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# SOF

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Vol. 22 No. 8



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# COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

## SOF 1997 Convention Update

SOF's 18th annual Convention blasts off (pun intended) 2-5 October, 1997, in Las Vegas, Nev. Last year, it was SOF who got "blasted." First, in May, the Sands Hotel notified us that they were going to demolish the hotel. Then, our replacement hotel, the Hacienda, advised us during the summer that we could not hold our pool-side social events since they were terminating catering services prior to blowing up that location in December.

We've resolved that problem by moving back to the Sahara Hotel, which has the requisite pool-side facilities for participatory events, pugil-stick contests and socializing.

We're also excited about auctioning the guns from B & B Sales, North Hollywood, Calif., that were so adeptly used by the Los Angeles Police Department to blow away the perps of the North Hollywood bank robbery.

The requirement for additional firepower during the firefight became evident when the LAPD realized that their 9mms were not penetrating the body armor worn by the bank robbers. The cops raced to B & B, where they "drafted into service" four .223 Bushmaster XM 15-E25 rifles; one .223 Eagle Arms Custom rifle; and two 12-gauge Remington 11-87 shotguns, as well as 40 loaded 30-round magazines and numerous boxes of shotgun slugs. Once up-gunned, the LAPD quickly dispatched the thugs. (See "Firepower From The People," June '97.)

A detective who had used one of the Bushmaster rifles in the shootout was so impressed that he insisted on purchasing it. Bob Kahn, owner of B & B, reports, "He had the serial number written down and said, 'I want that gun!'" B & B will have these guns on display at the SOF Consumer/Trade

Show at the Sands Convention Center, Las Vegas, 3-5 October 1997. The auction will take place at the Saturday night banquet, at which a "surprise" Hollywood personality will serve as "presenter."



We're delighted to report that the hundreds of exhibitors from last year will be joined by Colt, Brownell's, Hornady and Olympic Arms. The show is shaping up as absolutely the biggest and best in our 18-year history. We have limited booth and table space available, so I urge you to quickly hop aboard

before we're sold out!

For up-to-date information on our gala event, check our website (at <http://www.sof-mag.com>).

For information on exhibiting at the SOF Consumer/Trade Show and at the SOF Convention contact immediately:

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On another matter, I want to thank all the NRA members who voted for me and the slate of candidates I supported in the last NRA Board election. I came in third with 72,149 votes and was beaten only by Steve Hornady with 73,302 and Jeff Cooper with 72,173. It is interesting to note that Neal Knox, who was defeated by Charlton Heston for the position of 1st Vice-President, came in 23rd out of 27 seats.

Frankly, I think the results of these elections saved the NRA. That's certainly the feeling I get from industry and Capitol Hill.

Once again, thanks for your support. I look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas! ✎

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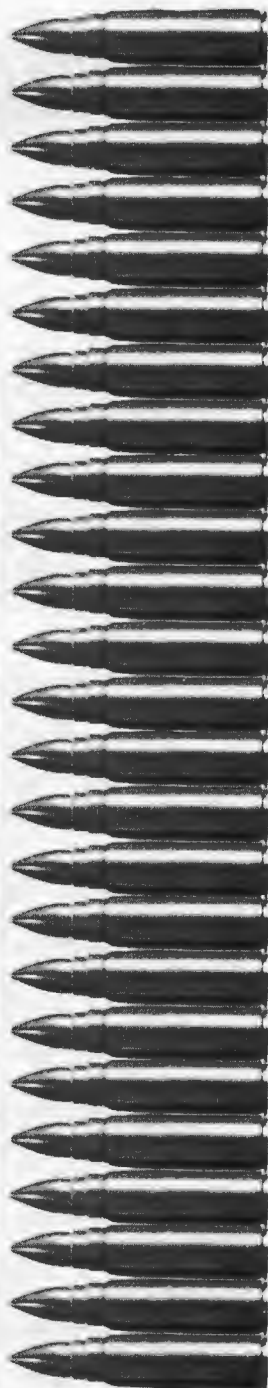
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## OUT, LIKE FLINN?

Are they really trying to drum Lt. Flinn out of the Air Force for a little extra-curricular dalliance? If they did this to every armed forces officer who ever strayed (or, even only those who got caught), the current military downsizing would be accomplished with no further effort from the Pentagon! What are the chances she's just taking the heat for being a female bomber pilot in a cockpit turf battle?

Anne Droid  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

*Your point is well taken, in that historically the commonest way of handling officers caught breaking the "adultery" portion of their code is that they are told to "go and sin no more," assuming there were no complicating factors. After all, even in a UCMJ context, the fair-play ethic from which Americans suffer makes us hesitant to cast the first stone. However the Flinn case involves not only simple adultery, pretty low on the scale, but also not being honest about it, which is somewhat higher on the scale. Not only do officers never get a little on the side, you understand, they never lie, either. As for being a turf battle, would you try and kick out of your cockpit someone accused as Lt. Flinn? Damned if we would!*

## RASOR SHARP

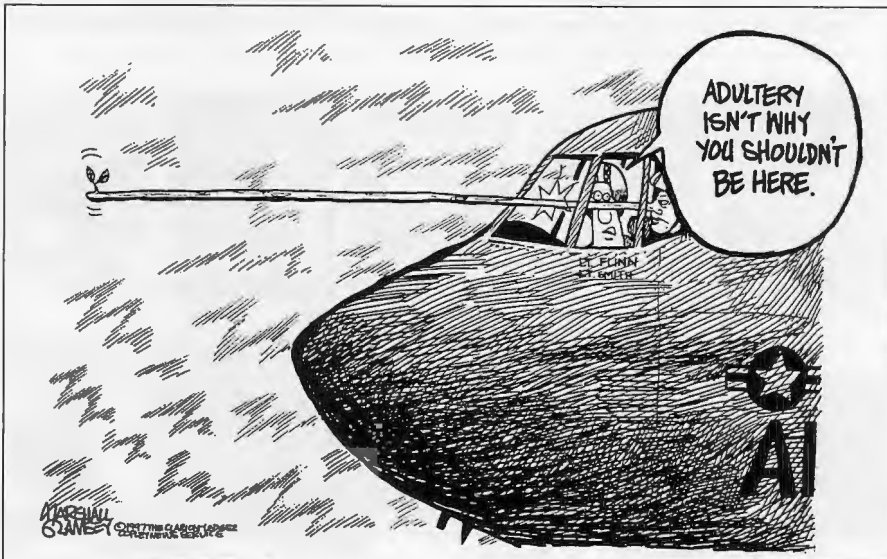


I wanted to take a long-overdue opportunity to thank you for your support regarding Jim Pate's "Why is Clinton Afraid Of The Green Berets?" While this piece appears to be part of a larger focus of not blind-

ly allowing self-appointed SF mafioso to wrestle control of the Special Forces legacy and relegate it to the trash dump of history — it also saved my ass.

This *SOF* article was singularly responsible for the Bones and Rambos backing off in June of '96. In fact *SOF* was downloaded from a Pentagon system and this particular article was attached as part of my paperwork at the Department of the Army level for review by the Secretary of the Army. It is actually an enclosure on my separation paperwork!

Mostly, I want to thank you and ask you to continue the great work. While there are fortunately others out there who are aware of the festering disease in the ranks, few



have the access and qualifications as does *SOF*. Thanks again.

Ed Rasor  
(former SFC, SF)

## PULLING THE FLAGSTONES OFF WANNABES

Glad to see more exposes on the warrior wannabes. If everyone who says they served in 'Nam did so then we should have had overwhelming force on the ground to beat the communists. I followed in my dad's footsteps and enlisted in the Navy in 1966, went to boot and gunnery school at the Lakes. Assigned to an ammo ship, we busted our butts resupplying the fleet on the coast of Vietnam. Not once did my shipmates and I see the country but we feel we did our part. My brother was a Bird-Dog pilot at the time, our dad was in WW II in the Pacific, my wife was in the Air Force and my brother's wife was Army.

I've never regretted my service and respect any grunt, sailor, airman and even the REMFs who served in-country. Keep up the good work. Our whole family enjoys reading your magazine.

J.D. & Karen Rahn  
Gibsonton, Florida

## THE HUMAN ELEMENT

I am pretty much your average reader — male, 42, Navy vet, National Guard member, been to college, have a few guns, etc.

I like *SOF* a lot — the special articles,

Clinton updates, editor's columns, I Was There; but I have two complaints:

You use too much space and get too technical when evaluating firearms.

You do not have enough of the *human element* — how about each month a short biography or autobiography of a true-life soldier of fortune or mercenary? Maybe Policeman of the Month with his favorite stories or Chesty Puller or Hathcock on others we haven't heard of — people you know who were killed in the line of duty ... someone we could admire and use as a role model? Also, more artwork.

Paul Walther  
San Antonio, Texas

*Glad to hear from you, and thanks for your input. For "lite" gun stories there's always the popular gun press. There are two reasons we do the in-depth ordnance stories: Firstly they need to be done and nobody else covers this important ground; secondly, we have the expertise of Peter Kokalis to weave into these critiques, and he's as good as it gets in his field.*

*As for human interest, that's always an important facet of *SOF* stories, which are usually written in the first person by people going and doing. Regular features on such topics as MOH recipients are under editorial consideration, since real heroes seldom tell their own stories. Other reader's thoughts?*

## GUN RIGHTS, UP IN SMOKE?

The papers are buzzing over the federal judge who ruled the Food and Drug

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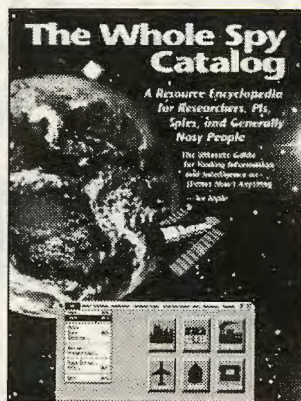
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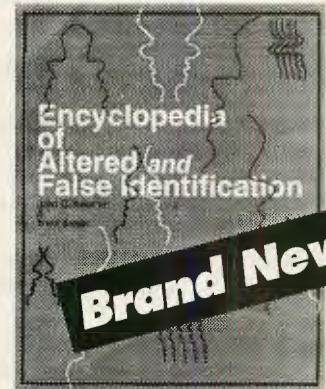
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Administration can regulate tobacco as a drug because it is addictive ...

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One of the first questions on a Form 4473, that you must answer when you purchase a gun, is "are you addicted to a controlled substance." With that simple little question 50 million smokers will be disenfranchised from their gun rights. They may not even be able to keep the guns they already own.

The government doesn't care if you smoke. The tax revenue from tobacco adds heavily to the budget, but they are going to make you choose between your guns and your addiction.

Will there be a public outcry? It is doubtful. We are a nation of sheep.

Message to smokers: If you want to keep smoking, *join the NRA!*

Michael A. Pacer  
Glendora, California

*Unless you favor lip and lung cancer, using tobacco is a hard practice to justify, which is precisely why it is under government attack. Not for health reasons, but to get Americans used to the idea of being told what to do by a wiser power. The last thing big government wants is for everybody to quit smoking. They'd lose a pile of tax revenue of course, but the bigger reason is that smokers don't live long enough past their productive years to collect the socialist security the government has relieved them of over a lifetime, and when they go it's usually from fast-moving cancer or a heart attack, which spares the Medicare coffers.*

### BLACK HELICOPTERS ... BLACK PLOTS?

My sources advise that on March 04, 97 at least 12 U.S. Army Blackhawk [sic] choppers loaded with dozens of Army SpecOps personnel flew into Charlotte, N.C. and conducted secret urban training. When they occupied a vacant high-rise apartment building, practice gunfire could be heard. My source also advised, that he personally observed the entire mock-up city at Camp Pendleton. The Army has a



project called "M.O.U.T" which stands for Military Operations Urban Tactics [sic].

Supposedly they are Delta Forces training for Urban Terrorists. I do see a need to train for the possibility of a terrorist situation in the U.S., but so far all we've seen has been Waco's.

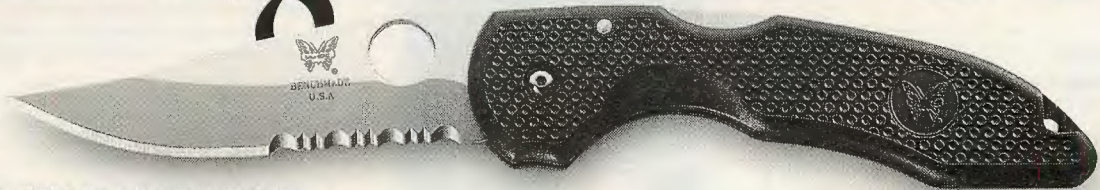
Well, I guess the Blackhawk threat is alive and well.

Love your mag.

Spider  
via E-Mail

*The gist of what your source advises is probably true. SOF has done stories on MOUT (Military Operations In Urban Terrain) training (May '94, May '95), Delta training as you describe (Feb. '97) and various aspects of "Black Helicopters" (Aug. '95) that may or may not be Delta, Customs, New World Order or [fill in the blank]. When an organization is tasked with our personal and national well-being, we're all for them getting the absolute best training and equipment. What gives some pause, however, is concern that these elite forces, driven by agenda politics of some interests in Washington, may "meet the enemy, and he is us." Incidentally, as we reported, the ATF received [probably illegal] MOUT training from Army Special Forces prior to the ill-fated Waco debacle.*

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Yes, the rifle T.R. and his son, Kermit, fired the most on that legendary East African Safari of 1909-1910 was the Winchester Model 1895. He called it "my beloved" and "faithful" Winchester.

## T.R.'s Safari to East Africa

Teddy Roosevelt served virtually two full terms as President. With a wide range of interests and at only 50 years of age, he decided not to seek a third term. Instead, he opted to take his son on a year-long safari to East Africa.

He was filled with the thought of discovering new varieties of animals and bagging specimens for museum use. He led the expedition into the interior for the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian Institution. He brought them 296 big game animals, including nine lions. The skin of every animal he shot was preserved for the Museum; many are the ones you see today.

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A numbered Certificate of Authenticity accompanies your Winchester attesting to the edition limit, registry number, the hand engraving and the purity of the 24-Karat Gold plating.

## How To Reserve

The "Theodore Roosevelt Winchester Model 1895" is available exclusively through The American Historical Foundation. A small deposit is all that is needed to reserve, and a convenient monthly payment plan is available. With your reservation, you

will be made a Member.

To reserve, please call our Member Relations staff, toll free at 1-800-368-8080, 24 hours a day, seven days a week; or return the enclosed Reservation; or visit "Columbia", circa 1817, our National Historic Landmark Headquarters and Museums. Satisfaction is fully guaranteed or you may return this Winchester within 30 days for a complete refund.

If you do not have a Federal Firearms License, our Member Relations Staff will help coordinate delivery with you through your local FFL holder after we have received your reservation.

Other types of firearms were made famous the world over, but the lever was uniquely American. Only 250 Roosevelt Winchesters are being hand-built for all the Winchester collectors and Teddy Roosevelt admirers in the world. Your prompt call, today or tonight, is urged to secure one of these investment-grade museum pieces, satisfaction guaranteed.

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## TELL HIM YOU TOLD HIM SO

One of my liberal neighbors was held up by some scumbag in a parking lot in L.A. The gunman demanded his cash and the after my neighbor complied he was shot twice in the chest. Being very overweight along with bad shot placement and a .380 auto, he lived.

After recovering from his ordeal he bought a handgun — something liberals are not supposed to do. After picking up his 9mm SIG (good choice for an angry liberal), he loaded it up and went back to work in L.A. He was later pulled over for speeding. Being a good citizen, he told the police officer “hey, I have a loaded 9mm handgun in here.” Well, us right-wingers know better than to say such a thing to a police officer walking up to our vehicle, but before our armed liberal had a chance to fully explain, he found himself prone on the hot pavement with a gun in his face and a knee in his back.

He was then hooked up and taken to jail. His brand new car was impounded and he now has no handgun. But now has a criminal record. My liberal neighbor said, “how could this happen to me. I was just trying to protect myself. How can they treat people like this just for owning a handgun.” He said he’s going to join the NRA and will vote only Republican from now on. This x-liberal has definitely been born again hard.

Mark W. Baumgartner  
Upland, California

## COVERT CRITICISM

How hilarious was the debunking of “Covert Warrior: Overt Fantasy” by Captain Larry Bailey, USN (Ret.). The only thing funnier was the attitude of the good Captain that he heard every butterfly fart that was let in Southeast Asia during this war.

Do not misunderstand me: The Captain is probably one helluva SEAL; the SEALs have my deepest respect and admiration. They’ve earned and deserve every honor rendered them and MORE.

But the idea that Captain Bailey NEVER heard of “Basket Orders,” never saw or used “flash paper,” never heard of “seconding” via TAD/TDY/TEMU orders to various agencies and groups who never existed and were never there and did nothing of which they’ve been accused is laughable at best; alarming at worst.

Next thing, we’ll have Capt. Bailey denying the SOG, “Air America,” that one hanger [sic] at Tan Son Nhut that few people could get near to or inside of, the DeHavilland flights over large expanses of green, odd people doing odd things, and that the “Phoenix Program” never happened nor existed; nor was William Egan You-Know-Who Station Chief in Saigon back in — well, never mind. And I guess Capt. Bailey never “lost” any documents? Nor “sanitized” a record? If so, his halo must fit tightly indeed!

By the way Captain: All it took in 1970

to generate a DD-214 that said whatever you wanted it to say was an IBM Selectric with an OCR ball plus a handful of blank forms — and a yeoman who could keep his mouth shut. In 1997, it takes an HP Scanner and a cheap computer. Hell, Captain, even GRAMMAR school students are forging and printing counterfeit money when Mom and Dad aren’t watching!

And no, sir. I claim nothing; I admit to nothing; I wear neither a black nor green beret. Refer to Amendment Five of U.S. Constitution.

Sincerely (if not totally respectfully) yours,

Walter E. Murdock  
Lieutenant Commander  
(MUSTANG-Electronics)  
U.S. Navy Disability Retired (100%)

*Wonder why debunkers make some people so nervous. Aside from some of the just plain laughable gaffs in the book, Capt. Bailey did not say such covert units did not exist — he just said the author of this book demonstrably was not part of them. Such covert operations have been the subject of articles dozens of times in this magazine — but written in the first person only when the author was there in real life, not his mind's eye. You had to find a yeoman to type your phony DD-214? What did you say your disability was? ☹*

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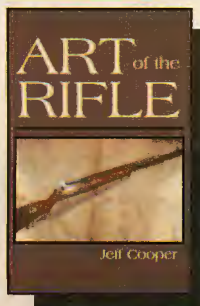
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by Jeff Cooper

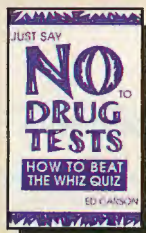
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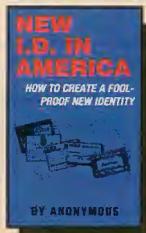
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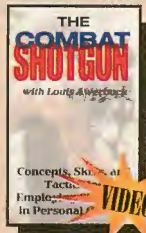


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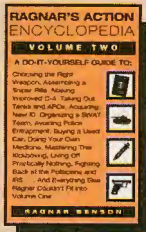
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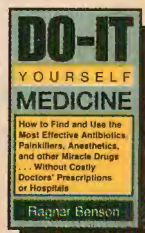
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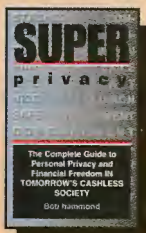
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# BULLETIN BOARD

## BROWN WATER TO SILVER SCREWUP

In the author's box for Steve Waterman's "From Brown Water to Silver Screen," it was incorrectly stated that Waterman was a former SEAL. He hastened to point out that he was "an admin puke attached to a SEAL unit" and not a SEAL. From one admin puke to another, our apologies.

## U.S. IN PANAMA POST-2000?

Although the United States is bound by treaty to exit Panama by the end of 1999, Defense Secretary William Cohen has said he favors "some sort of residual contact and presence in Panama ... what level that might be would have to be taken into account in terms of the Panamanian Government's feelings about that ..." According to *Jane's Defense Weekly*, Panama is considering the establishment of a multi-national counterdrug center at the current site of Howard AFB, and the U.S. Security Council is considering a proposal to provide the center with 60 aircraft and U.S. crews.

## FBI SPOKESMAN: MILITIAS "NOT DANGEROUS"

Addressing a group of retired intelligence officers, Kenneth Piernick of the FBI's Domestic Terrorism Operations Unit noted that few "militia" units are psychopathic and dangerous, stating that most of the groups are "not dangerous, work for a living, and exist primarily to do target shooting." Piernick named some of what are considered to be the more dangerous groups and described their motivation, which was mostly religious-based, anti-tax or anti-Semitic. At the time of Piernick's talk, the FBI currently had some 18 investigations open on various "militia" groups.

## BANG ALL YOU CAN BANG?

An Army court-martial at Ft. Carson, Colo., has convicted Sgt. Gerald Ivey of playing a major role in a three-state drug-and-gun-running ring. An eight-year Army veteran, Ivey was convicted of 11 UCMJ violations, including illegally transferring guns, possessing drugs with intent to distribute, conspiracy to sell drugs and providing false information to a licensed gun dealer. Ivey was sentenced to 15 years at Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

The prosecution portrayed Ivey as a key player in the drug-and-gun-running ring, involving a group they described as one of the best-organized street gangs in America. Authorities said the gang has been sending members into the Army to receive combat and other types of military training.

## POLISH GOVERNMENT: FIGHT CRIME WITH CITIZEN GUNS

Acknowledging the rise of violent crime in Poland, and the limitations of police, Interior Minister Leszek Miller has declared that citizens need guns in their homes to defend their lives and property. The government has proposed a law that would make it much easier for ordinary Poles to own guns. Any adult with no criminal record, who passes an exam on firearms use and holds a doctor's certificate of physical and mental health, would be able to own a gun under the proposed legislation.

Under the present system, gun ownership permits are issued at the whim of local police, but under the new legislation, if passed by parliament, "an applicant cannot be denied permission to own a



Sandra S. Froman

... And into the sunset: At a birthday party for the NRA-ILA's Tanya Metaska, SOF honcho and NRA Board member Bob Brown, left, and NRA Executive VP Wayne LaPierre, who had just weathered the "battle in Seattle," share a victory moment.

gun after fulfilling criteria established by the bill," Interior official Janusz Szymanski told a news conference.

Since democratic reforms began in 1989, crime has risen by about 250,000 incidents a year, more than a thousand per year committed with weapons. Police do not hesitate to point out that the criminals have faster cars and more sophisticated weapons.

Aside from enhancing the security of ordinary Poles, the new law is part of an effort to rationalize Poland's laws to the rule-of-law principle. Under the communist-written gun ownership law of 1961, "an individual would [have to] appeal the police decision to the Supreme Administrative Court," Szymanski noted. "However, without clearly specified criteria, the court was rather helpless."

## GOP SHOP WEBSITE

A new website designed to serve the greater law-enforcement community and sponsored by Cohen & Associates of Rochelle Park, N.J., may be accessed at [www.bestdefense.com](http://www.bestdefense.com). The site features a diverse mix of current news stories, new-technology features, links and elaborate listings of relevant associations, publications and trade shows.

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The face of external ballistics may be about to change, if ongoing research by the Air Force comes to fruition. A cigar-sized, needle-nosed, steerable bullet traveling at up to 6,000 feet per second is under development for use against satellites, ground targets and incoming theater missiles (current treaties prevent its development for use against strategic missiles), and aerial combat.

Dubbed "Barrel-Launched Adaptive Munition" (BLAM), the new projectile(s) would be maneuverable via "tendons" that steer the projectile's pinpointed nose to compensate for wind changes and/or moving targets. For air-to-air ops the BLAM would be fired from a fighter plane at roughly 3,000-4,000 FPS, and in an anti-satellite mode it would be fired from an F-15 or a B-1 bomber at 5,000-6,000 FPS. Such air-to-air rounds could cost as little as \$400.

The air-to-ground version would incorporate Global Positioning

Systems navigation components and could be fired from an AC-130 gunship and have a range out to 50 miles. Such a round would cost around \$8,000 to \$10,000. Preliminary tests conducted at the Aeroballistics Research Facility at Elgin AFB last year have proved the system can survive a hard launch.

### MUCH SLOWER, BUT STILL DEADLY

Via *SOF's* tech wonk Peter Kokalis comes this excerpt from a United Air Lines briefing sheet:

The FAA employs a pneumatic cannon to "fire" dead chickens into aircraft windshields at speeds approximating the speed of the plane in flight: If the windshield survives, it is logically concluded that a same-design windshield would survive an in-flight impact from a similar large bird.

The Brits borrowed the cannon to test the windshield on a new high-speed locomotive. They loaded a chicken and fired: The feathered projectile shattered the windshield, penetrated the engineer's chair, broke an instrument panel and embedded itself in the rear wall of the cab.

The stunned Brits asked the FAA to recheck the test data, who did a thorough evaluation to ensure everything had been done correctly. The FAA did have one minor recommendation: In future tests, thaw that clucker before launching it.

Moral: *Never* overlook the obvious.

### WEU POLICE ADVISE ON CIVILIAN ARMS TURN IN

The Western European Union (WEU) has dispatched some two dozen military police to Albania to advise the government in Tirana on how to persuade the Albanian people to turn in weapons they have looted from military depots (see "From Bad To Worse" July '97). Western European states are uneasy about the weapons flowing across Albanian borders from criminal hands to other criminal hands. Noted WEU Secretary-General Jose Cutileiro, "... we've

had more offers of assistance than we requested." Heh, heh, heh.

### EUGENE M. STONER 1922-1997

Gene Stoner, well-known designer of such weapons as the M-16 rifle and the Stoner 63 Weapons System, died of cancer at his home in Palm City, Fla., at the age of 74. Borne in Gasport, Ind., in 1922 and educated in Long Beach, Calif., Stoner worked for Vega Aircraft, which became Lockheed Corporation. A veteran of WW II Marine Corps' service in the South Pacific and North China, Stoner held some 100 patents at the time of his death. His most recent association was with Knight Manufacturing Company, where he worked on development of the SR-25 precision rifle.

### FRANK A. PACHMAYR 1906-1997

Frank A. Pachmayr, custom gunsmith, inventor, conservationist and businessman passed away on 25 April 1997. Born in Munich, Germany, in 1906, Pachmayr came to America with his family in 1907. Trained in the family trade of gunsmithing, Pachmayr founded Pachmayr Gun Works in Los Angeles in 1929. Frank Pachmayr was a gifted and prolific inventor, holding myriad patents on recoil pads, grips and other firearms innovations, and will be remembered for his pioneering work on custom M1911 pistols. He was voted Outstanding American Handgunner in 1985.

