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JUNE 1998  
Vol. 23 No. 6



Steve Ellens/Army Times

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# COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

## A Call To Arms

If you love freedom and are a voting NRA member, then go to Philadelphia — home of brotherly love, birthplace of American liberty and home of the NRA's 1998 convention. It may be your only hope to undo the mess caused by Neal Knox and his fellow power-hungry dissidents, who are cracking the NRA like the Liberty Bell.

Book a flight or hop a bus, but make sure you are seated in the Annual Meeting of Members, Saturday, 6 June. At this meeting, Knox and friends want to amend our articles of incorporation in a manner that will benefit only themselves, taking control from voting members. Study the bylaws and scrutinize motions of the floor. Then vote to safeguard freedom and reclaim control of the NRA.

The Knox faction has shown it will stop at nothing to carry out its selfish commitment to disembowel our association — the strongest champion of American freedom. In one recent, radical power grab, the Knox faction brought careless litigation to impair the latest election, seeking to put NRA control in the hands of an anti-gun, anti-NRA judge in New York City.

"They will sacrifice the NRA for their own purpose. If they can't control it, they'll try to destroy it," says Dr. Barbara Phillips, an NRA board member.

The Knox battle shifted to high gear last year after the Seattle convention, where the NRA membership made a forceful statement against Knox by electing Charlton Heston to the position of First Vice President. But they were unwilling to gracefully accept defeat.

If Knox can be stopped in 1998, the name "Philadelphia" may take on new meaning for NRA members who see the

Second Amendment as a cornerstone of our republic. Hopefully it's prophetic this convention takes place in a city known for liberty. If so, the convention may become more historically significant than the 1977 annual meeting, so important to NRA members it's simply called "Cincinnati."

To the NRA, "Cincinnati" means liberty. Ironically, it was a younger Neal Knox who led a revolution in Cincinnati that reformed NRA voting and decentralized power to put more control in the hands of voting members.



At the urging of Knox, bylaws were changed in Cincinnati to allow voting members to create their own board, nominating from their own ranks by petition. In short order, the Cincinnati reforms made the NRA flourish as a credible and affluent public advocate — a

force all would-be Washington tyrants had to reckon with.

The very system Knox fought for eventually brought him down, as voters questioned his leadership. So Knox has brought the revolution full circle — doing all he can to quell dissent, threaten NRA staff members, launch vicious personal attacks, and restore all power to a select few. Knox and company will no doubt use Philadelphia to further their selfish crusade.

This is perhaps the worst time in history for the NRA to self-destruct. We must clean up our house right now. With the upcoming congressional and presidential elections, our gun rights will no doubt be under attack like never before, and the NRA must be strong.

Let freedom ring in Philadelphia. It's the time and place to repair the crack, lest the birthplace of liberty become a tomb for the NRA — freedom's biggest ally. ✕

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (USPS 525-810, ISSN 0145-6784), June 1998, Volume 23, Number 6, is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Inc., 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Boulder, CO 80303-1340. Periodicals Postage is paid at Boulder, CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, Subscription Department, POB 348, Mt Morris, IL 61054-0348 or call 1-800-877-5207. U.S. and APO-FPO subscription rate for twelve monthly issues \$29.95. Canada add \$10.00/yr. additional postage (includes GST tax registration business number: 12847 6249 RT). All other countries add \$21.00 U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S.: \$4.95; United Kingdom: £2.60; Canada: \$5.75. PRINTED IN THE USA.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs or drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to Articles Editor, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, P.O. Box 693, Boulder, CO 80306, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SOF. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs must be credited and be accurately identified. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication. Editorial office phone number is 303-449-3750.

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# BULLETIN BOARD



Courtesy Sturm, Ruger & Co.

**Preserving Our Heritage:** American firearms giant William B. Ruger, recently named SHOTBusiness magazine's man of the year, has fired one giant salvo in the current culture wars: He has donated \$1 million to the NRA's National Firearms Museum, to help ensure a vital aspect of American history and its legacy of freedom will be preserved for the edification of future generations.

An icon of both the free-enterprise system and of quality arms fanciers, Ruger, now 81, is founder and CEO of Sturm, Ruger and Co., which under the influence of his creative genius has grown to be the largest American firearms manufacturing company.

## BOGUS BENEFIT BULLETIN

As we go to press, bogus "reports" and "bulletins" have been bouncing around e-mail circles similar to:

*The President of the U.S. has recently signed into law a bill that affects all veterans. This law states in effect that if a veteran has not registered at a Veterans Affairs Hospital since Oct. 1, 1966, then on Oct 1, 1998 he or she will lose all medical benefits for life ... To make it worse, the V.A. cannot notify veterans about it. That information must be disseminated via word of mouth or by letter. We called the local V.A. Office and found out this information is true ... [sic].*

Although widely disseminated through the usual chain-letter pyramids of cyber-paranoia, SOF has been unable to find any source able to quote the bill number or law title. We had our local congressman's office contact the local VA patient representative and were assured the whole thing was bogus. Best guess is that it started as a misunderstanding of a pilot registration program planned at VARO that aims to register all service and non-service connected vets to assess needs. The VA was aware of the rumor and hoped to get articles in the media dispelling this false info.

Regards this new program, the VA Healthcare Enrollment Fact Sheet states "... You must be enrolled to receive healthcare after October 1998 ..." It does not say you must be registered before that date: It says that after that date you must be registered to receive benefits.

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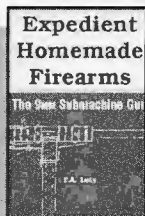
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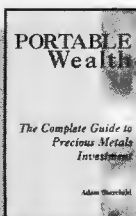
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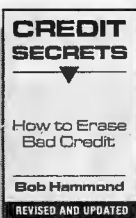
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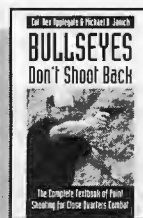
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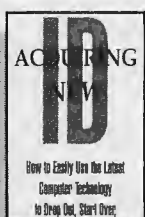
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Alas, alas: Sometimes cyberspace has a hat over it and an ear on each side.

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The Department of the Army has announced qualifying criteria and application protocol for serving and separated soldiers who think they qualify for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge due to service in El Salvador. Qualification rules are spelled out in MilPer Message No.98-095, which was issued by the Total Army Personnel Command on 10 March. The message is available at local personnel offices, and can be downloaded from the Internet ([www.perscom.army.mil/tagd/msg/98-095.htm](http://www.perscom.army.mil/tagd/msg/98-095.htm)).

Specific dates of service are from 1 January 1981 to 1 February 1992. Current or former infantry, SF or medical department personnel must have been present and under hostile fire when assigned to either U.S. Military Group — El Salvador as an adviser to a military region or zone of the armed forces of El Salvador, or while serving with an infantry or specialized infantry-type unit or irregular-type combat unit of brigade or smaller size; or as a member of a mobile training team attached to or working with such a unit.

Approval authority for the El Salvador CIB or CMB is the commander of the Total Army Personnel Command. Requests should be sent to: Commander: PERSCOM, Attn: TAPC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall St., Alexandria, VA 22332-0471. Veterans may write directly to the above address; serving soldiers should apply through the chain of command.

Requests must include information and documentation relating to the names of other soldiers involved in active ground combat, size of your unit and opposing units, intensity and duration of fire exchanged, and type of incident or operation that prompted the ground combat.

### JUMP WITH MILITARY PARACHUTING TOURS INTERNATIONAL

MPTI is hosting its third annual parachute training and jump course "Operation North Sea '98" this May on Texel Island in conjunction with Paracentrum Texel and the Dutch Airborne. Participants — even legs — can make up to eight jumps to qualify for Dutch Military A Brevet (Senior) Parachutist's wings. Training also available on square chutes (for "mature" jumpers).

MPTI is also hosting programs in South Africa (June) and Estonia (August).

For more information, contact MPTI Director Rob Krott, P.O. Box 1573, Olean, NY 14760.

### JUMP WITH AIRBORNE OPERATIONS GROUP

6-13 June, Operation Wings of Peace III will jump in Jordan and Israel, tour the region, hobnob with notables and witness live-fire demonstrations in Zarqa, Jordan and at an IDF tank base. Win both Jordanian and Israeli jump wings, and help cement the peace process by participating in these two mass goodwill jumps. For more information contact: The Airborne Operations Group, Dept. SOF, Suite 475, 200 East 10th Street, New York, NY 10003; phone/fax: 201-512-9909; e-mail: [AirborneOps@AOL.COM](mailto:AirborneOps@AOL.COM).

### WE ALWAYS SUSPECTED AS MUCH

Sometimes the myopically left media can't "see" a story until the rest of the pack does: AP first ran the story ("Sandinista Leader Faces Sex Scandal"), of accusations by Zoilamerica Narvaez, step-daughter of former Sandinista President Daniel Ortega, who said last week that Ortega had repeatedly sexually molested her since she was 11, including during his years as president of Nicaragua.

