Zaire River in Shaba Province (formerly known as Katanga). He supposedly studied philosophy in France before becoming involved in Congolese politics as a supporter of Patrice Lumumba and Lumumba's minister of education, Pierre Mulele, who had received guerrilla-warfare training in China. (See accompanying article.) Kabila was a Simba and it is claimed that the then-26-year-old was an intimate of leftist revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

Che, an Argentinean, led about 100 Cuban "advisers" into the eastern Congo via



(opposite page) Young member of *Mai-mai* militia, allied with ADFL rebels in eastern Zaire, is bound for combat against government troops. (inset) A dozen men and boys and 30 women and children were executed late last year, at outset of rebellion, in east-Zaire refugee camp. (above) Rebel leader Laurent Kabila mingles with newly trained recruits in eastern Zaire and, later, speaks to several thousand cheering supporters in town of Kalemie in his native province of Shaba.



Mercenary instructor (right), probably a Serb, is one of hundreds of European and South African mercs hired so far to prop up forces of embattled President Mobutu Sese Seko.



Tanganyika during the Simba Rebellion. While Che's involvement was once debated it has been confirmed from documents (also, two Cuban prisoners told their mercenary captors that Che — "Commander Tatu" — was there).

Swahili for "lions," the Simbas were a phenomenon which could only have come about in the Congo. Witch doctors put the Simba recruits through an elaborate ceremony to confer powerful *dawa* (medicine) on them to make them impervious to bullets. They only had to wave palm fronds and chant *mai mai* ("water, water") and look straight ahead. Of course, if a Simba was killed it was because he failed to follow the

witch doctor's instructions.

The Simbas proved effective against the soldiers of the *Armee Nationale Congolese* (ANC), little more than uniformed rabble, who themselves believed in sorcery. The ANC ran in terror from Simbas preceded by the palm-frond waving witch doctors whose *dawa* could supposedly turn the ANC's bullets into water. Not exactly resolute in battle, the ANC were lousy shots: Convinced that it was the *noise* of the weapon that killed, many fired their rifles with their eyes closed.

The Simbas soon seized much of the Congo, terrorizing and slaughtering thousands of Congolese as well as dozens of white missionaries, priests, nuns, and expa-

triates. At first the Simbas numbered only a few hundred men clad in rags and animal skins and armed with spears and machetes. The rebels moved from Albertville (now, Kalemie) on Lake Tanganyika, their numbers soon swelling to thousands as they seized town after town without opposition. The ANC troops usually fled without firing a shot, abandoning weapons to the Simbas.

The victorious Simbas staged executions for the benefit of mobs of supporters. Sometimes the victims were riddled with bullets. Other times they were hacked and chopped to bits with spears and machetes. Some were burned alive. Ritualistic cannibalism — the eating of certain body parts

Zaire's president, Mobutu Sese Seko (in full, *Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu wa Za Banga*: "he who by his greatness is invincible"), was born in 1930 in Lisala and christened Joseph Desire Mobutu.

The son of a cook to the colonial magistrate, he was educated in Leopoldville (now, Kinshasa) in various Catholic missions until expelled in 1950. He received a seven-year disciplinary conscription into the *Force Publique*. Because of his fluency in French, he was soon sent to NCO's school. In 1956 Mobutu was discharged with the rank of sergeant-major. As a civilian he gained notoriety as an editorial writer, and later became an associate of Patrice Lumumba and headed his Brussels office in 1960. When the army mutinied later that year and Lumumba was named prime minister, Mobutu was the logical choice for army chief-of-staff.

Mobutu (who became deeply involved in a plot to assassinate Lumumba) rose to major general and commander-in-chief of the *Armee Nationale Congolese* before usurping the presidency from President Joseph Kasavubu.

Mobutu has been president since November 1965, and has ruthlessly crushed any real opposition with his praetorian guard, the *Division Speciale Presidentielle*. Beset by the recent rebellion in the east, it

MOBUTU: Conscript To King

is widely debated how long Mobutu, who underwent surgery this year in France for prostate cancer, can remain Zaire's invincible strong man.

The man who helped launch Mobutu's rise to power, Moscow-oriented Lumumba, is widely considered a quintessential African revolutionary.



Poster of President Mobutu burns on main street of eastern-Zaire town overrun by rebels late last year.

He served as the first prime minister (June-September 1960) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, until dismissal from office by President Kasavubu. Lumumba and his supporters contested this and set up their own government. Nine days after Lumumba's dismissal, Mobutu seized power temporarily, before reaching an agreement with Kasavubu. In October of that year the United Nations recognized Kasavubu's claim.

A month later Lumumba left his U.N. protection in Leopoldville to travel to Stanleyville. He was captured by Kasavubu's forces and arrested. On 17 January 1961 he was handed over to Katangese secessionists and later murdered.

In his memoir, *In Search of Enemies*, John Stockwell, former chief of the CIA's Angola Task Force (who was raised by missionary parents in the Congo) revealed the CIA's involvement in Lumumba's death. He recalled that "an officer who had addressed my training class at the 'Farm' in 1965 ... referring to an adventure in Lubumbashi, driving about town after curfew with Patrice Lumumba's body in the trunk of his car, trying to decide what to do with it. ... He presented this story in a benign light, as though he had been trying to help. It was not until 1975 that I learned the CIA had plotted Lumumba's death."

— Rob Krott

such as the heart or liver to confer "power" — was an old custom here; the mob often fought over the choicest bits.

At first the whites trapped in Simba-occupied areas were treated well, but the situation soon deteriorated as the Simbas suffered setbacks at the hands of Major Mike Hoare's "Wild Geese" mercenaries and their Katangese *gendarmes*. In Stanleyville (now, Kisangani) the Simbas began addressing white captives as *mateka*: Swahili for "butter" or "meat." Americans were especially hated by Simbas, whose leaders blamed setbacks on American troops and airplanes. The Simbas warned that any Americans captured were subject to execution and they would not guarantee the safety of any U.N. officials.

At 0600 hours, 24 November 1964, Operation *Dragon Rouge*, the meticulously planned airborne assault of the Belgian ParaCommando Regiment on Stanleyville, commenced. Days later the ANC was ferried in and *le ratissage* ("raking up") began. An eyewitness to ANC actions in Stanleyville, Don Strobaugh, a U.S. Air Force combat-control team officer, noted in his journal: "The senseless butchery and mutilation of civilians and military prisoners is unbelievable. There was absolutely no difference between the everyday acts of the ANC and the well-publicized atrocities committed by the rebels [Simbas]. Only the uniforms were different. ... I wonder if the people of the Congo might possibly find that the cure is as bad as the disease."

The Simba Rebellion officially ended in December 1965 and Mulele went in exile in Brazzaville. He returned under amnesty in 1968 — and was executed anyway. Che would die on 9 October 1967, shortly after his capture a world away in Bolivia. Kabila, however, was neither captured nor duped into surrendering. Having fled into the mountains near Lake Tanganyika, he founded the People's Revolutionary Party in October 1967.

For 18 years the PRP and its military organization, the very revolutionary and egalitarian-sounding People's Armed Forces (PAF), held out against the government of President Mobutu. Nicknamed the *musungile* ("dwarves"), the PAF was a small but sometimes troublesome thorn in Mobutu's side. In 1974 the *musungile* forayed from their mountain guerrilla camp and kidnapped four American students; in exchange the PAF successfully demanded the release of 30 of their PRP comrades from Mobutu's prisons.

White Mercenaries: Then And Now

Zaire in 1997 obviously is no stranger to war and rebellion.

Shortly after independence in 1960 from Belgium there was widespread political unrest leading to Moise Tshombe's Katanga secession (aided by white mercenaries under "Mad Mike" Hoare of South Africa). A U.N. intervention put down the secession and expelled Hoare and the mercs. Trouble



SOF archives

Che Guevara, (left) with whom present-day rebel leader Kabila claimed association, was sent to the Congo in 1964 by Cuban dictator Fidel Castro. (above) The Simba Rebellion saw brutality to and torture and murder of European and American hostages; key city of Stanleyville was liberated in November 1964 by Belgian paratroop regiment.



courtesy Lt. Col. Don Strobaugh

courtesy Lt. Col. Don Strobaugh

came again to the Congo when a rebellion led by Pierre Mulele broke out in the Kwilu area near Kikwit in January 1964. Then came the Simba Rebellion, headed by Gaston Emile Soumialot, a former warehouse clerk who'd risen in revolutionary political circles, and aided by Kabila.

Indeed, conflicts in this unfortunate country have provided work for many European and South African mercs. History may be repeating itself.

Rumors abounded in early 1997 that President Mobutu, faced with a situation that is rapidly growing out of control and threatening to spread, was assembling a *Legion Blanc* ("White Legion") of foreign mercs, including Serbs. Other reports contended that he was considering contracting for direct intervention by a sizable force of



Banyamulenge rebels, allied with ADFL, rough up man accused of being Zairian government soldier.

AP photo/APTV

"advisers" from Executive Outcomes, the Pretoria-based corporation specializing in providing Africa-experienced combat veterans for hire.

Unconfirmed reports by foreign journalists claimed that mercenaries began arriving in Kisangani in January. The Paris newspaper *Le Monde* more recently reported that former French soldiers now hiring on as mercenaries had left for Zaire. The paper claimed that a dozen or more officers currently command 300 to 400 white mercenaries, mostly from Britain, Belgium, and South Africa, in this White Legion. (European news reports prompted a flurry of phone calls to SOF's offices from American and foreign news organizations seeking "inside" information.)

More mercs supposedly are on the way. Mobutu will then use them to counterattack Kabila, who had (as of mid-February) bogged down despite his initial victories. Additionally, individual soldiers of fortune may very well have traveled to Zaire looking for work.

Though it probably is propaganda, Kabila claimed there are 2,000 Angolan "mercenaries" from Jonas Savimbi's *UNITA* currently defending Kisangani against the rebels. A token Angolan presence is possible: Zaire has long supported *UNITA* and Savimbi, who has reportedly offered further assistance to Zaire's army, whereas Angola's Marxist government is undoubtedly rooting for Kabila and enjoying Mobutu's discomfiture. Moreover, Savimbi might be concerned that Shaba (Katanga) Province to the south, a *UNITA* sanctuary, may become embroiled in the rebellion.

A Growing Conflict

Angola is not the only neighbor with a stake in the rebellion's outcome. The ethnic conflict between Hutu and Tutsi has spilled over nearby borders, involving five countries and part of the massive diaspora of refugees has settled in eastern Zaire. While Zaire has accused Uganda's President Museveni of supporting the rebels, "renegade" Zairian militia backed by the Sudanese government have raided into Uganda; in November 1996 Zaire sent a force across the border at Bwera. The Zairian troops were joined by rebels of the Allied Democratic Army: Muslims formerly with the Uganda National Liberation Army who desire to create an Islamic state in Uganda; the UNLA was defeated by Museveni's army in 1986 and survivors fled to Zaire.

Rwandan Hutu militias, pushed out by Banyamulenge guerrillas, may also have participated in the incursion of 30 kilometers into Uganda that killed approximately 200 Ugandans. This and Zaire's aid of *UNITA* make Mobutu no friend of either the Ugandan or Angolan governments.

Nor is tiny Rwanda happy with Mobutu. Maintaining they are merely aiding their

Continued on page 70

Cyprus

Europe's Last Divided City

SOF On The Green Line In Nicosia

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

MY screams were having no effect on the half-dozen Greek-Cypriot national guardsmen who were hustling me into a waiting vehicle. Somebody gave me a hard shove from behind and then tightened my handcuffs. After two previous arrests and brief detentions, I almost was getting used to this style of "jewelry" by Smith & Wesson.

With only hours to go before my return flight to Budapest, Hungary, from Nicosia, I was once again under arrest for taking photographs of the Green Line: the 180 kilometer-long buffer zone separating 30,000 Turkish soldiers holding the northern third of Cyprus from one-quarter as many Greek-Cypriot soldiers in the south. The warring factions sit eyeball-to-eyeball along much of the Green Line. Tensions run high — even against military-friendly photojournalists such as myself.

Cyprus is a lopsided Mexican standoff. Stuck in the middle are 1,200 poorly motivated United Nations peacekeepers — the result of a peace accord hammered out following the 1974 Turkish army invasion to protect the Turkish minority following a short-lived coup by Greek-Cypriot officers supported by the military government then ruling Greece.

Prompted by news this year that the Greek-Cypriot government was cementing a deal to purchase long-range, Russian-made S-300 (SA-10) surface-to-air missiles [see "World Sitrep," April SOF] and other sophisticated air-defense weapons — a



decision the Turkish government said would result in an attack to remove the threat — SOF decided to pay the last divided city in Europe a visit.

All of the elements for a shooting war exist right now on Cyprus: an actively patrolled death strip with barbed wire, bunkers, guard towers, booby traps, and snarling, undisciplined soldiers; an unstable political situation; and enough Russian pimps, prostitutes, and spies to make Nicosia an eastern-Mediterranean miniature of Cold War-era Berlin. The war of words between the two enemies never ceases, with every Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot periodical calling for revenge for yet another offense or warning the other of impending attack for deeds done two and three decades before.

Dangerous Coffee Drinkers

After a day of soaking up Greek-Cypriot culture and anti-Turkey propaganda, I wanted to see for myself just what the Turks had done to the northern third of Cyprus they control.

If Nicosia has become a miniature West and East Berlin, then the Ledra Palace crossing is its Checkpoint Charlie. Between the two sides lie about 100 meters of barbed-wire barricades and concrete barriers, four shell-scarred buildings, and one unarmed U.N. peacekeeper. The Ottoman-style Ledra now is headquarters for the British U.N. contingent. Signs are posted warning against photographers.

"Don't allow them [the Turks] to put any stamp in your passport," a Greek-Cypriot policeman warned me. "If they do, you cannot re-enter Cyprus. You will be turned back. Watch yourself, mister, they are *dangerous* people."

Half expecting to be beaten stupid for even looking the wrong way, I quickly made my way towards the center of North Nicosia, clutching my camera to the inside of my jacket. A banner over the Turkish customs shack proclaims that "the clock cannot be turned back to the 1963-1974 period," referring to the post-British years when Greek nationalists controlled the island.

A few police and soldiers were lounging under a tree, drinking coffee. No one lifted his head to take notice as I walked by. I hoped they were drinking decaf.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, as the Ankara government calls the mini-state, is not recognized by the United Nations or, for that matter, by any other country except Turkey. Northern Cyprus is an armed camp and a police state. Thousands of Turkish army conscripts together with Turkish-Cypriot militiamen patrol the streets in packs outnumbering civilians by 2-to-1.

Many citizens, as the croupier at the city's only functioning casino had told me, are prisoners.

"A lot of these people come right out of prison," he explained. "They're given a choice of either staying in prison or coming here with their families — like Australia with the British. There aren't many Turkish Cypriots left. The smart ones left for Germany or Istanbul years ago."