### COMBAT GOLF

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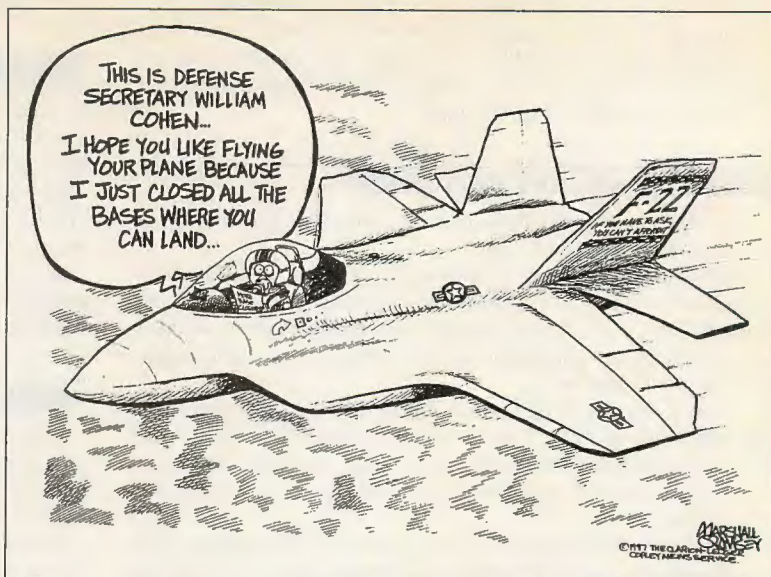
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The book is not merely about golf: Just as Ollstein adapts Sun Tzu to golf, the combat techniques outlined in this "golfing" volume are readily adapted to any game or endeavor that you plan to win. Surprisingly literate for a West Pointer, and amazingly lucid for a chopper jock, Ollstein makes good advice come into focus with practical examples. Chapters deal with such topics as the mission, mission analysis, strategic diplomacy, mental preparedness, psyops, engaging the enemy, teamwork, training, equipment and war games. There is no chapter on dirty tricks: They are scattered throughout. It may be employed on many levels, for fun and sport, for hard competition, for bloodthirsty conquests on the green — even your business or romantic life (assuming West Pointers have one). Highly recommended, even if the only golf ball you play with is green and has a pin in it.

Published by Viking-Penguin, Dept. SOF, 375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014; available at bookstores everywhere.



## GREAT RAIDS

Swift, hard-hitting, often long-range and usually comprised of elite or specially trained troops, raids have evolved into the frequently used instrument of choice for achieving limited objectives in modern military scenarios that are the antithesis of historical set-piece battles. Edited by Samuel E. Southworth, *Great Raids In History* examines such daring exploits from Drake to Desert One.

Featured prominently in this volume are the dashing personalities whose names have become synonymous with triumphant derring-do:

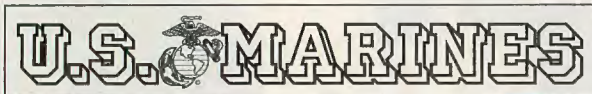
Drake, John Paul Jones, Mosby, Morgan, de la Rey, Lawrence, Skorzeny, Wingate, Hoare, "Bull" Simons — some 20 chapters in all detailing the great raids of history and the men who lead them, and analyzing why they succeeded — or failed. The chapter "Belgian Paratroopers In The Congo" detailing the U.S.-transported elite Belgian force that worked in concert with Mike Hoare's 5 Commando to rescue Europeans being butchered and held hostage in the 1964 Congo uprising was written by *SOF's* Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott. Highly recommended, this volume will become one of the cornerstone volumes in any military library.

Published by Sarpedon Publishers, Dept. SOF, 166 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010. ✕

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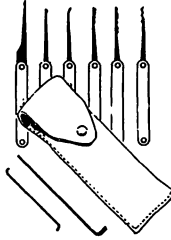
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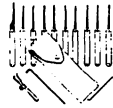
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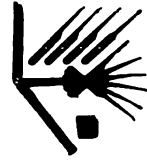
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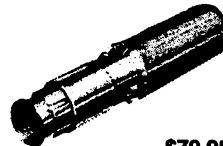


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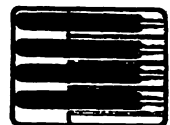


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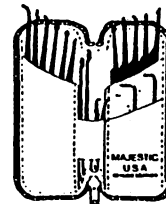
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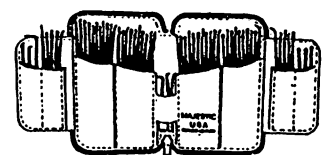
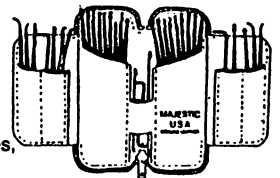


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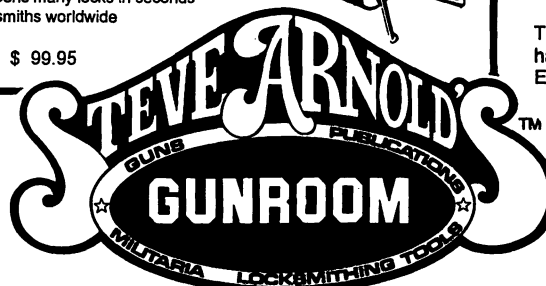


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## Honing The Steyr AUG



photos by Peter G. Kokalis



The Steyr AUG's bullpup envelope brings it close to the H&K MP5 in size and thus ideal for use as a law enforcement entry weapon. (right) The most important accessory you must add to the Steyr AUG is a SURE-FIRE flashlight with both a pressure switch on the barrel handle and an on/off switch at the rear of the flashlight's housing.

Those involved with Close Quarters Battle (CQB) — both law enforcement SWAT teams and military special operations personnel — continue to debate the relative merits of the so-called tactical carbine vs. the submachine gun. This controversy will not be resolved anytime within the foreseeable future as proponents of each weapon system can present strong arguments. Heckler & Koch's MP5 series clearly dominates the submachine-gun arena, however, the number of agencies adopting the Colt 9mm submachine gun is growing.

While the Colt M16 series controls the U.S. law enforcement market for tactical carbines, the Steyr AUG remains a strong contender and its bullpup envelope brings it close to the MP5 in size. Although the number of attachments and refinements possible for the M16 seems to be almost endless, very little is required to prepare the Steyr AUG for battle.

The most important accessory you must add to the AUG is a flashlight specifically designed for use with fighting firearms. Flashlights attached to a shoulder-mounted weapon should be powerful — very powerful. Goblins like to move at night, and not necessarily when the moon is full.

Lights of this type are most definitely not aiming devices. They do not replace the weapon's sights. These lights are used to illuminate the target and permit proper target discrimination, to prevent popping a fellow officer

or a member of your family. They backlight the weapon's sights and permit their proper use. If powerful enough, they can also be used to momentarily blind your opponent. Self-luminous tritium sights do not assist target discrimination in total darkness.

Common sense is required in the tactical application of flashlights. They should be turned on only long enough to identify a potential target — fire, if required — then turn the light off and move. In the presence of potential danger, these devices should never be used as searchlights to visually clear an area. They will only serve to compromise the mission and draw fire if used indiscriminately.

Only one flashlight deserves consideration for installation on the Steyr AUG: the SURE-FIRE unit manufactured by Laser Products (Dept. SOF, 18300 Mt. Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: 800-353-1334 — to purchase products or



Another necessary element is a properly designed combat sling and the Giles sling is the best available, as it permits the operator to correctly and safely transition to his service sidearm in a combat environment.

locate the closest dealer/distributor in your area). Since their introduction in 1987, they have totally commanded the field of combat flashlights. The SURE-FIRE system now includes more than 200 individual modular components. Most of these components are the different housings and mounts necessary to accommodate all the weapons to which SURE-FIRE lights can be attached.

The best SURE-FIRE setup for the Steyr AUG is as follows: Start with a model L60 6-volt lamp module. Featuring a high-pressure xenon lamp, this unit will operate for an hour or more on a set of two lithium batteries and delivers more than 60 lumens. This should be attached to a model U05T housing, which has a pressure switch with a 5-inch cable for attachment to the AUG's folding vertical barrel handle.

Equally important, this housing is equipped with an on/off switch at the rear. There may be times when you want the flashlight on, but the support hand free to search or cuff a suspect. Rotate the switch counterclockwise, or down, to turn on the light and clockwise, or up, to turn the light off. Originally, the switch operated in an opposite manner, but I and Giles Stock prevailed upon John Matthews, the president of Laser Products, to offer a reversed sense of direction as an option that seemed more logical to us (i.e., pushing up to turn the light off).

*Continued on page 65*

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# I Was There

by Robert K. Brown

Alas, opportunities wane for a man who would be king (or other appropriate genre of maximum leader such as *jefe*, shah, dear leader, president-for-life, *generalissimo* or sultan). Largely gone are chances to show up in the ill-run Caribbean banana republic or impoverished African state-of-choice with a well-organized and/or equipped (preferably impressive) gaggle of troops and announce a coup or coronation. But for

return for opening parliament, cutting ribbons and some high-profile charity work.

How to become royalty? That can be a problem, especially in such a crowded playing field as Europe where everyone who owns a white shirt has made a claim at some time or another, but sometimes one can simply stand up and announce "Me Be King!" It is not one whit more difficult than announcing "Me Be President For Life," and the

gentlemanly and resourceful fellow who has nonetheless managed to build a successful career as pretender to the throne and enterprising businessman.

Good friends with General Franco of Spain, Leka was asked to leave after Franco's death, spent some time in the Far East, and eventually settled in southern Africa, establishing himself as an arms merchant. He was once jailed in Thailand over an unfortunate misunderstanding, but other than that has managed to hang in there. A Sandhurst graduate, Leka was an "active" pretender to his country's throne, opposing the communist Hoxa regime by sending in guerrilla teams — all of whom were unfor-

## The King And I

### Who Says SOF Doesn't Associate With Royalty?

many historical figures this has been an exciting, often profitable, career strategy whose only fault was a retirement plan dependent upon the whims (and benevolence, if any) of one's successor (401K in this context refers to the number of an account at *Credit Suisse*).

Europe has always been awash with pretenders to various (former) thrones, some of whom can trace their lineage and claim to royalty back centuries to kingdoms or principalities that have not within memory existed as states. In practice, however, a stateless monarch need only trace his roots back to the most recent upheaval responsible for having sent his royal family into exile (it is not important to establish the length of one's blue-blood genealogy, if there is utterly no hope of re-establishing your family throne). As it may be impossible to rest on one's pedigree, it is better to find a generous host with a similar religio-political philosophy, or set oneself up as a *Kato Kaelin* of the Jet Set, or find a semi-legitimate business venture such as writing or starting a charity for your benefit, or, best of all, locate a major-power sponsor who can use you for nuisance value to the present tenants of your kingdom. The alternative is to end up a blue-collar king.

It has been my observation that all these options are much easier tasks if one has had the foresight to become royalty, as opposed to being a garden-variety dictator (rustic revolutionaries can be *such* guttersnipes). And if you have any progeny you claim, bear in mind that your successor/deposer will often think of you more kindly if you are kin. Setting your kid up in the royalty business is a safer bet than most, even with the fluctuating real estate values that result from those interminable European wars. And, it might just work out in the long term: The low countries and Scandinavia have had long-term relationships with stable royal families, which have evolved into symbiotic relationships where the royals get free houses and comfortable stipends in

long-range benefits are well worth it. When conditions are favorable, *people may actually believe you*, and a dynasty is born! Aside from being a nice vacation spot, the great thing about Europe is, you *are* royalty if people acknowledge that you are.

A case in point is the house of Zog, of Albania. In 1928, Ahmed Zogu, a mere but enterprising commoner, crowned himself King of Albania. Already in the throes of a continental depression, and in an era when being royalty was becoming an increasingly less popular career with Marxism et al. on the loose, nobody really noticed. There seems to have been little, if any, competition for that job slot and Zogu's insinuation into the ranks of European royalty was successful. There was soon a new heir to this new throne, Leka I.

European politics being what they always have been, war soon came and then-prince Leka was hustled out of Albania with his father, just ahead of advancing Italian fascists in 1939, to be educated in England. Although deposed, H.M. King Leka I is a

fortunately, and quickly, eliminated.

I first met King Leka I in 1980, in Rhodesia. At that time he maintained a large compound outside Salisbury with 46 guards — Thai and Shan tribesmen, armed with G3s and UZIs.

For a deposed king, Leka appeared to be doing well. Whether he was making a grandly profitable income as an arms merchant, was subsidized by a dole from sympathetic Muslim oil magnates, or was on a CIA stipend for whatever nuisance value he might have to Hoxa, I do not know. In the mid-1980s, Leka was forced from Rhodesia by the new left-wing government, and relocated in South Africa — *sans* armed guards but with his wife, Austrian-born Queen

*Continued on page 71*



Lankoviu Archiv

In March 1980, **SOF** Publisher Robert K. Brown, left, lunches with H.M. King Leka I of the Albanians, center, and **SOFers** Ralph Edens and John Donovan in Salisbury, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). (Inset) H.M. King Zogu I.

courtesy Ralph Edens

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For more than 25 years, Burris has produced 100% American-made precision shooting and sports optics, backed by Burris' Forever Warranty. That's an impressive guarantee, but doesn't represent the largess you might think, as it's a guarantee very few have ever needed to rely on.

Burris has just announced their new 3X-9X-50mm and 6X-24X-44mm Signature Series(R) Mil-Dot scopes. The large objective lenses on these scopes offer low-light performance that some call phenomenal; the precision lenses deliver crisp, bright, sharp images almost never found in scopes in this price range. Eye relief is very forgiving and field of view is greater than many lesser-magnification scopes.

The Mil-Dot scopes incorporate many other Burris features, such as the exclusive posi-lock system on the 3X-9X which locks in accuracy round after round, and the Hunter/Competition adjustment knobs that allow changes without tools, from behind the rifle. These scopes deserve a look-though, as they represent excellent value.

Burris Company, Dept. SOF, Box 1747, Greeley, CO 80631; phone: 888-2 BURRIS; fax: 970-356-8702.

## EXTREME KNIVES

SOG®, a knife company familiar to those who put knives and tools to hard use, has announced a new generation of SOG products — the *Jetedge*™ series of hybrid folding knives. The *Jetedge* series is the first time SOG has used stain-resistant ATS 34 blades and carbon-fiber handles. ATS 34 is a premium steel for knives, as it is hard (Rc. 60), tough, and holds an edge. Carbon-fiber composites, of course, have one of the best strength-to-weight ratios of any material.

The *Jetedge* series features a liner-type lock (and a detent ball to keep them closed), an S-curve pocket clip, totally new grind lines and one-hand-opening thumb slots. Their innovative "shark-tooth tip"™ provides a strong profile without compromising slicing ability. A convenient thumb rest maximizes forward cutting pressure and control on the aggressive half-serrated blade.

*Jetedge* 1 has a 3-inch blade, weighs 2.1 ounces; *Jetedge* 2 has a 3.75-inch blade and weight 3.5 ounces. Both are 1/3 serrated. Gear that's good to go, like we've grown to expect from the innovative folks at SOG. Contact SOG Specialty Knives, Dept. SOF, 6521 212th St. S.W., Lynnwood, WA 98036; phone: 206-771-6230; fax: 206-771-7689.



## FT. LEWIS SAFETY TOE BOOT

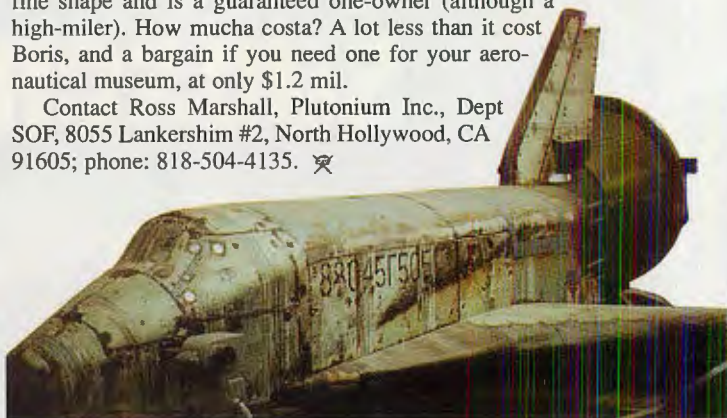
Danner's best-selling hard-duty uniform boot now has a hard toe. Danner's "Ft. Lewis" is now available with an ANSI-approved composite safety toe and 400 grams of Thinsulate insulation. Adding this safety toe to the existing features (Cambrelle nylon lining, Gore-tex bootie, full-grain water-resistant leather, mid-sole/insole of anti-fungal texorist board/Alpine board/thin hard rubber/thick soft EVA) make the Danner the uniform boot of choice. The Ft. Lewis with its Vibram Sierra lug sole, thanks to Danner's stitchdown construction, can be re-soled. For jumpmaster assists and DI encouragement — get a pair of hard-toe Danner's and kick some ass. Contact Danner Boot Company, Dept. SOF, 700 S.W. Taylor #400, Portland, OR 97205; phone: 503-279-4000; fax: 503-279-4066. We've never met a man who was sorry he bought a pair of Danner boots.



## ONE-UP SURPLUS

After the collapse of the Evil Empire, coup after coup was scored on the former-Soviet surplus market — guns, knives, optics, bric-a-brac, junk. Here's the ultimate bric-a-brackski from the Cold War: the Soviet sub-orbital space shuttle BOR-5. Five were built, three crashed, two survive. The other one is in a Russian museum. This one shows some burn-marks from re-entry, but is otherwise in fine shape and is a guaranteed one-owner (although a high-miler). How much costs? A lot less than it cost Boris, and a bargain if you need one for your aeronautical museum, at only \$1.2 mil.

Contact Ross Marshall, Plutonium Inc., Dept SOF, 8055 Lankershim #2, North Hollywood, CA 91605; phone: 818-504-4135. ☒



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Amazing Scientific System

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

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

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

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

### Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

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

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

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

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

### Officially Required SEAL Training

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

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

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

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

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

### Top Government Officials Amazed

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

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

### Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

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

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

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

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

### Guaranteed To Work In Your Most Nightmarish Hostile Situation

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

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

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



Official SEAL SCARS-CFC  
Creator Jerry Peterson

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Free Special Report Reveals GUN And KNIFE Fighting Secrets

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

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

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

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

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

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### ULTIMATE SNIPER: THE VIDEO with John Plaster and Carlos Hathcock

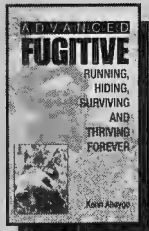
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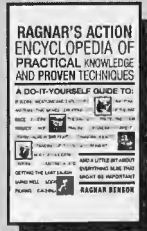


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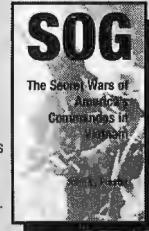
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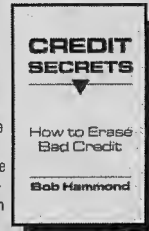
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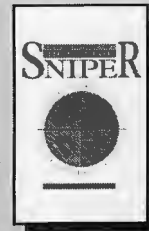
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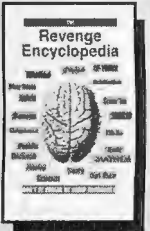
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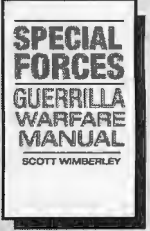
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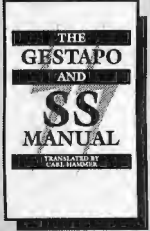
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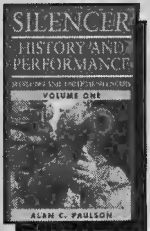
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## Package Check

Five or six years ago presidential candidate Bill Clinton appeared on MTV, the music-video/alternative-news channel. During a Q&A session with a studio audience, the *Hunk from Hope* (Ark.) happily responded to a young woman's irreverent question about his personal choice in underwear: Boxer shorts or briefs?

Nowadays, the burning question pertains to the contents of said underwear. Specifically, what are the "distinguishing characteristics in Clinton's genital area that were obvious" to sexual-harassment litigant Paula Jones?

Perhaps any forthcoming U.S. District Court trial in *Clinton vs. Jones* will not have to go there ...

### The Scarlet Letter

The Supreme Court ruled, 9-0, this spring that President Clinton does not enjoy "categorical immunity" against lawsuits unrelated to his official duties. This means Jones may pursue her suit against the former governor of Arkansas. She seeks a public apology (or something resembling an apology) from Clinton, and \$700,000 in damages.

Jones alleges that in 1991, while she was a clerical worker for the state government, the governor invited her (through a state trooper moonlighting as procurer) to a Little Rock hotel room.

There, Gov. Clinton allegedly dropped trou and asked for oral sex; Jones says she indignantly refused. The president says it never happened. In 1994, Jones sued. Two lower-court rulings and one near-settlement later, *Clinton vs. Jones* went to the high court.

There, Clinton's lawyers argued for *presidential privilege*: His executive duties keep him too busy to be bothered by lawsuits, so the case should be postponed until after his second and final term. (One lawyer earlier had speculated that Clinton, as commander in chief, enjoyed protection under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act. Editorial cartoonists nationwide had fun with *that boner*.)

The high court's unanimous ruling on 27 May surprised Washington observers. News of it overshadowed news of Clinton's attendance at a treaty-signing meeting in Paris of NATO and Russian leaders. The administration's spin-doctors immediately went to work. "People who don't pay close attention will hear that the president lost nine-zip and jump to conclusions," a White House official remarked to a *New York Times* reporter.

Of course, the Supreme Court's ruling only allows the suit to continue; Clinton's guilt as a low-grade sexual predator has yet to be proved — although Slick Willie's reputation for adultery is now accepted as fact by many Americans. (Besides, JFK did it ...)

Legal experts quickly speculated that an out-of-court settlement and subsequent few weeks of bad publicity might be Clinton's easiest way out. It would allow the American public (with its short attention span) to forget and the president to move on with the affairs of state — and other nagging scandals. Clinton's personal lawyers might manage to further delay the case, too.

### Lessons Learned?

How Americans look at this mess depends on whose Gore is getting oxed.

This and many other publications (even of the "liberal media") have noted that feminist and women's rights groups — which supported Anita Hill and her ultimately discredited claim of sexual harassment against conservative Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas — have ignored Jones. Rejecting charges of hypocrisy, one feminist leader indignantly retorted that Jones was being supported by "a plethora of right-wing organizations."

And what about the Democrats — the party of the common man and woman, the



champion of lower-income Americans? Clinton apologists and party apparatchiks brazenly played the *social-status card* to discredit Jones, the working-class daughter of a small-town evangelist, as a big-haired gold digger, a bimbo, "trailer trash." A striking example of Southern Democrat nastiness came from the reptilian James Carville, former adviser to Clinton: "Drag a \$100 bill through a trailer park; there's no telling what you'll find." (This churlish remark reportedly killed prospects for a 1994 out-of-court settlement.)

This spring, at about the same time as the Clinton vs. Jones ruling, another messy affair — a *female Tailhook*, of sorts — was being played out. A hard-charging B-52 flyer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Kelly Flinn, left the service because of adultery and un-officerly conduct. The personal, even intimate, behavior of a crew member on a nuclear-weapons platform is the military's business. And because of passion, bad judgment, and probably a fair amount of jet-jockey arrogance, the Air Force lost a highly trained young warrior who happened to be a woman.

Further up the chain of command, the man in the Oval Office will be distracted, at least to a small extent, from his truly important duties by a highly embarrassing lawsuit over an alleged incident from six years ago.

Whether it is Lt. Flinn vs. the Air Force or Clinton vs. Jones, it is the American people who ultimately are the losers. ✕

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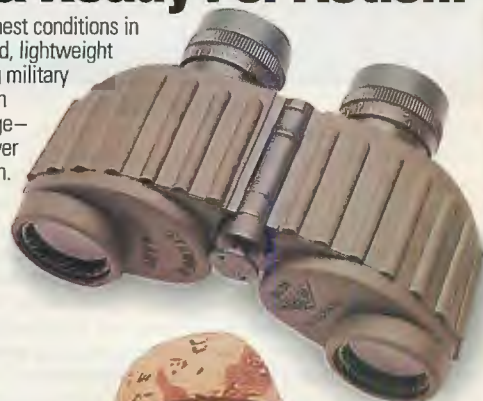
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# WORLD SITREP



1

## UNITED STATES

**Coming in fast and low:** Project to equip 31 ships — *Whidbey Island*-class landing ships, *Wasp*- and new *San Antonio*-class amphibious ships, and aircraft carriers — with defense against cruise missiles is delayed by 4 years until 2003-4, Navy reports. Reason: lack of money (up to \$7 million per ship). System comprises mid-range interceptor missiles, Phalanx close-range guns, chaff and electronic decoys, sensors, radar, fiber-optic “nervous system,” and computer. • **Hostile holograms:** Army researchers predict laser-generated 3-D images of U.S. tanks and other weapons, as battlefield decoys or psyops props, are technologically possible within 10 years. • **Politically incorrect:** A congressional report concludes U.S. military now incapable of fighting Gulf War-type conflict due to downsizing, overextended forces, low morale; Pentagon *civilian* officials quickly disagree.

2

## RUSSIA

**Oil and missiles:** Moscow media confirm Russia sent about 30 Scud-B missiles (conventional warheads) plus launchers to Armenia during its shaky cease-fire with Azerbaijan. (The 2 ex-Soviet republics have fought over the Nagorno-Karabakh area.) Western oil companies, investing in vast potential of Caspian Sea region, are alarmed by arms race and escalating tensions. • **Cold War revisited:** German officials say their nation is primary European target of Russia’s new spy services, whose methods increasingly resemble old KGB’s. • Deputy prime minister calls for creation of “Interpol-type” organization to combat thousands of crime rings operating in former Soviet Union. • **New defense for tanks:** Computer-guided system for late-model tanks, called “ARENA,” reportedly reacts automatically upon radar contact with incoming anti-tank missile. System then launches turret-mounted explosive block 5 meters into air; block detonates, scattering downward arc of pellets in missile’s path.

7

## CANADA

**Arctic after Cold War:** Military receives Pentagon offer of \$100 million in credit, for purchases of U.S. equipment, in partial compensation for environmental cleanup at about 20 old Distant Early Warning radar sites in Canada’s Arctic and old U.S. Navy base in Newfoundland. Controversial proposal, not yet approved in Ottawa or by U.S. Congress, would occur over 10 years.

8

## HAITI

At the request of local government, Canada pledges to keep 700 peacekeeping troops here through December even though U.N. mission ends on 31 July. Meanwhile, 200 U.S. paratroopers are brought in to practice protecting U.S. facilities. • Crime wave continues, and police casualties increase. Starvation seen in northwest area.

7

1

8

9

9

## HONDURAS

**Soldiers as cops:** Government responds to rise in violent crime and kidnapping by deploying 1,000 soldiers for police duties.

10

## ZIMBABWE

**Regional alliance:** Twenty-day peacekeeping exercise here involves local troops and deployments from Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Tanzania.