Reuters picked it up 9 March ("Ortega Sex Abuse Storm Intensifies in Nicaragua"), and again on 13 March ("More Mud

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Dick Metcalf, *Shooting Times*, 1/97

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Wiley Clapp, Field Editor, *Shooting Times*

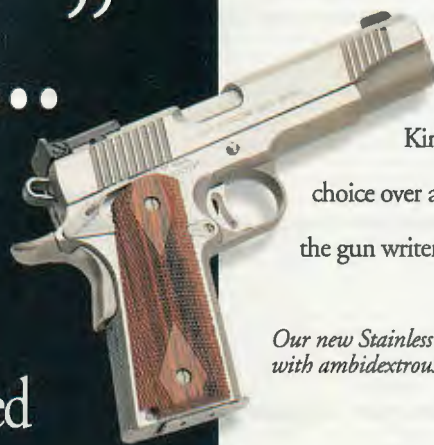
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11. ADVANCED SPECIAL FORCES COMBATIVES - CLOSE QUARTERS BATTLE: PHASE ALPHA In this tape, combative expert James Webb shows how the principles of his dynamic system can be applied to four facets of combatives. Facet One demonstrates the proper usage of four tools: elbows, knees, headbutts and Thai kicks. Then a combined foot-in-fighting flow drill will be demonstrated and explained. In facet two, ten training reaction drills will teach rhythm, coordination, timing, sensitivity, speed, flowing and angling. Facet three will show techniques and the manner of coming to the aid of a friend or a victim. This is a section of fighting that is rarely taught in most fighting styles. Facet Four covers numerous fighting techniques that meet the principles of combatives that work in a real life and death situation. This tape brings the combative student to a higher level of development in training procedures. The techniques demonstrated are based on the natural moves of the body and does not involve the so-called fancy moves, spinning jumping kicks or gymnastics. #CMBT-2.....80 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95

12. ADVANCED SPECIAL FORCES COMBATIVES - CLOSE QUARTERS BATTLE: PHASE BRAVO This tape begins by presenting an inside look at what really occurs in a street altercation. You'll be taught a lifetime worth of street knowledge and street psychology that will last forever and give you an edge. You will also learn how to force your antagonist to open up to your strikes. Discover the principles of awareness and a simple training exercise that will develop your street awareness. With street awareness on the rise, we are forced to learn and understand fighting techniques to help us survive. The techniques demonstrated provide a sound foundation in one of the most effective and powerful methods taught on street survival. The concepts involved are of transferring the body from a totally relaxed position into an explosive and deadly force. Additionally, you will learn how to create weapons out of everyday objects such as: magazines, coats, ball-point pens, cups, cans and briefcases that are more lethal than your hands and feet. Let James Webb be your personal trainer in one of the most complete street survival systems available. #CMBT-3.....61 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95

13. ADVANCED SPECIAL FORCES COMBATIVES - STICK FIGHTING Stick combatives is one of the most effective systems of personal combat ever developed. This tape is a complete guide to learning the fundamentals of stick combatives. Learn how to quickly and totally destroy an attacker with one or two sticks. Demonstrated will be the double stick power drill, two double stick energy/speed drills, four defensive drills and stick combat techniques. Also demonstrated are how to integrate stick combatives into your arsenal of natural body weapons. Master the art of stick combatives as few others have with the exciting, effective and simple instructions presented in this tape. One of the most accessible weapons in a combat or street situation is the stick and for this reason no martial art or fighting style is complete without a study of this weapon. #CMBT-4.....53 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95

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World renowned U.S. Army Chief Combatives Instructor and 8th Degree Black Belt, Master Leonard C. Holifield, is considered a leading authority in the field of Close Quarter Hand-to-hand Combat. As President and Founder of Holifield's Combat Systems International (H.C.S.I.), he has trained hundreds of military and law enforcement personnel around the world which include, Infantry, Artillery, Airborne, Air Assault, Air Recon, Special Forces, Military Police, and Special Reaction Team Units. In 1994, he was inducted into the World Martial Arts Hall of Fame for over 27 years of martial arts excellence and his work in the field of military combatives. He is a World Certified Instructor and continues to be in constant demand for his training sessions and seminars on Close-Quarter Combat and Street Self-Defense. His extensive training in the martial arts include: Judo, Jujitsu, Aikido, Hapkido, Combat Karate, Shotokan Karate, Kung-Fu, Western Boxing, Wrestling and Sikaron Karate (an integrated system geared strictly for Real World street self-defense.) His no nonsense approach to close-quarter combat has made him one of the most sought after instructors in the country.

1. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF CLOSE QUARTER HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT In this lesson you will learn the basic principles of hand-to-hand combat including basic stances, blocks, strikes, kicks, knife fighting skills, vital points, closing the gap, force redirection, joint manipulation and responsibility as a combatives specialist. #ARMY-1.....100 min.....ONLY \$49.95

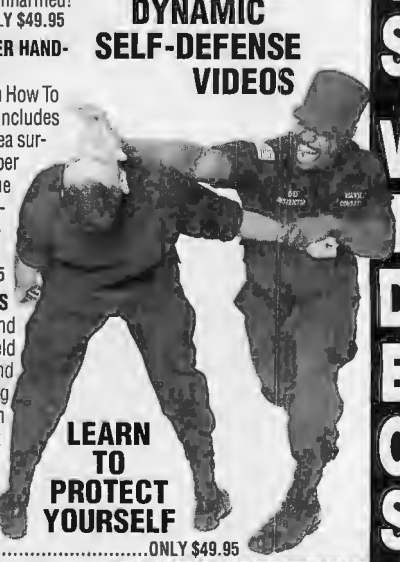
2. CLOSE QUARTER HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT FIGHTING TACTICS VOLUME 1 This tape takes you through some of the most deadliest hand-to-hand combat tactics ever filmed. All techniques are shown step-by-step and then at combat speed. Techniques include defense against punch attacks, grabs, holds, kicks, knife attacks, rushing attacks and ground fighting tactics. This is must for all serious students and instructors wishing to expand their knowledge and techniques. #ARMY-2.....48 min.....ONLY \$49.95

3. CLOSE QUARTER HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT FIGHTING TACTICS VOLUME 2 In this tape world renowned Chief Combatives Instructor and 7th Degree Black Belt Leonard Holifield teaches you the devastating (real world) techniques of hand-to-hand combat. Each technique is shown numerous times at different angles allowing the viewer to fully understand the mechanics of each technique. Techniques include: defense against punch attack, defense against knife attack, defense against rifle/bayonet, low level kicks, ground fighting tactics, defense against pistol and choking techniques. #ARMY-3.....45 min.....ONLY \$49.95

4. CLOSE QUARTER HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT FIGHTING TACTICS VOLUME 3 This dynamic tape teaches you the military quick and deadly defensive techniques against punches, chokes, rifle attacks, and more. Follow along as Sgt. Holifield shows how to stop the deadliest types of assaults and escape unharmed! #ARMY-4.....60 min.....ONLY \$49.95

5. HOW TO CONDUCT AN ARMY CLOSE QUARTER HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT TRAINING SESSION This valuable tape takes you step-by-step through How To Conduct A Hand-To-Hand Combat Session. Includes instructor responsibilities, the soldier, training area survey, equipment needed, safety considerations, proper training sequence, physical fitness training and the (5) biggest mistakes made when teaching Hand-To-Hand Combat. This tape is a must for instructors wishing to enhance their teaching skills. #ARMY-5.....46 min.....ONLY \$49.95

6. PRISONER SEARCH & SECUREMENT TACTICS In this lesson Chief Combatives Instructor and World Martial Arts Hall of Famer Leonard Holifield shows you the most effective ways to search and secure a prisoner of war. Credited with capturing one of the first Iraqi POW's during "Operation Desert Storm" Mr. Holifield shows you what really works. This tape includes initial search procedures, searching techniques, searching more than one prisoner, securing techniques, and gagging techniques. #ARMY-6.....25 min.....ONLY \$49.95



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**2. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-SUPERIOR GROUND FIGHTING SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES**

This important video could very well save your life should you end up on the ground in a street fight or free style tournament. Brazilian fighter Kazeka Muniz personally teaches you how to defend and escape from the guard position which is when an opponent is on top of you trying to inflict harm. From the guard position you will learn how to defend against strikes to your face, chokes, and attempted arm locks while escaping and defeating your opponent with counter strikes. In part two of this dynamic tape you will learn ground fighting strategies that enable you to mount, control and stay on top of your opponent while applying chokes and joint locks. Ground fighting is a science and no one does it better than the Brazilian fighters. Learn the Brazilian secrets of successful ground fighting by adding this life saving self-defense tape to your martial arts video library. **ORDER #BZJJ-2.....55 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95**

**3. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-SUPERIOR CHOKING SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES**

A sure way to stop and control an aggressive attacker is to apply a choking technique. Regardless of an opponent's size or strength, he cannot withstand a properly applied choke for more than a few seconds. This outstanding video teaches everything there is to know about lethal Brazilian choking techniques including front and rear chokes, chokes from the guard and mount positions, creating the proper leverage, anatomy of a choke, choke defenses, using your opponents clothing to choke him out and more. Learn how to go for the neck and win by ordering today! **ORDER #BZJJ-3.....55 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95**

**4. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-SUPERIOR LEG LOCKING SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES**

Very few fighters understand how to apply leg locks when in combat. The fighter who is skilled in this area has a great advantage over his opponents. In this valuable lesson Kazeka Muniz teaches the painful ground fighting foot and knee joint locks of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. You will learn how to control your attackers legs to create the proper leverage for applying the leg lock correctly. Since few fighters ever think about protecting their legs, you can end a fight quickly with the techniques **ORDER #BZJJ-4.....55 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95**

**5. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-SUPERIOR HEADLOCK ESCAPES AND SELF-DEFENSE TECHNIQUES**

One of the most common attacks is for your opponent to try and get you in a headlock. The Brazilians have developed numerous self-defense techniques for escaping every type of headlock whether standing or on the ground. In this high quality tape you will learn 11 important headlock ESCAPES and their counters. You will learn ways to manipulate your opponents body position to your advantage so you can apply throws, chokes, joint locks, leg locks and strikes! Avoid being hurt or choked if caught in a headlock with the help of this important tape. **ORDER #BZJJ-5.....55 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95**

**6. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-SUPERIOR SELF-DEFENSE AND JOINT LOCKS VOLUME 1**

This important tape features Brazilian Jiu Jitsu techniques that deal with standing aggression. Standing aggression is when an assailant approaches ready to attack. When confronted in this manner you will learn how to position your body to respond effectively and maintain balance. The techniques presented include self-defense against single and two handed grabs, choking attacks, bear hugs, punches, kicks, clinching and more. Your response will be quick and decisive. No longer feel fear when approached by a stranger, instead be ready to go into action with this Superior Brazilian Self Defense tape. **ORDER #BZJJ-6.....55 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95**