An armed camp and penal colony, I silently said to myself as I headed for the immediate vicinity of the Turkish side of the Green Line.

Another Brick In The Wall

Like a moth drawn to a flame, I wanted to see how close I could get to the "Wall" before I was either shot, beaten or taken into custody for being a spy. It didn't take very long.

Within seconds after entering the two-block buffer zone bordering the Green Line, Turkish-Cypriot soldiers and their Turkish army officers were eyeballing me from rooftop bunkers. A block away a Turkish army jeep cruised by me for a closer look. From behind a steel-sheet fence, complete with warning signs, I could see pairs of eyes watching me approach.

Fifty meters away I stopped my advance, and turned around to get my camera ready. I immediately heard a gate in the fence swing open and over my shoulder watched three Turkish army conscripts walk towards me, waving their G3 assault rifles and yelling "No photos!"

Feigning "tourist" ignorance, I told them I didn't know this

was a military zone and that I would gladly leave if only they wouldn't kill me. It worked.

I made my way south toward the Pafos Gate, a U.N. checkpoint at the entrance to Greek-held Nicosia's Old Town. The Turks definitely hold the high ground, complete with a wonderful view of the main telephone-switching office and a commanding vista of the Cypriot parliament building. (The Greeks, for their part, hold only the remnants of an ancient wall and some crumbling bunkers.) Below my feet, the Turks had constructed a large bunker complex masquerading as a latrine; the only give-a-way were two dozen or so air vents competing for space with pine trees and swing sets.

The 1700 "witching hour," when all foreigners in Northern Cyprus must return to the Greek side, was quickly approaching. With something *else* on my mind besides bunkers and troop strengths, I made my way towards Nicosia's booming red-light district.

The Russians Are Coming

The Russian invasion of Cyprus is complete, Spirou Isaak, the concierge at my hotel had explained to me.

"They share our religion, a common alphabet, and their women [each] seem to do the work of three Cypriot girls," Isaak said, with a wink. "They've also brought many problems here. Mafia, if you know what I mean." I understood quite well, having had plenty of experience over the past two years with the Russian mob in Budapest.

First stop was the Havana Club, a seedy little dive with two Serb "hostesses" sporting bleached-blond hair and heavily powdered faces. For the equivalent of \$20, I was told, I could buy the least attractive of the two a drink and enjoy her company for a while.

"You are a U.N. soldier?" she asked me. "Would you like to take me out?"

While my hands were acting independently of my better judgment, Tanya, as my "date" identified herself, told me how she left Nis, an industrial city in Serbia, last year for work in Cyprus as a "hostess."

"My boyfriend was in the army in Bosnia and made a lot of money, but he had to leave because he had some problems," Tanya went on. "I came with him because I thought Cyprus would be a good place to enjoy myself. He's not here tonight — do you want to be with me?"

The thought of being worked over by a tag-team of Serb and Russian pimps, after being found in bed with one of their girlfriends, brought me back down to earth. I declined the offer and moved on.

Four Greek-Cypriot MPs in a long-cab pickup drove slowly up the narrow street as I made my way toward a cluster of outdoor cafes and an infamous \$40-per-hour dive known as "Tony's Bed and Breakfast." I passed a group of Russian whores and their pimps who had cell-phones glued to their ears while yelling at someone for not being somewhere when they were supposed to.

A quick phone call to Cyprus' only escort agency answered many of my questions. "We have Russian-Cypriot girls, Greek-Cypriot girls and American-Cypriot girls," the comely voice replied.

"What about Turkish-Cypriot girls?" I asked. "Do you have any?"

"No, I'm sorry," came the reply, "but we do have a Brazilian girl. All are \$60 per hour, anything goes. Who would you like to see?"

Paranoia overpowered my manly urges; I declined. I set out for the Greek-held side of the Green Line to see what, if anything, went on along the front lines at night. I wasn't disappointed.

U.N.'s Worst Assignment

No sooner had I turned the corner when a short burst of tracer rounds arched its way over the top of a bombed-out house about 30 meters ahead. Car alarms and house lights up and down the block immediately went on, and soon two overweight Greek officers came running out of a command post towards the source of the shooting. I followed.

One of the conscripts nervously explained how he challenged what he thought were three men making their way across the rooftop of the house directly to the right of the guard house straddling the wall. I began taking photos, but was quickly stopped by a group of newly arrived MPs who pushed all non-military personnel out of the area.

"There probably isn't an evening that goes by without some sort of shooting incident," said Irish army Sergeant Bobbie Lipsett, the U.N. Forces In Cyprus (UNFICYP) photographer, told me. "These guys are

Another Greek in the Wall: Soldier manning post in divided Nicosia peers northward into Turkish-Cypriot territory. Elsewhere, another Greek-Cypriot soldier at observation point (painted in the blue and white of the Greek flag) watches for trouble; guard shack has phones likely providing instant communication to headquarters and reinforcements.



At south side of Ledra Palace crossing — Nicosia's "Checkpoint Charlie" — billboards feature photos recounting "recent murders of civilians, committed by Turkey in Cyprus" and propagandistic slogans.



In North Cyprus, warning signs mark the Green Line as "forbidden zone." Elsewhere, school-children lounge at a monument to the Turkish-Cypriot "Grey Wolves" paramilitary group.



trigger-happy, I tell you. Last year they shot and killed a U.N. soldier. A couple of our guys always get injured or caught in crossfires."

The muscular, tightly-wound Lipsett has pulled duty on Cyprus for nearly two years. Although he's a man of few words he seems to have made friends in all of the right places.

"Why don't you come back tomorrow and I'll see what we can do to get you out into the buffer zone," Lipsett said as we drove through the parking lot of the Nicosia's old, abandoned airport. "You'll get a chance to speak with some other U.N. soldiers about pulling duty along the Green Line."

I made plans to return to U.N. headquarters at 0900 the next day, then headed out on the 10-kilometer hike back to my hotel. Back at the Ledra Palace checkpoint I ran into an old Cyprus hand, a British expatriate named Billie Norris, who filled me in on some of the less well-known aspects of the Cyprus crisis as he saw them.

"First thing you've got to know about this place is that there are no random acts of terrorism on the other [Turkish] side," he said. "It's all organized by the government. They've organized themselves a paramilitary group called the Grey Wolves. Maybe you remember a shooting back in August [1996] when that Greek guy and his cousin were shot dead trying to cross into the Turkish zone?"

"I remember a little of the film footage on CNN," I said.

"The Grey Wolves were founded in the 1950s, as some sort of a fascist youth group," Norris went on, "You know, a nationalist organization looking to make links with mainland Turkey. This absolutely made the Greeks furious. . . . Whenever there's a demonstration on this side, the Grey Wolves all of a sudden appear on the other side with a counter-demonstration. When things get rough, these bully-boys wade in and make order. They also carry out 'black' jobs. But I don't know much about that."

I asked, "What about the U.N. forces — don't they have any means to control these guys?"

"U.N.?" Norris snorted. "Christ, these guys couldn't help an old lady across the street without getting hit themselves."

Mediterranean Arms Race

UNFICYP is the international body's longest-running peacekeeping operation: 23 years. Even with more than a thousand British, Argentine, Hungarian, Austrian, and Irish soldiers now manning posts and batteries the length of the Green Line, no solution has been found to get both belligerents to disengage and make peace.

UNFICYP, unfortunately, comes across as one of the most bureaucratic-heavy and inefficient missions the United Nations has ever fielded — Bosnia and Somalia included. With little will to enforce their mandate and even less strategic and tactical capability to carry out that mission, most soldiers and officers — along with their bloated administrative staff — spend days warning tourists not to take photos of disused checkpoints and busted-up buildings along the Green Line.

When asked whether *SOF* could spend a day with British peacekeepers, Captain McMahon Turner, the press officer, told me (after two days of playing phone tag) that he was too busy with personal matters and couldn't be bothered. I could, however, spend a morning with Hungarian and Austrian troops. After a quick call to Sgt. Lipsett, a meeting was arranged.

Those two units operate under a joint command overseeing the buffer zone in an area of Cyprus commonly known as the Louroujina Pocket. The situation is pitiful: Neither the Hungarian nor Austrian contingent has the manpower or firepower to enforce anything more than what either one of the local warring factions allows them to do.

The day I arrived at the joint-command center, most officers and men were busy racking up pool balls and doing laundry. One hundred meters away, Turkish troops were busy building new bunkers — a clear violation of the peace accord.

At two more remote posts, the situation was pretty much the

Approaching the boundary of Turkish-Cypriot North Nicosia, visitor is greeted by police officers and anti-Greek banner proclaiming, "The clock cannot be put back to 1963-1974 period." (East-West Berlin's famous Checkpoint Charlie, although grim, was *much* tidier.)



same. None of the "U.N. field positions" had its own vehicles, making it quite difficult for the squads based there to patrol their AO. If any of the U.N. posts come under fire (and many do, I was told) the only firepower immediately available is the assault rifle and side arm issued each soldier by their respective armies. U.N. peacekeepers have no heavy weapons on Cyprus; if the conflict escalated their positions would be overrun within minutes.

The Turkish army, by comparison, in early 1996 embarked on a major equipment-modernization program in North Cyprus. According to UNFICYP, about 80 M48A5T1 tanks were withdrawn from the island and were replaced by 65 of the improved -T2s. At the same time, Turkish forces greatly increased their total number of armored personnel carriers to an estimated 250.

The Greek-Cypriot forces also continue to build up. Since late 1995, the Cypriot national guard has purchased 43 Russian-made BMP-3s, bringing the total number of mechanized-infantry vehicles to 375.

"Don't try to make a comparison with Berlin," a Greek-Cypriot newspaperman warned me. "We're Greeks and they're Turks. It's not like we're both German people under two different political systems. ... I guarantee you there will be a war here before year's end over this S-300 missile deployment. The Turks will wipe them [SAMs] out, but the U.S. will stop it before the Turks do too much damage. In the end, the solution will be two separate states, two Cypruses."

Journalist's Escape & Evasion

"You could be working for Turkey," the senior arresting officer from the Greek-Cypriote national guard told me, straightfaced, as he pushed my head down to clear the doorway of the squad car. "I arrested a Japanese fellow a few months ago who claimed like you that he was just a tourist. It turned out that he was a spy."

After arriving at the Nicosia Old Town police station, I was handcuffed to a desk leg for about two hours before anyone took time to ask who I was or what I was doing there. I felt great relief when two detectives uncuffed me. Then they began a "good cop, bad cop" routine.

"We've got enough evidence and supporting statements from soldiers to arrest you," the *bad cop* told me, blowing cigarette smoke into my eyes. "When you are in our country, you have to obey our laws. You saw the sign saying 'no photos,' but yet you took pictures."

"No I didn't," I lied. "I didn't make any photos."

"Look," the *good cop* chimed in, "we know you're not a spy, but if we find photos on your roll of film my friend here is going to be very upset."

Complaining that this wasn't any way to treat a tourist and threatening to go to the U.S. Embassy were getting me nowhere. However, before handing over my film — at gunpoint, no less — I had "accidentally" let the camera door open, exposing the photos and destroying whatever incriminating evidence might have existed. It was a trick I had learned in Bosnia.

I was let go with orders to immediately return to my hotel — which I "mistakenly" had identified as the Hilton. Five minutes later I heard a car approach me from behind; a sergeant ordered, "Give me your film!"

I refused and told him he would have to call a civilian cop to make any arrest. He bit at this lure and, after having searched me and placed my hands and camera equipment on the hood of his car, walked into a nearby mini-market to use the telephone. God must have smiled on me: Seconds later an empty taxi came around the corner.

With no hesitation I grabbed my cameras and dove into the car, slapped a U.S. \$20 bill in the cabbie's hand, and ordered him to take me to the city center.

Dodging traffic and even resorting to going around a traffic circle the *wrong* way, we were finally able to lose my pursuers in downtown Nicosia's traffic. Then, two police helicopters showed up searching for me. I ducked into a department store, removed my tell-tale jacket, concealed my camera gear, and blended in with the pedestrian traffic outside.

Needless to say, I eventually made it off Cyprus. But I won't be returning anytime soon — war or no war.

Well rested from his 7-day "vacation" on Cyprus, SOF Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein set off for strife-ridden Albania. He is based in Budapest. ✕



courtesy UNFICYP

U.N. peacekeepers from the three countries dismount an armored personnel carrier to patrol along Green Line. At another site, Irish troops wearing blue U.N. berets get a close-up look at an old mine field.



courtesy UNFICYP



Stuck in the middle with U.N. Foreign soldier (right) serving in U.N. Forces In Cyprus phones in from his Green Line post; in the near distance (left), the red and white crescent-and-star flags of Turkey flap in the breeze.

OKC

by
Richard L. Sherrow
Photos: AP/Wide World

Terrorism — And The Government — Go On Trial In Denver

Who really shot J.F.K.? What really happened at Waco? Questions that, for many, will never be fully resolved. With the trial of accused Oklahoma City bombing suspect Timothy McVeigh on the horizon, yet another case joins the ranks of perennial who-really-did-it. This time, however, some of the facts may prove to be stranger, and more sinister, than fiction. In the words of Stephen Jones, McVeigh's defense attorney, "When you've seen what I've seen ... when you know what I know, you will never think about the United States the same way again."

Conspiracies And Confusion

Before this trial is over, a jury of 12 will sit mystified, their senses numbed by a plethora of conspiratorial conundrums the likes of which film fabricator Oliver Stone would be hard-pressed to match.

The black pall of death still hovered over the Murrah building when conspiracy theorists began to stir. Ranging from the strange to the ridiculous, the stories grew with each retelling. Some of the more bizarre theories attempted to lay the blame on such divergent entities as the CIA and Iran-Contra to Area 51, the Mexican Mafia and Vince Foster. Yet, amid these wild imaginings flows an undercurrent of disturbing facts.

While government prosecutors maintain that the bombing was the sole work of

Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, many in the so-called militia/patriot movement remain convinced that the federal government was behind the bombing — a la Germany's infamous 1933 Reichstag fire. And others, most notably McVeigh's attorney Stephen Jones, are pointing fingers at an international neo-Nazi conspiracy.

Swastikas And Scalawags

To the dismay of many in the militia/patriot community, the very nature of their naiveté, ideology and activities make them vulnerable to infiltration — not only by government agents, but also white supremacists, neo-Nazis and plain garden variety criminals. Like moths to a flame, these testicularly challenged social outcasts are drawn to many of the patriot gatherings; some to revel in an atmosphere of politically incorrect views and speech, while others see it as a fertile recruiting ground for enticing new members into their own groups. It is these very hate groups that have become the focus of attention for McVeigh's attorneys.

Two weeks before the bombing, McVeigh is alleged to have placed a call to the single telephone in the rural east-central Oklahoma community of Elohim City. The intended recipient of the call, Andreas Strassmeir, wasn't there.