11

## SOUTH AFRICA

Post-*apartheid* crime wave builds, scares away foreign investors, forces large domestic companies to flee downtown areas of major cities. Growing public sentiment seen for reinstatement of death penalty. (Police/military task forces profiled in September '96 *SOF*.) • Parliament passes laws prohibiting citizens from participating in *unauthorized* mercenary activities.

14

## BOSNIA

War-crimes investigator resigns from job of finding 25,000 people missing in Bosnia and Croatia; cites insufficient budget and lack of NATO troops’ aid in excavation of mass graves. • **Kevlar add-ons:** U.S. Army trucks here are equipped with 300-pound ballistic mats as partial protection against land mines. • During SFOR mission, U.S. Navy flies P-3 surveillance aircraft (with long-range cameras) and EP-3s for signals intercept over Bosnia and Albania.

15

## TURKEY

**Religion and politics:** Infighting pits army, influential and traditionally secular, against Islamic government of Prime Minister Erbakan. Army leaders declare Islamic fundamentalism as greatest threat to national security, order closure of religious secondary schools.

3

### BELGIUM

**Not 'all for one':** Fierce rivalry between European and U.S. arms industries for international sales promotes incompatibility of weapons among NATO member nations, officials in Brussels headquarters say. National pressures to protect defense industry plus a lack of central threat (Soviet Union) make it difficult for NATO leaders preaching unity.

4

### CHINA

**No more 'human waves':** Mainland China is steadily upgrading its armed forces, emphasizing high-tech weapons overall and mechanization of (smaller) army over sheer numbers of infantry, Pentagon concludes. Other funding priorities for next 20 years appear to be combat aviation, air defense, warships, spy satellites, and large arsenal of cruise and ballistic missiles.

5

### ISRAEL

**Obsolete gas masks?** Concluding that hostile Syria has VX nerve gas (deliverable via missiles), government to spend \$15 million to upgrade civil-defense equipment. Jerusalem warns Damascus its military response to gas attack would be "many times" worse — possibly a veiled reference to nuclear weapons.

6

### IRAN

Revolutionary Guard's largest-ever wargame, called "Road to Jerusalem," involves 200,000 troops engaged in infantry and airborne ops, amphibious landings to "recapture" Henqam and Qeshm islands, and launches of tactical missiles (including anti-ship). • **Choke-point challenge:** Revolutionary Guard's commander says Iranian forces — which include 3 Kilo-class diesel submarines — could, if necessary, close the Strait of Hormuz to hostile nations and keep it open to friendly ones. (Much of West's oil, in tankers, passes through the 30-mile wide strait.) Blockade threat not new: During Soviet war in Afghanistan, U.S. planners projected worst-case scenario of Soviet invasion of Persian Gulf via Iran.



12

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**SAM sales:** Pentagon warns Abu Dhabi government that if it buys Russian S-300V (SA-12) long-range air-defense missiles — which lack NATO-compatible "identify friend or foe" equipment — instead of Patriot system, U.S. aircraft will not be able to operate in UAE airspace. (U.S. SecDef Cohen reportedly made similar warning to South Korea.)

13

### PAKISTAN

First *Agosta 90-B* diesel sub, built in France, to be delivered in 1998 as part of \$943-million deal. After that, two more to be built locally in joint venture with French shipbuilder. Subs to carry torpedoes and *Exocet* anti-ship missiles and significantly boost capability of navy (which is dwarfed by rival India's).

18

### NORTH KOREA

**Bad signs:** Government reports deaths of nearly 150 children from malnutrition; U.N. aid agency says famine there is "virtually inevitable." Japanese government speculates North Korea has turned to narcotrafficking for foreign currency following seizure there of freighter carrying cache of drugs. U.S. officials say recent North Korean military maneuvers might have been in response to civil unrest.

16

### BRITAIN

Military leaders see battle looming with newly victorious Labour Party over campaign pledge to decrease military presence (now 23,000 troops) in Germany. Top brass fear large pull-out would damage Britain's credibility in NATO and cost nearly (U.S.) \$4 billion.

17

### UKRAINE

**Show them the money:** Income source for cash-strapped armed forces — besides international sales of Soviet armor and aircraft left behind in 1991 — is non-military work: Army trucks are hired out for freight shipments, combat engineers build railroads, and air force charters aircraft.

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# THE BLAME GAME



## **FMLN Turncoat Entangled In Top- Secret Turf War**

Text & Photos by  
Dale Andradé

*Editor's note: The author is not related to the subject of this report.*

**T**he recruitment of unsavory characters is a fact of life at the Central Intelligence Agency. It happens all of the time, but every once in a while one of them surfaces and causes a public stir.

Most recently, a Guatemalan military officer connected to human-rights abuses was found to be on the CIA payroll. This outrage — and others — have led to a purge of CIA “assets” thought to be involved in “serious criminal activity.”

But there is one case that has escaped much notice, despite the fact that it has connections to a bloody incident in El Salvador more than a decade ago: the massacre of four unarmed U.S. Marine Corps embassy guards, plus bystanders, at a restaurant in the *Zona Rosa* section of downtown San Salvador.

On 25 March, an immigration court in Newark, N.J., ruled that one Pedro Antonio Andrade, a legal resident in the United States, must be deported to El Salvador because of his alleged role in the 1985 massacre.

How could someone suspected of such a heinous crime be allowed into this country in the

**Salvadoran infantrymen bore the brunt of the civil war.**

first place? Good question. The kicker is that Andrade was suspected of planning the massacre even before he came to the United States — and he later was paid more than \$20,000 by the CIA.

### From Salvador To Jersey

During the 1980s, Andrade was a guerrilla leader in the *Partido Revolucionaria de los Trabajadores Centroamericana (PRTC)*, one of five branches of the *FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front)*, the communist organization fighting to overthrow the government of El Salvador. Various reports linked Andrade to the PRTC's urban terrorist cell, the *Mardoqueo Cruz Urban Commandos*, the group respon-

sible for the Zona Rosa massacre.

For six years now, Andrade has lived a peaceful life in New Jersey. There is no evidence that he has broken any laws on U.S. soil. But a long-simmering feud between the CIA and the departments of State and Justice over the way in which he was allowed into the United States insured that he would not be left alone forever.

Late last summer, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) moved to "exclude" Andrade as a "person without documents" because his parole (legal status to live in the United States) had expired in April 1993. In November, they arrested him in Patterson, N.J..

Andrade's lawyers were outraged.

According to attorney Anne Blanchfield, the hearings were not even necessary because Andrade followed all of the rules. "He did reapply," she says, "but his application was never granted; it seems like there is no paperwork on it." However, INS officials say "there is no record that Andrade requested an extension of his parole."

But this is only part of the defense. According to Blanchfield, Andrade was really not part of the FMLN at all, having "resigned in 1988" because "he was in disagreement with certain policies." But the FMLN refused to accept Andrade's resignation, she said, and "set him up to be arrested by the police."

And what about the evidence against Andrade in connection with the Zona Rosa murders?

"There's no evidence whatsoever," says Blanchfield. She discounts the testimony of former guerrillas as either coerced or bought. She also points out that a polygraph test administered by Salvadoran officials exonerated him. The bottom line, says Blanchfield, is that Andrade would almost certainly be killed if he were forced back to El Salvador.

Indeed, Andrade might have plenty to worry about. As a former high-ranking guerrilla he is sure to have enemies still in the government; as a turncoat who ratted on his former comrades, it also seems likely that there are many on the left who would not mind seeing him dead.

### Information For Sale

The Zona Rosa massacre brought home the reality of guerrilla war to Americans who thought the conflict in El Salvador could be fought from the sidelines. Insurgents are more than willing to use terror in their cause, and they will invariably bring it to bear at the most unexpected times.

On 19 June 1985, the target was Chili's, an American-owned chain restaurant frequented by American embassy workers. The attack was short but devastating. Four off-duty Marines died in a hail of bullets: Sergeant Thomas T. Handwork, Sgt. Bobby J. Dickson, Corporal Gregory H. Weber, and Cpl. Patrick R. Kwiatkowski. Two other Americans, employees of the Wang Corporation, plus six bystanders were also killed and several others wounded.

The investigation into the murders went nowhere. Salvadoran police lost track of witnesses and evidence as sightseers trampled the bloody crime scene. A month and a half later there was not a single lead in the case.

Then on 4 August 1985, U.S. Border Patrol agents caught a man named Juan



Salvadoran infantrymen take a breather during ops against FMLN guerrillas in Usulután province in August 1985, two months after Zona Rosa massacre.

Miguel Garcia Melendez trying to sneak over the border into San Diego. Knowing the game was up, Garcia whispered to Border Patrol agents that he had information on the Zona Rosa massacre — if the U.S. government would pay him the \$100,000 reward offered by the State Department for information leading to the capture of the murderers. The Border Patrol, and later FBI agents, interrogated Garcia.

Garcia admitted to being a member of the PRTC, but claimed he was just an underling. On the afternoon of 19 June, he claimed, he was working at an upholstery shop in San Salvador that doubled as a safehouse; there, two guerrillas, William Celio Rivas Bolanos and a man he knew only as “Ulises,” bragged that they were going to “kill some gringos.” Rivas recalled he paid no heed, but that night he heard on the radio that four U.S. Marines had been murdered in the Zona Rosa.



Garcia got none of Washington’s reward money. Instead, on 16 August he was placed on a plane back to El Salvador, where police arrested him as he stepped onto his native soil. Charged with “subversive association,” Garcia spent the next seven and a half years in prison.

His information, however, paid big dividends. Police raided the upholstery shop and captured Rivas and another man who was later found to have no connection to the guerrillas. Unfortunately, police missed another key suspect, Ismael Dimas Aguilar, the man known as “Ulises.” Police apparently forgot to cover the back door and Dimas escaped.

### The Usual Cold War Suspects

Over the next two years, Salvadoran police rounded up five guerrillas involved in the murders (two others were later killed during battles in other parts of El Salvador), but these were the shooters — not the bosses. One leader they really wanted was a

shadowy figure known as “Mario Gonzales.” His real name was Pedro Antonio Andrade, commander of the PRTC’s urban operations. By the beginning of 1986, both the CIA and the Salvadoran government strongly believed that Andrade was behind the murders.

Then in May 1989, Salvadoran police captured Axel Armando Orellana Mena, a ranking member of the PRTC’s Central Committee. He, too, knew all about Andrade, insisting he was behind both the planning and execution of the attack. Based on Orellana’s interrogation, Salvadoran police soon pinpointed Andrade’s location. On 28 May, they nabbed him.

Andrade’s capture paid off. Less than a week later, Andrade led Salvadoran troops to the biggest weapons cache ever captured during the long civil war. At three different sites around the city police found 343

Kalashnikov rifles, a half-million rounds of ammunition, and dozens of explosive devices. Andrade claimed the weapons came from North Korea, Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Soviet Union — the usual suspects.

He told his interrogators that Havana’s Directorate of Special Operations “planned, coordinated and supervised training and logistical support for the FMLN and planned FMLN operations against strategic or special targets. Cuban diplomats in Mexico provided funds and documentation, such as visas and false identity papers, to FMLN members.”

Nicaragua was the bridge over which all of this passed, and Andrade provided detailed descriptions of the logistical effort as well as the names and identities of many of those involved. The CIA concluded that this “active” involvement by Cuba and Nicaragua was “instrumental in allowing the FMLN to continue hostile activities in El Salvador.”

### A Little Fish – Or Big?

Not surprisingly, the Zona Rosa killings came up immediately during the interrogation. Andrade adamantly denied that he was the mastermind, admitting only that he was ordered to set up routes to and from the Zona Rosa and to obtain medical supplies before the attack. He said he was not told the reason for any of this.

Who, then, planned the attack?

Andrade pointed the finger at Jose Manuel Melgar, a PRTC Political Commission member in charge of directing the activities of the *Mardoqueo Cruz* cells beginning in May 1985. The attack, said

Salvadoran army’s mission during civil war included pacification of rural communities formerly under guerrillas’ control.





Andrade, was to be Melgar's big entrance into the world of urban terrorism.

On the other hand, according to a Justice Department report, Andrade admitted that although he was not aware of what Melgar was up to, "he knew full well that he was participating in the overall plan which would be carried out at some time in the near future" and that whatever happened, it would be directed against "gringos."

There was also a strange twist to the case.

Two days after his arrest, Salvadoran officials asked the U.S. Embassy if Andrade might be an American citizen. It seems that police found a U.S. social-security number for him, a California identification card, a check-cashing card issued in 1981 indicating that he worked for the Marriott Corporation, and a slip of paper with an address in Cliffside Park, N.J.

According to the Justice Department, Andrade said he had entered the United States illegally during the early '80s and was living with relatives in Los Angeles. He returned to Central America because, he discovered, "it was just as safe to be fighting in the jungles of El Salvador as it was to be on the streets of Los Angeles."

### Intel-Gathering Vs. Justice

The Justice Department was thrilled to hear that there might be a break in the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Murtagh, the lawyer assigned to the Zona Rosa case, visited CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., on 30 May 1989, two days after Andrade's capture. Murtagh was shown a classified cable just in from San Salvador: A man known as "Mario Gonzales" (at the time they did not know his real name was Pedro Andrade) had been captured and he wanted to make a deal. "I can tell you something about Zona Rosa," the man was quoted as saying, "but only if I can come to the United States."

Murtagh recalled a CIA lawyer told him that "Gonzales might be involved in the Zona Rosa matter, but that CIA station officers in El Salvador could not wait to get their hands on him." Did the Justice Department have any objections to a parole for "Gonzales" so he could become a CIA asset?

After poring over Zona Rosa documents, Murtagh realized that this was the man they were looking for. In a phone conversation with CIA lawyers the following day, he "expressed strong concerns about the CIA's request for parole in light of the fact that the CIA had previously identified him [Gonzales/Andrade] as being involved in

the Zona Rosa murders."

To the CIA, though, intelligence-gathering came first; Andrade clearly had much to tell. Still, because of the possible connection between him and the Zona Rosa murders, the Agency feared it might get caught up in a criminal investigation. The Justice Department, on the other hand, felt the crime at Zona Rosa superseded Andrade's intelligence value. A bureaucratic fight was

trial in the United States for the murders. But no one was willing to do that unless they were certain that Andrade had not been involved.

On 5 July 1989, the U.S. Embassy asked the Salvadoran police to give Andrade a polygraph test. They did, and reported that he mostly was truthful about not being involved in the procurement of weapons for the attack, but said his responses on three questions pertaining to planning the attack were "inconclusive." However, a second polygraph test on 20 July seemed to bear out Andrade's claims. The Salvadorans decided he was being truthful.

The Justice Department was not persuaded. Murtagh recalls that none of the FBI's experts examined the results of the polygraph, and that regardless of what the Salvadorans claimed, he was becoming more convinced with every passing day that Andrade was involved in the murders. No one else, however, seemed to care.

On 11 September, a cable signed by the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, William Walker, officially asked the Department of Justice not to seek the extradition and prosecution of Andrade. His message said that the "evidence does not support a finding that [Andrade] was involved in either the planning or implementation of the crime," and attacked the credibility of the witnesses who fingered him.

However, the appearance of bureaucratic tidiness is deceiving. Although Ambassador Walker signed the cable, it was written by Richard Chidester, the State Department's legal officer in El Salvador between March 1989 and June 1991. Chidester appears to have been acting *not* for the U.S. Embassy, but on behalf of the CIA — which wanted Andrade

brought to the United States without the threat of prosecution. (After the episode came under investigation in 1995, Chidester claimed that the "whole idea" came straight from the CIA station in El Salvador, which directly asked him if there was some way to get Andrade into the United States.)

On 25 September, the CIA station sent a message to Langley requesting permission to provide financial assistance to Andrade's family, which was already living in the United States. The station chief said that Andrade had agreed to tell everything he knew about the FMLN and its activities, and to make a video "unmasking the FMLN." In return, Andrade wanted a promise of clemency and a cash settlement of \$10,000 for himself and his family.

The CIA went one step further, setting



Salvadoran artillery battery prepares to fire in support of army patrol in contact with guerrillas.

in the offing; after a plea from the CIA for "assistance in calming [the Justice Department] down for a few days," allies in Washington intervened.

On 2 June, the station got special permission from Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Richard Kerr to debrief Andrade, but only if the subject of the Zona Rosa attack was not brought up. If it was, read the instructions, "Station participants were immediately to excuse themselves from the interview."

### A Tangled Web

Of course, there was no way to separate the Zona Rosa killings from other intelligence matters. The CIA knew that Andrade was unlikely to cooperate unless he was offered assurances that he would not face



up a fund of \$20,000 for the family and promising additional money if Andrade's revelations proved valuable. According to the CIA, this was done because Chidester assured them that "Justice [Department] had no intention of prosecuting Andrade."

Apparently, the CIA and the Justice Department were not actually talking to one another.

### **"Pulled A Fast One"**

For two months the Justice Department, CIA, and the State Department haggled over what to do with Andrade, but no minds were changed.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Murtagh led the faction that believed Andrade was involved in the murders, while the CIA argued that since nothing could be proved, it made more sense to exploit Andrade's intelligence value. With no agreement in sight, all parties agreed to refrain from any unilateral action.

There it stood. The Justice Department could not charge Andrade without help from the CIA. Although Murtagh believed the Agency could provide evidence against Andrade, he knew that CIA case officers would never "be made available to testify at trial." So the next best thing was keeping Andrade out of the United States, the one place he really wanted to go.

Despite objections and supposed agreements, the State Department officially requested a parole for Andrade on 27 March 1990. Again, the man behind it all was Richard Chidester. He sent copies of the request to the CIA and the FBI, but not to

the Department of Justice's lawyers or his own State Department Legal Adviser's Office, both of which had objected to Andrade's parole all along. Chidester said that his actions were necessary because Andrade was in "grave danger of being murdered by his former comrades."

The request was hand-carried to the INS as a "hot case" demanding immediate attention. On 24 April, the INS approved a three-year parole for Andrade in the United States.

This certainly looks like an underhanded attempt to outflank the Justice Department, but Chidester insists that he was not trying to "sneak the parole request through the system. ..." Whatever the case, the cable was never received by Justice Department prosecutors.

Although Andrade's parole was approved in April, he remained in El Salvador in order to provide the CIA with more "detailed intelligence information" and to make his propaganda video denouncing the FMLN. For about a week in early June he stayed in Chidester's home, according to the State Department, so he "would be more at ease and talk freely" during the filming. But it was all for naught. The CIA never used the video, which later was destroyed.

Then on 28 June, Andrade entered the United States, flying from El Salvador to Miami and then on to join his family in New Jersey. He was safe: The statute of limitations on prosecution for the Zona Rosa murders had expired nine days earlier.

Why did Andrade not come to the United

**M60 gunner aboard Salvadoran army UH-1 helicopter watches for signs of FMLN ground activity during resupply flight to troops in the field.**

States *immediately* after his parole was granted in April? It certainly looks as if the State Department and the CIA, well aware that the Justice Department did not know what was going on, wanted to wait until they were sure there was no chance that Andrade might be arrested and charged with murder.

Murtagh was "surprised and furious" when he learned, 12 days later, of Andrade's quiet entry into the United States. He immediately called his counterpart at CIA and vented his outrage, though he knew there was little he could do. Murtagh would tell investigators that he assumed the parole was all part of "a CIA operation" and that, with Chidester's help, Langley had "pulled a fast one." His supervisors agreed, but since there was no fraud on Andrade's part in all this, no one at the Justice Department tried to deport him.

Of course, all of this was going on behind the scenes with the American public kept in the dark. Not even the families of the dead Marines were apprised of the case: As late as 1995, parents still knew almost nothing about the investigation, nothing about the infighting between government bureaucracies, and certainly nothing about Andrade's parole. Then the mother of slain

*Continued on page 70*

# ONLY HITS COUNT

## Inside A Mossad Assassination



Maheer Altar/SYGMA

by  
Neil C. Livingstone  
& David Halevy

Agence France-Presse photo by Joseph Barrack



(inset, above) Fathi Shiqaqi shortly before his assassination by a Mossad hit team. (above) *Repubblika ta Malta*. 122 sq. miles of sun, shopping and scenic charm. "The Doctor's" last resort. (left) Supporters of assassinated Islamic Jihad leader, Fathi Shaqqa, unload his body from a plane at Damascus Airport, 31 October 1995.

National Tourism Organisation — Malta

The Arab was just approaching his hotel after doing some shopping. Carrying several bags containing new clothing, he looked like any other traveler on holiday in Malta.

The steps of the Hotel Diplomat were in front of him and he paid little attention to a young man walking purposefully toward him.

With narrow eyes and high cheekbones, the Arab probably regarded him as Asian and, therefore, unlikely to be a threat.

As the young man drew near the Arab, he jerked a Beretta pistol from beneath his jacket and fired three muffled shots in quick succession. The first two bullets, hollow-points, struck the Arab in the left temple,

but the third missed and struck a nearby parked car.

A woman bystander screamed as others on the street hit the pavement or sprinted for cover. The assassin ignored the commotion and coldly, methodically, leaned over and fired three more rounds into the Arab's bloody head. Then he rose, jammed the gun back under his jacket, and dashed into a small alley just behind the hotel, no more than fifty feet away. There, an accomplice on a blue Yamaha motor scooter waited, the engine revving, as the gunman leaped on and in seconds was extracted from the area.

So ended the days of Dr. Fathi Shiqaqi, known as "The Doctor," and leader of Islamic Jihad.

### Early Years

Born in 1951, in Rafahl, at the southern tip of the Gaza strip, Fathi Shiqaqi embraced the ideas and philosophy of Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser. In 1967, amid the aftermath of the Six Day War, he joined the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza.

In 1974, Shiqaqi finished his mathematics studies at Bir Zeit and, after marrying his landlord's attractive daughter, Fathiyah Chiyat, moved to Egypt where he studied medicine at Zaqqiy University.

While in Egypt, he established contact with the most extreme Islamic groups, including the *al-Tachfir wa al-Hegira* and the Egyptian *Islamic Jihad*. Both organiza-

tions relied heavily on the teachings of the blind Sheik Omar Abel Rahman, who was sentenced to life in prison for his part in the so-called "July 4th Conspiracy" to bomb a number of tunnels and buildings in New York City and is widely suspected to have been involved in the World Trade Center bombing. Shياqai became acquainted both with Rahman and the assassins of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat.

It was during this period that Shياqai also met his future partner in Islamic Jihad, Abed al-Aziz Oude. Ironically, the man who would later kill so many people, including children, became a pediatrician upon his graduation while continuing his Islamic studies at night.

Following Sadat's assassination and fearing arrest, Shياqai decided to leave Egypt and returned to the occupied West Bank.

Many of his friends and colleagues, however, were not so lucky, and were either imprisoned or deported to the Gaza Strip, where they became easy recruits for the new organization being created by Shياqai and Oude. Islamic Jihad was not designed to be a mass movement, but rather a revolutionary elite that would lead the masses to Islamic revolution.

To support his family, Shياqai took a pediatric position at Jerusalem's Augusta Victoria Hospital on Mount Scopus. He also worked part-time at another hospital, the Muqassad. Soon he came to the attention of the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency. He was first arrested shortly after his return, in 1982, and held in administrative detention for a short time before being released. Unintimidated by the Israelis, he returned immediately to his organizational activities on behalf of Islamic Jihad and acquired the nickname, "The Doctor."

In August 1983, Islamic Jihad conducted its first operation: An Israeli religious student in Hebron was stabbed to death by members of the organization, and in the aftermath of the attack Shياqai was arrested and sentenced to 11 months in jail.

Upon his release, Shياqai stepped up his recruitment efforts and began forming secret terrorist cells. Among those whose help was enlisted were members of the Muslim clergy. Recruits were provided with weapons and trained in the use of explosives, and then directed to carry out terrorist attacks.

Once again, Shياqai was arrested by the Shin Bet and jailed. In 1988, he was expelled from Israel to South Lebanon, but soon found his way to Damascus.

### The Master Terrorist

Shياqai was treated as a celebrity by the Syrian government and allowed to operate freely in Damascus. He was provided with a police escort and his bodyguards were permitted to openly carry weapons. From Damascus, he expanded his organization and formed regional headquarters in both Beirut and Amman. In addition, he established linkages to Palestinian students

studying in Europe, especially in Germany and the United Kingdom.

He communicated with his various cells in the occupied territories via the Islamic Jihad office in London. The United States was also used as a conduit from Shياqai to his followers.

From his home on the outskirts of the Yauq Refugee Camp near Damascus, and his office on the second floor of a shopping center at the camp, he wove his web of

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## Ironically, the man who would later kill so many people, including children, would become a pediatrician.

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deception and terror, and controlled every aspect of Islamic Jihad. Using secure fax machines, he sent encrypted messages to all of his terrorist units and personally directed every terrorist operation. In January and February 1995, the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) security forces raided the offices of Islamic Jihad in Gaza. During the raids, they discovered numerous faxes from Iran's Revolutionary Guards and from the Iranian National Security Council. The faxes described the transfer of money from Iran to Islamic Jihad to fund terrorist operations as well as specific instructions relating to suicide attacks designed to sabotage the Middle East peace process.

By 1995, Islamic Jihad was believed to have an estimated 500 to 600 active mem-

bers. Based largely in Lebanon and Gaza, it was not as well-known or as deadly as the other major Palestinian Islamist rejectionist organization, *Hamas*, but it was to become more active and murderous with each passing month. Particularly worrisome to the Israelis, was the strong Iranian influence behind the organization.

Shياqai's fate was settled on 22 January 1995. On that Sunday, two suicide bombers, both members of Islamic Jihad, blew themselves up at a junction known as Bet Lid. It was a gathering spot for those awaiting transport, and was crowded with young paratroopers returning to their nearby base from weekend leave.

The resulting explosions killed 21 Israelis, 19 of whom were soldiers. Sixty-eight other soldiers, both men and women, were wounded.

Within days of the attacks, Israeli intelligence had determined that Shياqai and his organization were behind the outrages. To support their claim, intelligence officials provided the Israeli leadership with various documents, intercepts, fax messages, and the testimonies of field agents. Shياqai never denied his role in the attacks and even bragged about them in an interview with a Monte Carlo radio station.

### The "X" Committee Decides Shياqai's Fate

On Thursday, 26 January 1995, the "X" Committee met in a second-floor office in the ministry of defense, located in the Hakiryah, a government office



Outside the front entrance of the Hotel Diplomat, Shياqai drew his final breath. Six shots, five hits, one confirmed kill, no friendly casualties: The Mossad taking care of business.

complex in the heart of Tel Aviv.

Most of the defense ministry's main offices are there, including those of the general staff of the IDF, Aman [military intelligence], the air force, and the navy.

The "X" Committee had been created by Prime Minister Golda Meir to help her deal with the unprecedented threat posed by Black September in the early 1970s. It is the most secretive governmental body in the Israeli government. The usual composition of the "X" committee is the prime minister, the minister of defense, the foreign affairs minister, the justice minister, and sometimes, but not always, the leader of the opposition or a former prime minister from the opposition ranks. This is to ensure that the committee's decisions are bipartisan and will be backed by both major parties.