**7. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-SUPERIOR SELF-DEFENSE AND JOINT LOCKS VOLUME 2**

This exciting tape combines Brazilian Jiu Jitsu with Muay Thai and Jeet Kune Do fighting techniques. Fear no one as you learn offensive and defensive street fighting strategies including proper stances and footwork, fighting posture and guard positions, balance, effective striking techniques using head butts, elbows, knees, fists, and low kicks in conjunction with chokes and joint locks. This tape is loaded with must have street fighting techniques and strategies. **ORDER #BZJJ-7.....55 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95**

**8. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-SUPERIOR SELF-DEFENSE AND TAKEDOWNS**

In this exciting lesson Brazilian fighter Kazeka Muniz shows numerous ways of taking your attacker to the ground and applying a finishing strike, choke, or joint lock. He also includes an excellent series of Brazilian self-defense techniques for disarming a knife and baseball bat wielding attacker. Kazeka explains that anything goes in a street fight which is why the techniques are brutal but necessary including biting, eye gouging, and head butts. This tape completes your training in this exceptional Brazilian street fighting self-defense series. **ORDER #BZJJ-8.....55 MIN.....ONLY \$49.95**

**9. BRAZILIAN STREET FIGHTING-"UP CLOSE" AN EXCLUSIVE VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH KAZEKA MUNIZ**

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Flies in Nicaragua Sex Scandal").

*The Washington Post* finally logged on 14 March with "Stepdaughter Accuses Ortega of Abusing Her; Molestation, Intimidation Charges Stun Nicaragua."

As we go to press, *The New York Times* has thus far ignored the story — too far, or too close, to home?

### FEDS BUST ALIEN-SMUGGLING RING

Federal agents in El Paso, Tex., have put the kabash to a sophisticated smuggling ring that sneaked hundreds of illegals in from the Middle East, including more than 150 Iraqis. Officials said that of the more than 250 people known to have been smuggled into the USA by this ring, all but six are still here and are being sought. The ringleader, "George the Iraqi" Tajirian, a Mexican citizen, has been indicted on seven counts of smuggling and conspiracy. His Mexican wife, an employee of the Mexican immigration service, and a Lebanese woman employed at one of Tajirian's travel agencies, are being sought.

Officials indicated the ring operated out of two travel agencies — one in Cuba and one in Ecuador — and charged as much as \$25,000 for counterfeit documents, and travel arrangements into the United States. The investigation first began in October of 1996 when immigration officials snagged a Syrian with fake documents crossing into El Paso from Ciudad Juarez.

### "ANY SOLDIER" SAYS IT ALL

A member of the U.S. Army 10th Special Forces Group deployed for peacekeeping duty in Bosnia received one of the many pieces of morale mail sent blindly by school kids and others seeking to support our troops. The 10th Group Green Beret penned an interesting response. Lest it bust her bubble, one can only hope the young pen pal is not an aspiring Clinton White House intern.

"We have received lots of 'any soldier' mail," the soldier told a friend back home. "I wrote a little girl from New Jersey the following:

"I have just enjoyed my third Christmas in a row away from my family. Hope yours was merry. Remind your parents to vote Republican and maybe one day I will be able to spend a Christmas at home."

"Sincerely, Any Soldier."

— JLP

### CORRECTION

Armalite, purveyor of the new 7.62x51mm NATO AR-10A2 carbine — a high-quality instrument that groups better than most out-of-the-box bolt-action rifles — was mentioned in a recent issue with the wrong phone number. You can reach Armalite at, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 299, Geneseo, IL 61254; phone: 309-944-6939; fax: 309-944-6949. The new Armalites are all-new, all-American and guaranteed for life. ✕

## BACK ISSUES

#219 JANUARY 96: **SOLD OUT!**

#220 FEBRUARY 96: **SOLD OUT!**



**#221 MARCH 96:**  
**BOSNIA:** U.S. Army's Task Force Eagle; **BATF:** Congressional hearings on Waco and Ruby Ridge analyzed; **MERCs:** inside story of Denard's Comoros coup; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** why we can't find the Unabomber; civilian researchers work on Gulf War Syndrome

#222 APRIL 96: **SOLD OUT!**

#223 MAY 96: **SOLD OUT!**

#224 JUNE 96: **SOLD OUT!**

#225 JULY 96:

**DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** SOF inside Freeman compound in Montana; **PERU:** is Marxist Sendero Luminoso on verge of collapse? **TRAINING/COMPETITION:** USMC & police SWAT snipers in long-range shootout; concealed carry course for armed professionals; **BOSNIA:** orgy of destruction in Sarajevo.



**#226 AUGUST 96:**

**MIDDLE EAST:** U.N. force caught in crossfire in Lebanon; **CHINA:** Taiwan defies red menace; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** intimate partnership between Delta Force and FBI; **MERCs:** battling rebels in Sierra Leone; **VIETNAM:** props vs. jets over Ho Chi Minh Trail; **WEAPONS:** new Steyr bolt-action sniper rifle.

#227 SEPTEMBER 96:

**BATF:** record-keeping scandal; **SOUTH AFRICA:** Police Reaction Unit battles civil warlords; **WEAPONS:** H&K's MP5 eats rounds like candy; Spanish Astra compact handguns; **PHILIPPINES:** civil war brewing? **MIDDLE EAST:** Operation Grapes of Wrath targets Hezbollah.



**#228 OCTOBER 96:**

**EXPANDED ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!** **AFRICA:** Civil war and tribal genocide in Uganda; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** Clinton's war on 2nd Amendment; Waco — the final verdict; Delta Force invades Pittsburgh; Arizona's "Viper Team" **CENTRAL AMERICA:** U.S. troops in Panama.

#229 NOVEMBER 96:

**ELITE UNITS:** SEAL Team 6 counterterrorist force; Sweden's R6jdjyckare EOD frogmen; **EXPOSE:** Swimmers Among the Trees; **AFRICA:** Sierra Leone's RUF rebels; **TRAINING:** Gunsite's tactical shotgun course; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** mysterious Presidential helicopter crash.



**#230 DECEMBER 96:**

**MERCs:** SOF visits French Foreign Legion; merc muscle checks civil war in Angola **WEAPONS:** Dragunov — man behind legend; SIG's P239 **ELITE UNITS:** America's new expeditionary force.

#231 JANUARY 97:

**WEAPONS:** return of the BAR; **AIRCRAFT:** T&E of Longbow Apache; **BATF:** rogues' gallery of lying supervisors and agents; **VIETNAM WAR:** declassified secrets of SOG's legendary Mad Dog; **IRAQ:** Saddam's war against Kurds; **BURMA:** training Karen snipers.



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**#232 FEBRUARY 97:**

**ELITE UNITS:** SOF spies on Delta Force training in Houston; **NORTHERN IRELAND:** does peace have a future? **BOSNIA:** NATO air power; **AFGHANISTAN:** alliance against Taliban faction; **SOUTHEAST ASIA:** SOF on the ground with Bo Mya in Burma.

**#233 MARCH 97:**

**ANALYSIS:** hostage rescue disaster in Iran; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** exclusive report on Gulf War Syndrome; how firearms dealers can survive Gun Gestapo bullying; **SOUTHEAST ASIA:** H'mong fight genocide in Laos; **TRAINING:** Thunder Ranch — boot camp for precision shooters.



**#234 APRIL 97:**

**BATF:** double standard for race relations; **WEAPONS:** South Africa's new 20mm sniper rifle; **TRAINING:** gunfighter school run by former SEALs; **SOUTHEAST ASIA:** Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia; **MIDDLE EAST:** most hazardous AO in Israeli military.

## BACK ISSUES

#235 MAY 97: **SOLD OUT!**



**#236 JUNE 97:**

**BATF:** harassment and entrapment; **KNIVES:** all-American Bowie still king; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** armed bank robbers shootout with L.A. cops; OKC bombing analysis; **EXPOSE:** Covert Warrior; **AFRICA:** Zaire's civil war; **PHILIPPINES:** why communist uprising never happened.

**#237 JULY 97:**

**AFRICA:** mayhem, mysticism and misery in Uganda; **MIDDLE EAST:** terrorism in Damascus; **PHILIPPINES:** government and Moro rebels unite to defeat Muslim faction; **BATF:** Congress grounds ATF air force; **MEDIA:** former SEAL Harry Humphries helps Hollywood get it right.

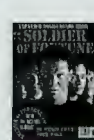
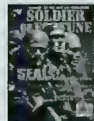


**#238 AUGUST 97:**

**EL SALVADOR:** Zona Rosa massacre update; police and military battle drug thugs; **MIDDLE EAST:** anatomy of a Mossad assassination; **WEAPONS:** Russia's secret battle rifle; Kah's semi-auto pistols; **RUSSIA:** downsizing military hits hard.

**#239 SEPTEMBER 97:**

**KOREA:** SOF on DMZ; **WEAPONS:** RPG-7; new South African Vektor 40mm AG; **VICARIOUS THRILLS:** flying with USAF Thunderbirds; **MERCs:** European "advisers" in Zaire; **INDONESIA:** civic action or occupation in East Timor?

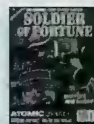


**#240 OCTOBER 97:**

**EXPANDED ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!** **MEDIA:** behind the scenes at Soldier of Fortune, Inc. TV series; **KNIVES:** training with Bowies; **VIETNAM:** did Soviets grab U.S. pilots? **PERU:** dramatic rescue at Japanese Ambassador's Residence; **RUSSIA:** SOF inside military training base; **WEAPONS:** Walther's into the 21st century.