Elohim City: Lead by gray bearded patriarch Robert Millar, this 400-acre separatist/religious commune is a bucolic cross



The defense: Attorney Stephen Jones jousts with the press in Denver after *The Dallas Morning News* broke a story claiming McVeigh told his defense team he alone drove the Ryder truck in the OKC bombing, a report Jones energetically refuted.

between *Dogpatch* and *Deliverance*, with a sinister touch of the Fourth Reich tossed in for spice. For a number of years it has been the stomping ground for a cast of questionable characters, more than a few of whom are now being cast as figures in the OKC bombing investigation:

- Andreas Strassmeir (a.k.a. Andi the German): The son of the former West German Secretary of State in the Helmut Kohl administration, Strassmeir, although largely ignored by federal investigators, has become the focus of intense scrutiny by

both the McVeigh defense team and the news media as a possible suspect in the OKC bombing. A former lieutenant in the *Bundeswehr* (West German Army), Strassmeir came to the United States in 1988, living on and off at Elohim City, from 1991 to August 1995.

On 2 January 1996, *Soldier Of Fortune* obtained the only known interview with Strassmeir prior to his return to Berlin a few days later. At a safe house on the Texas gulf coast, Strassmeir admitted that he had met McVeigh at a Tulsa gun show where he sold McVeigh a knife and McVeigh sold him some BDUs and gloves. "I may have given him [McVeigh] a business card from Elohim City and told him my name was Andi," Strassmeir told *SOF*, but he adamantly denied any other contact with him.

Although what Strassmeir told *SOF* pretty much matches the transcript of his later interview with the FBI, many believe he is either a German GSG-9 agent sent to the U.S. to infiltrate the neo-Nazi movement... or John Doe 2 himself. Does this mean that *SOF* considers Strassmeir pure as the driven snow? Far from it. Remember, you tend to

heaped on him since the bombing, Mahon has delighted in yanking the chains of naive newsies. For example, he told one gullible reporter that *he was really John Doe 2*, then, for the reporter's benefit, faked a phone call to Germany to put a "contract" out on his pal Strassmeir. The newsie bought it hook, line and sinker. Other times he has confided to journalists that he is a bank robber or an armored car robber; he knows who John Doe 2 is; etc., etc., etc.

Incidentally, the claims of Strassmeir being an agent for GSG-9 also originated with Mahon.

More recently, Mr. Mahon's mouth may have overloaded his ass. He now is observed desperately back-pedaling and denying the not-so-sweet nothings he'd whispered in the shell-like ear of big-busted, 26 year old, blonde ATF snitch Carol Howe. Mahon may have just wanted to engage in a little Teutonic version of hide the bratwurst, but Howe was busy with plans of her own:

• Carol E. Howe: Making the Internet rounds is a "story" by J.D. Cash, telling of

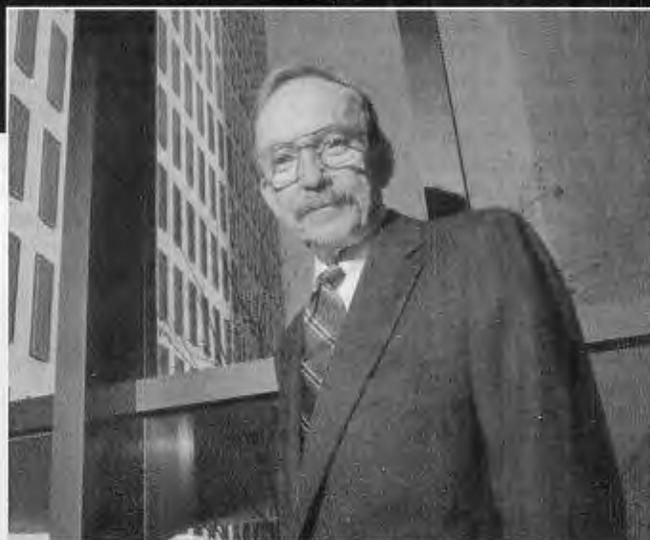
reserved ... and when he did speak, you could hardly understand him because of his accent." True, Strassmeir does have a pronounced German accent, but in all the hours this reporter spent with him I had no trouble at all understanding him.

Formerly buddy-buddy with Howe, neo-Nazi Dennis Mahon is now claiming that Howe is a lying drug addict, hell-bent on saying anything to make a buck and further her own cause. An interesting side note: Just over one year ago, J.D. Cash was the same reporter Mahon had convinced he was John Doe 2 and, at the same time he allowed Cash to "witness" his putting the "contract" out on his pal Strassmeir.

• James Ellison: Self-anointed "King James of the Ozarks," Ellison was leader of the Christian Identity commune known as the Covenant, Sword and Arm of the Lord (CSA). Located on the Missouri-Arkansas border, CSA served as a safe house for assorted miscreants, including members of the white supremacist group The Order, which racked up a violent track record of armored car robberies and the



The prosecution: Joseph Hartzler, federal prosecutor in the OKC case, leaves after a closed conference with the defense and U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch last December, the purpose of which was to ensure the defense receives pertinent information and evidence from the prosecution.



The referee: U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch, who ruled that McVeigh and Terry Nichols will stand trial in Denver, and who will preside. Matsch has also ruled that sensational "news" releases "reporting" McVeigh's "confession" are not cause to delay the trial, nor change its venue.

be known by the company you keep.

• Dennis Mahon: Acknowledged close friend of Strassmeir, Mahon is an avowed racist. Former KKK leader and head of the Oklahoma chapter of WAR (White Aryan Resistance), Mahon revels in media attention and is well-known for spouting BS as readily as he spouts racist rhetoric. (During the Freeman standoff, Mahon called a press conference and made a big show of loading guns in his car to go fight the feds in Montana. He then drove out of sight, waited for the press to leave, and returned home).

Taking advantage of the press attention

paid ATF informant Carol E. Howe. According to the story, Howe is said to claim that in 1994 she lived at Elohim City as part of an ATF undercover operation. She alleges that during that time, among other things, Dennis Mahon and Andreas Strassmeir were up to their *lederhosen* in the plot to bomb the Murrah building ... and she had it all on tape for her ATF "handler," special agent Angela Finley.

Although Howe may have been on ATF's payroll, there are parts of her story that don't hold up under close scrutiny. For example, in the J.D. Cash article, when speaking of Strassmeir she says, "He was real quiet and

murder of Denver-based, Jewish talk-show host Alan Berg.

Following the 19 April 1985 raid on the CSA camp, Ellison was sentenced to 20 years in prison on federal weapons and racketeering charges. After serving one year he cut a deal with the feds, turning government snitch and entering the Federal Witness Protection program.

After the OKC bombing, Ellison moved from Florida to Elohim City, where he married one of Reverend Millar's granddaughters. Ever the wannabe Nordic warrior,

Continued on page 67

This Is A Knife

by Bill Bagwell

All-American Bowie: Still A King Of Battle Blades

U.S. Navy SEAL and Army Special Forces units are highly regarded and respected worldwide. These men have received the finest and most comprehensive combat training that our military establishment has to offer, and are specialists in unconventional warfare and, to varying degrees, hand-to-hand combat. With this in mind, it will likely surprise many *SOF* readers to consider that if a SEAL or green beret were to be transported back in time with his favorite fighting knife (and whatever knife-combat skills he has) to any nightclub on the Mississippi River in 1840, he likely would be killed in a knife fight in five minutes or less.

Actually, it would probably take our guy about three minutes to start the fight (intentionally or otherwise), five to seven seconds to receive two disabling or fatal cuts and two fatal stab wounds, and then take him two minutes or less to bleed out and die.

The cold, hard, life-and-death truth is that the fighting knives and accompanying tactics used in the area from New Orleans to Vicksburg, Miss., and Memphis, Tenn., between 1830 and the close of the Civil War were the deadliest this country has ever seen. The knife, of course, was the legendary Bowie.

We are speaking here of a properly made and finely balanced edged weapon with carefully orchestrated edge geometry and a handle and guard that work in concert with the blade and its balance factors to give its user maximum speed, power, and reach. Its blade is at least 9 inches in length. Many men of that period, including the rugged inhabitants of the untamed mountains and prairies, carried blades of 10-12 inches — some even longer. Properly made and balanced, these knives are not heavy and clumsy, and the extra reach afforded by the longer

blade enables its user to engage his adversary at a distance and *stay out of his reach* while providing superior leverage that enables the Bowie to make tremendous cuts.

A good Bowie could cleave skulls and sever limbs; as a handy outdoor tool, it would do an acceptable job on a small tree if some firewood was urgently needed and an ax was not available. Large knives, in fact, were a better tool in the wilderness

than a long, slender foil or even a saber, and the Bowie knife was simply the right tool brought forth in an environment perfectly suited for it. The legendary Southern adventurer James Bowie, who would die in Texas at the Alamo in 1836, *didn't* make the first Bowie knife, but he did make it famous.

Bowie Basics

The reader needs to realize and understand that not all so-called Bowie knives nowadays have the performance capability. There's more to this equation than just the shape of the blade.

For instance, when I make a custom Bowie knife for a man, I want to know his height, weight, shirt size (which includes his collar size and sleeve length), waist and trousers' inseam, shoe size (both length and width), and I want to know whether the man is right- or left-handed. (Knowing the shoe size tells me the size of the man's hand, as the bones in a man's hands and feet grow in proportion to each other.) With this information I have a picture of a man's skeletal structure, and knowing this, I can build a knife that will work in concert with the amount of power and leverage he can generate. After all, major-league baseball players do not all swing the *same* length and weight of bat, and professional tennis players and golfers have their rackets and clubs tailored to their particular dimensions.

If you are on a budget and cannot afford a custom Bowie, there are commercial knives available over-the-counter that are serviceable and suitable. Two which come readily to mind are the coffin-handled "Australian" Utility Bowie by Gerber and the "Trail Master" by Cold Steel. My preference between the two is the Cold Steel because of its superior strength.

To understand the development of this



courtesy Leo J. Peters, Jr.

On historic ground: New Orleans police Sgt. Leo J. Peters, Jr., displays his Bagwell "Hell's Belle" Bowie knife at Dueling Oaks, site of countless one-on-one battles — some only to the honor-satisfying spillage of blood, some to the death — from 1834 through the Civil War.



Bill Bagwell

Custom creations by author: (top) Bowie knife with 10½-inch Damascus-steel blade and Louisiana osage-orange wooden handle; (center) Bowie with 11-inch Sheffield-style carbon-steel

blade and sambar-antler handle; (bottom) “Hell’s Belle” Bowie with 11⅓-inch carbon-steel blade and black-locust wooden handle.

American style of knife, you need to know something about the history of the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, and, particularly, about that of New Orleans. Factors of commerce (read “money”) and trade coupled with a city and culture on American soil that were unique in the world.

Europe Meets The American Frontier

New Orleans in 1830 was the second largest port in the United States, and the huge majority of its commerce arrived by way of the Mississippi River. Founded by the French and fought over and governed by

both the French and Spanish for nearly 100 years, New Orleans was a distinctly European city in both custom and culture when it came into the United States by way of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

In 1830, New Orleans had the graces and airs of a capital of Europe at a time when New York City was barely more than an overgrown village and Chicago was a wilderness trading post. New Orleans’ society was aristocratic in structure; and people had keen interests in art, literature, and especially music. A man’s word was better than his bond, and a bankrupt excused his disgrace by blowing out his brains. Honor was everything, and men fought and died to

preserve it.

The famous Dueling Oaks of the Allard Estate bore witness to an average of four duels (by blade or pistol) a day from 1834 to the Civil War. With the practice of dueling so widespread, a thorough knowledge of weapons became something more than an elegant accomplishment in those days. A young man from Louisiana might go to Paris or Seville to study under the masters of Europe, or he might simply stay at home and learn the really good stuff. And the good stuff was truly *here*.

The money and concentration of wealth in the Port of New Orleans attracted the attention of some of the finest fencing mas-

photo series courtesy Comtech



From ready position, knife-fighting instructor James A. Keating demonstrates “back-stroke” technique, as if to cut opponent’s knife hand or arm with tight, circular motion that impacts on Bowie’s sharpened clip point.





Some steps in making Bowie knives: Bagwell rough-shapes knife under a trip hammer in the forge; on an anvil, "trueing up" the edge and straightening the blade; quenching in oil during tempering; and, grinding the edge.



Dewey Donnell

ters of Europe, and they set up schools and plied their trade in the city. Fencing schools were numerous from 1830 to the 1860s. Masters such as L'Alouette, an Alsatian who, along with Montiasse, had fought under Napoleon, and Baudoin, who had been a professor of fencing in Paris, came from France. Italy sent Poulaga, an expert with the broadsword, and from Spain came "Pepe" Llulla, the most renowned of the New Orleans fencing masters.

At that time, European fencing was a blade art designed to enable one man to touch or cut another without getting touched or cut himself. Under the European dueling code, simply drawing blood would satisfy honor and vindicate the duelist's position. Killing your opponent was often not as important as humiliating him, and as a consequence the tactics in European dueling were developed to enable a man to do either. By contrast, Asian arts generally developed along the premise of closing with your adversary even if you yourself are cut in the process and deliver the killing blow. A Japanese *samurai* warrior was willing to die to display his courage, and if he fell in service to the emperor he would be reincarnated in a higher state. The *samurai* was, in effect, preprogrammed to die in battle. The European swordsman, while no less courageous, was *not*.

Diverse Martial Influences

Students of European blade arts usually rate the French school ahead of the English, but behind the Italian or the Spanish in terms of effectiveness. The Italian school is considered to be more intricate and devious than the French, while the Spanish outpaces all in terms of subtle genius and outright treachery.

The money and commerce of New Orleans thus supported a cultured and aristocratic society that embraced a dueling



A demonstration of the cutting power of a Bowie, which cleaves 24-inch-tall piece of 2x6 lumber in one stroke.

ethic that was not only well entrenched, it was probably the most active in the world at that time. This necessitated the development of an infrastructure of schools and instructors for a willing and eager stream of students who could easily afford the expense of this type of training. There was one more element that the money and commerce of the Port of New Orleans attracted that is often overlooked, and it had a very real impact on the effectiveness of blade tactics from the Gulf of Mexico up the Mississippi River into the interior of the United States.

The Gulf of Mexico in the early 19th century was full of pirates — the kind that sailed ships flying the Jolly Roger flag and came alongside a merchant vessel, swarmed aboard with cutlasses, and hacked a captain and crew to pieces. The pirates were among the most practical swordsmen of all time, and a 24 to 30-inch naval cutlass with a sharpened back cutting edge on the point added a completely different dimension to what one could and could not do with a blade. (Remember, too, that piracy was not altogether frowned upon in this part of the country at this time. The notorious pirate Jean Lafitte, for example, fought in the Battle of New Orleans alongside Andrew Jackson and was accorded a certain amount

of acceptance in local society.)