During Meir's time, the "X" committee met like a Star Chamber and put individual terrorists "on trial" for their lives. A minister without portfolio, Yisrael Galili, served as the prosecutor. The Directors of Mossad, Aman, and the Shin Bet were prosecution witnesses, and provided incriminating evidence against each accused terrorist. The Minister of Justice served as the defense lawyer, arguing on behalf of his "clients" why they shouldn't be killed. The Prime Minister, Defense Minister, and opposition leader served as the judges who decided the fate of each of the accused.

Shiqaqi's own words were enough to condemn him. A little more than a month before his death, he gave an interview to an Arabic-language newspaper published in London. In the interview, he promised that "we will continue with suicide attacks on Israeli targets." And he added, "I believe in the Palestinian Covenant that calls for the elimination of Israel and I believe in the armed struggle and the Jihad [holy war] as the main path to liberate Palestine." Shiqaqi

was ruthless and clever, there was blood on his hands, and the Israelis knew that if permitted to live, more of their fellow countrymen were sure to die.

Following a lengthy meeting, the prime minister and the minister of defense instructed the Mossad to "plan and execute" an operation against Shiqaqi.

The Operations section of the Mossad is called "Caesarea," which is directly under

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### **Within every team there are at least two assassins, screened to ensure that they will never hesitate to pull the trigger once the order is given.**

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the control of the Mossad director. Mossad hit teams use the Hebrew name *chuliya* for teams or squads. Mossad had five hit teams between 1974 and 1992, but with the onset of the peace process the number had been reduced to three at the time when Shiqaqi was marked for elimination.

Each hit team is made up of 10 to 15 operators, including specialists in logistics, surveillance, intelligence collection, cover, security, communications, and exfiltration and escape, along with command elements and backup capabilities.

Within every team there are at least two assassins, chosen for their cool nerves and marksmanship, and carefully screened to ensure that they will never hesitate to pull the trigger once the order is given.

### **Closing In On "The Doctor"**

The section of the Mossad responsible for intelligence collection on Arab countries and terrorist organizations is called "Tzomet," which roughly translates as "juncture."

Israeli agents tried, with mixed success, to maintain physical surveillance on Shiqaqi in Syria and at his Yarmuq office and home.

More successful was their electronic surveillance of him, as they had managed to penetrate the Syrian switchboard that served the Yarmuq refugee camp and, therefore, electronically monitored both his home and office. In addition, from time-to-time a drone was launched from the Golan Heights in the direction of Damascus, barely 40 miles away, which picked up various signals intelligence regarding Shiqaqi. According to a senior Israeli intelligence official, they were able to track his activities about 30- to 40% of the time.

On at least two occasions, a high-ranking Syrian intelligence official warned the Islamic Jihad leader that the Israelis were monitoring him and that he was on their hit list.

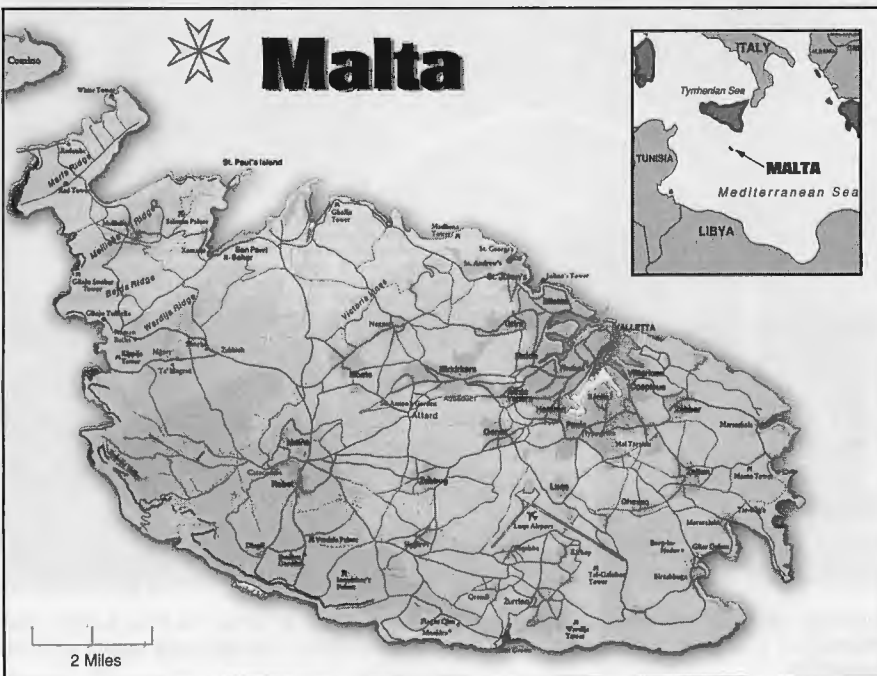
They advised him to reduce his travel, change his daily routine, and move his home and headquarters to a more secure neighborhood, which had once housed the notorious "Carlos the Jackal" as well as Syrian chiefs of security. Shiqaqi, for his part, distrusted the Syrians believing they were trying to better monitor and control his operations, since they were under enormous pressure from the United States and desired to be removed from the State Department's list of terrorist-sponsoring nations.

The Israelis were confident enough of their intelligence efforts and network within Syria to actually consider striking at him in Damascus. Any thought of doing so was preempted, however, when they learned from their eavesdropping efforts that the Islamic Jihad leader was planning a new trip to Libya, by way of Malta.

In the 1980s, Malta had been a Libyan satellite under its corrupt prime minister Dom Mintoff and was still a major transit point to Libya. Shiqaqi had visited Libya eight times during the previous three years, including four times already in 1995. On his most recent trip, he met privately with the Libyan dictator, Muammar Qaddafi. After Shiqaqi's death, Islamic Jihad said that held traveled to Libya to discuss the deportation of Palestinians from Libya, which had been ordered by the mercurial Libyan leader.

In reality, Shiqaqi wanted to discuss the possibility of moving his headquarters to Libya from Syria. He was deeply concerned that Syrian president Hafez al-Assad would cave in to Western pressure and crack down on various terrorist organizations operating on Syrian territory. It was possible that Islamic Jihad could even be expelled by the Syrians. To allay such concerns, Shiqaqi wanted to forge a new alliance and ensure that he and his movement would have a new base of operations and the freedom to operate without political restraints being imposed on them.

During each trip to Libya, Shiqaqi used a Libyan passport provided to him by the nation's security services, identifying him as "Ibrahim al-Shawish," a 43-year-old Libyan citizen. He also had Iranian and Lebanese passports, and a Sudanese diplo-





AP Photo/Jerome Delay

matic passport. Only the Lebanese passport gave his real name.

### The Operation

In early October, Shiqaqi departed for Libya. In preparation for his trip, he had shaved his beard and donned a wig. Once in Tripoli, an Israeli team monitored Shiqaqi's movements around the Libyan capital with devices that had been secretly planted in his hotel room and among his personal effects. After two weeks, Israeli agents in Libya confirmed that Shiqaqi was about to return to Damascus, and the assassination operation went into high gear.

More than 40 Mossad operators — triggermen, operational intelligence collectors, security specialists, managers and communications technicians — were deployed to Malta, Libya, Sicily, and on the high seas. To protect against Shiqaqi changing his plans at the last minute and evading the trap set for him, Israeli agents were also lying in wait for him on the Tunisian-Libyan border and on the long desert highway from Tripoli to El-Alamein in Egypt.

The Mossad's Deputy Director for Operations left Tel Aviv under a false identity and set up his operational headquarters in Sicily. The chief of operations of Caesarea's assassination unit flew to Malta, and linked up with his advance elements, who were lodged in a safe house in Valletta. They set up a command control and communications (C3) center in the house, complete with cellular phones, computers, and sophisticated external communications equipment. Both men posed as wealthy tourists on vacation, and were even accompanied by "wives"

who were, in reality, communications specialists. All the participants used phony passports identifying them as tourists, businessmen, oil experts, merchants, and even a retired naval officer. A smaller C3 center was established in Tripoli, Libya.

Once the hit team arrived in Malta, its logistics officer provided them with a small blue Yamaha EXT motorbike, which had been brought to the island some weeks earlier by a now-vanished French citizen using a bogus passport. The Yamaha was stored in a rented garage and equipped with stolen Maltese license plates (Q.M. 6904) lifted from another Yamaha, now rusting at the bottom of the Mediterranean.

A high-speed boat, with two large inboard engines, arrived from Sicily at about this same time. Bearing Italian registration numbers and markings, it was docked at a small marina at Sleima, north of Valletta and across the Marxamzett Harbor.

The Israelis knew that Shiqaqi used a local contact, who subsequently was shadowed and his telephone conversations tapped.

On 25 October 1995, Shiqaqi boarded the faded yellow *Grenta* ferry in Tripoli's harbor (one of three Libyan National Transportation Company ferries that ply the night waters between Libya and Malta), unaware that he was being surveilled. Like all the other passengers, Shiqaqi paid 74 Maltese pounds (about U.S. \$225.00) for his passage, as well as an additional amount for a private cabin, and prepared for the 11-hour voyage that would include both dinner and breakfast. Once in his cabin, a young Mossad agent of Tunisian

**Israeli investigators examine the area where a suicide bomber blew himself up near a Tel Aviv shopping center, Monday, 4 March 1996, in retaliation for the Shiqaqi hit.**

origin kept close watch.

Ironically, the meetings in Tripoli had not gone well. Qaddafi had seemed just as intent as Assad in exerting his control over Islamic Jihad and using it as a proxy to achieve his own goals, chief of which was the consolidation of all Palestinian rejectionists (opponents of peace with Israel) under one Libyan-dominated umbrella. During some of the meetings, other Palestinian rejectionist leaders had been present, including Abu Musa, who had broken with Arafat in 1985 and subsequently become a Syrian puppet, and Talal Naji of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine/General Command. Naji was deputy to Ahmed Jibril, who heads the PFLP/GC and is widely regarded as one of the most dangerous terrorists in the world.

At 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, 26 October, Shiqaqi disembarked at Valletta's harbor dressed in a dark suit and carrying small suitcase and handbag. He presented his Libyan passport to the immigration officials and got his *ninth* Maltese entry stamp.

He climbed into a white cab and told the driver his destination, the Hotel Diplomat, a seven-story luxury hotel on the Sleima's promenade, and was dropped at the side entrance 15 minutes later. Oblivious to the eyes focused on him, he entered the hotel,

*Continued on page 65*

# SURVIVING THE PEACE

## El Salvador's Police And SPECOPS Battle New Breed Of Criminal

Text & Photos by Julio A. Montes

**IT** dawned as a routine day in San Salvador for the two police patrolmen. That soon changed.

While cruising the posh neighborhood of La Escalon, they spotted a vehicle that had been reported as stolen. But as they approached the car, the suspects in the "hot" vehicle sped away. The officer at the wheel of the cruiser floored it in rapid pursuit. Some of the six passengers in the fleeing car smashed the rear glass and opened up on the police with M16 rifles and MP5 sub-machine guns.

The patrolmen braved the gunfire, and the shooters barely managed to abandon their vehicle and jump into a second car. Farther up the road, the suspects were once more intercepted but managed to evade capture after firing on a house, a civilian car, and at least one other police cruiser.

A few days after this chase, a military squad was ambushed in El Salvador's Santa Ana province. The attackers — a gang of cattle thieves — brandished assault rifles and hand grenades and killed an army corporal and wounded a second soldier.

Two days later, the chief of police operations in the Western Zone was assassinated.

These alarming events did not take place at the high point of El Salvador's 12-year civil war. They occurred recently, at the beginning of 1997.

### Salvadoran SWAT

In a previous trip, I had had the chance to visit the

Salvadoran police special-response team, then in its gestation. I later heard the project had matured, so I contacted my friends Arturo Villeda and Gonsalo Gomez of the Civilian National Police (PNC) public-relations office and arranged for a visit to the PNC base at Los Planes de Renderos.

Subcommissioner Pedro Gonzalez welcomed me with open arms to the headquarters of the Police Reaction Group (*Grupo de Reacción Policial: GRP*). The meeting had been set for two days earlier, but was canceled when the unit took its first fatality: a corporal gunned down while on leave. The group was mourning the loss of its fallen comrade but remained on full alert due to the visit of several VIPs.

The unit was raised in November 1994 for use in hostage rescues and special police-response emergencies. The GRP was fully operational by June 1995, but at the time the group was limited to standard blue field uniform and lacked tactical equipment. Strapped as they were, the unit performed superbly in several rescues of hostages. The unit also was called out to arrest several barricaded and heavily armed fugitives who were cuffed without casualties.

The group recently has been deployed as back-up for the Anti-Narcotics Division in some major cocaine busts.

All of these successes were in contrast to another elite police unit, the Anti-riot Response Group (*Grupo de Respuesta Antimotines: GRA*), which was disbanded after several accidental shootings and accusations of excessive force. The former GRA has been reorganized as the Order Maintenance Unit (*Unidad de*



(above) Squad from *Comando Especial Anti-Terrorista (CEAT)*, El Salvador's *Delta Force*, climbs aboard UH-1H helicopter for a fast rappel onto a black target. (left) Police SWAT officers of *Grupo de Rescate Policial (GRP)* conduct close-quarter battle movement. Threat of hostage-taking by heavily armed criminals nowadays is grim reality of life in El Salvador.

*Mantenimiento del Orden: UMO*) and is trained by French advisers.

### New Equipment, New Training

Acknowledging the GRP's performance and the importance of this kind of police unit in post-civil war El Salvador, the government allocated additional funds for training and equipment in August 1995.

The various in-use 9mm pistols were replaced with 9mm SIG-Sauer P228 pistols. The Chilean-manufactured SAF submachine gun became the standard-issue police weapon but was displaced in the GRP with the Heckler and Koch MP5 family. The GRP's arsenal also includes several Mossberg 500 shotguns, while the sniper teams received the 7.62x51mm SIG SSG-3000 precision rifles. These weapons were complemented with U.S.-made Kevlar helmets, gas masks, black tactical uniforms, and Motorola portable radios.

Gonzalez was proud to show off his new hardware. The entry teams are issued new H&K MP5A5 and MP5KA6 submachine guns. The unit needs an assault rifle to complement these, so the group's leadership has requested 70 5.56x45mm H&Ks, either the HK-53 short-barreled type or the G41K version. For the moment, worn-out M4 carbines (the short-barreled M16) are in use, but an H&K rifle is preferred in order to streamline training. The G41K is particularly desired because it adheres to several NATO standardizations including the use of M16-type magazines, which are widely available in El Salvador.

The unit additionally needs four more SIG SSG-3000 rifles and

10 sets of sniper gear, three electric generators, eight sets of scuba gear, and two Zodiac inflatable boats. The GRP uses paintball guns for realistic close-quarter battle training, and 15 pistols and 15 "submachine guns" are needed along with 10,000 pellets.

As to the need for a light observation helicopter, the air force transferred two old UH-1Hs, but one crashed and the other had severe mechanical problems. Since then, four McDonnell Douglas 520N choppers have been delivered.

The requirement for a command vehicle has been partially met by PNC mechanics and GRP volunteers taking an abandoned GMC van (of the former national police agency) and transforming it with new parts, emergency lights, gun racks, and radio sets. The PNC has supplied the group with a small number of vans and Chevy Blazers.

As to training, the United Nations dispatched a number of U.S., Mexican, Spanish, and Chilean advisers for the new Salvadoran police force. Overall, they performed a decent job of organizing and training the new law-enforcement agency, but U.N. personnel





in general enjoyed a lavish lifestyle in El Salvador. (After all, U.N. headquarters in New York City picks up the tab.) Social outcry developed against Mexican advisers when one of the foreign policemen was accused of selling PNC-confiscated cocaine — but could not be prosecuted due to his U.N.-granted diplomatic immunity.

### Looking For A Mission

The road to peace in El Salvador has not been without “ruts.” As soon as the battlefield quieted in 1992, the Salvadorans found themselves involved in another type of conflict: the war against crime.

El Salvador remains an armed camp,

with treacherous criminal gangs filling the vacuum left by the warring communist guerrillas and armed forces. (See “San Salvador Blue,” March '97 *SOF*.) It is understandable that in this environment the government's emphasis is on support of the National Civilian Police. While this happens, however, the military establishment — which so courageously fought and won the civil war — has almost been forgotten and is now battling for its own economic survival.

The new PNC has been unable to replace the National Guard, which was disbanded in 1992. The National Guard performed as a rural police, and also bore the brunt of the counterinsurgency ops until replaced by the

army's immediate-reaction units: the legendary Airborne, *Atlatcál*, *Atonal*, *Arce*, *Belloso*, and *Bracamonte* battalions.

The PNC is now trying to control the cities but is unable to deploy enough officers to the countryside, where banditry on the roads is common. The western region has been afflicted by well-organized and heavily armed cattle rustlers while (similarly organized and armed) kidnapping rings operate in the eastern region. Organized crime dominates the flourishing drug trade.

El Salvador does not enjoy the clear separation of domestic law enforcement from active-duty military that long has existed in the United States (until the current administration in Washington, anyway). El Salvador's president has ordered an increase to 20,000 police officers, but in the meantime the army has been assigned to support the PNC, providing some 5,000 soldiers now involved in two rural police operations: “Vigilant” and “Golden Grain.”

Army patrols of five to eight soldiers are sent out under the command of two PNC officers, and for days at a time they comb the coffee and sugar-cane plantations as well as cattle fields. Patrols also roam the highway linking the International Airport with San Salvador where bandits prey on returning travelers.

Besides combined security operations, other important task forces have been organized. Visits by the Pope and several U.S. and Central American dignitaries brought together the army's elite Presidential Security Battalion (*Batallón de Seguridad Presidencial*) and the Special Forces Command (*Comando de Fuerzas Especiales: CFE*) with the GRP police unit.

### Shoot, Move, And Liberate

The army has concentrated its best and brightest in the CFE, which comprises the Special Anti-Terrorist Commando (*Comando Especial Anti-Terrorista: CEAT*), the Special Operations Group (*Grupo de Operaciones Especiales: GOE*), and the Airborne Battalion

(*Batallón Paracaidista*).

After spending some time with the GRP, I headed to the Ilopango Military Air Base to visit my buddies in the army.

Major Salvador Giralt Barraza, chief of the Armed Forces Protocol and Communications Center, had invited me to visit the Special Anti-Terrorist Commando — an opportunity I could not miss.

Upon arrival at the air base, officers took me to the training field where a platoon of masked men was assembled. The soldiers wore flightsuits, black bullet-proof vests, and protective masks and gloves. Their main weapons were MP5A3 submachine guns that likely were purchased in the 1970s but yet appeared to be in top condition. The other weapons were 9mm Beretta M9 pistols and a shotgun. Each man had a U.S.-



(above) Salvadoran naval commandos, armed with 5.56x45mm M4 carbines and M203 grenade launchers, move out on Zodiac rubber boat. (right) CEAT commandos frequently drill in hostage-rescue exercises. (below) Salvadoran navy “Protector” patrol boat is decked out with four machine guns: two .50-caliber M2HBs and two 7.62x51mm M60s. Well-armed smugglers increasingly use El Salvador for transshipment of South American cocaine and heroin.



# MUCHOS PROBLEMAS, POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

After 20 years of constant use, heavy fighting, and battered military budgets, most of the Salvadoran military's big-ticket items are almost worn out. Without delving into the rock-bottom defense budget, here is an overview of the problems and some potential solutions.

**Air Force:** One immediate, post-war need for the Salvadoran Air Force is to replace its aging jet trainers, which include the *Aérospatiale Fougas* and the Cessna A-37B Dragonfly. These will have to be replaced with an advanced trainer that also can be used for light ground attack and point air-defense missions. The United States is still the arms supplier to El Salvador, which likely would welcome the acquisition of McDonnell Douglas A-4 Skyhawks retired from the U.S. Navy.

As to tactical transport aircraft, the surviving pair of piston-engine Douglas C-47 Dakota transport planes ideally could be brought up to standards for maritime patrol duties. Air Force officers hope to be able to restore their sole DC-6 transport, but there are no plans to bring back the last C-123K Provider. Both of these old soldiers sit at Ilopango Air Base awaiting disposal. (Additional C-123Ks could come from U.S. and Venezuelan surplus.) Furthermore, two IAI-201 *Arava* short-takeoff-and-landing planes are still grounded and need modernization.

Helicopters are vital to Salvadoran military and counter-drug ops, and all of the UH-1H "Huey" workhorses need overhauling and modernization. The air force has a requirement for twin-engine helicopters for search-and-rescue (SAR) missions, but perhaps this requirement could be met by rescuing overhauled Sikorsky SH-3 Sea Kings from U.S. mothballs.

**Army:** Salvadoran armored units were equipped before the civil war with German- and French-made light armored vehicles. By 1996, army mechanized units were in poor shape. The dozen or so German UR-416 armored personnel carriers, acquired in 1975, had been in use for 20 hard years. Those that I saw have been rebuilt several times in the local motor pool.

The 90mm gun of the French AML-90 proved its worth during the war against the *FMLN*, but only five of the *Panhard* recon/combat vehicles were available for most of the conflict due to the lack of spare parts. A 1985 attempt to modify the AMLs with surplus engines from U.S.-made trucks failed. After that, 66 light assault vehicles were built, with U.S. technical assistance, on the chassis of old Dodge M37B1 3/4-ton trucks. The *Cashuat* armored vehicles

came in two versions: troop carrier, defended by the eight infantrymen's small arms; and gun vehicle, with 7.62mm M60 machine gun and .50-caliber M2HB heavy machine gun. These vehicles bore the brunt of the second "final offensive" of 1989.

One might think that with millions of dollars of U.S. aid over a decade, El Salvador would have been able to field an army with adequate armored vehicles. Not so.

The UR-416s and AML-90s remain the backbone of the armored cavalry — and are in need of replacement. A common chassis to facilitate logistics should be considered and, given the realities of the Salvadoran economy, modernized second-hand vehicles should be acquired.

Cavalry officers favor the M-113 APC to replace the UR-416. They could easily be obtained from U.S. surplus and perhaps modified by the U.S. Army to an "A3" standard. The M-113A3 version, perhaps a few with gun turrets, would be a great addition to the mechanized units. One problem, though, is that the M-113 is a tracked carrier that can damage paved roads; another is that it has an automatic transmission, which complicates local repair.

Another contender, particularly as a replacement for the *Cashuat*, would be the venerable "half-track" modernized to today's standards. A reasonable compromise might be reached with M-2/M-3 half-track APCs obtained from U.S. or South American stocks and modified to carry 20mm cannons or 120mm mortars in addition to machine guns. Cavalry Regiment troopers already have test-fired 20mm aircraft cannons for use on the *Cashuat*.

**The Navy:** The Naval Force was well equipped during the civil war with coastal-patrol boats and now can effectively patrol along the littoral areas of Jiquilisco Bay and Fonseca Gulf. However, the navy is incapable of satisfactorily performing its most important missions: SAR operations along the coastline, and security of the nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (ocean fishery area).

As large fisheries are depleted by other nations, their fishing fleets move south in search of other areas. Furthermore, drug runners have moved their shipments to the Pacific Ocean in hopes of skirting the screen of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships patrolling the Atlantic. The Salvadorans have been able to interdict only a few of these illegal shipments.

The largest Salvadoran patrol vessels have ranges of only about 700 nautical miles, inadequate for a constant presence within the country's 12-mile territorial limit.

— J.A.M.

made gas mask.

CEAT operators are tasked with hostage-rescue and anti-terrorist missions — which require excellent marksmanship. The commandos were happy to show their skills at the range, firing their weapons while going through several obstacles. To further exhibit their skills, I was asked to stand next to the targets while the commandos — wearing gas masks — ran through the obstacles and stopped to fire their submachine guns and pistols. They achieved excellent groupings on the silhouette targets and, I am happy to report, missed my head (although the experience did not help my churning stomach, already in bad shape from the previous night's rum).

Then it was the sniper teams' turn to show off. Armed with 7.62x51mm Steyr SSG69 rifles, these specialists shot at 500 meters into small targets: rubber gloves



Two types of Salvadoran warwagons that saw heavy use in ops against *FMLN* rebels: German-made UR-416 APC (left) with .50-caliber heavy machine gun, and locally developed *Cashuat*, here in gun-carrier variant with one M2HB forward and an M60 on each side.



filled with water. They easily could have accomplished these shots from even longer ranges.

During a mock hostage rescue, a squad of commandos was inserted by a UH-1H chopper. They quickly rappelled onto the roof of an old warehouse; within a few minutes, they had "liberated" two hostages held by a team of "terrorists."

## Salvo SpecOps Today

Those who want to join the CEAT must

go through a two-week selection process before attending a two-month training course that emphasizes close-quarter combat skills. Upon graduation, the counterterrorist receives his green beret and is offered additional training in one or several of the many military skills available to the CFE.

The Special Operations Group, the *GOE*, likewise is an essential part of the CFE.

During the civil war, long-range recon patrols (*Patrulla de Reconocimiento de Alcance Largo: PRAL*) and the "Hatchet" combat commando groups (*HACHAs*) became legendary in actions against *FMLN* guerrillas.

Today, the *GOE* comprises a headquarters group, a reconnaissance company with two *PRALs*, two *HACHA* units for reaction and combat exploitation, and the Naval Commando unit.