**#241 NOVEMBER 97:**

**ELITE UNITS:** inside look at U.S. Army Ranger school; **OKC BOMBING:** did Feds have prior warning? **AFRICA:** Liberia's warring factions — street gangs or military units? **WEAPONS EXCLUSIVE:** Russia's new Gepard SMG; **TERRORISM:** Middle East countries' nuclear threat.



**#242 DECEMBER 97:**

**ELITE UNITS:** interview with SEAL founder Roy Boehm; SEAL Team 2 in Tet Offensive; **GERMANY:** elite operators of GSG-9; **WEAPONS:** H&K modifies USSOCOM .45 ACP handgun; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** scientists at Aberdeen use supercomputer to calculate data for Iraq's missiles.

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# SLICK-WILLIE-WATCH

## Unholy Alliance: Vets, Socialists and the Common Enemy

If you saw what happened in Columbus, Ohio, when the Clinton policy team came to town you might have had a flashback. There is no better way to describe the reception and actions of Clinton's top advisers than to call it what it was — a near-ambush.

Secretary of Defense William Cohen, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger thought they were on a secured trail when they arrived at Ohio State. Instead, they walked right into grazing fire. Albright found herself yelling at the spectators in the cheap seats, trying to silence those most vocal in their opposition. At the same time, former politician Cohen tried hard to keep his cool but from the nervous licking of his lips to the constant fidgeting many could smell blood in the water. Instead of a happy crowd, awed by the luminaries that had descended from the heights of Washington, they found pissed-off Americans with some damned hard, intelligent questions. Despite cries of "foul" from the Chief Executive, it was American democracy in its purest form.

On 18 February, the White House, in conjunction with media big-dog CNN, put on an "International Town Hall Meeting" on the topic of the brewing conflict with Iraq. This event occurred in St. John's Arena on the campus of the Ohio State University. CNN made a deal with the White House for the exclusive broadcast rights to the event. Presumably, the White House selected

Columbus because it does not exactly have a reputation as a hotbed of radicalism. They were right on that. What they failed to take into account was the voice that free Americans sometime find the need to use.

A hostile crowd doesn't materialize in an instant these days. No, there was trouble brewing on the campus of Ohio State and in the city of Columbus long before the "Town Hall Meeting" showed up. At some points it was downright weird.

It became obvious this would be more than just your ordinary feel-good political appearance and sell-job when a U.S. Army Ranger and a socialist student activist compared notes on why military intervention was just flat-out wrong at this point. Here was a professional infantry officer — Airborne, Air Assault, Ranger with all the associated doodads — advising the socialist anti-war activist on the weaknesses of the planned attack from a purely military standpoint. One was standing there with practically no hair, the other with hair beyond his shoulders. It was a strange sight, indeed, and would only get stranger.

By announcing that they were coming to Columbus the Clinton team created an alliance between veterans, military members and the American Right on one hand and, on the other, the standard left-liberal and activist core that might be found these days on any major university campus. What everyone wanted to know, at the core, came down to one simple question: "Is your

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planned bombing going to accomplish anything?" There were other questions related to this one such as, "If you do this, are you going to have to do it again, and again, and again?" and "What is the point of this graduated escalation?"

It might not have gone down this way except for some exceptionally bad threat analysis by the Clinton team and CNN prior to the event. What triggered the shouting protests and all the arrests (there were arrests, inside and outside? Did'ja know that?) was the way that the Executive Branch and CNN tried to create a deliberately managed and almost-scripted "feel-good session." If this had been a political-party event it would not be out of the ordinary at all. But the problems started when they billed the whole shebang as a "free and open discussion of ideas and thoughts," then tried to screen and control all aspects of the event to ensure that it came off smoothly from a policy standpoint.

Two colors of tickets were distributed, scarlet and gray (as befits OSU); grey for the masses, scarlet for those generally deemed-reliable. Only those with scarlet could even pre-submit questions to those controlling the microphones. Even then, the questions were screened.

By the time the Clinton team rolled in the word had spread and most in the area knew what was coming. People were pissed about the way the event was being "managed" and felt this was not a good way to promote "free and open discussion." All that remained was for the lambs (Cohen, Albright and Berger) to be led into the house.

This protest was not just a liberal rant. It was a protest movement with fairly secure and broad-based support coming from across the entire political spectrum. The OSU portion seemed to be centered on the Department of History, where historians of all ages saw unnerving parallels between this Democratic president's planned use of force, and the last Democratic president who used force 30 years ago. Military historians, usually a bastion of conservative thought, pointed out that no single piece of terrain ever fell, or nation changed

its course, due to mere conventional bombing.

Political historians pointed to President Johnson's policy of "graduated escalation" and wondered how a president who protested that activity a few decades ago could now be planning the same actions under another title. Social historians were aghast at the parallels with a mere movie, Wag The Dog, and wondered how the Clinton presidency would spin this. All of them came to roughly the same conclusion, an opinion that was voiced in the end by an aged veteran who had seen and made history, not just written about it. During the meeting this older man, proudly wearing his VFW cap, stood up and asked, "If you gotta do this, OK. But are you gonna do it right, so we don't have to keep putting our boys in harms' way? Or are you going to do it half-way again?"

The protests started around noon. For those holding grey tickets there was the prospect of a long line, standing in freezing rain. At first, there were just a few activists, the usual hard core found on any campus. But before too long, as the line lengthened, the protesters outside found themselves in possession of a captive audience. When the time for actual seating came around there were more than 100 people out front, megaphones and placards at the ready, with the media circling like sharks in water spread with chum.

If you were watching, what you saw on television was nothing compared to the reality as seen on the inside of St. John's Arena. Within the echoing cavern that is more accustomed to holding basketball fans than political discourse it was sheer chaos at times. Reports from various local-news sources reported up to eight people were arrested. None of that made it to the CNN broadcast thanks to strategically placed breaks for commercials. At one point, Bernard Shaw (of Gulf War fame and a moderator that day) literally got into a shouting match with an audience member. Now that's irony for Shaw, of the media elite, to suppress free-speech, yelling at a citizen for exercising free speech. God bless America. ☒

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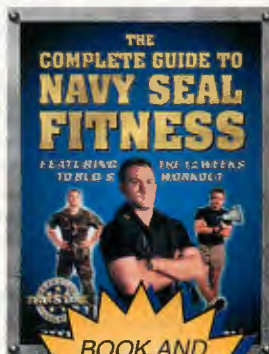
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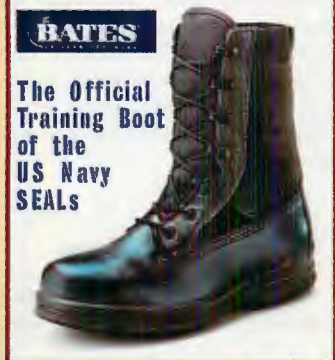
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## The Germans Are Coming, The Germans Are Coming

I am very concerned over the Permanent Air Force Base being set up in New Mexico. Permanent German air force (Luftwaffe). Old Holloman Air Force Base. When Clinton is closing down our military bases. Are we going to sit by and let nuclear-capable countries set up in New Mexico or anywhere else? Why not Japan or Vietnam or Cuba with nuclear weapons. 15 aircraft Tornado type jets with nuclear capability. I don't trust any other country inside U.S. confines — with 50 aircraft to be established at Holloman AFB New Mexico by 1999. Nuclear jets could destroy the working order of the USA (N-E-S-W) WITH no problem. Especially when the Secretary of Defense and Governor of New Mexico are making millions to let the Germans' [swastika] in.

I think the American people better wake up (lest we forget). A nuclear 1st strike by 1999 is coming it seems to me.

Also (Gold) is big time in the area where Holloman Air Force Base is (MAYBE) they're digging up our gold. Splitting with someone.

Is this known by the American People? If they don't know they should be let know.

Something sneaky is coming up. I don't know if you had an article on this base or not. But it should be checked into. Since you are one of the only publications that lets the people know what's going on in the U.S.

Put the Germans out before we get a Big Nuclear 1st Strike.

Ken Early, Retired U.S. Army  
Sierra Vista, Ariz.

P.S. I hope you will find something out it seems they're trying to keep this secret.

*Ken, we checked this story out, and came up with a substantially different take on it than you (see story by Rick Sherrow, this issue). The reason they're here is they need space to train in jet fighters, space they are very short of in Europe and we're long on in New Mexico (if you've ever seen the air traffic at Frankfurt Main you know what we mean). I wouldn't worry about their aging British-built Tornados being nuclear-capable: My 1978 Ford pickup is nuclear-capable if I had a nuke. We've had permanent military bases in Germany since WWII (and have had nukes deployed there since at least the early 1960s), so I think it's*

*pretty unlikely they have any sort of hostile intent. It's cost us billions over the past 50 years keeping bases in Germany. I, for one, am happy to see the cash flow the other way. If the Germans who trained at Luke AFB in Arizona are any indication, they'll be real good neighbors. WWII is over, Ken, these men are of a different generation — and if there is a WWII they'll be fighting right alongside us. It might be good if they were well trained.*

*As for any German interest in gold around Holloman, there may be a historical precedent for Germans hoarding gold, but I mined gold in the desert southwest for several years, and it'd be my guess that if they have any interest in gold, they'll find getting it out of the desert like, ahem, pulling teeth. One thing is for certain: They'd have to steal a pretty big pile of gold to equal what they're paying us for rent.*

## The Prussians Are Coming, The Prussians Are Coming

Enclosed is a copy of an article published by our local paper, the Alamogordo Daily News. Naturally, "Liberal and Left." This, along with the 300 Germans and their "families" here, (at Holloman Air Force Base on WSMR) many of whom are from "former" Iron Curtain countries, including of course, East Germany, raises questions.

Soviet tanks, and armed military from countries trained in their use is a distinct threat. Your article mentioned a "lack of confirmation." Guys, these people feel so safe that this stuff was printed in our paper!

Please take a few minutes and look through the enclosed.