Thus in New Orleans, for a brief period of history, congregated as diverse and eclectic a group of swordsmen, all accomplished in the extreme, as one can imagine. What is more, they were able to freely mingle, to socialize, share the same river-front bar, or fight. And every meeting, friendly or otherwise, added to the storehouse of knowledge of this unique blade art.

Imagine, if you will, a riverside bar at 10 p.m., and the volatile mixture of patrons. There would certainly be hands from a keel-boat or two slated to leave for Natchez or Vicksburg in the morning. Seamen from an English or French merchant vessel might be drinking alongside an American frontiersman from the interior; pirates, visiting from their hideaways on the bayous, were ever alert for a scrap of information about the cargo an outbound ship might be carrying or its day of departure. And in and around all of this would be citizens of the city from all walks of life; some came to see the sights, some to gamble, and some who had come to watch and learn. Often the European fencing masters themselves would be there, watching and waiting for the inevitable bar-room fight to erupt. In a few flashing seconds of steel, while one man died, another man would learn a subtle technique or nuance to pass on.

All-American Blade

The Bowie knife is well equipped to deliver slashes, cuts, thrusts, and stabs, and parry or block an opponent's blade. It possesses the vital attributes of superior reach coupled with both speed and power. The true, fighting Bowie also has one other crucial design element that sets it apart from other knives: a sharpened concave clip point on the reverse of the blade opposite the cutting edge.

In a trained hand, this clip allows fast,

devastating cuts to be made on the backstroke — against an opponent's knife hand during his thrust, for example — and is a feature that is absent on other fighting knives, both from Europe and Asia. It is uniquely American, and allows the Bowie to transcend other knives in fighting effectiveness. Probably 60-70% of the injuries in duels fought with Bowie knives in this historic period resulted from the backstroke cut.

The backstroke cut and accompanying footwork and timing, perfected only after many weeks of practice, is a move that is so subtle and quick that the victim usually doesn't even see it coming. It is so cunning in execution that, done properly, is difficult — if not impossible — to evade.

Inasmuch as knives with the sharpened concave clip didn't appear in any appreciable numbers prior to about 1830, it is my belief that the design is probably the stroke of genius of one of the fencing masters of New Orleans — probably Spanish — and conceived after seeing the devastating backstroke of a naval cutlass wielded by a pirate in a Bourbon Street bar.

Then And Now

The Bowie knife flourished with the river trade and the prosperity of New Orleans. It served both North and South in the Civil War, and Southern troops in particular were noted for their skill in its use — no coincidence, given their proximity to the area in which it was developed. The end of the Civil War brought financial devastation to the region and the commerce which supported New Orleans; this, coupled with the demise of the practice of dueling, put an end to the fencing schools. Within a generation the men who really knew and understood the most deadly form of knife fighting on the continent were gone.

In recent years one man, combatives instructor James A. Keating, has dedicated himself to retrieving this devastating form of close combat from the dustbin of history. Although I have for years known how to *make* a Bowie that is magic in your hand, and knew from personal experience what a wonderful outdoor tool and fearsome weapon it had been and was, I knew precious little about the subtleties and nuances of the truly advanced forms of this blade art. While I was spending 30 years at the forge, Keating was traveling around the world on a quest to learn all he possibly could about the blade arts.

More than 20 years ago, Keating was engaged in the study of Asian fighting arts; as a serious student he had already earned the first of what would later become a half-dozen black belts in a variety of disciplines. One night, while waiting in line to purchase a ticket to a movie, he became the target of some street thugs in a robbery attempt. Keating resisted the assault. Knives came out, and Keating credits his training with saving his life — but by the slimmest of margins. He was cut pretty badly, and in the months of recuperation that followed he pondered at length the cold, hard reality of knife fighting.

Keating has no bias in the area of tactics;

he is simply interested in what works, and more importantly, why. His method of Bowie-knife techniques, as evidenced by his VCR training tapes, is a blend of the classical European saber method (*not* foil or epee) and Filipino stick and blade arts that are historically linked to the Spaniards.

As a result of his studies, Keating has become what I personally consider to be the finest broad-spectrum instructor working in the blade arts today. And if you pin Keating down and ask him to pick the single best fighting knife, he will tell you it is the Bowie.

Keating's Combat Technologies, Inc. (P.O. Box 142, Dept. SOF, Walla Walla, WA 99362; phone: 541-938-2175) specializes in training for personal and corporate security. If you are serious about blade training, contact Comtech and order its VCR series on "Bowie Basics" and the video "The Deadly Back Cut," which will help you understand the genius behind the sharpened clip on the Bowie and its backstroke employment.

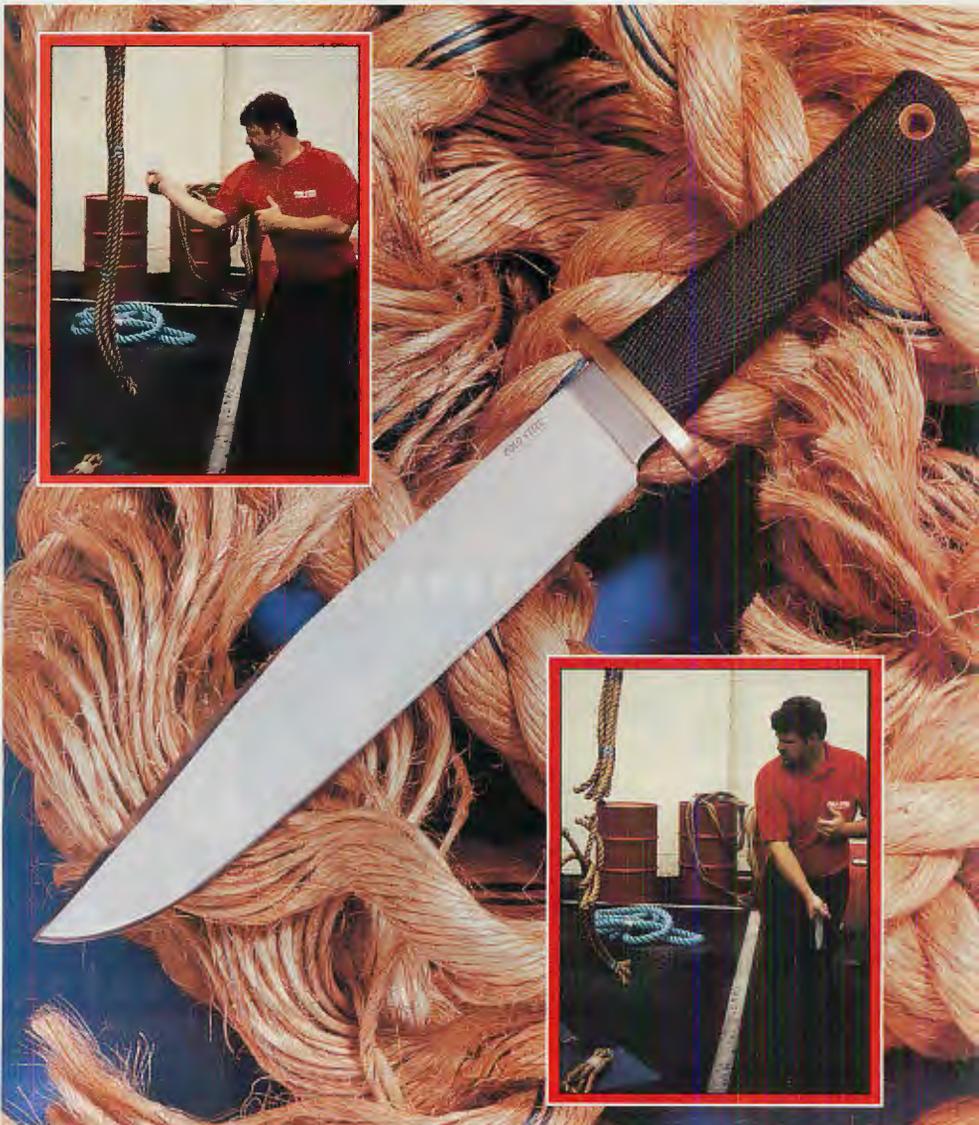
Fighting with knives is as serious as it gets, and is not something to be entered into lightly. Further, knives with short blades and tactics that stress reverse grips will get you carved up or killed if the other guy has

a Bowie and knows how to use it. Those who think they can take a hit from a Bowie, either forestroke or backstroke, and continue to function are simply not living in the real world.

If you are serious about your knives and maximizing your chances of surviving or winning a knife fight, get yourself a Bowie and learn how to use it. It is a wonderful companion in the wilderness, and a piece of Americana that you can carry with pride.

Bill Bagwell is a nationally recognized knife maker and writer, and can be reached at P.O. Box 315, Crowville LA 71230; phone: 318-878-8435. He will exhibit knives at the Soldier Of Fortune Convention, 3-5 Oct. 1997, in Las Vegas. ✂

For Bowie fanciers who cannot afford hundreds of dollars for a custom knife, there is Cold Steel's Trail Master; suggested retail (with scabbard): \$262. Employee at the Ventura, Calif., company (phone: 800-255-4716; free catalog) demonstrates cutting power of the 9 1/2-inch high-carbon steel blade, cleanly cutting thick bundle of free-hanging manila ropes.



courtesy Cold Steel



Gene Blevins, Los Angeles Daily Mirror

There are no atheists in foxholes — and very few in armed robberies: Pinned down by machine-gun fire across street from Bank of America, passerby employs only reasonable alternative.

BANK OF AMERICA



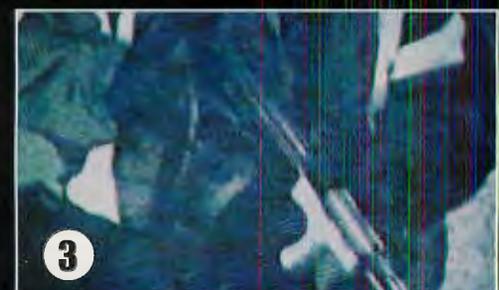
1

bank surveillance photo, courtesy FBI



2

bank surveillance photo, courtesy FBI



3

bank surveillance photo, courtesy FBI



(1) Brazen, heavily armed bandits marched into bank screaming "We want the money ... we want millions" (2) Phillips, (left), and Matasareanu, (right), carried highly modified AK-type weapons

(3) Closeup of Matasareanu's weapon shows Romanian-style foregrip, side-folding stock, drum magazine. (4) In parking lot, Phillips changes to more powerful 7.62x51mm H&K rifle — also converted to full auto — and cuts down police, vehicles, bystanders.

FIREPOWER FROM THE PEOPLE

Brave, Outgunned L.A.P.D. Turns To Gun Store To Stop Free-Firing Bank Robbers

by Richard L. Sherrow

All units at the Bank of America, stay down! Shots are being fired ... automatic fire ... Shots are being fired from an AK-47. There is an officer down!

The stressed voice of the LAPD dispatcher broke the Friday morning calm, sending chills up the spines of cops staring at their radios in disbelief. As the world watched, one of the most dramatic police shootouts in history was underway.

At 0917, on 28 February, North Hollywood Division LAPD officers Loren Farell and Martin Parello were patrolling Laurel Canyon Boulevard when Farell glanced toward the Bank of America. "We happened to be driving by. ... I just looked over and I just saw them there, standing in broad daylight," Farell said of the two gunmen about to enter the bank. Witnessing the two black-clad robbers shove a citizen back into the bank, Farell and Parello immediately broadcast a call that a bank robbery was in progress and they needed backup. Minutes later, hell came to the streets of North Hollywood.

Screaming, "We want the money ... we

with automatic-weapons fire, the robbers quickly herded bank employees and customers into the vault. As customer David Shapiro described the scene, "These guys walked in ... they looked like *Robocop*. I mean, they were so heavily armed they looked ... dangerous. I felt like I was in Bosnia or something ... fully automatic weapons just going ... screaming ..."

Indeed, the robbers' appearance was menacing. Listed on a 1993 arrest sheet, 24-year old Larry Eugene Phillips, Jr., was 6 feet tall and weighed 200 pounds. His partner — then and now — 27-year-old Romanian-born Emil Dechebal Matasareanu, towered 6 feet 2 inches and tipped the scales at a massive 340 pounds. With head-to-toe threat-level III-A body armor, ski masks, heavy coats, and gloves the results were truly frightening.

Losing It

Violent "takeover" robberies were nothing new to this deadly duo. They were suspected in a June 1995 armored-car robbery where guard Herman Cook was killed and \$122,500 taken, and in two May 1996 San Fernando Valley bank heists that netted nearly \$1.7 million.

Armed to the teeth, they moved with military precision, picking banks with upwards of a million dollars in the vault. The crooks even had stop watches sewn to their gloves. They planned their "time-on-target" to allow for escape before the cops arrived, even if a silent alarm were activated. But this time, everything went very wrong.

When told this branch had only \$305,000 on hand, the robbers apparently lost control and began angrily beating a bank officer. This lapse in discipline ate up precious minutes, and would ultimately prove fatal.

As the bandits terrorized employees and patrons inside the bank, cops and news crews gathered outside. Across Laurel Canyon Boulevard in the Valley Plaza Shopping Center, officers Stuart Guy and

James Zboravan took up position in a key-maker's kiosk, to be joined by detectives Tracy Angeles and William Krulac. Looking around the wood-and-aluminum kiosk, Krulac observed, "You know, this is lousy cover." At that instant, one of the robbers emerged from the front of the bank, spotted the gathering police, and opened fire. In seconds, full-auto fire was shredding the flimsy kiosk, dramatically illustrating the difference between *cover* and *concealment*.

Officer Zboravan immediately threw Angeles to the ground, covering her body with his as bullets sliced through the kiosk and ricocheted off the pavement. As all four officers scrambled for *real* cover, rounds began to find their mark. Detective Krulac was hit in his right ankle as Zboravan was hit in the buttocks. In addition to a grazing wound to her stomach, Angeles was also hit in the backside. Looking around, Angeles spotted Officer Stuart Guy laying some 15 feet from her, bleeding profusely from a round that sliced through his femoral artery and shattered his right femur. Ignoring the intense pain from this wound and an additional gunshot wound to his right arm, Guy managed to use his belt as a makeshift tourniquet, wrapping it around his injured leg. Grabbing his walkie-talkie, he put out an impassioned "officer down" call for help.

Police radio calls were frantic as a dispatcher implored, "Does any unit know how many officers are down?" Came the chilling reply, "More than one ... more than one!" Other frantic voices broke in, "We're going to need SWAT. Call them out *now!*"

After spraying nearly 100 rounds at cops in the parking lot, the machine-gun wielding robber began walking toward his getaway car in the bank's north parking lot. His attention shifted to two LAPD patrol cars blocking the intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Archwood Street, immediately northwest of the bank. Taking aim with what police sources say was a 7.62x51mm, collapsible-stock HK91A3



Aerial video by KCAL Channel 9 helicopter

want the money ... we want millions," the two masked figures stormed into the bank. Clad head-to-foot in suits of bulky makeshift body armor, spraying the bank



(above) Outgunned, shot-up and pinned down, police plan for rescue of victims pinned down behind car 405 (rear). (below, left to right) Protecting one another, shooting victims huddle behind car 405 while colleagues plan rescue. Time counts, but police tell col-

leagues to hang on, commander armored courier truck. With armored truck pressed into service as rescue vehicle, police round up colleagues and other shooting victims and take them to waiting ambulances. SWAT then uses vehicle as rolling cover to secure area.