Continued on page 67



Teddy Roosevelt's

# ROUGH RIDERS RIDE AGAIN!





Doug Hyun

## TV Does Justice To An American Hero

by Dan Gagliasso

Photos courtesy of Turner Network Television

*"The 1st Volunteer Cavalry are without a doubt the best of American manhood. We've got Indians, New York policemen, football champions, bronco busters and bounty hunters — and one man I'm sorry to say, who used to work for the Federal Revenue Service. They represent the best of what America was. But these men will also turn a new page in history and lead us to what America should be."*

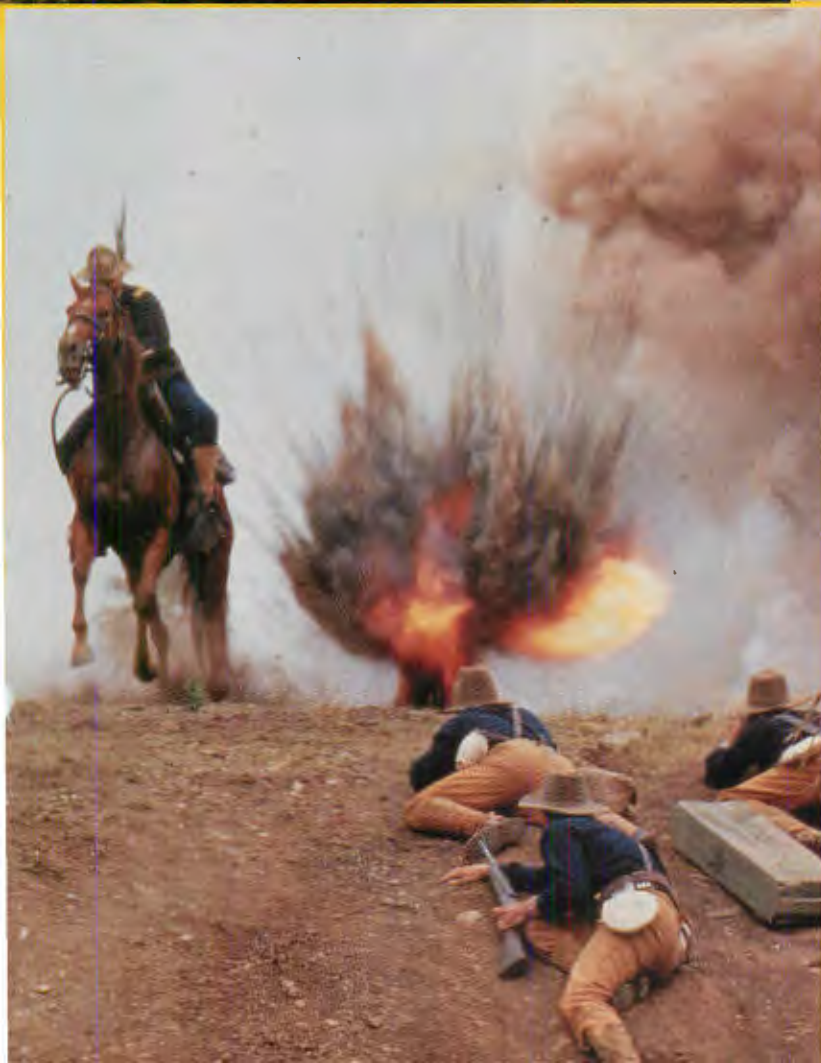
*Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt  
Second in Command  
1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, 1898*

### Santiago, Cuba, 1898

**B**locking the road to the Spanish garrison defending the city was Kettle Hill and San Juan Ridge. Spanish volley fire and errant American artillery rounds blistered the U.S. troops lying, sweating and dying in the high wet grass. They clustered behind cover awaiting the latest of contradictory orders. Roosevelt, atop his mount, Little Texas, yelled the order to charge. The ragged line of his "Rough Riders" and black troopers from the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry sprinted across the meadow, up Kettle Hill's initial slope, cut and ripped through the wire barriers, then splashed through a shallow lagoon. Up still another slope, they barreled defiantly into the Spaniards' San Juan Ridge position, firing and swearing, while the enemy lurched from their trenches and fell into a disjointed and desperate retreat.

Roosevelt, having already dismounted his wounded horse, ordered sustained fire support to his left, where lingering, but fading, resistance was still taking American lives. Although hampered by poor reconnaissance and a desperate lack of control, the battle was characterized by the troops' gallantry and their American commanders' reckless and inspiring leadership.

"A splendid little war," Ambassador John Hay had called it, as if it were a Sunday country outing. For those who endured the danger, their several-hundred-



Doug Hyun

(opposite page, top-left) Tom Berenger as Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt. (bottom, left) Aftermath. Rough Riders prepare for a semi-stand down following hours-long assault. (bottom, middle) Lieutenant Woodbury Kane (Mark Moses) at the helm of a Spanish water-cooled Maxim. (bottom, right) Sam Elliott, as Captain Bucky O'Neil, and Berenger's Teddy Roosevelt, confer. (immediate left) Horse soldier averts incoming arty as other Rough Riders assume the "heads-down" position.

yard charge into history was not splendid. *Glorious* is the accurate adjective and their deeds are hardly forgotten.

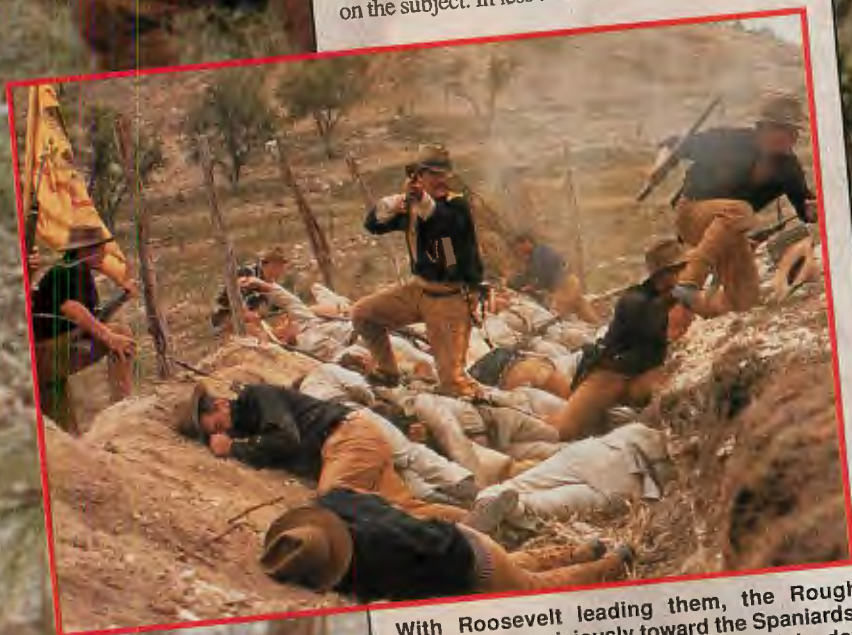
## Texas, 1997

Regimental standard and troop guidons once again dance in the breeze, amid artillery thunder, staccato machine-gun fire and hand-to-hand combat as Roosevelt leads his yelling and cursing Rough Riders, like a tidal wave, up to and beyond the crest of the bloodied Spanish trenches for

director and writer John Milius shooting his epic television miniseries, *The Rough Riders*.  
"Roosevelt was a visceral presence, a vibrant man who represented a new world. There's a symbolic quality about him, people boxing in the park, his children handing him a rifle at the range. He didn't need to look at the polls, he would just make a decision and then go off and enjoy some shooting," Milius said.

When actor and military history buff Tom Berenger, of *Platoon*, *Sniper* and *Gettysburg*, teamed with co-executive producer Larry Levinson (the successful production mind behind many epic western miniseries, including the two authorized Larry McMurtry sequels to the classic *Lonesome Dove*) and producer Bill McDonald, to shoot this \$20-million, four-hour miniseries, they looked to Milius, Hollywood's premier military-adventure writer/director, whose credits encompass the original Academy Award-nominated script for *Apocalypse Now*, *Conan — the Barbarian*, *Red Dawn*, *Farewell to the King*, *Flight of the Intruder*, and the only other modern film to deal with Teddy Roosevelt, 1975's *The Wind and the Lion*.

John agreed to do a completely rewritten script based upon his original research and unique take on the subject. In less than four weeks he delivered



With Roosevelt leading them, the Rough Riders charge viciously toward the Spaniards' trenches, the stifling heat of this July day nearly forgotten, as the heroic assault ensues.





## The Real-to-Reel Deal

Filmland Rough Rider and the upcoming series *Soldier Of Fortune, Inc.*'s commander, Brad Johnson is the real deal. So says his *The Rough Riders* and *Flight of the Intruder* director John Milius. A former hunting guide and long-time roper in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, Johnson is a hands-on physical type who is as comfortable with handling firearms and horses as he is negotiating the sometimes more treacherous business offices of Hollywood.

His numerous TV and film credits include *Always*, *'Nam Angels*, *Ned Blessing* and *Siringo*. This year will not only see Johnson as one of the major stars of *The Rough Riders*, but also starring as former Special Forces Major Matthew Shepherd in the new syndicated military-adventure television series based upon the title of *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine.

Johnson will honcho a team of elite ex-SF types on dangerous missions around the globe. Acclaimed producer Jerry Bruckheimer, who has given audiences such over-the-top hits as *The Rock*, *Crimson Tide* and *Top Gun*, is responsible for recognizing *Soldier Of Fortune, Inc.*'s cinematic potential. This is a show that promises to deliver the high-impact adventure that boosts ratings — and careers.

Brad Johnson's genuine appeal could be a big part of what many predict will be a lofty and sudden success for

the series and star in the independent and international television markets.

Johnson's *Rough Riders* co-star and former *Gunsmoke* regular, Buck Taylor, sees even bigger things looming for Brad. "Brad Johnson has the appeal and talent to become a major star in the tradition of John Wayne."

Heads up for Brad Johnson and *Soldier Of Fortune, Inc.*, going operational this fall. —D.G.



(top) Americans get a brief respite as Roosevelt and O'Neil size up enemy positions. (middle, left) Engaging the enemy, *Rough Riders* hit the wire and slice their way through. (middle, right) Roosevelt and advisers at a tense strategy conference. (bottom, right) Insect-riddled field dispensary is haven for fire-baptized wounded.

a 170-page first draft that motivated Turner Network Television's execs to green light this major historical project.

Once TNT committed, Milius set about convincing Tom Berenger that he was right to play Lt. Colonel Roosevelt. As executive producer, Berenger had actually wanted to portray a common cowboy member of the regiment. But Milius saw his possibilities.

"It was obvious to me that Tom was perfect for the part of Roosevelt."

Berenger is such an intense professional that he would only agree to shoulder the challenging role if he felt he could make his Roosevelt absolutely convincing.

His hard work with top rehearsal coach Steve Bridgewater paid off; his performance a well-rounded historical portrait that combines the qualities of a 19th-century nerd, amateur boxer, rancher, and political reformer with the yet-untested aspiring warrior who will go on to be one of America's greatest presidents.

With Milius and Berenger ready to move forward it didn't take long for other top talents Sam Elliott, Brad Johnson, Gary Busey, R. Lee Ermey, Brian Keith, Chris



Doug Hyun

**Wicked blast rocks Spanish entrenchments. Milius' celluloid homage to Roosevelt and his Rough Riders spared little expense, likely costing more than the real war extracted from American coffers.**

Noth, Francesco Quinn, George Hamilton and others to hop aboard.

## Little Equipment Available

Production logistics presented some unique problems: There was little or no military equipment of the 1898-era generally available for film rental; virtually no suitable uniforms were stored at any Hollywood costume companies; and period firearms were scattered about at numerous locations.

Most of the turn-of-the-century sets would have to be constructed by production designer Jerry Wanek and his crew. Various locations in Texas, ranging from the Conroe

*Continued on page 68*

## "The Likes Of Which We Will Never See Again."

**I**t was by all accounts the most unusual regiment the United States Army ever fielded in battle. Its members came from almost every corner of the then-44 states and four continental territories. Almost 70 of the regiment's number were foreigners hailing from over a dozen far-flung countries, though cowboys and ranchers did make up the largest contingent of Teddy Roosevelt's appropriately nicknamed "Rough Riders."

Yet 29 of the volunteer cavalrymen were also active-duty army personnel who requested transfer to the Rough Riders, or ex-troopers who had recently served on active duty. Many of these men had seen service against the Sioux and Apaches. The regiment's commanding Colonel, Leonard Wood, had not only been President McKinley's chief surgeon, but was also a Medal of Honor recipient for heroic service against Geronimo.

Acting Second Lieutenant Ernest Haskell was a West Point cadet, on leave, who craved some real-life battlefield experience. He got more than he bargained for when he was seriously wounded during the 1 July advance on Kettle Hill.

On the other end of the spectrum were the regiment's surprisingly large numbers of full-blooded Cherokees, several Lakotah Sioux and the son of a Pawnee chief, William Pollock. Upon enlisting Pollock insisted on having his shoulder-length hair schoomed. "I don't want to go into civilized warfare looking like a wild Indian," he proclaimed with a stoic face.

By modern societal standards many of the more previously conventionally employed Rough Riders might never have even considered military service. Sixteen lawyers, 14 journalists five ministers, and even four congressmen, also enlisted in the regiment's ranks. Captain William H. Llewellyn had even resigned his post as the Speaker of the New Mexico Territorial Legislature to eagerly sign up.

Lieutenant Charles Ballard was another New Mexico recruit who had also served as a U.S. Marshal. There were other famed western law enforcers: James Armstrong of K troop was the Texas Ranger who had captured famed Texas killer John Wesley Hardin. Trooper Ben Daniels had been marshal of the tough Kansas trail town Dodge City, and Chris Madsen and Tom Rynning were also well-known western lawmen. But then there was Private Charles Younger, the 22-year-old son of outlaw Bob Younger, who had ridden with Jesse James' gang.

The tough Westerners might have been best represented by one grizzled Arizona cowboy, Robert Brown (no middle initial!). He was said to have drilled at least five men in righteous cause and to have always kept his hand on the grip of a well-used Colt revolver, no matter what. Contrary to early Hollywood press agency, there is no documented proof that silent-screen cowboy star Tom Mix ever served as a Rough Rider.

If many of the economic power brokers of the time opposed war

with Spain as bad for business, many of their privileged sons and nephews did not. David Goodrich, of the rubber and tire family fortunes, joined the regiment early on, as did William Tiffany, Jr., the son of the famous New York precious metals' company family.

Woodbury Kane was the cousin of the richest man in America at the time, John Jacob Astor, and one of the country's most famous polo players and yachtsmen. There were Harvard, Yale and Princeton football legends, champion golfers and even a top tennis player. Many of these New York "swells" weren't recent college boys on a lark, but mature men in their thirties and forties.

The foreign members of the Rough Riders were an equally eclectic group. There were some 14-odd Germans amongst the regiment's members and 36 other hearty volunteer cavalrymen who came from every corner of the British Empire. These included 7 Scotsmen, 10 Canadians, 5 Irishmen, a Welshman and an Australian.

There were also Russians, Swedes, Danes, the son of a French Countess, a professional hunter from Alsace, on the French-German border, and two men who had served in the French Foreign Legion. The Rough Riders' second trumpeter, Emilio Cassi, was originally from Monte Carlo, Monaco. He had served in the Italian Army, had once been the first trumpeter in a troop of the famed *Chasseurs d'Afrique* in Algeria and, according to Roosevelt, had seen service with the legion in China. The Alsatian, Frederick Herrig, was an old hunting companion of Teddy's who proved to be one of the best horsemen, amongst many, in the Rough Riders.

Scottish nobleman Robert Munroe Ferguson had fought against the Boers in South Africa a decade earlier. Because of his previous military experience he soon found himself a 2nd lieutenant in K troop. Australian George Osborne was a former officer in the New South Wales Mounted Rifles. He joined up with the Rough Riders right at the 5th Corp's debarkation point in Tampa.

Joseph Sampson Stevens was the son of the Duchess de Dino of Paris. It was he and Willie Tiffany who privately purchased and presented the regiment the then-unique John Browning's Model 1895 Colt Machine Guns (commonly known as "the potato digger"), the first ever used by U.S. Army troops in combat.

Another unusual combat-tryed member of the Rough Riders was then-well-known actor Mason Mitchell, a personal friend of novelist Robert Louis Stevenson. Thirteen years before he had served as the British chief of scouts during the French half-breed-inspired Riel Rebellion on the Canadian frontier.

The Rough Riders had served a scant four-and-a-half months, but had seen some of the heaviest fighting and casualties of any unit involved in the short-lived Spanish-American War. As Roosevelt himself proudly said of them years later, "It was a different time. A different place and a different breed of men. The likes of which we will never see again."

— D. G.



# COMPACT KAHRS

**Deep  
Concealment  
For Close  
Range**

**Text & Photos  
by Peter G. Kokalis**

There is no shortage of compact semiautomatic pistols chambered for serious cartridges from which to select at this time. Compacts chambering either the 9mm Parabellum or .40 S&W rounds are today's hot ticket within a firearms industry suffering from an extended period of the doldrums.

First reviewed by *Soldier Of Fortune* in March 1996, the pocket-sized Kahr K9 remains one of the best choices for deep concealment and gun-fighting at close ranges. Kahr Arms (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 220, Blauvelt, NY 10913; phone: 914-353-5996; fax: 914-353-7833) has recently expanded its line to include a new caliber and a wide array of finishes.

Most intriguing is the introduction of the Kahr K40, a caliber .40 S&W version in essentially the same envelope as the 9mm Parabellum K9 model. Overall length of the K9 is 6.0 inches, while that of the K40 is 6.1 inches. The height, without a magazine, is approximately 4.5 inches for both models. This dimension provides for a full grip on the frame for all except those with extremely large hands. The width, with wood grip panels, is 1.115 inches. Width of the K9's slide is 0.90-inch, whereas that of the K40 has been increased to 0.94-inch to accommodate the increased pressure generated by the .40 S&W cartridge. Both the K9 and K40 have steel frames and weigh 25 and 26 ounces, empty, respectively.

The grip-to-frame angle (the angle formed by the front leading edge of the grip portion of the frame with a line perpendicular to the bore's axis) for these pistols is 13 degrees. That of the M1911 Government Model is 17 degrees.

New finishes available in either model (in addition to the standard black





oxide) include electroless nickel, stainless steel and the famous Black-T finish as supplied by W.E. Birdsong & Associates, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 1435 Monterey Road, Florence, MS 39073-9748; phone: 601-939-7448). Black-T is especially popular with those who move in the shadows, from elite military organizations to clandestine government operatives. The FBI's HRT uses Black-T finish on their pistols and MP5 submachine guns.

Black-T is a co-dispersion of fluoropolymer resin, Teflon and graphite, in a thermosetting binder. It produces a low-friction coating, free of so-called "stick-slip" (smear) characteristics, combined with excellent resistance to corrosion. Available colors are non-reflective black and NATO (olive) green (the latter is *not* an available option for Kahr Arms pistols).

This is an extremely low-maintenance finish — very little, if any, lubrication is required — as it provides a 0.08 drag coefficient which is superior lubricity to almost all firearms lubricants. In most cases, a lightly oiled rag is sufficient to wipe away accumulated debris and carbon fouling. There is no better finish for fighting firearms.

The Kahr K9/K40 slide is milled from either 4140 ordnance steel bar stock or 416 stainless steel. Its frame is a mill-finished, 4140 ordnance steel or 421 stainless-steel investment casting.

The 3.5-inch barrel, manufactured by the famous German barrel maker, Lothar Walther, has six-groove, polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.84 inches (250mm) for 9mm Parabellum and one turn in 16 inches (406mm) for .40 S&W barrels.

Polygonal bores provide a better gas seal, more consistent velocities, superior accuracy and ease of maintenance. The barrel lug and feed ramp are cut away on the right side to accommodate a projection inside the frame that houses the trigger bar and trigger-return spring. This brings the bore's axis somewhat closer to the trigger mechanism and thus the shooter's grip as well, and by so doing slightly moderates the perceived recoil.

As issued, the Kahr K9 pistol comes with wrap-around, textured-soft neoprene polymer grips. Originally developed for hard-kicking, magnum-caliber revolvers used for hunting, tacky synthetic-rubber grips do not belong on fighting handguns. If you happen to get an incorrect grip at the commencement of the presentation from the holster, you cannot adjust your grip any time during the drawstroke. Hogue, exotic wood, unchecked grip panels are available for the Kahr K9. Those whose lives may very well depend upon this handgun, are well-advised to install them.

The spring-loaded, serrated, magazine catch-release button is located in the conventional position on the left side of the frame, directly to the rear of the trigger guard. When pressed, the magazine will fall cleanly away.

The 7-round (9mm Parabellum) or 6-round (.40 S&W), single-column, detachable box-type magazines have six indicator holes on each side of their 400

**Kahr Arms highly successful pocket pistol is now available chambered for both the 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W cartridges — today's hot tickets in the new ultra-compact pistol arena — and in a wide range of finishes, including electroless-nickel (as shown).**



**Designed for deep concealment and gunfighting at close ranges, the Kahr K9 and K40 have become popular backups among armed professionals.**

series stainless steel bodies (tumbled at the factory to remove burrs). The two-piece black-plastic floorplate permits easy disassembly of the magazine, which should be done each time the pistol is cleaned. The floorplate extends slightly beyond the bottom of the magazine body and serves as a finger extension. The follower is also made of plastic, with a steel pin on the left side that pushes up the slide-stop lever to hold the slide rearward after the last round has been fired.

Evolution and product improvement of the Kahr pistol series is an ongoing process. Chamber dimensions of the K9 have been opened up 0.0015-inch to improve feeding with a wider range of ammunition types. The angle of the extractor claw has been increased to further enhance reliable feeding. The extractor body is now self-cleaning as a consequence of relief cuts on the top and bottom and a hole machined into the body. The steel recoil rod has been hollowed out to reduce weight. The slide's back cover fit has been tightened by use of an integral key way to reduce movement. Both the trigger and trigger-bar spring have been redesigned for increased durability. The slide's breech face is now broached instead of milled for tighter corner radii, which provides a tighter barrel-to-slide lock-up. Black-oxide, electroless-nickel and stainless-steel barrels are now finished, both inside and out, with nickel teflon for added corrosion resistance.

Both the front and rear sights are dovetailed to the slide. The blade type front sight, 0.14-inch thick, has a single white dot. The open, square-notch (which measures 0.15-inch in width) rear sight has a single, white, vertical bar centered under the notch. When fired under stress, these types of colored dots and bars are never seen. The rule for fighting is a "flash" front sight picture and the consequent reaction: "front sight, press." Both the front and rear sights are now a secure press fit. Trijicon 3-dot, self-luminous tri-

tium night sights are now an available option.

SOF was recently sent a Kahr K9 and K40, both finished in electroless nickel, for test and evaluation. All testing was conducted with Jacketed Hollow Points (JHPs) from Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150 — call for the location of your nearest dealer, if there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail). Any handgun intended for serious social purposes must be able to feed and function reliably with expanding ammunition. Both the Kahr K9 and K40 meet this all-important requirement.

Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) 9mm Parabellum ball ammunition invariably over-penetrates to an undesirable extent. A minimum of about 12 inches of penetration in soft tissue up to a maximum of approximately 18 inches is the desired range. That's exactly the penetration performance range designed into the superb Hornady XTP bullets used in Black Hills 147-grain 9mm Parabellum ammunition.

Hornady's and Black Hills' .40 S&W ammunition, when loaded with the Hornady 180-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) XTP bullet, turn in the best performance. Velocity ranges from 950 to 975 fps for the Hornady loads, and 850 to 890 fps for the Black Hills ammo. Expansion is stellate-shaped, with the points averaging .68 caliber and the flats at about .64 caliber. There is no fragmentation and this bullet will penetrate about 14.2 inches of soft tissue.

In assessing handgun ammunition, penetration is, without doubt, the most important single parameter. The bullet must penetrate deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the human body's vital structures and organs. Once we've obtained the required penetration, the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage. It's important to remember that if we drive a hollow-point projectile at too high a velocity, it will inevitably overexpand and reduce the penetration to an unacceptable depth. It may also fragment to an undesirable extent. There's a correct velocity for every handgun bullet, and it's *never* the highest velocity possible. Big game hunters understand this, but the Fantasy Island hobbyists who write about gunfighting in the popular gun press, with few exceptions, don't seem to have a glimmer.

## Method Of Operation

This locked-breech, short-recoil-operated pistol is a clever blend of both innovative and well-proven conventional features. The barrel and slide are locked together by a rectangular locking lug above the barrel's chamber which engages the slide's ejection port. This form of locking is found on the SIG-Sauer series, Ruger and Glock pistols as well. The slide-stop's axis pin passes through a kidney-shaped cutout in the barrel's underlug.

After ignition, the barrel and slide recoil rearward locked together for approximately 1/2-inch. At that point, the camming action of the slide stop's axis pin upon the cutout in the barrel's underlug pulls the rear of the barrel downward out of battery with the slide. At this time, the extractor withdraws the empty case and as the slide continues rearward the case strikes the ejector (pinned to the frame back, a separate component) and is propelled out the ejection port. The compressed recoil spring, which is quite powerful (and will cause some to have difficulty manually retracting the slide), drives the slide forward to strip another round from the magazine and chamber it upon locking with the barrel.

All of this is fairly mundane, but the firing mechanism is not and requires some explanation. Like the Glock, this so-called

"trigger-cocking" semiautomatic pistol has no thumb, grip or magazine safeties. When locked in battery, with a round in the chamber, the Kahr K9 is — ready or not — ready to fire. As the trigger is pulled, the trigger bar is drawn forward, pivoting the spring-loaded cocking cam, the left lobe of which engages the spring-loaded, three-piece firing-pin assembly, rearward. At the end of its rotation the cocking cam drops out of engagement with the firing pin, allowing it to fly forward and impinge against the primer.

Simultaneously, the cocking cam's right lobe lifts up the firing pin's passive safety block and the cam pulls the firing-pin assembly rearward from half-cock to a fully cocked position under full spring tension. A ramp on the right slide rail disengages the trigger bar from the cocking cam and permits the cam to reset itself, reactivating the firing-pin block. When the slide and barrel move forward into battery, the firing pin is caught and put under half-cock tension by the cocking cam. Trigger-pull weights on SOF's K9 and K40 test specimens were 6.5 and 6.25 pounds, respectively. Both were objectionably mushy as the trigger travel prior to let-off prescribes an arc of 0.6 inch.

—P.G.K.

In general, the best rule of thumb is to select the heaviest JHP bullets and drive them at moderate velocities. That means 147-grain projectiles in 9mm Parabellum, 158-grain bullets for .38 Special/.357 Magnum, 180 grains in .40 S&W and 230-grain pills for your .45 ACP handgun.

After firing several thousand rounds through Kahr Arms pistols in both 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W, I can personally testify to their robust construction and completely satisfactory reliability. The K40 bounces about a bit more than the 9mm Parabellum model, but not enough to bother any experienced pistolero. The accuracy potential matches the intended function of these weapons: close-range, high-stress, rapid-fire desperation shooting when all else has failed.

Depending upon the caliber, finish and sight options, Kahr K9 and K40 pistols carry a suggested retail price of \$538 to \$788, complete with one magazine. Spare magazines cost \$32.50 each. The optional Hogue exotic wood grip panels are priced at \$47.95. ❧

## Kahr K9/K40 Specifications

**Caliber:** 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W.

**Operation:** Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, trigger-cocking system with no thumb, grip or magazine safeties but with passive firing-pin block.

**Weight, empty:** K9: 25 ounces; K40: 26 ounces.

**Length, overall:** K9: 6 inches; K40: 6.1 inches.

**Height:** Approximately 4.5 inches.

**Width:** (at the grips) 1.115 inches (with wooden grip panels).

**Width of slide:** K9: 0.90-inch; K40: 0.94-inch.

**Barrel:** K9: Six-groove, polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.84 inches (250mm); K40: one turn in 16 inches (406mm).

**Barrel length:** 3.5 inches.

**Magazine:** 7-round (K9) or 6-round (K40) single-column, detachable box-type with removable base pad and floorplate.

**Sights:** Blade-type front sight, 0.14-inch thick, with a single white dot; open, square-notch (which measures 0.15-inch in width) rear sight with a single, white, vertical bar centered under the notch; both dovetailed to the slide. Optional Trijicon 3-dot night sights also available.