[Enclosed were news clippings regarding Luftwaffe training at Holloman, former Soviet equipment at White Sands, aging Sheridans being used as targets, plus a number of letters/ads the writer had published in local papers. Also enclosed were the snapshot and caption as noted.]

Ken Roberts  
Alamogordo, NM



"The Luftwaffe float in our Independence Day parade in 1996. They fought as paid mercenaries of the British against American patriots. A foot note: they had planned to be in our Veteran's Day parade and I put so much heat on them, they didn't."

Photo and caption: Ken Roberts

*You missed some more important FACTS here: Consider that the planes the Germans will be flying over American soil are BRITISH-made. Consider that the royal house in Britain is actually of GERMAN ethnicity. Can't you see the threat? Obviously, the British government intends to once again use Prussian hirelings to crush the American Rebels and steal their liberty. And look at the money involved: MARK my word, the Tory bastards have again hired the Prussians to POUND us into submission. What's to be next, a coffee tax?*

*There is also an alternate possibility: Although we do not for a minute doubt your patriotism or sincerity — maybe you should spend some time in the shade.*

## Show The Show



I am an Army Special Forces Officer, and have been assigned to SF units for the last eight years. For the last two months I have watched Soldier Of Fortune, Inc. (SOF, Inc.) and would like to make the following comments.

(They are just my opinions, but I do have considerable SF experience.)

SOF, Inc. is probably about a 90% solution when it comes to a TV show about SOF that is realistic AND entertaining. I've heard a few people complaining that it's not realistic enough, that there shouldn't be a woman in it, that they don't have all the right equipment, etc., etc. Let's face it, a TV show that actually showed all the planning, rehearsal, etc. that went into a real mission

would be boring. I also realize that there are no women on SF A-Teams or in SEAL platoons. So what? A certain amount of sex is necessary to sell anything. This is a TV show! Along the same lines, TV shows cannot afford all the aircraft, ships and boats, etc. that U.S. SOF uses. I know what all that stuff costs and I'm impressed with what is on SOF, Inc. Only a big-budget full-length movie could do better.

SOF, Inc. is very entertaining and is as realistic as one could expect a one-hour TV show to be when it comes to Special Operations. The plots are plausible enough, the scenes and locations are good, the Special Operations infiltration techniques (military freefall parachuting, helocasting and surface and sub-surface maritime operations) are very well done, the equipment is pretty accurate (weapons, radios, night vision gear, parachutes, etc.), and the weapons handling is good (if a bit dramatized).

Equally important, the actors and actresses are capable actors and play their parts well. Particular kudos to the actress who plays the female character Margo. She has a tough assignment playing a female in a community where a female is a rarity — I expected the worst when I saw the lead-in to the first episode. She plays the part with just the right mix of toughness, humor, and sex. I like her.

All in all, SOF, Inc. is a good show about Special Operations — it is the only weekly TV show I watch. After all the sitcoms and cop shows, I for one could easily put up with the few faults in SOF, Inc. Especially when one takes a moment to realize that this show is for a wide audience, undoubtedly has a limited budget, and has to tell a complete story in an hour. I hope SOF, Inc. keeps up the good work and is around for many seasons.

Please withhold my name and address.

### Tanks For Keeping Us Honest



March issue, the story of Castro's Cuba, page 45, in reference to the painting of Castro leaping off the rear deck of the "SAU-100." The tank in the painting is not an SAU-100! The tank is the long barrel version of the

T-34. The T-34 had several variants: T-34 with bulldozer blade; OT-34 flamethrower tank; T-34 bridge-layer (MTU); MT-34 (Czech) bridgelayer; T-34 AA (mounting twin 37mm guns ca. Vietnam); T-34T and T-34T1 armored recovery vehicle; WPT-34 (Polish variant).

The T-34 has five large road wheels, flat track and no track return rollers. During World War II there also was the short-barrel T-34, the Soviet tank that won the war on the Eastern Front!

Scott Lowe  
Lee's Summit, MO ✉

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## The Light Saber

The flashlights most commonly employed by law-enforcement personnel and members of military special operations units are not aiming devices. They do not replace the weapon's sights. These lights are used to illuminate the target and permit accurate target discrimination. They backlight the weapon's sights and enable their proper use. Self-luminous tritium sights do not assist target discrimination in total darkness.

If powerful enough, they can also be used to momentarily blind your opponent. However, that has always been a very big "if," until now. Laser Products (Dept. SOF, 18300 Mt. Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708; phone: 800-828-8809, fax: 714-545-9537), whose famous SURE-FIRE flashlights totally dominate the field of combat illumination, has just introduced the incredible new 12ZM CombatLight, which literally raises light to a non-lethal-force option.

The most meaningful measure of the power of a flashlight for comparison purposes is the total amount of light it emits, which includes both the focused and wide-angle portions of the beam produced by the flashlight. This is measured by an instrument called an "integrating sphere" and given in "lumens." This is a much better measurement for comparison purposes than "candlepower" because, as commonly used, candlepower is merely a measurement of the intensity of the hottest spot in the beam. This can be misleadingly high for flashlights having either larger reflectors or irregularly focused beams with "hot spots."

SURE-FIRE's most popular model, the 6P, uses two lithium batteries and will provide more than 60 lumens. The three-battery 9P delivers a remarkable 105 lumens. The new 12Z Magnum CombatLight, using four Duracell DL123A lithium batteries, pushed to their maximum potential by a new, high-intensity, high-

pressure xenon lamp and combined with SURE-FIRE's "Turbo" Lexan reflector provides an awesome 500 lumens — more than eight times the power of the 6P!

This knock-out-power, tightly-focused beam was designed for dynamic entries — to blast in and blind the opponent. No one can return fire with 500 lumens of dazzling white light searing through his eyeballs into his brain. Non-complying prisoners or suspects turn to putty and can be controlled like sheep when this type of non-lethal force is applied. Without doubt, the SURE-FIRE 12ZM CombatLight and its weapons-mounted counterpart, the L120M lamp module (which can throw a useful beam out to 300 meters), are important new tools for both law enforcement and self-defense.

All of this power is packaged in a surprisingly small envelope. Weighing only 9.9 ounces, the overall length is only 9.0 inches. The body (machined from aircraft-quality aluminum) has a diameter of 1.0 inch and the head diameter is 2.5 inches.

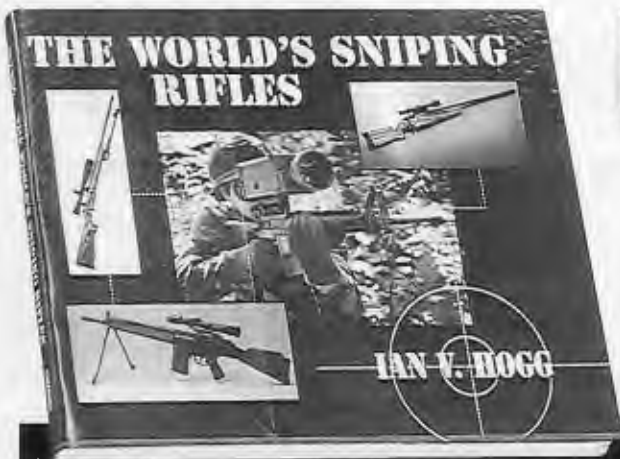
The switch used on SURE-FIRE flashlights is quite simple. Push on the neoprene diaphragm in the middle of the tail cap, and the light comes on. Stop pushing and the light goes off. Rotate the tail cap until it's tight, and the light stays on. Unscrew it a bit and the light goes off. There are also four neoprene rings around the rear end of the body (which is stepped down to a diameter of 0.825-inch) that, in conjunction with the neoprene diaphragm in the tail cap, permit the unit to be used like a "syringe" in a manner that puts the support hand in more or less the standard Weaver position.

(right) Incredible new SURE-FIRE 12ZM CombatLight, provides an awesome 500 lumens, and literally raises light to a non-lethal-force option. (below) When employing night vision devices, if there is no ambient light or not enough to form a clear image, such as in a darkened building or car, supplementary infrared illumination is required and the SURE-FIRE 3DL infrared flashlight throws a much stronger infrared beam than a flashlight with an infrared filter.



There's no free lunch and the 12ZM CombatLight's exceptional power and small size comes at a price. The four lithium batteries have only enough capacity to run the light for approximately 18 minutes, and, they are not rechargeable. Also, when the unit is run continuously for more than a few minutes, the batteries heat up and trigger a protective thermal fuse, causing the light to temporarily shut down. This fuse automatically resets after a few minutes of cooling down. You have about three minutes of continuous use before a thermal shut-off occurs. If used intermittently in short bursts a thermal shut off can be avoided.

Night vision devices rule the dark. In both second and third generation systems, the objective lens collects light that cannot be seen with the naked eye and focuses it on an image intensifier. A photo cathode



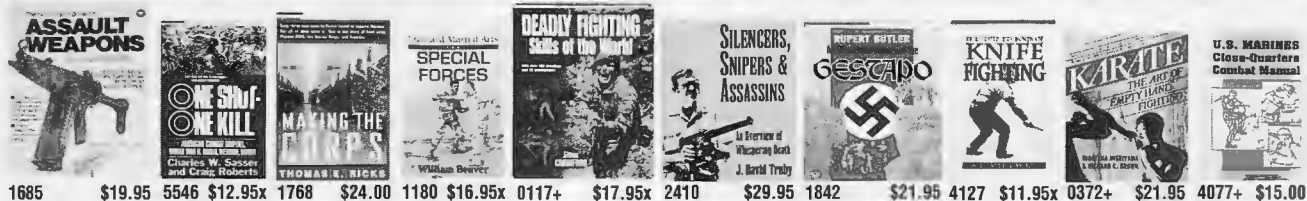
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# The California Tax Revolt

**We, the pro-gunners of America, have the power to launch a state-by-state tax revolt!**

When the enemy attacks, two things are targeted: the weapons depot and the gold supply. Take the weapons and they cannot fight! Take the gold (their paychecks) and they cannot restock the weapons depot! A poor opponent is much easier to enslave! Those who seek to disarm America are well aware of this fact! **Let's take a glimpse into the future: Buy a gun? Not hardly! It was only with the greatest effort that Johnny could afford to feed and clothe his family, as 84% of his wages were, by design, taken in taxes. At midnight of July 4, 2076, the political elite ordered the round up of them that Constitutionalists. Johnny and his family were quickly taken. No shot was heard around the world! A few days later, the Bill of Rights was repealed! Where have all the pro-gunners gone? Gone to concentration camps, every one!** The real reason for tracking gun ownership!