Gene Blevins, Los Angeles Daily News



Gene Blevins, Los Angeles Daily News



Gene Blevins, Los Angeles Daily News



converted to full auto, the gunman began spraying the intersection.

Two of three civilians huddled behind the police cars were hit. Sergeant Larry (Dean) Haynes took a round to the shoulder, while Officer Martin Whitfield suffered a broken right femur and frag injuries to his left side, arms and chest. In seconds, the police cars were riddled.

"Hang on, we're coming"

With officers and civilians lying wounded, heroic rescue efforts were quickly formulated and executed. At the kiosk, Detective Angeles was helplessly looking toward seriously wounded Officer Guy. Said Angeles, "I thought, if I run to Officer Guy, I'm going to get killed, or Guy's going

to get hit again." Fearing if she moved it would draw more fire from the bandit, Angeles thought, "If I get shot, what good am I to him?" Then, glancing behind her, Angeles noticed a black-and-white, inching slowly toward them. "I've never been so happy seeing a police car in my life."

Van Nuys patrol officers Todd Schmitz and Tony Cabunoc pulled up to Angeles, covering her while she crossed the 15 feet to Guy's side. As Angeles used her sock to bind Guy's arm wound, they again began taking fire. Instantly, Schmitz and Cabunoc pulled their patrol unit up and helped load the wounded Guy into the back seat. With no time to get Guy's injured leg fully inside, they sped backwards to safety and a waiting ambulance.

Downplaying the media's attempts to single her out as a hero, Angeles said, "I didn't do anything extraordinary, and I'm not a hero. Every Los Angeles police officer out there was a hero. I wouldn't have been where I was if it wasn't for Officer Zboravan. Every officer helped every officer."

Back at the Laurel Canyon/Archwood intersection, cops had another rescue underway. As wounded officers and civil-

Good Shooting Under Fire

Some of the best still photos taken during the infamous Bank of America shootout were captured by *Los Angeles Daily News* photographer Gene Blevins.

A 14-year veteran news photographer, Blevins was on the street when the call of a bank robbery in progress came in. Rushing to the scene, he realized that this was to be no ordinary popgun bank heist. With the staccato sounds of machine-gun fire echoing in his ears, the determined photog quickly donned his level III-A vest, and, armed only with his trusty Canon EOS 1-N camera and several rolls of 35mm film, headed into the fray. With rounds flying over his head and ricocheting around him, Blevins jockeyed for better camera positions.

An avid shooter and *Soldier Of Fortune* reader, 33-year-old Blevins' pride and joy is his Yamaha 350 Banshee ATV. Decked out in a full urban camouflage, the rugged four-wheeler matches the can-do persona of its owner.

—R.L.S.

courtesy Gene Blevins



Shootout Fallout

Every time some hard-core criminal or psychopath commits a crime with a gun, the tired old hue and cry is raised by certain politicians and most media pundits: *More gun control!* The North Hollywood bank robbery was no exception.

Richard L. Sherrow

With the sound of (illegal) machine-gun fire still echoing up and down Laurel Canyon Boulevard, they were out in force: Senator Diane Feinstein (D-Calif.), a notorious anti-gunner, was screaming for bans on "assault weapons."

The day of the robbery, Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan lashed out saying, "Today was a good example of why they [assault weapons] should be outlawed."

My personal vote for the most ludicrous comment to come out of the mouth of a public official goes to Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block, who observed, "Just the nonchalant way they [the bank robbers] were firing this semiautomatic weaponry was mind boggling."

Hello ... is anybody home? These robbers were armed with fully automatic weapons. These guns have been restricted, under the provisions of the National Firearms Act, for over 60 years. These mopes didn't stroll into the neighborhood gun shop and buy them off the rack. They obtained them illegally. Period! And, due to their prior convictions, for them to possess any firearm was already ille-



gal (misguided court orders notwithstanding).

Of course, addressing this issue with *SOF* readers is preaching to the choir. And bringing up facts to the anti-gun crowd is like trying to teach a pig to sing: It wastes your time, and annoys the pig.

And, as could be expected, certain major media talking-head anchors wanted desperately for this shoot-out to have a "militia" link. However, LAPD Commander Tim McBride quelled these hopes with an intelligent and accurate reply: "This was not a militia group. These are brutal killers who were robbing and taking people's money."

Bob, public-spirited owner of B&B Guns, showing weapons he supplied LAPD during the 28 February bank robbery/shootout: on the left a Bushmaster XR-15 5.56mm rifle, on the right a Remington Model 1187 semiautomatic, 12-gauge police shotgun.

Commander McBride makes an excellent point, which brings up an even better, yet rhetorical question: Why weren't these perps in jail (where the Glendale police had put them) instead of knocking off the Bank of America?

Finally, this incident has caused many, within and outside LAPD, to demand that the weapons of individual officers be upgraded; for example, replacing the current issue 9mm handguns with more powerful .45 caliber weapons, and putting AR-15-type semiauto rifles in the trunk of every patrol car.

There is no doubt that these officers should have the best equipment available, and they must have the training to go with it. These are bright cops, and brave cops: They proved it on 28 February. Give them the hardware and training they need to do the job.

—R.L.S.

ians huddled behind shot-up cars, a passing armored car was commandeered. While officers kept the crazed gunmen covered, others loaded the injured into the armored car and made for safety.

Outgunned And Desperate

It was the age-old cop nightmare: shooting a bad guy who doesn't go down, but just keeps coming. They were shooting and hitting the bad guys but nothing was happening. Armed with 9mm pistols and buckshot-loaded shotguns (LAPD brass had long ago taken away their rifled slugs), they watched in frustration as their rounds literally bounced off the armor-clad robbers. The hoods simply shook off the hits as if they were annoying insect bites.

Again police radios came alive: "Suspect is walking in front of the bank. He is daring people to come after him ... the trunk is open on his vehicle ... if someone has a

shot, take it at his head!"

"Take it, this guy is not going down!"

"Shoot him in the head!"

In desperation, some of the cops piled into their cars and sped off to the nearby B&B gun shop. Skidding up to the loading dock, they told employees they needed immediate help.

Recognizing some officers as regular customers, employees got a fast OK from B&B's owner and began loading scores of 30-round magazines with 5.56mm ball ammo for the four Bushmaster XM-15s and two Colt AR-15s the cops were getting. For good measure, two Remington Model 1187 12-gauge police shotguns were tossed in, along with a hefty supply of rifled slugs. These cops deserved a fighting chance, and, by God, B&B was going to give it to them.

Ironically, by not insisting that the cops observe the 15-day waiting period mandated by California law, B&B exposed itself to

criminal prosecution. Asked if he was worried about some sheep-dip politician causing him trouble over this, B&B owner "Bob" told *Soldier Of Fortune*, "I did what any reasonable person would have done under the circumstances." (Since that day, cards, letters and faxes have poured in from all over the country. Police departments, individual officers and their families, and everyday citizens are writing to express their support and thanks to the folks at B&B Guns.)

Dead Man Walking

Meanwhile, bank robber Phillips continues to pace back and forth on the north side of the bank. Calmly aiming automatic fire at police on the ground, at Sheriff's Department and news helicopters overhead, Phillips shoots and reloads ... shoots and reloads. He then bends over to confer with

Continued on page 71

Gene Blevins, Los Angeles Daily News



End of the road comes for murderous bank robber Emil Matasareanu as he tries to hide behind his disabled Chevy, is pinned down by SWAT, cut down by deliberate ricochets off the pavement. (far right) Following their arrest in the fall of 1993, Glendale, Calif., police inventory the massive ordnance, false ID and criminal paraphernalia confiscated from the Phillips/Matasareanu vehicle.

Gene Blevins, Los Angeles Daily News



The new Kimber Custom Classic .45 ACP is without doubt the best production series M1911-type pistol ever assembled. Even more startling is its cost. Carrying a suggested retail price of only \$615, the new Kimber .45 is loaded with features usually found only on custom pistols selling for three times as much. An armed professional can take this pistol right out of the factory box and slip it into his holster without modifications of any kind. This will no doubt result in considerable consternation among the legion of pistol-smiths who have made a successful cottage industry of modifying Colt-made M1911 pistols so they can be carried reliably and employed with success by those who take these matters seriously.

Why Colt cannot manufacture a M1911 pistol that works properly out-of-the-box I certainly don't know. They presumably have a considerable jump on the competition, having made the M1911 in one form or another for 85 years now. However, it's obvious to me, as well as almost everyone else in my loop, that Colt's quality control has been spiraling ever downward for almost two decades now. It's common knowledge among *pistoleros*, that you need to spend at least \$600 on custom work to get a Colt-made M1911 to operate in a professionally acceptable manner. That amount must be added to the \$538 price tag attached to Colt's plain Jane M1991A1 pistol.

Be that as it may, Kimber (Kimber of America, Inc., Dept. SOF, 9039 SE Janssen

Road, Clackamas, OR 97015; phone: 800-880-2418; fax: 503-656-5367) has a real winner with its newly introduced Classic .45 series. *Soldier Of Fortune* was recently sent a Custom Classic .45 for test and evaluation. The other three pistols in this series are the Custom Stainless for \$690, which is identical to the Custom Classic except for its stainless steel construction; the Custom Royal for \$739, which has a deep-polished blued finish with double-diamond pattern, hand-checked rosewood grip panels; and the Gold Match for \$935, with the same finish and grip panels as the Custom Royal and a Bo-Mar BMCS low mount adjustable rear sight. Kimber's rosewood grip panels, which will fit any M1911-type pistol, are available as an accessory for \$60.

Chip McCormick, who won the Steel Challenge World Speed Championship on two occasions, and who is now even more widely known for the high-precision components he manufactures for customizing M1911-type pistols, was heavily involved in the development of the Kimber Classic .45 series. Many of his highly regarded parts are to be found in these pistols. Using CAD/CAM (Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture) techniques, a pistol was designed that would meet the stringent requirements of both armed professionals and ISPC competitors.

The dimensions approximate those of a Colt Government Model. The overall length is 8.5 inches. The 5-inch barrel has six grooves with a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches. The weight, empty, is approximately 38 ounces.



Kimber Custom Classic .45 ACP is without doubt the best production series M1911-type pistol ever assembled and is loaded with features usually found only on custom pistols selling for three times as much. (left) Kimber Custom Classic .45 features McCormick's skeletonized "Commander"-type hammer, extended thumb safety, and beavertail-type grip safety. Grip safety has a slight bump on the bottom to insure that it is disconnected even if not depressed completely. It entirely cups the hammer to prevent "hammer bite" and permit as high a grip as possible.

Kimber's Fighting

.45



Text & Photos
by Peter G. Kokalis

The Street-Ready M1911 That's Good To Go, Out Of The Box

Both the slide and frame are CNC mill-finished with plus/minus 0.001-inch tolerances from 4140 chrome-moly drop forgings. Both parts are heat-treated before the rails are machined to prevent the possibility of warpage. The frame's hole spacing is exceptionally precise and the holes are machined at perfect right angles to the frame's surface. With the exception of an extremely sharp edge on the top rear face of the front sight, the exterior edges on the slide, frame and protruding components

have been radiused and rounded. The frame and slide of our test specimen feature a matte black oxide finish. These parts are manufactured by Jericho Precision in Yonkers, New York, which was recently purchased by Kimber. Jericho, now known as Kimber Manufacturing, Inc., also provides slides and frames to Wilson Combat and Chip McCormick's CMC.

The magazine-well is beveled to assist changing magazines. The frame's feed ramp has been opened and polished, an

almost standard feature on customized M1911s. Complementing that, the barrel's chamber opening has been radiused slightly and lightly polished to remove high spots. The beavertail-type steel grip safety is internally skeletonized for weight reduction and has a slight bump on the bottom to insure that it is disconnected even if not depressed completely. It entirely cups the hammer to prevent "hammer bite" and permit as high a grip as possible. As the front strap has also been slightly relief-cut just



The ejection port has been lowered and flared in the now standard "custom" manner to enhance ejection reliability and protect empty cases from denting.

under the rear portion of the trigger guard, the high grip permitted by these two features lowers the bore line in relation to the shooter's hand and reduces the perceived recoil somewhat.

The flat-type mainspring housing directly below the grip safety is sharply checkered and made of black Nylon 6/6 composite. It will more than do, but for strictly cosmetic reasons, I would probably change that out with one made of steel. There is no checkering on the front strap. The black checkered grip panels are made of a neoprene-type material. I prefer wood and for \$12 more you can obtain the Custom Walnut Classic .45 model.

The checkered steel magazine catch/release button is slightly higher than usual to provide access by the thumb without altering the firing grip, but not long enough to induce an accidental release. The pistol is equipped with a McCormick skeletonized Commander-style hammer and extended thumb safety on the left side only.

The McCormick skeletonized trigger consists of a fiberglass-reinforced Nylon 6/6 composite shoe, injection-molded on the front of a stainless steel, spot weld reinforced bow, which has been deep-relieved on the bottom to reduce the coefficient of friction. Trigger-pull weight on our test specimen was exactly 4.25 pounds.

A Brief History of the M1911 Pistol and the .45 ACP Cartridge

Brigadier General William Crozier was appointed chief of Army Ordnance by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1901. In 1904, he created a board of two officers, Colonel John T. Thompson (Ordnance) and Colonel Louis A. LaGarde (Medical Corps), to resolve the small-and-fast vs. large-and-slow handgun caliber controversy. LaGarde concluded his famous report with the following comment, "The Board was of the opinion that a bullet which will have the shock effect and stopping power at short ranges necessary for a military pistol or revolver should have a caliber not less than .45."

The first full-fledged U.S. tests consisting of seven semiautomatic pistols and two revolvers in this caliber took place in 1907. Colt, Savage and German Luger-designed caliber .45 pistols made it through the first round of trials. DWM subsequently withdrew the Luger from further U.S. trials.

Field tests conducted in 1908 were less satisfactory for the Colt entries. They snapped sears and went full-auto, broke firing pins and jammed constantly. The Savage design fared even worse. After a great deal of revision and improvement of both the Colt and Savage pistols, the final trials commenced 15 March 1911. The Colt Model of 1911, Special Army serial number 5, demolished the Savage entry. While the

Savage had only 37 stoppages in 6,000 rounds, the Colt had none. U.S. Army Ordnance officially adopted the locked-breech, short recoil-operated Colt pistol on 28 March 1911.