**Finish:** Electroless-nickel, black-oxide, stainless-steel or Birdsong Black-T.

**Furniture:** Black, neoprene-type polymer grip panels; optional Hogue exotic wood-grip panels at \$47.95.

**Price:** \$538 to \$788, depending upon caliber, finish and sight options; complete with one magazine; spare magazines at \$32.50 each.

**Manufacturer:** Kahr Arms, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 220, Blauvelt, NY 10913; phone: 914-353-5996; fax: 914-353-7833.

**T&E summary:** Reliable. Proper compressed envelope for both the 9mm Parabellum and .40 S&W cartridges. Designed for deep concealment and gunfighting at close ranges. Mushy trigger pull.

## Field Stripping

Remove the magazine and clear any loaded round from the chamber. Retract the slide rearward, about 3/4-inch, until the disassembly notch on the left side of the slide is aligned with the slide stop's axis pin. Gently drive out the slide-stop lever, from right to left, with a brass hammer or plastic screwdriver handle. Ease the slide forward under control. Pull the trigger to release the firing pin. Let the trigger go forward, to permit the passive firing-pin safety to pass over the cocking cam, and push the slide group forward and off the frame. Press forward on the recoil-spring guide rod and remove the guide rod and recoil spring from the slide. Lift out the barrel. No further disassembly is recommended. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order.

—P.G.K.



# **SOF REVEALS RUSSIA'S SECRET BATTLE RIFLE**

## **Radical New Design For 21st Century**

by Valery N. Shilin



The AN-94 assault rifle, right-hand view. Will this become the "Kalashnikov" of the 21st century? (right) AN-94 assault rifle, left side.

I first met Gennadiy N. Nikonov at Izhmash, a company of nearly 55,000 employees located at Izhevsk in the Ural mountains, when I was organizing experimental foreign-language classes to a special factory contingent best described as the advanced technical elite. The purpose was to enable them to read Western technical sources in the original. Additionally, and what I thought was of particular significance, this contingent had to get a special course of professional training to be better prepared for future direct international cooperation — to me, an incongruous mission for a defense factory in a closed city (Izhevsk became an open city only in 1992)!

Nikonov was then a 27-year-old engineer from one of the design bureaus. I was



**Russian arms designer Gennadiy Nikolayevich Nikonov, 47.**

not then aware Gennadiy worked in a central arms-designing bureau, since students were not allowed to disclose their professions.

Gennadiy and I lived in the same neighborhood. Once, walking with my infant son, I met Gennadiy on a similar mission with his own child. We stopped to talk, and our social encounters became more frequent.

A year or so later, I was promoted and came to work at the Izhmash Department for Foreign Relations. At the beginning of the '80s I

learned Nikonov also was promoted and appointed as a project engineer for a new secret weapon. Following the rules, I never asked him about his new job.

I left Izhevsk on an assignment to North Africa, and my contacts with Nikonov were temporarily suspended for security reasons. When I returned to Izhmash almost four

years later, I found he was known by almost everyone — he had become a star!

Word was that his new "Abakan" ASM assault rifle was far more effective than the famous Kalashnikov. Later, working in the Arms Marketing Division of Izhmash, I was often queried by Western friends and partners: "Who is Nikonov? What does the 'Abakan' look like?" The issue being top secret, I was not able to give any details until recently. *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine now has a unique opportunity to break this exclusive story to its readers. We shall begin with the latest news: The Abakan assault rifle was just recently given a new official index name (type classified), now listed as the AN-94 (*Avtomat Nikonova*, model 1994).

### **Gennadiy N. Nikonov**

The inventor of this new weapon was born on 11 August 1950 in Izhevsk, Russia. Both parents were employees of Izhmash, now Izhmash Joint Stock Company. In 1968, Nikonov graduated from technical school and came to work at Izhmash as a

technician in the Department of the Chief Arms Designer. While in school, Nikonov had a passion for underwater rifles and he received his first professional recognition for developing an interesting design for a trigger mechanism for an underwater rifle. While at Izhmash, Nikonov combined his factory work with attendance at evening classes in a local mechanical institute.

In 1975, he graduated from the Izhevsk Mechanical Institute as an engineer. His professionalism, diligence, and steady attention to business launched a meteoric career. He was commissioned to create various rifles including air-operated rifles and sporting firearms such as the stylish and accurate *Izjubr* (buck deer) carbine — an exclusive, limited-edition rifle.

With diverse engineering skills, Nikonov proved to be a good team leader and was appointed as a senior project engineer to design a number of both single-shot bolt-action rifles and fully automatic weapons.

His originality in solving complex engineering tasks led him to patent a number of

novel mechanisms and components. Gennadiy Nikonov also holds 42 copyrights. One of his unique developments was the straight-pull bolt for a winter Biathlon rifle. Along with such practical works, Nikonov also conducted several sophisticated research projects.

In the mid-1970s, Nikonov entered a post-graduate course as a Ph.D. candidate. In the period of 1980 to 1985, he participated in several leading-edge projects commissioned by the then Soviet Ministry for Defense Industry. One such project was the "Abakan" assault rifle. For his professional achievements Nikonov was awarded the honorary titles of "Best Designer of the Company" and "The Best Designer of the Ministry." Married with two sons, Nikonov and his family live in Izhevsk.

### The AN-94 "Abakan" Assault Rifle

The first public appearance of the Abakan rifle was in May 1993 at an exclusive arms exhibition in Nizhny Novgorod. Before that the new rifle had been shown

only to a limited number of people — either Russian technical experts or government VIPs. Soon after the show, a number of articles appeared in Western publications, but which offered scant information — the Abakan was still cloaked in secrecy.

I had been able to test and evaluate the Abakan in early 1991, but, due to its classified status, had been unable to write about it. The most prominent exterior feature is the extensive use of synthetic material (glass fiber-reinforced polyamide). An all-synthetic stock extends from the folding butt stock to a fore end.

There is what appears to be an underbarrel gas tube, but which, in reality, is a stock-extension rod with a firing-unit guide rail and an underbarrel grenade launcher mount.

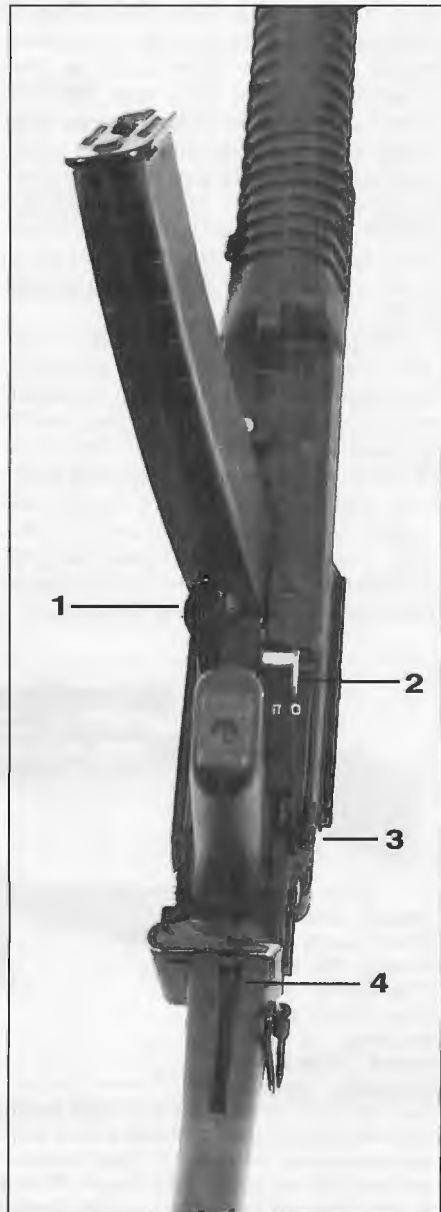
A small stud in the middle of this rod plays an important dual-function role: In automatic fire, both the barrel and the extension rod oscillate, and may develop a resonant bounce. To interrupt the frequency of oscillation of the rod and thus eliminate the bounce, the stud was placed in the middle of the extension rod.

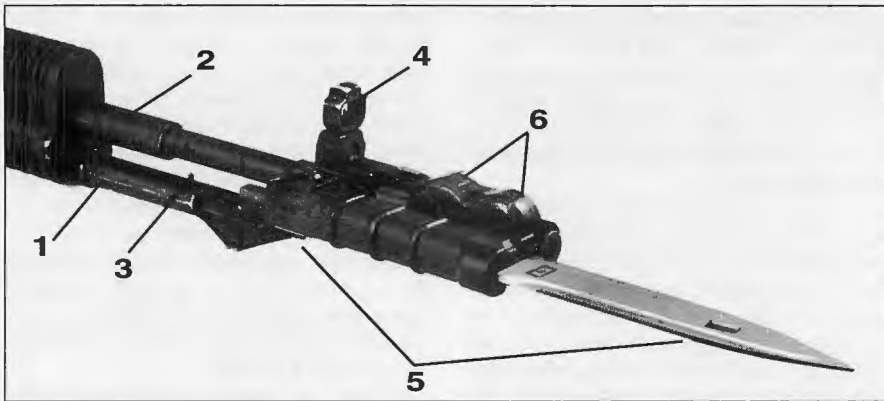


AN-94 assault rifle, with stock folded. Note extensive use of synthetics.



(above) Closeup of AN-94 shows 1) hinge for folding butt stock, 2) rotary asterisk-type diopter rear sight, 3) butt stock lock-release button, and 4) trigger-mechanism release lever. (right) Underside of weapon shows 1) magazine latch (the magazine attaches at an angle to give extra space for the return spring), 2) safety shift lever (position "II" for safe, position "O" for fire), 3) fire-mode selector, 4) cleaning rod.





Features at the muzzle end of the AN-94 include 1) stock-extension rod with guide rail and underbarrel grenade-launcher mount, 2) barrel, 3) stud which functions both as an anti-resonant-bounce device and a weapons lock in the firing port of an APC, 4) front sight, 5) bayonet, 6) muzzle brake.

Secondly, the rifle is adapted to deliver fire from the firing port of armored vehicles, and the gun is usually locked in its firing position by a special mechanism. To inhibit longitudinal sliding inside the lock, the stud serves as a retainer. The gas cylinder is located inside the upper hand guard above the barrel. All firing mechanisms, gas tube with cylinder and the receiver, are placed inside the synthetic stock also. The rifle's stock, which in other designs might be called a receiver were it made from steel or aluminum, serves in this instance not unlike the mount for a conventional artillery piece. The barrel and the receiver, integrated into a firing unit, travel inside the stock. The bolt and the bolt-carrier, in turn, perform their reciprocating motion inside the receiver.

The polyamide hand guard is integrated with the top cover. At the top rear part of the stock there is a rotary asterisk-type diopter with peepholes located at different levels for various elevations. One of the star points of diopter has two holes to hold a self-luminous tritium capsule, which enables an operator to conduct fire effectively in twilight or under conditions of poor visibility. A similar device is available for the round-post-type front sight placed inside protec-



Pistol grip integrated with trigger mechanism, safety lever, selector and magazine latch.

tive ears. The front sight may be adjusted for elevation and windage.

The muzzle brake is an original two-chambered design which, like the whole weapon, departs from earlier Russian small arms designs. Unlike earlier designs of small

firearms with underbarrel bayonet mounts, the Abakan has a side-mounted bayonet lug on the right side of the barrel, to enable better penetration capability in hand-to-hand combat. In addition, the bayonet in a horizontal position can be used to make swinging side cuts. Because of its location, both the bayonet and an underbarrel grenade launcher can be attached at the same time.

As seen in the photos, the AN-94 assault rifle is significantly different from the earlier Kalashnikov designs. Only five AK-74 components were borrowed by Nikonov: 1) folding-butt hinge with release knob, 2) pistol grip, 3) magazine, 4) optical sight base and 5) cleaning kit. The standard-column, detachable, box-type 30-round magazine is attached at an angle to give extra space for the recoil spring.

To disengage and remove the top cover with hand guard, the lever located at the front right-hand side of the stock is pivoted on its axis to the lower position. To remove the action, with the top cover removed, with the right hand pull the integrated firing unit holding the barrel until it comes free of the guide rails inside the stock and the stock extension rod. To strip the trigger mechanism from the receiver-like carrier-stock, depress the folding butt stock lock-release knob all the way through, and holding it in such a position, turn the smaller lever located above the pistol grip downwards.

The Abakan buttstock folds to the right in contrast to the AK-74 and AK-100 series. Folded in such a manner, the rifle unfolds easier and quicker from the ergonomic point of view and is handier to carry.

To absorb the shock of the firing unit in the rear position and to boost its return travel, the rifle has a buffer located inside the stock above the foregrip. The buffer interacts with the firing unit through the hook located under the barrel extension to the right of the receiver. To boost the return travel of the bolt carrier there is a shock absorber in the rear of the receiver.

The most significant feature of the Abakan assault rifle is the variable full-auto mode that automatically switches from 1,800 rpm to a 600 rpm rate after two rounds are fired.

The high rate of fire of this rifle is achieved by means of the following: 1) short travel of the bolt carrier, and that the return travel of the bolt carrier is accelerated by the spring of the shock absorber located at the rear of receiver; 2) construction of an integrated carrier-stock that features a buffer (located above the foregrip inside the stock), which assists the return spring by giving an extra impulse and accelerating the firing unit in its return travel; 3) further, the use of a hammer of a sliding type which has a special device to minimize the time between the initial two shots.

As for the reliability of the Nikonov ASM rifle, last May, I visited the Central Testing Range of the Russian Army in the city of Rzhevsk near St. Petersburg. I was shown one of the first Abakan prototypes, which had fired some 40,000 rounds with-



(above) The *Izjubr* (buck deer) auto-loading rifle in .308 Winchester, a deluxe limited edition featuring a four-round detachable magazine, was an early Nikonov design.

(above) With engineering complete on the Abakan assault rifle, Nikonov and his team embarked on a project to develop a series of sporting and service semiautomatic shotguns in 20-ga. magnum and 12 ga., based on the Kalashnikov firing system. This semiautomatic *Saiga-12K* service shotgun, featuring a gas regulator and 10-round detachable magazine, will be covered in a forthcoming issue.

out any failures. Of course, I could hardly expect there remained any rifling in the barrel due to such an extensive use. Doubtful, I loaded the magazine. The rifle, however, responded by a sure full-auto burst when I pulled the trigger — it worked!

### Operating Principles

Operation of this weapon is based on utilization of propellant gases diverted from the barrel bore into a gas cylinder. To significantly enhance accuracy of fire, the AN-94 assault rifle uses the principle of a blowback shifted pulse (BBSP) principle. The BBSP by nature is a delay of the shock of the firing unit in its rear position in relation to the moment the bullet escapes from the barrel (i.e. while the burst of the first two rounds is being fired at the rate of 1,800 rpm both the barrel and the firing unit travel along the guide rail in the integrated carrier-stock toward its rear). The instant before the firing unit compresses the buffer spring inside the carrier-stock above the foregrip and completes the recoil cycle is enough for two bullets to escape from the barrel.

The operator feels the recoil as a single push, which does not effect the trajectory of bullets already headed down range and, hence, allows a better hit probability. In the process of firing, two simultaneous actions are in progress: travel of the integrated firing unit inside the carrier-stock and movement of components of the firing mechanism.

To fire, the selector lever is placed on "O" (*ogon* means "fire" in Russian), or on "AB" (*avtomaticheskyy* — "automatic"). In full-auto fire, the selector shifts a trigger plate in such a manner that the interrupter comes into contact with one of the shoulders of the trigger plate. The operator pulls the operating handle of the bolt carrier to the rear. At this moment the preliminary feeding of a round from the magazine by a special mechanism takes place. This operation takes place every time the bolt carrier travels to the rear.

The bolt carrier pushes the hammer into its firing position and the sear holds it. Released and driven forward by both a return spring and the shock absorber, the bolt rams the round into chamber and locks the barrel by entering its two locking lugs into recesses in the barrel extension. When the trigger is pulled, its side lug presses upon the trigger plate. The latter pivots on its axis to activate the sear. The sear also turns to release the hammer. The hammer, driven by the main spring, slides into its front position and hits the firing pin. The first round is fired.

Driven by blowback, the firing unit slides inside the integrated carrier-stock and compresses the buffer spring. As soon as the bullet passes the gas port in the barrel, a portion of gas escapes through the port into



With innovative design features and materials application, the AN-94 may be slated to replace the venerable Kalashnikov.

gas cylinder, activates the piston and, through the bolt-carrier extension, pushes the bolt carrier with hammer rearward. The bolt rotates to unlock the chamber. The empty case is extracted and ejected.

When the bolt carrier and the hammer reach their rear position, the return spring, assisted by the shock absorber, pushes them forward. The sear being temporarily deactivated, the second cycle is initiated. The hammer, in the high-rate mode, free from the sear, keeps on moving and decreases the

impulse of the buffer. The interrupter moves forward together with the firing unit. The hammer, released from the sear, slides forward to hit the firing pin. The third round is fired. The firing unit begins to move rearward. The bolt and the bolt carrier also move rearward.

Immediately after the bolt carrier begins its motion forward, the sear catches the hammer. After the second shot is fired in a

time between the first and second shots.

After the second round is fired, the firing unit continues its rearward motion, while the bolt carrier and the hammer begin their next cycle. The sear is retained by the trigger plate.

After the second shot, the interrupter and the sear return into their initial position, the hammer being retained by the sear. The bolt carrier and the bolt, free from the hammer, complete their job by ramming the next round into chamber. With this, the high-rate cycle is completed.

The rifle commences its regular automatic rate of 600 rpm thusly: The firing unit, after the second shot, reaches its rear position and starts moving forward, driven by the return spring and accelerated by an extra

*Continued on page 66*

## AN-94

### SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:** 5.45x39mm
- Operation:** gas-operated without regulator, locked breech with a rotary bolt, fires from the closed-bolt position
- Cyclic rate:** variable, 1,800 and 600 rpm
- Feed:** black, fiberglass-reinforced polyamide, 30-round, two-position-feed, detachable box-type magazine
- Weight:** (empty and without magazine) 3.85 kilograms
- Length, overall:** 943mm with stock extended; 728mm with stock folded
- Barrel:** chrome-plated bore and chamber, four-grooved RH rifling of one turn in 195mm
- Barrel length:** 405mm
- Sights:** round-post-type front sight in protective ears, adjustable for both elevation and windage zero; the notch on the upper part of the frame is intended to hold a pair of self-luminous tritium capsules enabling the operator to conduct fire in twilight; rear sight is a rotary asterisk-type diopter with a peephole in each of the five points located at different levels for various elevations
- Finish:** black phosphate
- Furniture:** black fiberglass-reinforced polyamide butt stock, pistol grip, top hand-guard integrated with top cover and integrated carrier stock
- Accessories:** bayonet, sling, cleaning kit including cleaning rod; optical sight, night-vision devices and underbarrel grenade launcher optional
- Status:** limited production; needs investments to implement mass production
- T & E summary:** robust with excellent reliability; enhanced accuracy and hit probability by using blow-back shifted pulse; refinements include side-folding butt stock, optical sight base and horizontal bayonet mount
- Manufacturer:** Izhmash JSC, Dept. SOF, 3 Derjabin Str., 426006 Izhevsk, Russia; phone and fax: (7-3412) - 78 40 16.



# Red Menace TO Dead Menace

## Self-Destruction Of The Russian Military Machine

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

Earlier this year when the Kremlin issued a general amnesty for crimes committed by Russian troops in Chechnya, 22-year-old Valeri thought he finally was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

What he did not anticipate were days of interrogations, severe beatings, and charges of murder. The ordeal quickly took him through the Russian army's legal system and brought him to a court-martial sentencing hearing that, if he was lucky, would put him in a *gauprvakhta* (army stockade) performing hard labor the rest of his life — instead of facing a firing squad.

"I joined the army because I wanted to be a soldier," Valeri explained through my interpreter. The Chechnya veteran puffed on yet another cigarette as he sat in the cluttered, dusty hallway outside the Moscow courtrooms of an army judge advocate general. "This problem didn't start with these murder charges. It started with my officers at *Tyoply Stan* [barracks in Moscow]. They beat me. This army is not an army. It's criminal — not me."

The charges drawn up by the Russian army investigators in Stavropol in southern Russia described Valeri's crime: In October 1996, while on patrol outside Asinovskaya, Chechnya, Valeri shot and killed a Russian non-commissioned officer. The murder weapon was the AKM assault rifle issued him by the 101st Motorized Brigade as his personal weapon. The shooting occurred during a firefight with "Chechen bandits."

In other words, Valeri "fraged" his sergeant by shooting him in the back. His case is not unique and is a symptom of much greater problems.

The bigger picture is that the Russian army nowadays loses the equivalent of two regiments every year to non-combat deaths. Colonel Pavel Demindenko, of the army procurator's office (the Russian "JAG") in Moscow, told me that approximately 2,500 Russian soldiers are killed annually, on duty or off, in what investigators refer to as "criminal incidents."

Divide that figure by two, and you have the approximate number of Russian soldiers being charged annually with capital crimes. It gets grimmer. Almost a quarter of all Russian army conscripts enter service with





Russian honor guard marches in *Krasnaya Ploshchad* (Red Square) in Moscow. That night, new shift of soldiers takes its place around St. Basil's Cathedral.

a criminal record. There is rampant corruption among NCOs and officers — even generals; a suicide rate (428 in 1996 — *SOF* World Sitrep, May '97) that would be considered astounding in the U.S. Army; and, constant reports that many soldiers, including officers, can go for months without pay. On top of all of that, illegal sales of military weapons and equipment are commonplace.

While the fall of Soviet communism truly was cause for celebration, the agonizing collapse of the Russian ground forces is not. It is a dangerously unstable situation

for one of the world's largest armies.

### Mothers' Committee

My plan had been simple enough: Go to *Moskva* and obtain as complete of a top-to-bottom analysis of the Russian army as possible by interviewing members of its demoralized officer corps. Within 24 hours of arrival, however, those plans were scrapped.

"To really understand how far the Russian army has fallen," a reporter with the English-language newspaper *Moscow Times* told me, "you have to start at the bot-

tom. The very bottom.

"You could go to visit Lubyanka Square, across from the old KGB headquarters, to meet Chechen- and Afghan-war vets selling drugs or begging for money," the reporter continued. "If that doesn't work, try calling the mothers' committee. They work on behalf of soldiers facing court martial, mostly deserters, but you might meet some interesting cases."

Dutifully following that tip, we soon found ourselves across town in the cramped but incredibly busy offices of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia.

"We look after about 500 soldiers who are going through court martial or have deserted the Russian army, as well as another 4,000 or so conscientious objectors," committee Press Secretary Valentina Melnikova explained. "We provide them with practical support, as well as psychological counseling. We go with them to court, we make sure they understand the rules and laws, and we protect them against officers within the army who *don't* listen to the rules."

Melnikova, a feisty 60-something mother of two, suggested that we return the next day at 1100 and meet two deserters who were scheduled to start their court-martial processes in a day or so.

I returned to *SOF's* temporary Moscow bureau at the Izmailovska Park Hotel. Being male and obviously western European or American, I immediately popped up on the radar screens of young prostitutes who patrol hotels catering to tourists. Almost as soon as I closed the





Like soldiers the world over, these MVD troops hurry up and wait for orders (here, to move out in Moscow's "VE Day" parade).



(above) Two young soldiers, facing criminal charges from their tour in Chechnya, wait outside Russian "JAG" office with their court-appointed psychologist (on right). Valeri, (right) a 22-year-old Chechnya veteran charged with murdering an NCO, talks with a social worker from the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia.

door to my room, there came a knock.

"Hi, my name is Emma and I'm from Turkmenistan," cooed a dark-skinned vixen of about 17. "Aren't you going to invite me in?"

The dark-haired Emma confidently maneuvered her way into my room, plopped herself down on the bed, and began removing her blouse. "It's \$80 for

the hour; I'll do anything you want," she said, arching her back seductively and smiling. "Do you want me?"

I regained my composure enough to stop staring. I tried to visualize an *SOF* expense report listing a three-figure expenditure for "central-Asian bimbo"; no good. Assuring Emma that she really *was* attractive, I said I was low on cash. Maybe she would like to





Moscow residents turn out for VE Day parade. A few wave flags of the old Soviet Union. In crowd below St. Basil's Cathedral is one sign (center left) with dictator Josef Stalin's photograph. Another (at far left) expresses concern over contemporary issues; translated, it says 'No to foreign credit! Yes to human rights!'

get together with me on her day off?

### Old Moscow, New Moscow

The words "cheap American" still stung my ears as I slowly walked out of the *Ploshchad Revolutsii* (Revolution Square) metro station toward Red Square. Only a few years ago, I likely would have rated a KGB "shadow" but tonight I noticed nobody tailing me. A light drizzle had begun. It was 2230; the streets were nearly empty.

Ahead, near the monument to Soviet Marshal Georgi Zhukov, hero of the Great Patriotic War, I spotted about 200 soldiers from the MVD (*Ministerstvo Vnutrennikh Del*: Ministry of Internal Affairs), replete in dress uniforms, going through roll call. They were not alone.

Just up the cobblestoned entrance to Red Square stood another group of MVD troops; beyond them — like something out of a Stalin-era propaganda film — thousands more Russian soldiers going through the paces in preparation for the annual Victory in Europe Day (VE Day) parade scheduled for the following week.

I continued to take photo after photo, wandering among the various units as they stood at attention and then marched up and



down the length of Red Square. No one challenged me — until I climbed the steps of Lenin's Tomb to get a better view. Quicker than you could say "revolt of the proletariat," I found myself being hustled by army MPs toward the police line just behind St. Basil's Cathedral.

It obviously was time to take in some of Moscow's night life. I shortly was cruising along the main drag, *Ulitsa Tverskaya* (Tver Street), for some excitement.

Outside the Hotel Intourist, about three dozen "girls" and their pimps were doing a booming business to the beat of a Dixieland

band holding an impromptu concert on the sidewalk. At the best Cuban bar in the city, *Guantanamera*, the scene was the same: wall-to-wall sex, booze, and power.

Moscow had in five years gone from Cold War-dull to Las Vegas-glitzy, complete with enough Mafia types and American dollars to keep the booze (and just about any other desired drugs) flowing well into the next century.

The following morning I headed back to the mothers' committee's office. Two of

*Continued on page 81*

# PERU

At

2000 hours on 17 December 1996, more than 400 dignitaries gather at the Japanese ambassador's residence in the Peruvian capital of Lima, for free booze and bait in celebration of the Emperor's birthday. Suddenly, 20 armed men and women blow a hole in the wall at the rear of the grounds: They split into two groups, one group racing toward the front gate where they engage security guards, the other group heading to the large tented area of the reception, where they take hostages. Against very little resistance, within minutes they take control of the building and grounds.

At about 2300 hours, they release elderly and female

## FIELD HOSTAGE!

Terrorists Snag Peruvian SEAL Commander

by Bill Salisbury  
Photos courtesy author

hostages. The remaining hostages — largely high-ranking Peruvian officials, including the president's brother, and Japanese businessmen — are spread throughout the embassy, under armed guard. They release another 225 on Christmas day. The terrorists demand the release of fellow *Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru* (MRTA) prisoners being held in Peruvian jails. President Fujimori refuses. The world watches, and waits.