**We can allow ourselves to be divided, taxed into poverty, disarmed, defeated, and eventually enslaved, or we can unite in an effort to take back America in the same manner it was created, i.e., state-by-state rebellion.**

**The California Tax Revolt is financed through book and t-shirt sales.**

**No, Virginia, there is no Santa Claus! Tax revolts must be financed!**

**"We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."**

## **YOUR TAX REVOLT DOLLARS AT WORK**

"I'm pro-gun and I vote," declares publisher Keith Pullman. During *The California Tax Revolt*: "For every book sold, one dollar will be donated to my favorite national pro-gun association; for every t-shirt sold, one dollar will be donated to my favorite California pro-gun association; my annual income as publisher will be limited to \$40,000; and 100% of the remaining net profit will be used to place ads similar to this ad, until such time as a sufficient number of books and t-shirts have been sold to realize enough of a net profit to pay the entire cost of putting *The Best System of Taxation Ever Devised* on the California ballot," states Pullman.

**THE BOOK** UNITED WE SIT, AMERICA outlines, in a humorous and politically incorrect way, *The Best System of Taxation Ever Devised*. The monetary value of things, including income, is not taxed in any way, shape or form, and the efficiency of the system reduces the local, state, and federal taxes of virtually every individual and business by 50% or more! To be even more specific: personal and real property, sales, excise, capital gain, inheritance, unemployment, disability, income, social security, and medicare taxes are eliminated. All tax related payroll deductions are eliminated. All permit, license, entry, user, etc., fees are eliminated. All existing forms of raising revenue, at all levels of government, are eliminated, and the manner in which revenue can be raised is limited. How, then, is revenue raised? The tax liability of every individual and business is determined in the same manner at all levels of government, based on the perpetual existence of three carefully chosen objects, which are owned and/or used on a daily basis by every individual and business in the world. The number of objects owned or used is proportional to the wages and desires of each individual (you can choose how much you want to pay in taxes), and the size and physical function of each business.

**THE T-SHIRT** The *I sponsored The California Tax Revolt* t-shirt is just plain fun!

**What about the IRS and IRS clone agencies? They're terminated! That's billions of man-hours saved!**

**THE CALIFORNIA TAX REVOLT IS AN ECONOMIC WEAPON!** Putting billions of dollars and man-hours back into our piggy banks equals proportional increases in our economic and political powers, and individual liberties. What could you do with the money from a reduction in your local and state taxes of 50% or more? Spend it on yourself and your loved ones! Pay off your debts! Make larger and more frequent donations to your favorite pro-gun associations and constitutional candidates, to fight the fight against those who seek to disarm America!

## **IT'S A STATE-BY-STATE, DISCOUNTED, TAX-DEDUCTIBLE TAX REVOLUTION**

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." California isn't the only state that has an initiative process, and it's a proven fact that what happens in California is looked at very closely by all the states, as well as by Congress. Thus, the social, economic, and competitive nature of *The Best System of Taxation Ever Devised* will carry it over to the remaining states, and on to the "federal" level. Of course, a little outside help never hurts! Is it possible to turn *The California Tax Revolt* into *The Colorado Tax Revolt*? *The Washington Tax Revolt*? *The Oregon Tax Revolt*? And so on? You bet! And it's on Pullman's list of things to do! "We can hang together or we can hang separately," mused Ben Franklin. Not a Californian? Neither were the Founding Fathers! Pitch in and help kick it off! California first, and then on to the other states!

**3,700 pro-gunners per state ordering 1 gift combo are about all it will take to finance *The California Tax Revolt*!**

"Government is not reason. Government is not eloquence. It is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant, and a fearful master." G. W.

## **SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL TAX REVOLUTION**

**Order Today! And Squeeze the Trigger on *The California Tax Revolt*!**

Is it possible to donate a book or t-shirt to your favorite charity, and then *write it off*?

**A certain President of the United States wrote off his used underpants!**

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More info? <http://members.aol.com/ttax/revolt.htm> (or) send a #10 SASE.

**MAKE THE MOST OF THIS AD! MAIL OR FAX A COPY TO ALL YOUR PRO-GUN FRIENDS!**

inside the image intensifier absorbs this light energy and converts it into electrons. Passing first through a micro channel plate that multiplies them thousands of times, these electrons are drawn toward a phosphor screen. When this highly intensified electron image strikes the phosphor screen, it causes the screen to emit visible light. Since the phosphor screen emits this light in precisely the same pattern and intensity that the light was collected by the objective lens, the bright image seen in the ocular corresponds exactly to the scene being viewed.

However, if there is no ambient light or not enough to form a clear image, such as in a darkened building or car, you will need to provide your own illumination. Additionally, it can be difficult to see into shadow areas outdoors, especially so if there is a source of illumination in the viewing field, as this will usually cause the night vision device to trigger a reduction in gain. Preferably your supplementary illumination should be of the infrared type, so that you remain unseen, as criminals do not normally tote about infrared detection equipment. You can use a SURE-FIRE 6P or 9P tactical light with an infrared filter, or better yet in my opinion, the SURE-FIRE 3DL infrared flashlight or the Model L46 infrared lamp module for weapon-mounted light systems. The 3DL flashlight weighs only 3.5 ounces with an overall length of 3.8 inches.

With its infrared diode, the SURE-FIRE 3DL throws a much stronger infrared beam than a flashlight with an infrared filter. Furthermore, the SURE-FIRE 3DL is quite a bit more economical to use as it will run for more than eight hours on a single DL123A lithium battery. Be aware that because of its substantially higher infrared light output, and the fact that the human eye has some sensitivity to the shorter wavelengths of infrared, if you look directly into the SURE-FIRE 3DL's beam, and your eyes are dark-adapted, you may see a faint red glow from as far away as 20 to 30 yards. This could affect its tactical applications.

A lens is used to focus the 3DL's infrared light into a round beam about 12 degrees wide. This produces a spot about 5 feet in diameter at 25 feet, 10 feet at 50 feet, and 20 feet at 100 feet. This is a much narrower and more far reaching beam than that produced by the IR light source built into most milspec night vision goggles, monoculars and pocket scopes. However, although wide enough for use at short distances, it still provides useful illumination out to 100 yards and beyond.

There is a SURE-FIRE tactical lighting system available for interface with almost every weapon commonly used by armed professionals. As you can see from the above examples, the exceptional quality of these products is matched by Laser Products' dedication to continuing innovation in modern flashlight technology. More police tactical teams and military special forces units use SURE-FIRE flashlights than any other make. Once you've used their equipment, the reasons for this become obvious. ✕

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Until now: The goodie kings at Brigade Quartermaster bring us the M151 Encore, built by Encore Vehicles from mostly new (some rebuilt to new spec) parts and a new, heavier 14-gauge steel body, new monocoque chassis and frame, new fiberglass hood. Subtle changes have been effected to comply with DOT and other bureaucratic whims, but you'll never notice them from the vehicle you learned to love in the Army. Specs essentially parallel the original: 19" ground clearance, two-or four-wheel drive, 24-volt dual electrical system, 141 cubic-inch four-banger engine, payload of 1,200 lb. highway, 800 lb. off-road, 7.50x16 GI tires, 12-month/12,000 mile limited warranty, black or OD finish. Forging kit, automotive finish paint, hunting stand available — plus other accessories are available from other surplus

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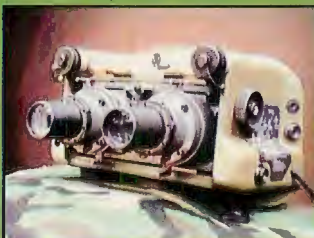
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# I Was There

by Unknown

## What's Mine — Was His

*The following tale reached us via email and was simply too good to pass up. While we could not find an author to credit or check and verify the details, this seemed to be one of those stories that while may not be true, at least should be. If any readers have more information, please contact us.*

Every second lieutenant acquires embarrassing memories when he wears gold bars — it seems to come with the job.

The first time the Air Force sent me on temporary duty by myself, I experienced probably the most embarrassing moment in my life, which I tell here in hopes that other “butter bars” won’t make the same mistake.

I was traveling from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, to Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., one spring, and the flight scheduled me for a two-hour layover in the St. Louis, airport. I decided to hit the snack bar and bought a cup of coffee, a package of Oreos and a newspaper. After forking over to the cashier the nine bucks, or so, these items cost, I scanned the crowded seating area for a place to relax. The lounge was busy, but there appeared

to be a spot across from a fellow in a military uniform of some sort. “Great!” I thought, “Another soldier. Maybe he can tell me about life in the forces.”

With my coffee on the right side of the table, my newspaper on the left and my Oreos in the center, I sat down before I took my first close look at the man opposite me. He was a Marine Corps brigadier general, mean looking, no hair, a nasty scar on his forehead and about six rows of ribbons, including the Silver Star with a cluster. To me, the general had horns, fangs, a pitchfork and pointed tail, as well.

I was already committed to using the table, but not wanting to bother the general, I meekly squeaked, “Good morning, sir,” before seating myself.