Development of the .45 automatic pistol cartridge generally paralleled that of the handgun itself. The round that was to evolve into the official cartridge and that was used during the first trials, was developed at Frankford Arsenal and was unofficially referred to as the Model 1906 Cal. 45 Automatic Pistol Ball Cartridge. It had a brass rimless case with a bullet-seating cannelure, and was loaded with a 230-grain, cupronickel-jacketed bullet traveling at 800 fps.

In 1907 the Union Metallic Cartridge Co. received a government order to manufacture 100,000 rounds of caliber .45 automatic pistol ammunition with a shorter case than the Frankford Arsenal cartridge. In 1909, U.M.C. was given an order for 200,000 rounds for their shorter cartridge, with an added case cannelure and a knurled cannelure on the bullet. This round, with the primer pocket made slightly smaller (to avoid confusion with the .30 caliber rifle primer) and the bullet cannelure deleted, was adopted in the summer of 1911 and first manufactured that year at Frankford Arsenal.

The original pistol design was modified by the U.S. government in 1921. These alterations included an arched and checkered mainspring housing, shorter trigger, recess cuts on both sides of the frame to accommodate the trigger finger, a longer horn on the safety and a slightly shortened hammer spur. After this, the designation was changed to M1911A1.

During the eight and a half decades of its existence, the Colt Government Model .45 has been copied, innumerable times. Foreign copies have included the Spanish Star and Llama, Norwegian Model 1914, Argentine Model 1927 and Ballester-Molina, a Chinese version, the large magazine capacity Canadian-designed Para-Ordnance series and the Armscor, which is imported from the Philippines by K.B.I. Inc.

Domestic production-series clones have carried the logos of AMT, Arminex, Auto-Ordnance, Brolin, Crown City Arms, Mitchell Arms, New Detonics, Randall (which also featured a unique mirror-image left-hand model), Safari Arms, Springfield Armory (early versions were made at the Fabrica de Itajuba, Brazil) and Wilson (a semi-production-series pistol with many custom features). The new Kimber Custom Classic .45 eclipses them all.

— P.G.K.

The trigger pull is as smooth as glass with a very crisp let-off. There are dual internal tangs to provide takeup adjustment and an allen-head screw at the front to adjust backlash.

A number of the frame's internal parts are made of chrome-moly steel by means of a process called Metal-Injection-Molding (MIM), which was developed by NASA and first used by Kimber in their Model 82 .22 rimfire rifle. Delivering almost all the structural strength of steel forgings at much less cost, this process also permits the manufacture of intricate components with tight tolerances.

The single-column, detachable box-type magazine is an M1911-type without a removable floorplate. It holds eight rounds and has McCormick's famous Shooting Star two-piece follower and follower spring. The flooplate has two holes for the installation of magazine bumper pads.

There are deeply cut cocking serrations both fore and aft on the slide. Since this pistol is equipped with a stainless-steel full-length guide rod, it cannot be "press checked" in the manner originally taught by Jeff Cooper, and thus the front cocking serrations assist in this maneuver. Wrapped around the guide rod is a Wolff silicone-chrome recoil spring. The ejection port has been lowered and flared in the now standard "custom" manner to enhance ejection reliability and protect empty cases from denting. The firing-pin stop has been beefed up to provide a snug fit in the slide's extractor notch and prevent the heat-treated custom-type extractor from rotating in the slide.

The McCormick Pro Low Carry front and rear sights are both dovetailed to the slide. The 1/8-inch wide front sight blade is forward sloping, rounded at the front, and as I stated earlier far too sharp at the top rear to permit the important "tap, rack, bang" drill. This is, however, easily corrected with a swiss file and Dremel tool, and I have already done so. The rear sight has a deep, 1/8-inch wide square notch with the rear face serrated to reduce glare, as is that of the front sight. The rear sight assembly is retained in its dovetail on the slide by an allen-head screw. Both sights are deep enough to permit the installation of self-luminous tritium inserts. The sight radius is 6.5 inches.

Our test specimen was provided with a padded polymer case, one eight-round magazine and a polymer bushing wrench. Because of the tightly-fitted barrel bushing and full-length guide rod, the bushing wrench is essential for disassembly.

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

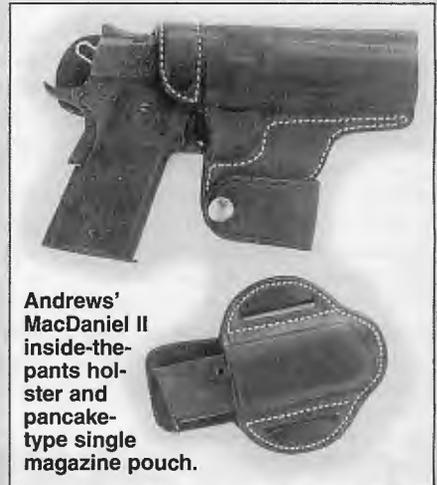
During the war in El Salvador, I frequently toted an M1911 pistol in one of Sam Andrews (Andrews Custom Leather, Dept. SOF, Rt. 4, Box 48, Alachua, FL 32615; phone: 904-462-0576 — send \$2 for catalog) highly regarded Monarch shoulder rigs while prowling down and dirty on the dangerous streets of San Salvador. I have also used his clever notebook holster back in the states.

Andrews has been crafting custom combat holsters for 21 years. Located in north central Florida, near Gainesville and just one hour south of the Georgia border, his customer base circles the globe, with a significant percentage of law-enforcement personnel and now an even larger clientele of civilians, as a consequence of the spate of concealed carry legislation passed throughout the United States in the last several years.

Sam uses only number one grades of oak-tanned cowhide. All of his holsters are hand-molded and stitched with heavy bonded nylon thread, which is sealed to protect against the environment. Many of his holsters and belts feature a suede lining.

Andrews recently sent me two of his holsters to test with the Kimber Custom Classic .45. The Carjacker Crossdraw is a specialized rig, designed for use while seated, especially in a vehicle. The unique loop-around flap slips beneath the belt's lower edge and comes up to snap to the holster's back and then fold over the top to snap in the front also for a secure carry.

This rig can be unsnapped and withdrawn from the belt in seconds. The holster is suede-lined and I have been carrying it on one of his 1 3/4-inch suede-lined belts. I like wide gun belts as they provide more support for a pistol and magazine pouches. I am also prone to crossdraw rigs, as they are easier to access in a vehicle and do not telegraph the drawstroke as much as a strongside holster when presenting the pistol from concealment. The Carjacker Crossdraw holster costs \$75 for large-frame handguns and \$70 to accommodate small pistols. The belt sells for \$70.



Andrews' MacDaniel II inside-the-pants holster and pancake-type single magazine pouch.

Andrews' MacDaniel II inside-the-pants holster is well-known for its slim profile that provides maximum concealment of even large-frame handguns and yet all-day carry with total comfort. I am not usually partial to inside-the-pants rigs, as most of them seem to be designed for someone who is in serious need of a date with Jenny Craig. But, the MacDaniel II is the only holster of this type I have ever worn that did not jab my emaciated frame unmercifully.

Named after Gainesville PD detective Drayton MacDaniel, this second version of the holster has its belt loop mounted at the rear on a locking swivel for more carry options. Three belt loops are available: 1 1/4-inch, 1 1/2-inch and 1 3/4-inch. Two are supplied with the holster which sells for \$65 in the large size and \$60 for small handguns. The smooth side of the leather is turned inward on this holster to ease the drawstroke and reduce wear. The rough-out design also provides more retention for the holster when its worn inside the pants. This holster also features high-relief hand molding for a perfect fit and a high sight track which clears high-profile front sight blades. A spring steel reinforcement plate within the rear flange creates a stiffened paddle over which the belt lays and this pulls the pistol's butt firmly against the side. A full band of steel prevents the holster's mouth from collapsing and permits one-handed re-holstering. My specimen is equipped with an optional (\$5) body shield to prevent chaffing. Complementing this is Andrews' pancake-type single magazine pouch which sells for \$25.

This is high-quality equipment that meets the strictest professional standards and is reasonably priced to boot. I can endorse Sam Andrews' holsters without reservations of any kind.

— P.G.K.



(left) The magazine-well is beveled to assist changing magazines. The magazine holds eight rounds and has McCormick's famous Shooting Star two-piece follower and follower spring. (right) There are deeply cut cocking serrations both fore and aft on the slide. Since this pistol is equipped



with a stainless steel full-length guide rod, it cannot be "press checked" in the manner originally taught by Jeff Cooper, and thus the front cocking serrations assist in this maneuver.

retail) provided all rounds used to test the Kimber Custom Classic .45. Three types of Black Hills .45 ACP ammunition were used during our test and evaluation of Kimber Custom Classic .45: 230-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) roundnose with a muzzle velocity of about 850 fps, 185-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) with a muzzle velocity of about 975 fps and 230-grain JHP with the excellent Hornady XTP bullet driving out of the barrel at approximately 880 fps. The 230-grain FMJ will over-penetrate in soft tissue. Use this load to "wash out" the bore after shooting cast bullets. The 185-grain JHP will over-expand and

under-penetrate. I use these for practice on targets that do not shoot back. My carry load is the Black Hills 230-grain JHP, which will expand to almost .70 caliber and penetrate in soft tissue well past the minimum 12 inches required.

We fired more than 1,000 rounds during our test and evaluation. There were no stoppages of any kind. At 7 meters, a distance under which the majority of gunfights with a handgun take place, and firing offhand from a strong Weaver position, this pistol will dump all rounds into a 1-inch group. Those who test handguns designed for serious social purposes in a Ransom Rest,

looking for 1-inch group dispersions at 25 meters or more, are in serious need of a reality check.

At only \$615, the Kimber Custom Classic .45 simply can't be beat. It's ready to go, right out of the box, with all the custom features you really need on a fighting .45. I intend to carry this pistol frequently, installing only a set of Kimber's rosewood grip panels and a steel mainspring housing — both for cosmetic reasons only. Coming this summer will be a 10- and 13-shot, polymer frame version of the Kimber Classic .45 series, available with either matte black oxide or stainless steel slides. ❧

Kimber Custom Classic .45 Specifications

Caliber: .45 ACP.

Operation: Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, single-action trigger system with frame-mounted thumb and grip safeties.

Weight, empty: 38 ounces.

Length, overall: 8.5 inches.

Height: 5.2 inches.

Width: 1.25 inches at the grip panels.

Barrel: Six-groove, left-hand twist with one turn in 16 inches.

Barrel length: 5 inches.

Magazine: Single-column, detachable box-type magazine with eight-round capacity and McCormick's Shooting Star two-piece follower and follower spring. Provision for the installation of magazine bumper pads.

Sights: McCormick Pro Low Carry fixed front and rear sights both dove-tailed to the slide. Front sight blade is 1/8-inch in width. Rear sight has a deep, 1/8-inch wide square notch with the rear face serrated to reduce glare, as is that of the front sight. Sight radius is 6.5 inches.

Finish: Matte black oxide.

Price: \$615.

Manufacturer: Kimber of America, Inc., Dept. SOF, 9039 SE Jannsen Road, Clackamas, OR 97015; phone: 800-880-2418; fax: 503-656-5367.

T&E summary: Best production series M1911-type pistol ever assembled. Loaded with features usually found only on custom pistols selling for three times as much. Ready to go, right out-of-the-box. Robust and reliable. Meets all armed professional standards. Best buy of the all-time classic fighting .45 single-action semiautomatic pistol variants.



Ellison's wedding photos show him clad in black fatigues and combat boots. Strapped to his side are two daggers, over his shoulder a Scottish-type tartan and, completing this garish get-up, a cheap replica of a medieval two-handed broad sword slung over his back.

- Richard Snell: A disciple of James Ellison, Snell was convicted of the 1983 execution-style murder of pawnshop owner William Stumpp (whom Snell mistakenly thought was Jewish) and the 1984 murder of black Arkansas State Trooper Louis Bryant. On 19 April 1995, just hours after the OKC bombing, Snell was executed and his body taken back to Elohim City for burial by his "spiritual adviser," Robert Millar. Ironically, Snell had predicted that on the day of his death there would be a bombing or an explosion. He went to his death with a smirk on his face. Coincidence, or conspiracy?

Fidelity, Bravery ... Integrity?

The government's assertions are really quite simple: McVeigh and co-conspirator Terry Nichols did it. Cut, dried — end of story. All the federal prosecutors will have to do is put on a solid case, backed up by viable evidence and credible witnesses. Period. But will it be that simple? As each day passes the government's case seems to find a new stumbling block.

Over the past few years the honesty of federal law-enforcement agents has come under fire as never before. ATF, FBI, Customs, U.S. Marshals, and other federal agents are repeatedly being caught with their credibility down. These shortcomings are being seized upon by the defense in this case and, at the very least, may well give many federal law-enforcement officials a massive black eye. To cite a few of the more glaring examples now muddying the waters in the Oklahoma City case:

- Leader of ATF's National Response Team (NRT) investigating the OKC bombing, Jimmy Adamcik has been pulled off the case amid revelations that his close ties to Chicago mob figure John Boyle are under investigation by the Treasury Department's Office of the Inspector General (see "Alterations, Tales & Fabrications" Jan. '97 *SOF*).

- The FBI used a deliberately misleading affidavit to obtain a federal judge's signature on a search warrant of bombing suspect Terry Nichols' property. Further, evidence recovered during the subsequent search was misrepresented to a federal grand jury in order to obtain an indictment.

- The credibility of many of the government's key witnesses is under attack amid revelations that their stories of what they

saw has been changing to suit the prosecution's needs.

- The FBI laboratory, particularly the Explosives Unit, is under fire amid allegations of mishandling evidence and even botching critical lab tests.

- The Defense alleges that government agents coerced confessions out of admitted co-conspirators Michael Fortier and his wife by threatening them with the death penalty.

Forensic Prostitution

As far back as 1989, FBI agent Dr. Frederick Whitehurst began blowing the whistle on unacceptable practices in the FBI crime-lab Explosives Unit. In 1992, Whitehurst met with then-director William Sessions in an ongoing effort to get the bureau to clean up its forensic act, all to no avail: It took a tragedy the magnitude of the Oklahoma City bombing to finally draw attention to Whitehurst's allegations. But, in typical bureaucratic fashion, the remedy was to suspend and discredit the messenger.

Among Whitehurst's claims were allegations that untrained personnel were conducting such sloppy lab tests of explosive evidence that the results were questionable at best ... and outright fraudulent at worse. Further, agents were routinely testifying in court as expert witnesses, when in fact they were not — and they weren't even the ones who conducted the laboratory tests they were testifying to! When his assertions threatened to rock the boat in the Oklahoma City case, FBI bosses quickly branded Whitehurst a crank and a recreant. But, is he really off base? Not according to his attorney, Stephen Kohn, who stated, "In a typical whistleblower case, if you can get one or two co-workers to back you up, it's a good case. In the FBI case with Dr. Whitehurst, I've seen reports by at least 15 FBI people backing up the allegations of Dr. Whitehurst."