In my home in San Diego, images bombarded me of the terrorist take-over at the Japanese ambassador's residence: the red, white and red flag of the terrorist group, MRTA displayed in a residence window;

the round, fleshy face of the terrorist leader, Nestor Cerpa Cartolini AKA Comandante "Huertas" or "Evaristo," leader of the terrorist band capturing the embassy compound, and well-armed Peruvian SWAT personnel on station and ready outside the residence.

From the tube loom the dark, dangerous eyes of a terrorist, his face half-

hidden behind an MRTA bandana; the distorted face of a black-haired Jewish American Princess-turned MRTA terrorist, Lori Berenson Mejia, screaming her defiance like the good little "freedom fighter" she was, but now freezing her revolutionary tush off in an unheated prison cell above the high-plains city of Puno. Into my quiet San Diego living room comes the impassive face of hard-line Peruvian President, Alberto Fujimori; of a heavily armed SWAT member contemplating a small Christmas tree outside the residence.

For terrorists, the Tupac Amaru had demonstrated planning, organization and discipline in this takeover of the Japanese Ambassador's Residence: Whoever would ultimately receive the mission to take them down had better be good. And it was cast in stone that the terrorists *would* be taken down, as such atrocities could not be left unanswered. The hostages must be rescued; the ambassador's residence must be returned to its rightful occupants. Terrorism must not win.

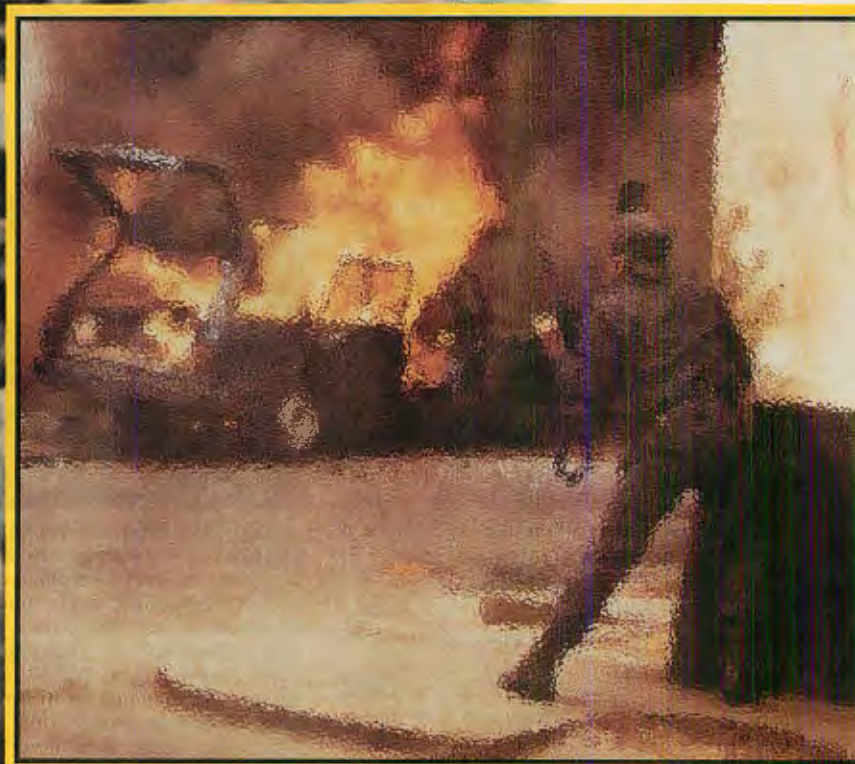
I had no doubt that the Peruvians had the SpecOps personnel assets to ultimately handle this problem, as I had helped train them over a decade before.

## Déjà Peru

The TV images and the newspaper accounts I read during the next few days brought back images in my mind of Peru from another time, a time I'd spent in-country during the '70s and '80s, and of a time not long ago when my good friend of more than 20 years, retired Peruvian Vice Admiral Luis "Lucho" Giampietri, and his wife and daughters had been my guests during the annual reunion of U.S. Navy SEALs in Coronado, California.

I'd met Lucho in 1972 when I served with the U.S. Military Assistance and Advisory Group in Lima. We were both lieutenant commanders with a shared vision: the establishment of a Peruvian special-operations force modeled on U.S. Navy SEALs. Lucho, who had received his SpecOps training in Argentina, was then CO of the Peruvian Underwater Demolition Team, *El Grupo de Demolicion Submarina*.

The men with *verde* faces: Counterparts to U.S. Navy SEALs, Peru's well-equipped, superbly trained F.O.E.S. are country's premier anti-terrorist organization. (inset) Peruvian national policeman shields himself from heat as terrorist car bomb goes high order in Lima.



During the next four years we'd struggled with the U.S. and Peruvian bureaucracies to obtain training and equipment necessary for Peruvian frogmen to become Peruvian SEALs or FOES, *Fuerzas de Operaciones Especiales*. To form the core of the FOES (pronounced "fo-eighs"), I sent 10 Peruvian frogmen to Coronado for Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training (BUD/S). Nine completed this most grueling of military courses at a time when the attrition rate for U.S. trainees exceeded 70%.

Now, as the days declined toward Christmas and the heightened media chatter about Peru washed over me like storm surf, I thought of the good times Lucho and I had enjoyed: spear fishing a *pulmon* (free diving) where Lucho amazed me with his ability to follow huge sea bass to depths of more than 60 feet for the kill; salvage diving with open-circuit SCUBA on a merchantman sunk in cold, dark waters off the Pacific port of San Juan de Marcona near the southern border with Chile (we dove to 165 feet with a bottom time of 12 minutes and made decompression stops in shark cages during our ascent to the surface, where I'd emptied a face-mask filled with blood from ruptured sinuses); locking out of U.S. submarines during the annual U.S.-Peruvian naval exercise, UNITAS.

We had launched ourselves from the ramp of a DeHavilland Buffalo flown by the Peruvian Air Force, praying static lines would deploy our unmodified T-10 canopies before we augged into the coastal desert less than 600 feet below; we swam against warships in Callao Harbor with practice Peruvian limpet mines and closed-circuit French Spiro-Techniques scuba; we played basketball for the Peruvian Navy and their naval academy, and we celebrated these events and other by feasting on *ceviche*, *artichuchos*, *tacu-tacu*, *conchas a laparmesana*, *lomo saltado*, washing it all down with excellent Tacama wine, Cuzquen beer, a tasty white grape brandy called *pisco*, or sometimes cheap *aguardiente* — a sugarcane firewater known as *sacaronchas* for its ability to make your skin crawl.

All this and more I recalled in the unsettling tranquility of my den as I watched the MRTA first release a group of 30 women and children and then a big Christmas-day present of 225 men, mostly foreign diplomats and businessmen. Lucho's wife had been in the first group — but he had *not* been in the second: My old friend remained a hostage.

### A Marx Brother?

A hushed phone call from a FOE contact in Peru had first brought the bad news of Lucho's capture. And quite a catch he'd been for the terrorists. I thanked God he was in the hands of the MRTA rather than Sendero Luminoso (SL), Peru's better-known and considerably more blood-thirsty guerrilla threat.

The relationship of Lucho and his FOES with SL goes back many years and continues to this day. SL and their infamous leader, Abimael Guzman AKA "Chairman



Gonzalo," plunged Peru into more than a decade of chaos and violence, of destroyed roads, railways, bridges, oil and water pipelines, electric pylons, of car bombs, truck bombs, assassinations of government officials, union leaders, *campesino* leaders, priests, nuns, and the poor bastard in the street or on a bus who had the bad luck to be around when SL cranked off their demo (they always loaded heavy).

SL began their terror in 1980, the same year the Peruvian Navy commissioned the FOES. Guzman chose as his initial target the 16th century city of Ayacucho, perched 165 miles southeast of Lima in the high sierra at a brain-bursting altitude of 10,000 feet. Guzman, trained in communist China, chose Ayacucho because of its predominantly



(above) Although the preponderance of attacks on infrastructure and kidnappings-for-ransom take place near population centers, much of the rebel support is in remote areas. FOE armed with Ultimax 100 light machine gun patrols Ucayali River Basin. (right) FOES insert for raid on terrorist base camp in Amazon jungle near Pucallpa, major port on Ucayali River. Air, water, land insertions are all used by Peru's version of SEALs.

Having sustained more than 30,000 deaths and billions of dollars of damage to national infrastructure from terrorists such as *Sendero Luminoso* ("Shining Path") and MRTA (*Tupac Amaru*), Peru has become well-prepared to deal with the many ugly faces of terrorism. From left to right, FOES trainees fast-rope from choppers to initiate hostage-rescue ops, commence *limpieza de cuartos* (room clearance), and take down "terrorist." This training would later pay off at the Japanese embassy compound in Lima.



Indian population, most of whom lived beyond the margins of Peruvian society, and its remoteness. No paved road connected the city or its department, a political subdivision similar to one of our states, with the coast more than a hard day's drive away. Most of Peru's population of 22 million live in the major cities of Trujillo, Lima, and Arequipa.

As I continued to endure the sometimes mindless commentary of "experts" babbling away on TV or scribbling in newspapers that SL followed a Maoist line, that Guzman considered himself the "Fourth Sword of Communism" together with Marx, Lenin, and Mao, I recalled what Lucho had told me during a visit I'd made to Lima in 1986 that the true model for SL was Pol Pot's bloody Khmer Rouge. Certainly the insane, relentlessly inhuman slaughter SL visited on Peruvians throughout the country until Guzman's capture in 1992 supports Lucho's



characterization: SL has killed at least 30,000 Peruvians, most of them peasants, and cost the government more than \$22 billion in ruined infrastructure. A per-capita comparison of the dead with the United States reveals that if Chairman "Gonzo" had been at work here, SL would have killed some 300,000 Americans.

I'd had that conversation with Lucho at his home in Lima during a party with FOES who had received their training in the U.S. We'd sat around a magnificent table made of Amazon basin ironwood for our *sobremesa* or after-dinner discussion, the women having left us for the living room.

## Serious Talks Come To Memory

We talked for more than two hours and seldom laughed — a rarity among FOES. Lucho pointed out the obvious: that government intelligence agents had to penetrate SL if the terrorists were to be defeated. However, SL had organized along classic communist insurgent lines in self-contained cells whose members knew each other like family, yet knew little or nothing about the membership and operations of other cells. Further, SL either recruited or kidnapped pre-teens to indoctrinate them in the way of the Party and its Chairman, who became a surrogate Daddy.

Lucho spoke of how the government had to recruit its own child-agents to infiltrate SL, and had placed huge prices on the heads of SL leaders: Guzman was worth more than a million dollars dead or alive. Of course, direct-action ops had been underway for years, mainly in the Department of Ayacucho but increasingly in the Upper Huallaga Valley where SL protected immensely wealthy *narcotraficantes* (drug dealers). The FOES had groups in Pucallpa, a jungle city in the Upper Huallaga, and in Huanta Province, Department of Ayacucho. A FOE, I'll call Pocho, had returned from Huanta and told of his experiences during a two-month tour.

"We operated," he said, "in 16-man platoons just like U.S. Navy SEALs but often took 60 or more Indians with us, mainly as scouts, porters, and livestock handlers. We rarely used the few roads in the province and mostly walked to our objectives. Sometimes we inserted by helo but not often, because the Peruvian Air Force had a bad habit of not showing for the extraction — their usual bullshit excuse was, 'too cloudy.'"

"We were OPCON to the Army's Second Division headquartered in Huamanga, but *los Verdes* left us alone. They simply said everyone was SL until proven otherwise and to do *la necesario*."

"For the FOES this meant going on 7-10 day patrols searching for SL villages and animals: llamas, alpacas, pigs, cows, donkeys, horses. We seldom made contact with the *terrucos* because they refused to stand

and fight. But I had great respect for them, for their ability to hump that mountainous, airless terrain. They were like goats; we could never catch them. Our only successes came with mortars. But we leveled their villages with C-4, a true marvel (*una maravilla!*). We auctioned off SL livestock in friendly villages and gave the proceeds to our Indian allies, which provided a fine incentive for them to locate all the terrorist villages they could.

"Sendero caused us few casualties, but the *infantes* (marines) who also operated from Huanta were not so lucky. For whatever reason — and I think it was mostly because of their gung-ho attitude and lack of respect for what SL could do — the *infantes* suffered many dead and wounded."



that matter — has very few roads and you must assume SL monitors them all. On this particular day, SL had set an ambush for police who routinely patrolled the road, which was barely one-lane wide and made of dirt and rock. The road snaked upward along a barren mountainside toward a 13,000-foot pass. The *terrucos*, hidden among boulders near the pass, had a clear view of the road below for more than a mile.

"One of the *terrucos* captured after the firefight said they saw the *infantes* at least 30 minutes before the lead Jeep entered the kill zone. At first SL decided not to ambush the *infantes* because they were too many. But the *terrucos* noticed the lead Jeep was speeding up, swerving back and forth across the road as if the driver were drunk. In fact, Lt. Cieza was just having a little fun showing off his mountain-driving skills. As the Jeep opened its interval with the rest of the convoy, SL realized they could hit the vehicle and be gone before the other *infantes* reacted.

"The terrorists initiated the ambush with a barrage of *quesos rusos*, one of which struck Lt. Cieza between the eyes and blew his face off. A wonder it didn't blow his head off." Pocho paused, then asked, "Know what a *queso ruso* is, gringo?"

"Well," I ventured, "I know it

(above) Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, leader of MRTA terrorists who seized more than 500 dignitaries during party at Japanese Ambassador's Residence in Lima, Peru, on 17 December 1996. (above, left) For many years a thorn in the side of Peru, Sendero leader Abimael Guzman meets the press after his capture in 1992. (left) U.S. citizen Lori Berenson Mejia, serving life sentence in Peru, after being convicted of plotting with other MRTA terrorists to seize national congress in Lima.

## Tell It On The Marines

Another FOE interrupted, Pocho: "Tell the gringo about Lieutenant Ciez. That's a good war story. The gringo likes war stories. But don't tell him about Comandante Camion: They might tell Amnesty International. This was one of the few times the FOES laughed. As a wide grin creased Pocho's mahogany face, a Charapa face from the jungles of Iquitos, I had a sudden, uneasy feeling I was confronting one of those NVA regulars I sometimes failed to avoid during a 1965 tour with the U.S. Marines in Quang Ngai Province before I'd become a SEAL.

"Well," Pocho began, "Lt. Cieza had been in Huanta for a very short time when he announced to the world he would lead a convoy through the mountains and pursue the *terrucos* into Bolivia if necessary to find and kill them. Lt. Cieza took the point with three other *infantes* in a Jeep that mounted an M60 general-purpose machine gun and a 40 mike-mike grenade launcher. Three Mercedes trucks with 15 *infantes* each followed, then came another Jeep for rear security.

"As I said, Huanta — or Ayacucho for

means 'Russian cheese' but that's all."

"A *queso ruso* is a home-made grenade. The terrorists pack TNT, nails, and human shit in a beer, evaporated milk, or other small can and insert a short-fuzed blasting cap. That's what ripped Lt. Cieza's face apart. But this is the interesting thing: Even without a face, this crazy *infante* kept running toward the *terrucos* firing his pistol. They say he ran a good 30 meters and emptied a mag before he dropped dead."

Someone said, "Infantes may be burros but they are also very brave, *carajo!*"

## We Have Much To Do

We filled our glasses with what remained in the bottle of Johnny Walker Black and toasted the careless, faceless, but incredibly brave, Lt. Cieza.

I asked a question to fill the silence: "How's the war going?"

Lucho said, "We're winning but we have much to do. Right now our prisons are filled with SL captives but they've taken over their cell blocks — and the guards, who are poorly trained and paid, are afraid to enter. The terrorists run Lurigancho, the main



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prison in Lima, and El Fronton.”

I remembered El Fronton as a prison situated on an island of the same name at the entrance to Callao Harbor, Lima's Pacific Port. This narrow, barren chunk of earth, rock, and sand stretched across the water for a mile or so and was Peru's "Alcatraz."

"The situation at El Fronton is particularly bad," Lucho had continued, "because the terrorists have obtained cement and constructed a labyrinth of walls and bunkers within the prison. They call their cell block the 'Blue Pavillion,' where they conduct military training, political indoctrination, and hold rallies dedicated to the glory of Chairman Gonzalo. We suspect they've tunneled under the walls to the beach where SL boats ferry them to the mainland for attacks in Lima. The terrorists return to the Blue Pavillion after the attacks.

"This is intolerable but the prison authorities will not act, either because they're afraid or they've been paid off."

I recall letting these remarks pass without much thought that April night in 1986, other than feeling my usual sense of outrage at what was happening to a beautiful country I loved.

But I remembered what Lucho had said quite clearly when, two months later, I read on the front page of the *New York Times* that Peruvian Navy frogmen had braved withering terrorist fire to destroy the Blue Pavillion with that *maravilla* C-4 and clear the way for a marine assault. Several marines had died in the fighting and their surviving mates probably engaged in serious payback, but not the FOES. (The Peruvian Army and police reportedly administered some 260 earshots to terrorists rounded up in Lurigancho.) Whatever the truth of El Fronton and Lurigancho, Peru's "forces of order" had pretty much severed the head from the body of SL except for Abimael Guzman and a few close friends, most of whom were captured in 1992.

Guzman now wears an old-fashioned, black and white striped convict uniform — he looks like an aging child-molester as he contemplates his largely failed revolution from a prison cell at the Navy Base in Callao, hard by the FOES compound. Anyone bent on rescuing Chairman Gonzalo will have to go through the FOES first.

But in 1986 none of this had come to pass; nor had we once mentioned MRTA during our sobremesa around Lucho's gleaming table, although these terrorists had been active in the shadow of SL since 1982. Led by disaffected members of mainstream socialist parties, MRTA had largely limited their activities to bank robberies and kidnappings for ransom. What they were doing, of course, was stacking wood, preparing for the long winter of discontent they intended for Peru. Much of that wood had undoubtedly been consumed to seize the Japanese Ambassador's residence.

## Friends Of Foes

With these thoughts of Peru pressing on me, I decided to call two other gringos who had great respect and affection for Peru, Lucho and his FOES. Commanders Joe DeFloria and Skip "Killer" Crane were retired SEAL and Vietnam vets now living in San Diego who had served after me in the '80s and early '90s as advisers to the FOES; these officers had ensured that FOES continued to train and maintain close ties with U.S. Navy SEALs.

The first reaction after I gave the bad news to Joe and "Killer" was that we should go to Peru and snatch Lucho, but that melodramatic notion soon gave way to reality: We weren't spring chickens and this wasn't the movies. Still, we took some comfort in knowing that FOES we'd trained were at this moment surely gearing up for a hostage-rescue mission. In fact, after BUD/S they'd received advance training in hostage rescue from the Israelis and U.S. Army Special Forces. We knew FOES would be working overtime, building their models, studying photographic, electronic, and other intel, heating up the barrels of their room brooms as they practiced CQB, and running rehearsal after rehearsal until they were good to go.

And when they went I wanted to be there. I did not want to agonize in front of my TV, waiting and watching while some media puke gave his or her inane, repetitive gloss to this terribly dangerous situation. (The latest word was that the terrorists had mined the residence with 100 pounds of demo loaded and ready to blow in rooms next to the remaining 74 hostages.)

The first flight available arrived Lima at 0100 on 30 December, which left me no time to renew my passport ("5-7 days for an emergency," said the officious sand crab who processed passport requests). I recalled the breathless advice I'd received in 1966 from a Fort Benning lane grader high along the Tennessee Valley Divide in North Georgia: *Drive on, Ranger, drive on!*

There were a number of plausible resolutions one could expect to this hostage situation: the hostage-takers could fold and give up, not a likely prospect. Or, thwarted, the terrorists could massacre their hostages — a real possibility. Or, Peruvian SpecOps would take them down and out and free the hostages. From the onset, the latter seemed the most likely conclusion. President Fujimori would not likely cave to MRTA demands, and I knew the Peruvian SpecOps people: They were an asset Fujimori could count on when he decided to do the right thing. I fervently hoped I would see my old friend Lucho again.

*Next month, former SEAL Bill Salisbury takes you there as a specially trained composite Peruvian SpecOps force pulls off one of the most daring — and successful — hostage rescues of the decade.* ✕

Use the model M10 1-inch ring mount and model M14 barrel mount to attach the flashlight to the AUG barrel. When operating in the daylight, many tactical teams remove the lamp head assembly and batteries. I use black tape on the top of the front portion of the unit to prevent muzzle blast from blowing off the black anodizing.

Infra-red, amber and red filters with tip-off covers are also available for SURE-FIRE flashlights. I keep a red filter attached to all my many SURE-FIRE units as the red beam does not adversely affect your night vision, yet usually provides enough illumination for most shooting scenarios.

Another necessary element is a properly designed combat sling. I personally feel that the Giles sling is the best available. Designed by Giles Stock, a retired sergeant and SWAT team armorer for the Phoenix PD, it is manufactured by, and available from, The Wilderness (Dept. SOF, 5130 N. 19th Ave., Suite 7, Phoenix, AZ 85015; phone: 602-242-4945 or 800-775-5650).

Fabricated from heavy, 1.25-inch, black nylon webbing with 1.25-inch Delrin buckles, the sling is stitched with heavy polyester thread, which is more sun-resistant than nylon thread. Available for the Steyr AUG, Colt CAR/AR-15 series, and the Benelli and Remington Model 1187 and 870 shotguns, the Giles sling is also custom-made for other shoulder-mounted weapons which must be fitted in the shop.

It can be used as a carry, shooting or hands-free sling (in the manner of the H&K combat carrying sling). Most important, the Giles sling permits the operator to correctly and safely transition to his service sidearm in a combat environment. The AUG model attaches to the weapon's sling swivels and costs only \$20. The price of other models varies up to \$50.

You will also need several magazine pouches for your belt or LBE. The Wilderness AR15/AUG magazine pouch is made from black Cordura nylon and polyethylene. The popular vertical pouch costs \$24.95. There are also right-hand and left-hand pouches that hold the magazine in a horizontal position. They are priced at \$29.95. Each pouch holds one magazine. Simple instructions for custom-forming the pouch to either the M16 or AUG magazines are included.

The only modification you need to make to the AUG itself regards the cross-bolt safety. The edges and checkering on this rectangular polymer bar are far too sharp. Use a small swiss file to carefully round the edges and an abrasive Scotch-Brite pad to soften the checkering.

GSI Inc. (Dept. SOF, 108 Morrow Ave., P.O. Box 129, Trussville, AL 35173; phone: 205-655-8299), who imports the Steyr product line, can provide you with an essential spare parts kit for the AUG. It consists

of a firing pin; extractor, retaining pin and spring; locking piece; bolt spring and sleeve; three gas valve rings; and some assorted springs and pins.

Use 30-round magazines. The 42-round magazines look more menacing, but the rifle will "monopod" on them when you assume the prone position. These large-capacity magazines were designed for the rather unsuccessful SAW version of the AUG. Also, in my opinion, there is absolutely no requirement for selective-fire capability on a tactical carbine applied to law-enforcement scenarios. At close ranges, with proper shot placement, the 5.56x45mm round is quite effective and does not need any synergistic assistance. As it has less wound ballistics potential, a sub-machine gun chambered for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge should be deployed in the full-auto mode (at distances under 15 yards) with a two-shot press on the trigger.

Before deployment, the tactical carbine must be thoroughly tested for reliability with the intended duty ammo. Zero your AUG at 250 yards. This will provide a 50-yard intersect and at 100 yards the point of impact will only be 2 to 3 inches high.

All of this will bring the Steyr AUG up to its maximum potential, which is quite high. The next step is providing the operator with high-speed, low-drag training of the type available at either Gunsite Training Center or Thunder Ranch. Remember, you will fight the way you train. But, that's another story. ☒

## Only Hits Count

**Continued from page 37**

its lobby nearly deserted except for a "disinterested" young couple (Mossad agents).

Shiqaqi hadn't booked a reservation, but the Hotel Diplomat was not full and the rooms clerk gladly offered the "Libyan merchant" room number 616. He went upstairs, used the bathroom, made one phone call to his Maltese contact, then repacked his suitcase.

Around 11:15 a.m., he went downstairs to the lobby and, without leaving his hotel key with reception, went on foot to the new Sleima shopping center. At Strand Street he entered the Marks and Spencer department store and at 12:30 purchased a man's shirt for \$42.00, under the scrutiny of four additional Mossad agents. He then strolled to the nearby Bernardi's, where he purchased a white dress and black veil for 10.60 Maltese pounds and a second shirt for 4.9 pounds at 12.57 p.m.

As he departed Bernardi's at about 1:00, his shadows radioed their position to the command and control base and word that Shiqaqi had likely decided to return to his hotel. The shooter was sent ahead to wait.

As Shiqaqi approached, the young man with Asian features walked toward him.

## Getaway And Aftermath

With the assassin on the back, the driver

of the motor scooter tore from the alley, gunned it, and buzzed through traffic, followed by the swerving trail car of Mossad security men. They stashed the motorbike under the St. Pious Bridge, changed clothes, and within three minutes were aboard the swift boat en route to Sicily.

Other than murky eyewitness accounts, there were no clues. Investigators discovered no cartridges nor any fingerprints on the recovered motor scooter. At that point, authorities simply informed the Libyan embassy that one of its citizens, "Ibrahim al-Shawish," had been gunned down.

It wasn't until Saturday, 28 October, that state-owned Israeli National Television suggested that the "Libyan merchant" mysteriously killed in Malta was the notorious leader of Islamic Jihad.

Within hours of the hit, the assassins were on board a plane winging eastward toward Israel. Other elements of the Mossad team departed Malta that evening leaving a small team of "cleaners" to sanitize any final remnants of the member's presence. Within 24 hours every member of the operation was back in Israel.

Islamic Jihad vowed revenge for the death of their slain leader and have made good on their threats, including a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv in March 1996, that killed 13.

Despite the reprisal attacks, a senior Israeli intelligence officer later justified the hit and claimed it was well worth any blowback that occurred. He maintains that Shiqaqi was an exceptional, one-of-a-kind, adversary: "He was an enemy we had to reckon with and after him Islamic Jihad will never be the same."

He adds, "I wish we could have achieved the same impact by assassinating a top Hamas leader." Or, as Alex Fishman, an Israeli journalist, put it: "The brain is gone."

The Shiqaqi hit was widely supported by Israelis. Even Galia Golan of "Peace Now," one of Israel's leading doves, said that she was "very happy to be rid of a man who supported such terrible acts."

In the final analysis, a former Shin Bet deputy director observed in a published interview that appeared in the Hebrew language newspaper, *Halaretz*, "In war you have to behave as if you are at war and hit back. Terrorism is war."