I had begun the paper’s crossword puzzle and was making good progress when I heard a peculiar rustling sound, much like the crinkling of cellophane. I looked up out of the corner of my eye to discover the general had reached across the center of the table,

*Continued on page 29*

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By Dr. R. L. Horine, Director, TRS Civilian Fighting Division

Dear Friend,

You're about to witness something a lot of very important military and police people would prefer that you *never* see. (And they're doing their best to *keep* it secret.)

But first... do you have a toy or model handgun in the house you can use for a little... *experiment*? (Do **NOT** use a real gun for this!) To prove a point that will change your life (and your self-confidence) forever, I want you to do 2 things:

1. I want you to set this "training" gun aside, and watch the three videos I will send you.
2. Then, I want you to give the gun to the toughest, biggest and most coordinated friend you have... and ask him to...

## Point The Gun At You And Squeeze The Trigger!

It is important that you choose someone who is larger than you. Preferably, he should also have some skill at fighting. *A black belt karate master would be perfect.*

Why am I asking you to do this? Because, I want to **prove** to you that what you see on these video tapes will allow you to instantly take that gun away (bare-handed) and *put him down on the ground* before he can move a muscle to squeeze the trigger! And once down, you will be able to **keep** him on the floor (and even slap him silly, if you please). You'll be in complete control.

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- \* How to "jockey" for your best first-strike position during an attack!
- \* **How to instantly "classify" any gun (single action vs. double action)... and how to tell if a gun is in "Condition One" — military jargon for "ready to fire"!** (This "inside" weapon knowledge could give you a precious extra second in any confrontation... enough to choose your best next move!)
- \* The *most important* (and *toughest*) decision you **must make** in any armed confrontation... and how to make it intelligently and morally (so you never have to second-guess yourself later!)
- \* **Why the incorrect disarming techniques will actually force your attacker to fire... whether he's decided to or not!**
- \* Why a man with a gun standing just 2 feet away from you is at a disadvantage... and how to use simple "leverage" to make him regret it forever!
- \* **Why the correct way to "clear" a weapon increases your chances of not getting shot (first rule of bare-handed gun fighting) by 60%!**
- \* Why the fancy-schmancy spinning head-kick techniques most martial artists learn are *hopelessly inadequate* in surviving a *real* street-fight! (And the "false confidence" you get will cause you *desperate* trouble!)  
What's more, you'll also learn how to disarm an attacker who has a knife... along with:
- \* **How to tell when your attacker is just "bluffing" with a knife... and when he's about to commit to stabbing you! (Crucial knowledge for making your best fight-ending move!)**
- \* The *single most important decision* you must come to terms with in a knife fight!
- \* **How to protect your most vulnerable "targets" during a knife fight... and how to use these rapid-blood loss areas *against* your assailant to end the fight instantly!**

*Plus*, you'll learn the tactics of taking away a club or baseball bat from an



*"I seldom give endorsements, but this is something special. The release of these tapes are unparalleled — you can learn a lot... it may save your life."*

Colonel Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)  
Founder and publisher of  
*Soldier of Fortune Magazine.*

attacker... and also:

- \* How to tell where the "sweet spot" of a club or baton is... where all the *damaging* power is located! (And how to avoid it!)
- \* Where the "safety" area of the club is: the 20% of any swing where the power of the club is wasted (and where your opportunity to *end the fight* lies)!

And, once you've disarmed your attacker and are facing him bare-handed... well, that's just child's play now. These tapes will show you:

- \* **How to use the secret of your body's natural "fulcrums" to bring anyone to their knees... using only 12 pounds of pressure and a tiny "torque" of your wrist! (Once you understand the secret, even a fighter twice your size can be dropped in a blink... with no more ex-**

ertion on your part than you'd use to open a tin can!)

- \* The one "dojo" karate trick to never use in the real world! (It's a silly, dumb thing to do... and yet it's one of the *first* things you learn as a rookie martial artist!)
- \* **How to master the strongest grip you're capable of — no matter how "weak" you think you are!**
- \* How to use simple "cat-like" tricks to force your body to fall correctly... so even if you get pushed down onto a concrete sidewalk, you'll bounce right back up without a bruise! (Plus — how to use your body's natural "cushions" to absorb almost any shock... and avoid the common bone-breaks *most* people suffer when knocked down!)
- \* **The devastating secrets of joint manipulation (the lazy man's method of effective fighting)!**
- \* The 4 crucial moves you must make when being "held up" from behind! (Or being forced to kneel from behind... one of the more *common* assault techniques used by desperate criminals and hostage takers!)

**PLUS** — and this is my *favorite* part of the package — you get an entire video of street-fighting "**Dirty Tricks**"... the same sneaky moves used by professional soldiers and cops who can't afford to waste time fighting by the *old* "rules of the street". You'll learn:

- \* The 2 psychological responses *all* top warriors "surrender" to the instant a fight is at hand... that *increases their chance of survival and victory by 400%!*
- \* **How to quickly "cancel out" any size or weight advantages your opponent has!**
- \* How to judge — *for yourself* — the "Escalation of Force" rule for any encounter! (So you are *instantly* in control of the fight, even if you've been totally surprised!)
- \* **The secrets of "Single Finger" take-downs... using moves that are indefensible even by a larger and more experienced opponent!**
- \* How to use "pain enhancement" tech to convince your assailant to stay down until the cops arrive!
- \* **How just 6 pounds of pressure on a nerve can set you free from almost *any* hold!**
- \* How to break away from strong-arm choke holds!
- \* **The natural "guides" on your attacker's body that automatically guarantee a correct strike!**
- \* How to avoid the devastating mistakes even black belts make when attempting head butts! (And how to use the professional tricks of performing head butts perfectly — one of the surest ways of bringing an opponent "down" without further action!)
- \* **The amazing "filthy cat fight" trick that even urban street fighters never learn... which will allow you to control anyone who isn't bald!**
- \* The 12 take-down tricks that are never taught in karate "schools"!
- \* **How to avoid the horrible mistake most**

fighters make with groin kicks!

- \* "Short Cut" kicks you can learn and use immediately... no matter how uncoordinated or clumsy you are!
- \* **How to negate (with simple pain-control moves) the common "harassment" attacks — bear hugs, full nelsons, and head locks — that are used against women!**
- \* Simple controlling moves that force your *attacker* to decide if he wants to come away with a broken arm or give up! (And how to keep him down — without serious damage — until the cops arrive!)
- \* **How rookie fighters "telegraph" their moves... and not to do it yourself (and use your knowledge to gain advantages over your dumber attackers)!**
- \* How to reverse the worst fighting position you could ever find yourself in!



*"In my 50 years of military combat experience no one has done the hands-on research of being unarmed against a live weapon... until now! Study and master this tape. It will either save your life or save you years of imprisonment — as POW."*

**Maj. General John K. Singlaub, USA (Ret.)**  
General Singlaub's career was chronicled in his autobiography, *Hazardous Duty*, published by Summit Books.

- \* **Your 5 best "first strikes" to end any fight instantly — a split second before it begins!**
  - \* The sneaky ways professional fighters use the element of surprise to turn around dangerous situations... even when they're the ones who've been "jumped" by an assailant unexpectedly!
  - \* **The simplest way to gain a "technical" advantage when you appear to be over-matched!**
- And more. *A lot* more, in fact. For example, you'll get simple exercises to specifically strengthen what's weak in your "falling muscles". (The identical conditioning exercises used by professionals!) You'll learn how to train into *mastery* without breaking your partner's bones. These moves look simple (almost too simple)... but their devastating power becomes evident the first time your partner goes a fraction of an inch too far. (Don't worry, though — there are easy ways to make your practice sessions "fail safe"!)

You'll understand "Shotgun and Uzi" disarming techniques (many traveling Americans

have found themselves in mega-armed terrorist situations overseas and here in the U.S.!)... **How only 4–6 pounds of pressure can snap a shinbone...** Why no professional would *ever* attempt the "spinning round house kicks" that are taught to every new karate student (and which take 2–5 years to learn correctly!)... **How to "adjust" his attitude without doing obvious harm...** A detailed "map" of anatomical targets (for example: where the thumb ends at the thigh is a *crucial* nerve point — reaction: numbing shock when kicked)... **And, the most *decisive* move you can make to end any fight instantly!**

As you can see, the secrets revealed in these amazing video tapes will give you a powerful new way of moving in the world, because...

### **You Will Never Again Walk Your Streets In Fear!**

Are you having trouble believing all this? That's okay — I'm used to people being suspicious... *at first*. But the truth is, what you are about to learn is praised by professional soldiers, and law enforcement personnel all over the country.

I have included a sheet of "testimonials" with this letter from U.S. military generals, big-city police veterans and even the publisher of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine (who almost never gives endorsements). They *all* agree that this new system can be learned quickly and easily, and will work on the street under even the worst conditions imaginable.

**Here is how we came to discover these "professional warrior" bare-handed fighting secrets:** For a long time now, I have been connected to the "inside" of certain elite military and law enforcement circles. (Including the Navy **SEALS** — the most dangerous soldiers on the planet.) My goal is to help civilians like you to understand the super-effective fighting skills that have been developed. I want my family to feel as safe and protected as possible, and I'm sure you want the same for your loved ones.

Anyway, through certain inside "contacts" (which I am **not** going to tell you about) I was approached by two of the most respected professional combat trainers in the world: **Randy Wanner** is a feared martial arts expert who for years has been training federal and state law enforcement agencies in "street survival fighting tactics". (He was also the former Martial Arts editor for *Soldier of Fortune* magazine.) His name is well-known among the elite "warriors" of modern-day combat, and he has gone toe-to-toe with street fighters from all over the world to prove his techniques are superior to anything else out there.

**Bob Taylor** (who spent 2 tours in Viet Nam with the 101st Airborne, MACV-SERT, and the famous 75th Rangers) is considered one of the country's most experienced experts in counter insurgency operations; state, local and federal law enforcement agencies use him frequently for training. He is also a specialist in counter-terrorism for African, South American and Central American governments.