It would also appear, from their comments, that other FBI laboratory supervisors support Dr. Whitehurst's observations that the Explosives Unit has been the butt of inside jokes for years. For example:

- "The Explosives Unit is out of hand. Members have been observed drinking and playing cards on duty."

- "The unit follows improper procedures, which lead to unfounded conclusions."

- In the case of the Oklahoma City bombing, "There was no proper perimeter [around the bomb scene] and evidence was improperly gathered, preserved and transmitted to the laboratory."

- "What goes on in there [Explosives Unit] is nothing less than forensic prostitution."

Although the FBI steadfastly maintains there is no evidence of wrongdoing in the

Explosives Unit, it has, in addition to suspending Whitehurst, transferred three key members of the unit: Supervisory Agent David Williams; Chief of the Chemistry and Toxicology Unit, Roger Martz; and Explosives Unit Chief, James "Tom" Thurman, to other duties.

When asked to comment specifically on how these problems are related to the Oklahoma City case, Kohn could only say that the FBI has placed the issue under seal.

Stephen Jones' take on the situation is a bit more prophetic, saying, "The lab work, like the so-called ID of Mr. McVeigh in Junction City [alleged rental site of the bomb truck] is extremely crucial to the government. If they lose on those two issues they are rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic."

Foreign Aid?

In a rather unusual move, perhaps to make up for loosing its own experts, the U.S. government has hired British explosives expert Linda Jones to be a prosecution witness. At the same time, in what appears to be a move to bolster its claims of international involvement and intrigue, the defense team has been meeting with Israeli "security experts" Yaakov Yerushalmi and Doron Eililon, both of whom are claimed to have assured Stephen Jones of an international neo-Nazi/Arab conspiracy.

Bolstering claims of Middle Eastern intrigue, the defense will guide the jurors' attention to the Philippines, home of McVeigh co-defendant Terry Nichols' wife, Marie. The jury may well find themselves entranced by tales of how "sex tours" to the Philippines are really a cover for the mysterious right-wing group, "Military Order of the Swastika," an alleged bunch of American expatriates who plot bombings of U.S. cities from their secret base near Cebu City. They may hear of Terry Nichols secretly meeting with World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef. The jury may well need Prozac before this trial is over.

Summary

Crystal balls and ouija boards aside, there is no sure-fire way to predict exactly what evidence, witnesses and testimony the prosecution and defense will present.

The government's task will be to satisfy the jury that McVeigh did it, and that he must be found guilty and executed for his crimes. Ironically, its own integrity and credibility may prove to be the hardest thing the prosecution will have to sell. As Oklahoma governor Frank Keating put it, "I hope the government has its act together."

Stephen Jones will do all he can to convince the jury that his client didn't do it. Failing that, he will attempt to spare McVeigh the death penalty by trying to persuade the jury that his client was merely a pawn in a larger conspiracy.

There can be only one winner in this case. For the sake of the innocent men, women and children who so tragically perished that dark April morning, we can only hope that winner is the truth. ☒

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Covert Warrior

Continued from page 33



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Smith continues along the path of error by

- claiming that SEALs were not in RVN in 1965 (they were there in 1963);

- quoting some UDT personnel as discussing (again, in 1965) problems the SEALs were having with the M16 rifle and its grenade-launcher attachment (SEALs had neither the M16 nor the XM-203 grenade launcher until 1967);

- saying the UDTs had been issued Stoner rifles (never happened, and the SEALs did not have the Stoner until much later); and

- implying that the 5.56mm round and the .223-caliber round are two different bullets (they're actually one and the same, as anyone who's ever used an M16 knows).

Loyal readers of *SOF* might recall that I have participated in the exposures of some extraordinary SpecOps wannabes (Nov. '94, "The Preacher Is A SEAL?"; July '95, "Fake SEALs And Phony Frogs?"; and Nov. '96, "Swimmer' Up A Tree"). However, Warner Smith is as brazen and clever as they come.

It's clear that he knew he was going to have to cover his tracks, because he mentions in *Covert Warrior* that the Navy doctored his DD214 discharge document to reflect that he had been a mess treasurer in the Philippines instead of a secret killer in Indochina. Sure enough, when my good friend "Jug" Burkett (alongside whom I pale in exposing bogus heroes) provided me with a copy of Smith's DD214, there it was: He'd been a mess treasurer at Sangley Point Naval Air Station near Manila. (Burkett has authored a book, *Stolen Valor*, to be published this year; meticulously researched, it exposes numerous Vietnam hero-hoaxes.)

And, predictably, Smith is the only one of the original FRAM 16 group to survive (and be able to talk about it). He mentions someone else, a vegetable case who made it back, but that guy can't talk. Nor, for that matter, can the other 14 because, according to Smith, they are dead. In my experience, this is typical of this type of story: All of those who can authenticate the tale are permanently unavailable.

It's pretty clear that, as military history, *Covert Warrior* is a total strikeout, and as an autobiography it's a self-serving collection of lies. As adventure fiction, however, it's not bad. Smith knows his Southeast Asia geography and quite a lot about the Vietnam War — enough to write a decent novel. It's too bad he chose to write fiction and call it a "memoir."

Who knows? He otherwise might have become the next Tom Clancy.

Virginia-based consultant and SOF contributor Larry Bailey served 27 years as a SEAL. He has written at length on the "Masculine Compensatory Fantasy" of phony war heroes and SpecOps-pretenders. ✎

The "Tet" That Never Was

Continued from page 43

Soldier Of Fortune visited in 1990, I found roughly a quarter of the local militia to be comprised of such ralliers.

There had been but one instance of reverse defection, and that appeared to involve personal rather than political motives. Leading cadre, of course, were not quite so willing to give up the struggle. But even they could tell when it was best not to buck the tide.

Increasingly, that tide saw the government's battalions as absolute masters of their AOs. Their strength was increased dramatically by using numerous small teams to control militia squads and platoons. With a regular strike force in reserve, in case a large NPA force might attempt a raid, and an intelligence net in place, the security forces gave the CPP no maneuver room.

Thus, as the 90s wore on, the CPP was forced ever more to return to its roots, to covert political organizing. This would have seemed to its advantage — given that an insurgency is, when reduced to its essence, but a political campaign of a party seeking to bludgeon its way into power. Yet in a curious way, the necessity of going underground has forced a decoupling between the Party and its struggle.

That struggle was able to achieve critical mass only because the Marcos dictatorship forced all disagreement underground. There, the CPP armed forces grew in order to protect the rapidly expanding political infrastructure.

Today, however, a decade after Marcos' ouster, the Party must contend with democracy. As its apparatus has been dismantled in the countryside, the CPP has been forced to focus on urban centers. But it is in these, as demonstrated repeatedly throughout the history of insurgency, that a rebel movement becomes extremely vulnerable.

Not only must it contend with rivals for its political following, but it must justify to prospective recruits why they should risk death when they can change things through the ballot. The bottom line is that recruitment becomes difficult without the engine of repression to drive the alienated into the fold. And survival becomes problematic when informants are wont to turn in those they perceive as armed thugs who merely make life even tougher than it already is.

Consequently, the CPP has opted to lash out, seeking to create by increased violence the space it needs to survive. But this has proved counterproductive on two counts.

First, it has alienated the population; second, it has been foolish militarily, because it does not succeed.

In the end, what the CPP has ended up doing is virtually pursuing military action for the sake of action itself. Simultaneously, the Party has split into several squabbling factions.

As the Party — or Parties, depending

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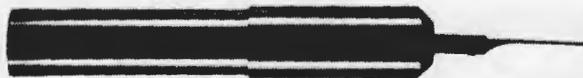


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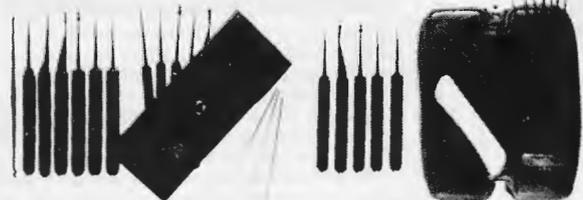
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upon how one views the factionalism — has been increasingly perceived as more bandit than rebel, government intelligence has continued to improve. This, in turn, has led to increased intra-CPP purges: The beast devours itself.

The End At Hand

What we see, then, is a situation where the government holds the strategic initiative. It is systematically dismantling what remains of the CPP infrastructure nationwide.

Thus, as wars go, that in the Philippines has reached a manageable level. The security forces are clearly in control, and the renewed Muslim problem in Mindanao has emerged as the major security concern.

Neither can it be argued that the CPP has become so efficient politically that it is achieving its goals without bloodshed. The reality is more that it is simply not achieving its goals, period. The upshot is that even electorally the left in the Philippines is no longer a viable force.

Consequently, it must continue to resort to violence. As it does, it loses still more ground. "If we can maintain the democratic system," Corpus said to me, "the Communist Party of the Philippines is a spent force."

Let us hope so!

Dr. Tom Marks is an SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent.

Apocalypse Africa

Continued from page 47

ethnic brethren, Rwanda troops have crossed the border and occupied areas along Zaire's eastern border. This might be Rwanda's attempt to establish a buffer in eastern Zaire while conspiring against Mobutu's hostile regime.

The Horror

It is perhaps prophetic that writer Joseph Conrad based his 1899 novella *Heart of Darkness*, about man's base depravity and innate savagery (and the future inspiration for the movie *Apocalypse Now*), on this hellhole of a country, then called the Congo. Zaire nowadays typifies the worst of Africa.

The economy, society, and infrastructure (limited as it is) has been slowly disintegrating and the country plunged ever deeper into squalor through 30 years of pillaging by Mobutu (an estimated U.S. \$5 billion stashed in Swiss accounts) and his cronies. The government, police, and military are corrupt; nothing is ever accomplished without a *cadeau* (bribe). The local currency, the *zaire*, is worthless.

The country operates largely on a barter economy with most Zairians surviving by subsistence farming. Yet Zaire is mineral-rich with 60% of the world's cobalt reserves as well as large deposits of copper, cadmium, copper, gold, silver, uranium, and other

metals. Although the largest sub-Saharan nation (about one-fourth the size of the United States) in Africa, only about 3% of Zaire is arable; fully 78% of the country is dense tropical forest.

Rwandan soldiers brazenly operate in eastern Zaire even as Kabila's rebels are on the move; Zaire's army troops rape and loot as they fall back from the first well-armed resistance they have seen in many years. The erosion of government/military control in Zaire's eastern provinces mirrors the breakdown of central authority in a country of about 46 million people already beset by tribal differences. Zaire has more than 200 different tribes, with the Mongo, Luba, Kongo (all Bantu) and the Mangbetu Azande (Hamitic) comprising some 45% of the population.

The internal situation is chaotic and bordering on imminent anarchy. Zairians suffer greater and greater deprivations of the basic necessities of food, shelter, and medical care. It may only be a matter of time before the country implodes — a disaster that probably would overwhelm the humanitarian-aid capabilities of the world community.

Little did Joseph Conrad know, nearly 100 years ago, that when he wrote, "There was no joy in the brilliance of sunshine," he would also be describing modern-day Zaire.

SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott has on-the-ground experience across Africa, including Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, and the Sudan. ✕

Firepower From The People

Continued from page 61

Matasareanu, who is in the getaway car. Moments later, the white Chevy backs out of the handicapped space it was parked in and slowly drives out of the parking lot — leaving the \$350,000 in stolen cash sitting on the pavement! Phillips is now walking nonchalantly alongside the bullet-pocked car, firing his machine gun from the hip.

With police blocking them from entering Laurel Canyon Boulevard, the bandits turn east onto Archwood Street, where they split up. As Matasareanu slowly careens down the street, Phillips ducks behind an 18-wheeler parked on the south side of the street. When his HK jams he switches to a 9mm Beretta Model 92 pistol and continues walking and firing. Across Agnes Avenue, directly in Phillips' path, LAPD Officer Mike Eck takes up a barricade position behind a telephone pole. Employing aimed fire, one of Eck's shots hits Phillips in the right arm, causing him to drop his gun. Bending down, Phillips picks up his gun.

One Down, One To Go

What happens next is murky, but evidence indicates that at nearly the same instant as police bullets strike him in the head, Phillips turns his own gun under his chin and blasts the back of his head off with a 9mm jacketed hollow-point slug.

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Three blocks down Archwood, the cops faced another dilemma: In three blocks this running gun battle will spill onto Lankershim Boulevard, a major north-south thoroughfare. They begin blasting the getaway car.

Before reaching Hinds Avenue, Matasareanu, tires shot out, is immobilized. His attempt to hijack a pickup fails when the fleeing driver takes the keys.

With SWAT now on site, Matasareanu hides in front of his disabled Chevy. Pinned down by SWAT, the trapped robber fires wildly at the cops with his full-auto 7.62x39mm folding-stock Type 56 (Chinese AK-47 copy), at times even firing through his own windshield.

With a two-ton obstacle obscuring their target, SWAT makes a wise tactical move: From the prone, they "skip-fire" off the pavement under the suspect's car, and into him. Within moments Matasareanu's gun drops to the ground. He raises his hands and his hulking body slumps to the street. A final shudder of his feet and he lies still. In less than 45 minutes, their war on society is over.

Officers Down

Considering the firepower that LAPD officers faced that Friday morning, casualties were surprisingly light and, amazingly, none of the injuries was considered critical. As a department source told *SOF*, all injuries occurred within the first few minutes of the shootout. After that, a group of very professional and disciplined — and heroic — police officers contained the situation and protected the public and other cops. The situation was tactically upgraded and the bad guys went down.

According to a LAPD spokesman the police injuries were

- Sgt. Larry D. Haynes: shoulder, leg wounds
- Off. John Goodman: abrasions
- Off. David Grimes: minor injuries in robbery-related vehicle accident
- Off. Stuart Guy: serious gunshot wounds to right arm, right leg
- Off. William Lantz: abrasions, contusions
- Off. James Zboravan: gunshot wound to buttocks
- Off. Manuel Valladres: superficial head wound
- Off. Martin Whitfield: broken right femur, fragment wounds to left side, chest, arms
- Det. Tracy Angeles: grazing bullet wounds to stomach, buttocks
- Det. William Krulac: gunshot wound to right ankle

In addition to the officers, six civilians (and one dog) were shot or were otherwise injured in the robbery attempt.

Epilogue

On the night of 23 October 1993, Glendale, Calif., police Sergeant Ian Grimes saw a red Ford Taurus speeding away from a gas station. Suspicious, Grimes pulled in

behind the car and turned on his red lights.

The car finally pulled over at a freeway on-ramp — where bad guys, intent on shooting a cop, will sometimes stop so they can escape on the freeway. This put Sgt. Grimes' senses on full alert.