*NEIL C. LIVINGSTONE is a frequent contributor to SOF and a well-known Washington-based author, speaker, and media commentator on terrorism and other national security issues. He has written nine books and runs a crisis management company. He and David Halevy collaborated on the 1990 best-seller, Inside the PLO, published by Morrow.*

*DAVID HALEVY lives in Israel, where he writes and pursues a number of business interests. For 19 years, Halevy was Time magazine's chief correspondent in the Middle East. ☒*

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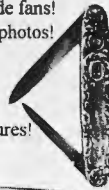


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## Russia's Secret Rifle

Continued from page 55

standard (600 rpm) rate, the interrupter interacts with the second shoulder of the trigger plate which enables the rate to slow-down. At the beginning of return motion of the bolt carrier, the hammer is retained by the sear in its rear position. So, before the hammer is released, the firing unit completes its travel rearward, rebounds from the buffer and begins to move forward. All these operations take extra time — the phenomenon that is called among designers "the time of exposition" or "dwell time."

The greater the time of exposition dwell time, the slower the rate of fire. If at this instance the trigger is released, the trigger plate comes into its initial elevated position and disengages from the interrupter.

Both the sear and the interrupter resume their initial position. The hammer is retained by the sear. Fire ceases. To resume firing, the trigger is pulled. The whole cycle is repeated (i.e., two shots are fired in a high rate mode while other successive rounds are fired in a standard low rate). A noticeable interval between the end of the second shot and the beginning of the third one allows the operator to easily interrupt the fire by releasing the trigger. If the situation requires longer bursts, the operator can vary from the high rate fire to standard by a more lengthy pull on the trigger.

To fire two-round bursts, the selector should be placed in the "2" position. The safety is at the "O" mark. The rifle being loaded and the trigger depressed, the trigger plate comes into contact with the interrupter to turn the sear and to release the hammer. The hammer, free from the sear, comes off and the round is fired. The cycle of reloading, firing and interaction of mechanisms during the recoil cycle are similar to the operations in the high-rate phase of the variable full-auto mode.

The hammer is retained in a cocked position. The fire is ceased. To resume firing, first release the trigger. At this moment the trigger plate and the interrupter come into their initial position. The trigger is pulled again, the hammer comes off to hit the firing pin, and the weapon commences the next two-round burst.

For semi-automatic fire, the selector should be located in the *odinochniy* (single) position. The rifle being loaded and the hammer cocked, pull the trigger. The hammer comes off to hit the firing pin. The round is fired. Reloading is accomplished as in the full-auto mode. The hammer, however, will be retained by the sear. The interrupter rests in its initial position.

The buffer spring sends the firing unit into its front position. To deliver the next shot, the trigger should be released and depressed. As soon as the trigger is released the whole mechanism stays ready to fire. Reloading is similar to the operations in a variable full-auto mode. ❌

## Surviving The Peace

Continued from page 41

All members of the GOE sport the black beret. (The maroon beret is reserved for the Airborne Battalion). CFE units, with the exception of the CEAT, are issued M4 carbines, M16 rifles, and M249 squad automatic weapons.

### Tough Prospects

Two constraints — soldiers' short enlistments and a relatively small pool of candidates capable of learning sophisticated tasks — requires that the Salvadoran army always keep logistics and training as simple as possible.

Much of the army's equipment, acquired during the war, is wearing out from prolonged use. Not only are replacements urgently needed, but the entire logistical system should be reevaluated and improved.

The most formidable enemy of lasting peace in El Salvador is the hardcore, career criminal. He is very well armed. The abundance of weapons in criminal hands is illustrated by the result of one raid, in 1995, by a PNC/army task force. The seized criminal arsenal included 11 assault rifles (among them M16s and AK-47s), one .30-caliber M1 carbine, three shotguns, 43 pistols, and 99 hand grenades.

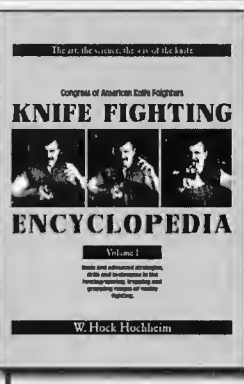
Clearly, where there is drug money, there are weapons. During the last five years, the PNC has confiscated cocaine with a total street value of approximately \$3.5 billion. El Salvador has become a storage and transshipment facility for the Colombian drug cartels, with local prices dropping from the abundance of the drug. With so much drug-related money afloat in a poor Central American nation, it is not surprising that criminals have bribed judges, district attorneys, and police.

Another detrimental factor in the war on crime: the copying of U.S. criminal laws for implementation here.

El Salvador has no common history with the United States; the cultures are miles apart. Nevertheless, entire U.S. codes, regulations, and laws have been copied and passed for adoption by the Salvadoran government — under pressure from Washington. For example, El Salvador's Juvenile Code is one of those based on a U.S. counterpart: It recently was enacted to deal with youth crime gangs — as if the U.S. laws have been successful in reducing that scourge *there*.

Indeed, the road to true peace in El Salvador remains long and rough.

*San Francisco, Calif., resident and SOF contributor Julio A. Montes was born in El Salvador. He also is a correspondent for Spain's Defensa magazine and a contributor to the Jane's Information Group.* ✕



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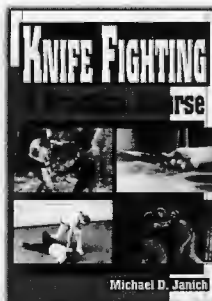
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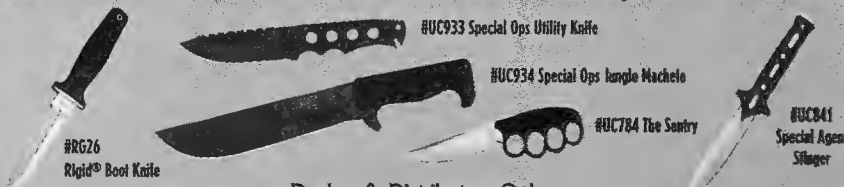
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**Rough Riders Ride Again**  
Continued from page 47

bayous north of Houston to the rolling hills of Bandera, were scouted as likely substitutes for wartime Cuba. Wanek studied original photos and research to duplicate the Spanish trenches and blockhouses on San Juan and Kettle Hills. But the beautiful city of San Antonio, where the real Rough Riders did their hurried basic training, would "portray" itself.

Emmy Award-winning costume designer Michael Boyd has made a specialty of researching and creating period military uniforms for films. As a long-time historical reenactor hobbyist himself, Boyd was more than enthusiastic about recreating the uniforms from one of his favorite military eras. The genuine Rough Riders were issued brown canvas stable pants and coats that Boyd duplicated to exact specifications.

Chief property master Curtis Akin and armorer and assistant prop man Kelly Farrah found themselves rounding up authentic arms and ammunition wherever they could find them. Model 1896 Krag-Jorgenson carbines came from the famous Stembridge Gun Rentals in Glendale, California.

Director Milius is a respected gun collector and avid shooter so SOP on a Milius set is that the weapons be correct.

There were 50-some 1898-era Spanish 7mm Mausers purchased outright to add authenticity to the considerable arsenal of the opposing Spanish troops.

A second well-known prop house, Ellis Mercantile, came up with a group of Model 95 Winchester carbines for several officers to carry, including Sam Elliott's tough-as-timber "Captain Bucky O'Neil." But the two most unique *personal* weapons on *The Rough Riders*' set would be Roosevelt's Model 1895 Winchester rifle, direct from Milius' collection, and the duplication of Roosevelt's silver-engraved and ivory gripped SAA Colt .45.

Milius grins and admits to a little dramatic license, well-aware that Roosevelt actually used a Naval issue .38 Colt retrieved from the wreckage of the battleship *Maine*.

**BANG-fest by Tiffany**

Historical adviser and reenactor coordinator Riley Flynn was an irreplaceable member of Milius' production team. "I couldn't have done this picture without Riley and his people," said a grateful Milius. It was up to Flynn to gather the almost 500 historical reenactors.

These Civil War and Indian War hobbyists from around the country traded their light-blue kersy trousers for Rough Rider-brown canvas and, where applicable, provided proper shoes, pistols, canteens, haversacks and other such accoutrements. Riley Flynn made sure that Milius had the people and equipment in

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the background to make this film accurate, including a contingent of the famous Buffalo Soldiers of the all-black enlisted 10th Cavalry.

A troop of The Rough Riders' 10th Cavalry was shown under the command of Lt. John J. Pershing, authoritatively played by former Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff-turned-actor (*The Rock*), Marshal Teague.

Dale Dye, Captain, USMC (Ret.), and a former Managing Editor of *SOF*, is well-known in filmmaking circles since 1986 when he trained the actor "troops" for the Academy award-winning *Platoon*.

It was Dye's task to train the core group of The Rough Riders' G troop, including the major actors portraying "Teddy's Terrors": Brad Johnson of *Flight of the Intruder*, Chris Noth formerly of TV's *Law and Order*, Francesco Quinn and Mark Moses of *Platoon*, Buck Taylor of *Tombstone*, and Geoffrey Lewis of *The Wind and the Lion*, were just a few of those who put themselves under Dye's demanding and highly capable command for eight rugged days of extensive training, the results of which were lauded at length by Milius.

By the time major battle scenes commenced filming in Conroe and Bandera, the filmmakers found themselves running and gunning — at warp speed. Five-in-one movie blanks and other specialized blank loads were being blown-off at an alarming rate; especially those rounds used in the Colt '95 Machine Guns.

Besides the Colts, there are gatling guns, two breech-loading Krupp field pieces, altered French 75s, a mountain howitzer and the *piece de resistance* — a vintage Hotchkiss revolving cannon.

Sam Elliott sums up the heartfelt emotions which jelled among the cast and crew for this ambitious project. "I've wanted to work with John Milius for 20 years. I feel very fortunate to be included in this film. It takes us back to a time when everyone was proud to be an American and to go off to battle."

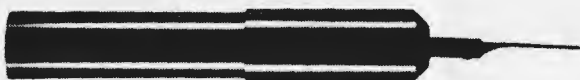
For Milius, it was a celluloid realization of beloved subject matter that his father had first instilled. "My father was in World War One, but he always told me stories about Teddy and the Rough Riders instead."

Well-into *The Wind and the Lion*, an American admiral dispatched to Morocco, assails the local U.S. Consul over his cautious reactions to the kidnapping of a American woman by local brigands. "May I remind you, Sir, that I was at Santiago Bay while this president was running up San Juan Hill. We'll have to do better then just make it look good."

John Milius, Tom Berenger, Sam Elliott, Brad Johnson, Larry Levinson and the entire cast and crew of The Rough Riders have generated a project that far exceeds "looking good." They have likely created a classic war film.

Dan Gagliasso is an LA-based screenwriter with three produced screenplays to his credit, including 'Nam Angels. ✕

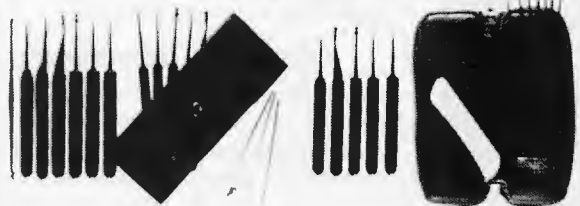
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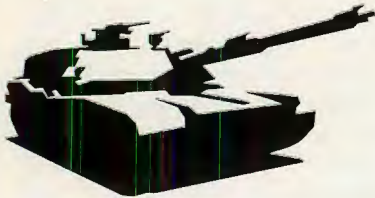


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## The Blame Game

Continued from page 33

Marine Bobby Dickson contacted her senator, Richard C. Shelby of Alabama, and asked for help.

"She was not notified of any circumstances surrounding her son's death," says Laura Cox, Sen. Shelby's press secretary. "That's how we became involved."

### Congress Intervenes

In early 1996, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, of which Shelby was a member, held hearings into the matter. Most were closed, and the public was no closer to hearing the truth than before. Shelby ordered the CIA and the departments of State, Justice, and Defense to investigate the matter and report back — in writing — by year's end.

None of this came easily. "There was a huge dispute when we released the documents from the State Department," says Cox. "There were parts of the report that they objected to releasing." This was not surprising, considering that the reports could make them look bad.

But in September of last year, Inspector General's reports from the four agencies were in Shelby's hands — the first detailed information made public since the investigation into the murders began more than a decade ago. None of the reports is completely available to the public. "There are parts of these reports that are classified and probably always will be," Cox says.

Not surprisingly, the agencies were not too hard on themselves.

The Justice Department, which is clearly the cleanest in this case, concluded that the "parole request for Andrade was mishandled by many people" — though it stopped short of assigning specific blame. Further, Justice officials stand by their belief that Andrade was involved in the Zona Rosa massacre, even if they couldn't make it stick in court. According to the report, "Significant intelligence, as opposed to admissible evidence, implicated Andrade in the attack."

The State Department only found "a failure to exercise reasonable judgment" and concluded that the embassy's legal officer, Chidester, sent "a misleading, if not erroneous statement" to the Justice Department regarding Andrade's parole. But the report does not condemn Chidester, saying only that "the parole gave the appearance that [he] may have tried to deliberately engineer the request in such a way as to avoid review by those who opposed it."

The State Department's report *does* blame the CIA, which it said "knew of the Assistant U.S. Attorney's concerns but did not share that information with the State Department." Apparently State's inspector general did not connect Chidester's "misleading" statements with the Justice Department's ignorance of the parole.

The CIA found that it had done nothing wrong, concluding that it had "coordinated fully with other appropriate agencies" and that "the degree of Andrade's culpability in the Zona Rosa attack was a key element in many of the CIA's decisions." The Agency placed the onus for the parole on the State Department, observing that its El Salvador station regarded that issue as "the responsibility of the Embassy." The bottom line, said the report, was that "no evidence has been found to indicate that the Station played any role in, nor was consulted in advance concerning, the parole request for Andrade in March 1990."

Considering the evidence available, these are stunning conclusions. In fact, the findings of each agency, when read in isolation from the reports themselves, paint a very different picture than the details given in them as a whole. Clearly, this is not what Sen. Shelby intended when he ordered the investigation, though his press secretary, Cox, admits it is all a step in the right direction.

"We are pleased that we have made some progress," she says, "but Sen. Shelby certainly has not given up. I think we are still as concerned about the role our government played as we are about making the perpetrators pay."

So Andrade waits in a New Jersey jail cell until an appeals court hears his case. Despite his denials, it seems clear that he was involved at some level in the Zona Rosa massacre. But his guilt and the immigration trial cannot mask the sordid process that temporarily allowed Andrade freedom and a good life in the United States in exchange for information given to the CIA. This is an old story in the intelligence business, and the Agency has had more than its share of problems with seedy characters over the years. There is, however, a certain irony in this particular case: Instead of the usual right-wing human-rights abusers the CIA dredges up, this time its source came from the other side of the political spectrum in the person of a former left-wing guerrilla.

On the other hand, intelligence-gathering is what the CIA does, and convincing people to sell out comrade and country is one way that job gets done. "The bottom line is that the CIA made a bargain with Andrade, and along with the State Department, approved of paying him and allowing him to enter the country," observes a former Agency official. "What signal will this case send to others who might help the CIA?"

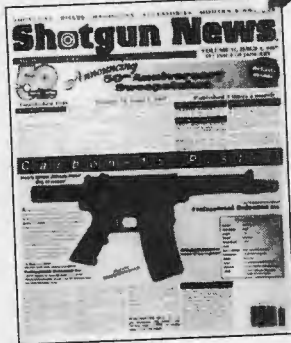
Of course, the families of the Zona Rosa victims are not interested in this reasoning.

"It was so outrageous that Andrade was brought here with CIA dollars," Andrew Whitt, the brother-in-law of slain Marine Patrick Kwiatkowski, said in an interview with *The New York Times*. "And it was unimaginable that he would be allowed to stay."

Virginia resident Dale Andrade is a regular contributor to SOF and a SpecOps historian. ✕

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## I Was There

Continued from page 18

Susan. He lives there today on a small ranch.

One of his bodyguards, allegedly a Shan prince (hey, it worked for the boss, it might work for me), later showed up at our editorial offices in Boulder. The Prince regaled us with tales of counter-revolutionary activities against Hoxa's minions, and of blasting a rocket, for reasons we never did understand, into a Parisian *gendarmerie*. He was traveling under a "Kingdom of Albania" passport. King Zog, when he fled Albania in advance of the Fascists (I would have fled Albania even if the Italians were not closing in), had the foresight to take with him the plates for Albanian passports, and for the next 40 years Leka and his supporters traveled world-wide on these documents. The Shan prince had a passport 3/4-inch thick — he simply put in more papers when he ran out of space!

At several points in the Cold War, King Leka I received passionate support from such officials as Senator Jesse Helms, who more than once wrote into the Congressional Record his thoughts that we should lend more active support to Leka as an alternative to Hoxa's dictatorial communist regime. Indeed, during the 1950s, U.S. and Brit spook agencies attempted to return Leka to power via a clandestine operation launched from Italy, but double-agent Kim Philby thwarted the plot by alerting the Soviets, then allies of Hoxa.

After the fall of the Hoxa regime, and several trips by Leka to his homeland, the current [and ragingly unpopular] Albanian President Sali Berisha has agreed to Leka's request for a popular referendum on re-establishing the monarchy. Well, why not? It might distract the folks from their disastrous losses in state-sanctioned pyramid schemes.

Leka diplomatically proclaims himself H.M. King Leka I *of the Albanians*, not of Albania, and as we go to press, Leka is in Albania building support for a constitutional monarchy, and stumping for "peace and unity" — two commodities that are in short supply in Albania, but ones which *could* be self-generated. A State Department contact told me "the official line is that he would not have a snowball's chance in hell. [but] I wouldn't count him out. His party did well in the north in the last election. I don't know ... could be interesting. Don't count him out."

In the meantime, Leka has an Albanian-American dentist from New Jersey, Dr. Guri Duroliani, running his campaign to re-establish the monarchy with himself as King. His reception among Albanians has varied from cool to tumultuously enthusiastic. The present regime has virtually no trust nor control.

And consider that Leka comes from a survivorship gene pool, as he is a ninth cousin of former President Richard Nixon.

Compared to some of the locals we met on our recent journalistic trek to Albania, King Leka was a fine fellow indeed. We wish H. M. King Leka I well. ☞

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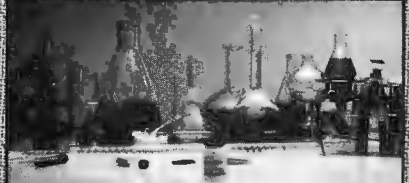
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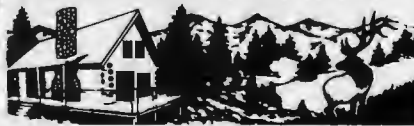
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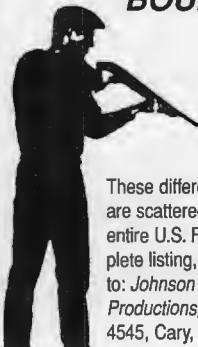
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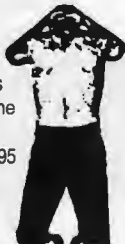
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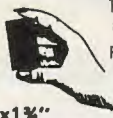


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their "clients," a deserter and a Chechnya vet charged with a friendly fire death, were going through the first steps of their legal process. The committee's contract psychologist was holding a group-therapy session.

**Prison Or Back To The Army**

"I wanted to join the army," explained Alexander, 23, as he signed a number of legal papers given him by the committee, "and when I saw the conditions at Balashikha [army base outside Moscow] I left."

Alexander said the charge of desertion with theft is false. He admitted to leaving his post but denied taking his rifle with him. "That's not true," said the pale-skinned native of Lipetsk, a small industrial city 360 kilometers southeast of Moscow. "I never took my weapon."

"I remember when I first joined the army, I had so many good plans," Alexander continued. "After four weeks of basic training, I could join a special ministry of interior unit: the Dzerzhinskiy Division." (That MVD military unit was named after "Iron Felix" Dzerzhinskiy, founder of the *Cheka*: Lenin's secret police.)

Alexander described how officers and older soldiers routinely abuse younger recruits, demanding bribes and food, and inflicting beatings on a whim.

"They [officers] didn't care about training us," Alexander said. "They drank a lot, and when we finally got to our division we were unprepared."

Alexander said he believed that when he was assigned to the Drzhinski Division his problems would be over with. Although the food was better and the division had adequate supplies and modern equipment, the mentality among the officers was still the same. "I always had to give my ration to my lieutenant. This problem is army wide. The army itself isn't normal. If I didn't leave, my situation would be terrible."

Alexander said he and many other young soldiers were regularly beaten by their officers for not turning over their pay and for not getting them alcohol. "One time I just didn't have any money to give them for alcohol, and they beat me nearly to death ... so I left."

He was AWOL for six months. The army wants him to return to his unit, face a mild penalty of a few months in the stockade, and continue on with his service. "I have two days to agree," Alexander said, "or they said they'll court-martial me and put me in prison for five years."

Alexander did not want to go to jail, but returning to his unit was not a happy prospect, either. "I don't believe they won't touch me; this unit is famous for its violence." The unit's chain of command is totally corrupt, he said, and the morale there was bad. "The officers were

the problem. We have a saying: 'The fish rots from the head.'"

**Justice Moves Slowly**

Twenty-five year-old Slava said that it was the army's violent, don't-give-a-damn mentality that led him to mistakenly kill a fellow soldier last year during his tour in Chechnya last year.

"I was a killing machine by the end of my first six-month tour," the stocky veteran of special forces (*Voiska Spetsialno Naznacheniya: Spetsnaz*) told us. "A lot of times conscripts would go outside the perimeter fence wearing civilian clothes. I couldn't tell if they were Russians or Chechen, so I shot. I didn't know."

If he was convicted at his court martial, he could get up to 15 years' imprisonment, Slava said. "They took such a long time to charge me; I don't understand it," he said. "Why did they wait until my contract ended? No one said a word until this guy's [victim's] family made a complaint. Then they needed someone. I guess it's me."

Slava said he was a member of the "33rd Department," which he described as a battalion of Spetsnaz troops who fought in Chechnya on a "contract basis."

"I made about 8 million rubles [about U.S. \$1,400] for my first six months in Chechnya," Slava recalled. "I was stationed at the Grozny airport, and later I was in Hankala, a suburb of Grozny."

Slava said the Russian army still is strong, but complained that the leadership needs a major overhaul. "There's no cooperation."

His military career began seven years ago, first in the *morskaya pekhota* (naval infantry) and then with duty as a drill instructor, before being accepted into special forces, he said. "I wasn't a violent person before I joined, but in Chechnya there were no rules and no one said 'Don't kill him,' or 'Kill that one and not that one.' I shot anyone that came in front of my bunker. We had a lot of guys, conscripts, that would go AWOL and put on civilian clothes. We had a lot of guys who would join the bandits. Those guys always got it when they were caught."

As to his fate in the upcoming court martial, Slava remarked: "The army will do what they want. I don't know what will happen. I don't even remember that day or that guy. I didn't see him."

According to the mothers' committee, Slava's case is not unusual. The army regularly takes months or even years to bring charges against men who committed crimes while in uniform.

"The army is weak now," a spokeswoman said. "They have no more will. First it was Afghanistan, now it's Chechnya. The army and its soldiers are confused and need help."

*Mark H. Milstein is SOF's chief foreign correspondent. He is based in Budapest, and plans more coverage of the Russian army.* ☞

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## Report To The Commander In Chief

Dear Mr. President:

In 52 years of hanging around soldiers, I have seldom seen the cutting edge of our fighting forces so dull, nor morale lower. The last time it fell so badly was during the Vietnam War.

This gutting of American arms has happened on your watch and it's not because there's not enough money. Since Desert Storm, combat effectiveness has gone down hill like an out-of-control freight train even though we now spend 18 cents of every taxpayer dollar on defense.

The \$300 billion a year we spend on war-fighting and intelligence is more than adequate, especially when you consider that our forces today are 30% smaller than they were in 1991 and there's no real enemy in sight.

If you divide all these defense dollars by the number of true warriors — those who actually *engage* in combat — our forces are getting more money per head in 1997 than during the most dangerous period of the cold war.

I know you have never served, nor have any of your close civilian advisors, so it would be only natural for you to believe what you're told by the Chairman of the JCS, General John Shalikashvili.

It could be, Mr. President, that you have fallen for the propaganda from a general who's become part of the Military Industrial Congressional Complex and has long forgotten what happens down in the trenches.

If Shali were still in touch and abiding by his oath, he would be screaming: *We are no longer good to go!*

I suggest you assemble Shali and your service chiefs and ask them the following questions:

Why are there more colonels than machine gunners in the U.S. Army?

Why are there 150,000 military personnel hunkered down around Washington, D.C., when infantry platoons, who close with the enemy, are uniformly 30-to-40% under strength?

Why does NATO have 44 U.S. Army generals in Europe when we have but four fighting brigades there? This is roughly one general per rifle/tank company?

Why do the top general and admiral in NATO have plush villas and fat staffs which require millions of dollars per year to support while many of our warriors live in tin trailers and can't make it without food stamps?

Why do we have a national strategy which calls for our forces



*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. 45<sup>th</sup> St., New York, NY 10017.*

to be able to fight two Desert Storm-like wars simultaneously when we can't handle even one?

Why are we buying more high-tech aircraft such as F-22 jet fighters, which alone will cost over \$64 billion, and more missiles, helicopters, submarines, and ships, when the soldiers who fight on the ground are still packing essentially the same gear their dads toted in Vietnam?

Why is our warriors' chemical protection/detection gear totally inadequate? Didn't we learn from the Gulf War?

Why are pilots, young ground combat leaders and old-salt NCOs quitting in unparalleled numbers?

The truth is that our defense dollars don't go to the right places.

Instead, we buy weapons and other exotic hardware, which is good for the porkers and their pals, but bad for our country and the warriors who defend it.

The Pentagon spends too much money on blubber and not enough to muscle up its fighters. Fat higher headquarters and a bloated officers' corps that's at least 50% larger than needed steal resources from our line units.

Our tooth-to-tail ratio is so bad that we'll be wearing dentures to our next war. Sure we have 1.4 million military personnel on the books, but we have only 29,000 trigger pullers — the indispensable riflemen who put holes in enemy soldiers.

Your politically correct civilian defense chiefs have eviscerated our force with their constant politicking, treating the profession of arms as though it were an 8-to-5 operation like the Post Office, rather than one whose life-and-death mission is to defend America.

I have a suggestion for you, Mr. President. Once you have heard your chiefs' replies, call in USMC General John Sheehan and bounce their answers off him. He's a four star who runs the Atlantic Command, the kind of warrior leader who would make a great Chairman of the JCS. But stand by for the hard truth.

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

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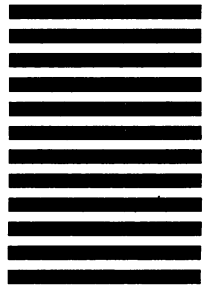
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