Knowing this was a rental car, Grimes became more suspicious when driver Larry Eugene Phillips Jr., became very evasive, claiming it was his mother's car. A search of him produced a loaded 9mm Glock 17. After calling back-up, Grimes ordered the passenger, Emil Dechebal Matasareanu, out of the car. A search of the vehicle revealed another Glock 17 under the passenger seat ... and a gold mine of robbery-related accoutrements, including

- 1 Norinco folding-stock, semiauto rifle
- 1 MAK 90 wood-stock, semiauto rifle
- 1 Springfield Armory .45 pistol
- 1 Colt .45 pistol
- 1,649 rounds 7.62x39mm ammo, most loaded into 40-round mags, taped three-together
- 3 75-round drum mags loaded with 7.62x39mm ammo
- 967 rounds 9x19mm JHP ammo
- 357 rounds .45 JHP ammo
- 6 smoke bombs
- 2 improvised explosive devices
- 1 gas mask
- 2 sets National Body Armor Level III-A vests
- 2 200-channel, portable, programmable scanners with earpieces
- Sunglasses, gloves, wigs, ski masks, stopwatch
- 2 spray cans of gray Studio Hair Color
- 3 different California automobile license plates
- \$1,620 cash

Phillips was held on charges of one count of conspiracy/felony (3-6 years); false impersonation of another/felony (1 year); carrying a concealed weapon/misdemeanor (3 months) and transportation of an assault weapon/felony (4-8 years) — a total of eight to 15 years if convicted.

Matasareanu was held on one count of conspiracy/felony (3-6 years); carrying a loaded firearm/misdemeanor (3 months) and transportation of an assault weapon (4-8 years) — a possible seven to 14 years.

Imagine the shock of Glendale cops when, three months later, Matasareanu waltzed into police headquarters with an order signed by Judge Thomas W. Stover telling the police to return all of his property, with the exception of one Glock pistol and one AK-47 rifle.

Unbeknownst to the cops, the case had been transferred to the Pasadena district attorney, who plea-bargained the charges down to *misdemeanor possession*.

Phillips served 99 days and Matasareanu walked out in 71 days. Even though the DA and some in the press tried to blame the Glendale police for the snafu, the cops know better.

Richard L. Sherrow is SOF's contributing editor for forensic sciences. ☒



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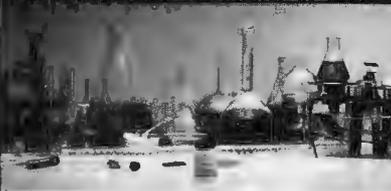
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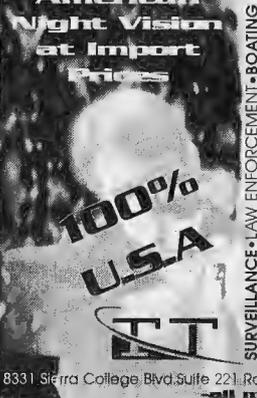


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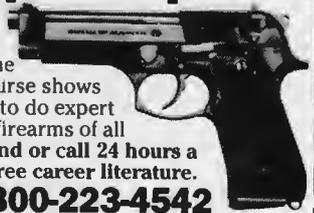
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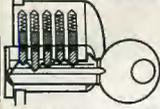
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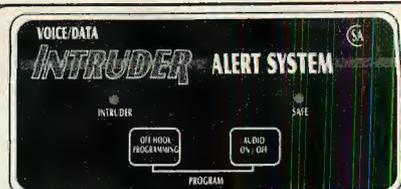
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SOUND OFF

by Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.)

NATO: A Costly Dinosaur?

The French ain't for moving the North Atlantic Treating Organization East. Neither are the Russians. Nor are scores of U.S. and European military and diplomatic bigwigs who have extensive experience dealing with Russia.

Henry Kissinger is for it. But his self-serving plan to end the Vietnam War — the disaster that brought the United States and the now-conquered South Vietnam the Kissinger version of "Peace With Honor" — makes me suspect of his ringing endorsement of NATO's proposed expansion.

Since he became a worldwide oracle of all matters dealing with high strategy, Kissinger has gotten few things right except how to fill his pockets with gold from arms racketeers seeking his advice.

George F. Kennan, whose batting average is a million times better than Kissinger's, says expanding NATO to Russia's borders would be the most "fateful error in the entire post-Cold War era."

Kennan called the Cold War before one ice crystal had formed and was dead on regarding the insanity of America's involvement in Vietnam. Unlike Kissinger, he doesn't have a butler to walk behind him picking up his dog's droppings. He lives modestly and has never sold advice to anyone. In a word, he's a straight-shooter without any hidden agendas.

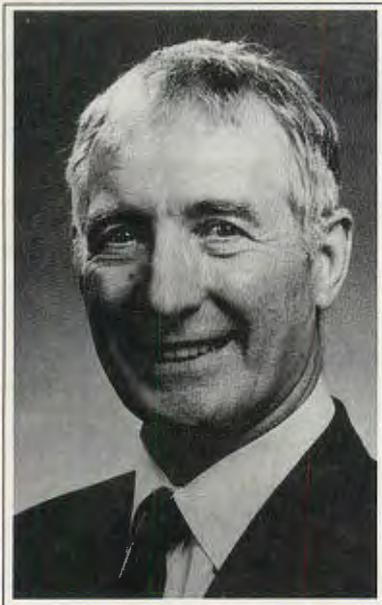
NATO no longer has a purpose. For 40 years, it kept the Soviets caged. But since 1989, when the Evil Empire bellied up and the Berlin Wall came tumbling down, NATO has been a defense organization scratching for a mission.

Yet the Kissingers, Albrights and the rest of the strategic intellectual set want to pump air into its corpse with the hope that it will come back to life.

They want Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to be the first of the former Soviet clients to suit up in NATO green, an idea that drives the Russians bonkers and could well eventually bring back the Cold War — creating real security problems in Europe.

What this is all about is not the defense of Europe — the Western Europeans all have enough bucks to defend themselves — but a desperate maneuver on the part of the Pentagon, the inside-the-Beltway congressional porkers and U.S. defense contractors to keep a prime feeding trough in place.

NATO has been a Pentagon jobs program and a major player in the American Defense Corporation Welfare Program since Gen. Dwight Eisenhower became its first chief. Trillions of your tax dollars have been spent on the defense of Europe since 1949.



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.

We are currently spending more than \$10 billion a year just to maintain about 100,000 U.S. troops within NATO countries. When you add the indirect operating costs for overhead and weapons acquisition, the bumper sticker for U.S. participation in NATO virtually doubles to about \$20 billion a year. Then plug in the Bosnias, Macedonias and Albanias and, bingo, you're pushing \$25 billion a year.

If the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and other broke Eastern European countries join NATO, you the American taxpayer can expect to be gouged again big time. Poland's current annual defense budget can only purchase one F-16 fighter aircraft.

Yet, the U.S. Air Force is already negotiating the sale of 100 F-16s to Poland and is leaning on the Czechs to buy this made-in-the-U.S.A. fighter aircraft. And the U.S. Navy just offered the Czechs seven F/A-18 "Hornet" jets free for five years.

Congressional porkers applaud the sales of these aircraft and all the rest of the NATO-cloning gear even if the bill is picked up by the American taxpayer. It means jobs for back home, more votes and more PAC money for their re-election coffers.

The Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and the rest of the former Soviet satellite countries deserve protection as does the rest of Europe, including the Russians. But let's protect ourselves and our pocketbooks by

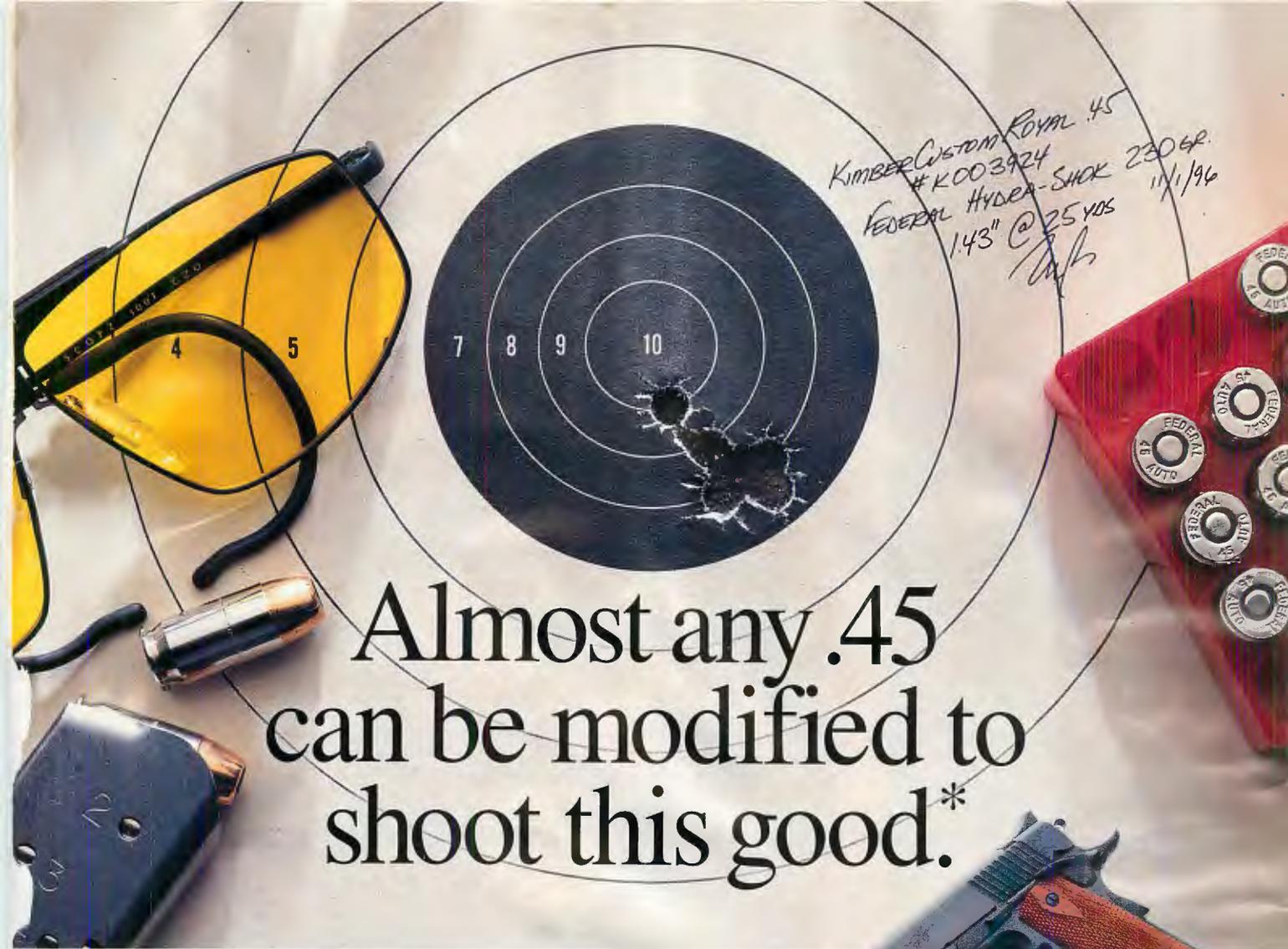
pressuring the existing NATO nations and the former Warsaw Pact countries into setting up a Western European-financed security agreement that puts all the nations in Europe — including Russia — in the same trenches with their weapons pointed toward China, their next real threat.

NATO no longer should be our business. Instead, imagine what we could do at home with \$25 billion a year: Schools, hospitals and churches could be built, and the time bombs we call inner cities could be defused before they blow. ✕

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

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Hackworth's best-selling book, *Hazardous Duty*, has topped 90,000 copies in worldwide sales. ✕



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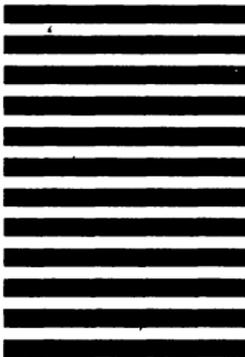
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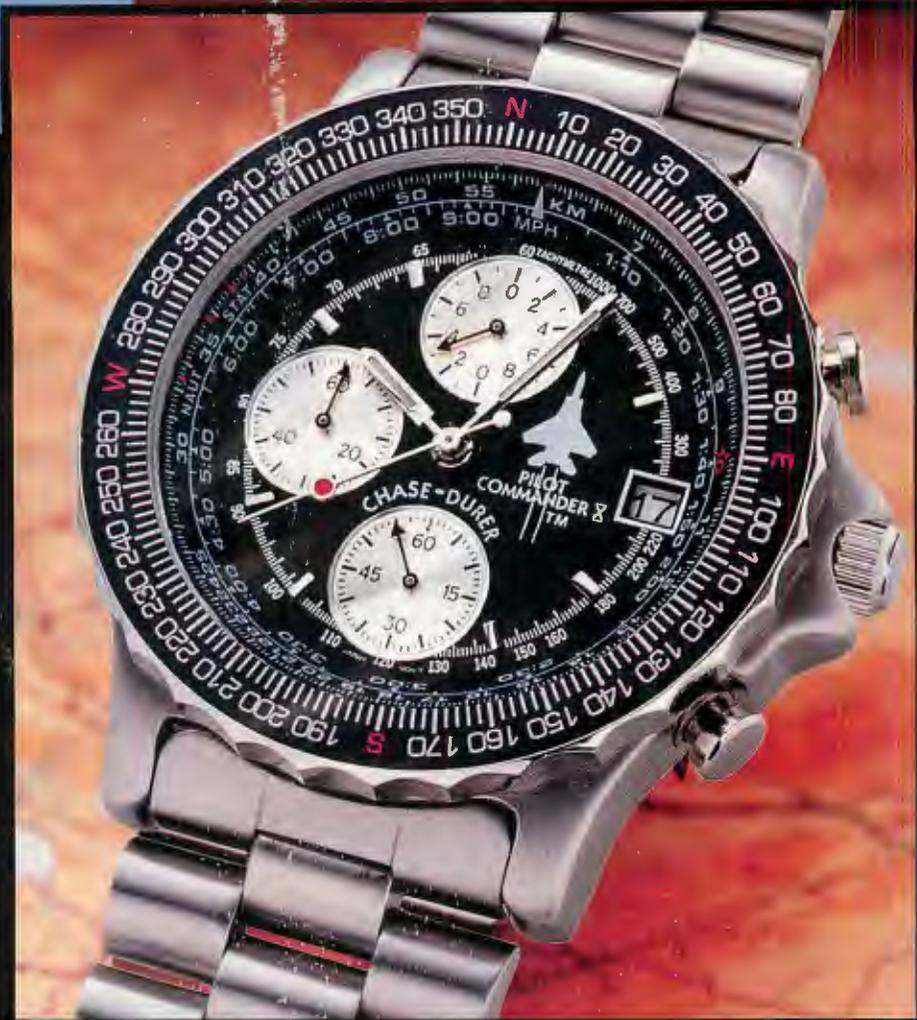
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