These two guys are in demand all over the world. Their clients include the U.S. military, big-city SWAT teams, international anti-terrorist squads and top security firms in 15 foreign countries. These clients hire Bob and Randy for just one thing:

**Their Incredible Skill In Quickly Teaching Their Unique "Bare-Handed" Disarming and Disabling Techniques For Armed Attackers!**

This new fighting system took over 20 years to develop. It was necessary because the techniques the police and the military used to use — based on centuries-old karate moves — simply were **not effective** in real combat conditions. Soldiers and officers who were supposed to be disarming their attackers were, instead, *getting shot and disabled themselves!*

Randy and Bob decided to find out what was wrong. There was only one sane way to do this. They used their connections within the military establishment to get "training" bullets for their weapons. These bullets (called "Red Jets") are almost impossible for civilians to get. They are made of wax and polymer, yet are calibrated to fire from real weapons and can blow a hole in quarter-inch plywood from 15 feet. These training bullets were necessary for Bob and Randy's research, because...

**They Used This Live Ammunition On Each Other To Develop Their New Disarming System!**

Let me tell you — it takes some kind of guts to face a gun loaded with live ammo. Those wax bullets travel at *over 400 feet per second...* and even if they don't tear up your body like real bullets, these guys have the scars to prove getting hit with them isn't pretty. (I personally saw Bob shred Randy's left earlobe during a demonstration of the "wrong" way to clear a gun! There was blood everywhere during the rest of the demo.) *No one else in the world has ever done this kind of live-weapon research!*

The first thing they found out, of course, was that 99% of the disarming tactics being used by soldiers and cops (and still being taught by smug karate masters who have never had to face a loaded gun in person) **DO NOT WORK!**

This has to stop. It's irresponsible. It's stupid — especially when Randy and Bob have, after 20 years of tough research, come up with simple and easy-to-learn ways that **do** work!

Their discoveries have revolutionized the way modern professional warriors approach armed attackers — already, there are cops who are on record saying these new skills have saved their lives in the street!

**Why do you — as a civilian — need these skills?** Are you kidding? The whole world has gone psycho. The odds that you will be faced by an armed attacker — without a weapon of your own to rely on — are getting worse every day. This kind of advanced knowledge (even if it is easy to learn) isn't a luxury for American men anymore.

The facts are staggering:

- \* **M.I.T.** (the famous university) did a study uncovering the fact that **5 of every 6 twelve-year-old kids are going to be the victim of a violent crime in their lives!** That's almost *everybody*, sooner or later! (Most kids — and most adults, too — simply do not have a *clue* how to defend themselves in a tight spot. When you show a lack of confidence in yourself, you become the most attractive target for criminals there is!)
- \* Jean O'Neil (of the **National Crime Prevention Council**) says that victims who are forced into an attacker's car *rarely* walk away alive! (Yet *most* people cannot mount even a feeble defense against someone forcing them through the door!)
- \* And every kind of horrible crime is becoming more and more common — you are no longer safe in your home, in your

*lives...* and you will probably be trained (in a *huge* class) by people who have been prematurely promoted to "black belt" just to handle the classes! These "store front" studios operate exactly like health spas — they lure in large numbers of people, and get the money up front. It's a business.

And the garbage being sold to **women** offers only the pale illusion of self-defense: Tear gas **will not work** on a drug-crazed attacker intent on harm. You saw what police "stun guns" did to Rodney King on that famous video: Nothing. Most rape-prevention seminars ignore the most common aspect of rape: The woman is thrown to the ground *first*, and then attacked. She will seldom get an opportunity to try the fancy knee-to-the-groin trick the seminars teach — a move which, by the way, is usually taught *completely wrong!* (You may think a "ball kick"



8 March 1994

This is an unsolicited endorsement:

Violence is on the upswing in America. Therefore it is important that both men and women possess the ability to defend themselves. The expert self defense instruction provided by Bob Taylor and Randy Warner, permits anyone to build a simple self defense strategy. The techniques presented in the tapes apply to the military, law enforcement, and all walks of the civilian community. The secret is practice and safety as stressed in the tapes.

*Robert C. Kingston*  
Robert C. Kingston  
General, USA Retired

car, in a restaurant, or on the street surrounded by other people! (Jerks with nothing to lose are now senselessly shooting their robbery victims even **after** they've gotten everything of value.)

What's more, new studies show that women who *fight back* are less likely to be raped. And that learning some form of self-defense is your *best bet* against a criminal population who is prepared to use force and violence on a whim.

**But there's a BIG problem here.** The way most Americans are going about getting prepared to defend themselves is simply...

**Not Going To Work!**

Here are the facts, my friend: Most martial art studios are run by people who have *never been in a real fight before in their*

is easy, but it's actually a *low-percentage* kick, and hard to pull off. There are several better and more *devastating* things to do, as Bob and Randy will soon show you.)

Even the fancy alarms and sirens people are "arming" themselves with are worthless in most cases of attack. (They don't protect cars, they don't protect houses, and they won't "protect" you either.)

**In reality, you have only two choices:** Remain a vulnerable "potential victim" who trusts that God will protect you... or learn the **RIGHT** way to defend yourself.

It's not hard to do. In fact, it's relatively *simple...*

**Once You Understand The "Inside" Secrets!**

One of Bob's favorite hobbies is to attend

the big conventions of gun enthusiasts. He will challenge 20 of them to line up with their favorite weapon (unloaded, of course) and, one by one, demonstrate how he could take the gun away from them before they could pull the trigger. And then he would **do** it, bop, bop, bop, all the way down the line, never using the same move twice, never breaking a sweat, and never using any but the most *simple* skills.

Sounds like something you might want to learn for yourself, doesn't it?

Well, there's a "hitch". You see, the only way to even get any personal training from Bob or Randy was to get into their heavily-monitored seminars. But to get in, you need *2 forms of official credentials and licenses* (plus about \$850 for the full board of instruction). Only professionals — elite soldiers, police **SWAT** teams, high-profile security agents — have been allowed to learn this life-saving stuff...

**Until Now!**

Why now? Because, after about a year of intense negotiation, we convinced Bob and Randy to go into a video studio and — taking as long as they needed — produce the **first video package ever** of their most trustworthy techniques for facing an armed attacker bare-handed.

And they did just that. After weeks of filming and editing, they created the only package in existence for people (like you) outside the world of professional warriors. **Yet they pulled no punches in presenting their new fighting system!** What you get here is all their best techniques, best advice, and best training methods!

**Here's what you get in this amazing, just-released video package:**

- \* **Three full-length videos** (almost 5 solid hours) — teaching you all the advanced combat techniques for instantly disarming and disabling (bare-handed) any assailant

coming at you with a gun, club or knife (the most common weapons you'll see on American streets)!

- \* Included is the famous **"Dirty Tricks" video** of Bob and Randy's favorite moves — really sneaky ways to manipulate and "put down" any attacker before he knows what happened... and keep him down until help arrives or you decide an "alternative" course of action! Even trained street fighters *twice your size* will go down fast — and *stay* down — with these astonishing fighting secrets!
- Plus, you get to **KEEP** this **"Dirty Tricks" video**, even if you decide later to return the package and get your 100% refund... as my *gift* to you just for giving this package a look-see!

The techniques you will discover on these tapes are the *identical* ones taught to elite soldiers, **SWAT** team cops and high-security personnel...

**With One Important Difference!**

In these videos, you get the incredible advantage of seeing everything via **3 separate cameras** (mounted stage left, right, and overhead)... so you get *multi-angles* and *slow-motion repetitions* of each and every move! This means you get an increased understanding... and you'll follow a faster "learning curve" than even the professionals get during a seminar!

This is no Hollywood B.S.... these are real techniques used by cops and soldiers! **And make no mistake** — this stuff should *only* be used when you are faced with what the professionals call **"Condition Red"**: The point where you have **absolutely** decided that your assailant has already made the choice to harm you... *and you must act to save your life!*

That's what this tape package is all about. You, ultimately, have to take responsibility for yourself, and for your actions. We can't do that for you. Neither can we guarantee

that what you learn here will make you invulnerable to harm — that would be a stupid claim; and you would be a fool to believe it. No, what you have here is an **OPTION**. You are giving yourself one more (powerful) choice in this crazed, dangerous world — the choice to not be a vulnerable victim who has no idea what to do... even though you know that certain harm is imminent!

I don't rob people. I don't like to hurt anyone, and I don't like to see other people get hurt. It sickens me that the criminal element has taken over our streets, and is invading homes with impunity. That *sucks* — and I, for one, am damned glad to have tools like these to *take back* my little piece of the world.

And I believe you feel the same way.

That's why I've written this to you today. I want you to see these tapes for yourself. Right now.

**Here's the deal:** All you need to do is call my office at 1-800-899-8153 and ask for Department FC-13 (that's a toll-free call and won't cost you a cent) and tell the person who answers that you want the **"Fighting Chance"** video package... along with your free replica gun. Have your credit card ready. Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order, simply fill out the **"Priority Order Form"** below and mail it with your payment to:

**TRS, 606 E. ACEQUIA. DEPT. FC-13  
VISALIA, CA 93292**

The cost of this incredible package is just \$97 — that includes everything (including shipping and handling charges)... *and* you have a...

**Full 3 Month Risk-Free Money-Back Guarantee!**

If you aren't satisfied with this package — *for any reason at all* — just send it back and I will rush your refund back by return mail. I trust your judgment here. I wouldn't be writing to you otherwise.

And, you get to **KEEP** the gun, even if you decide to return the videos! Consider it a gift, just for giving these astonishing tapes a "trial run".

**But you do need to hurry!** Even though we have many allies in the military and law enforcement "brotherhood" who support our attempts to "de-victimize" civilians, you should know there are many others who are scared to death with the idea of giving these secrets away. We have already been "stopped" by the U.S. Navy for offering another product... and the truth is, there are no guarantees this product won't be "stopped" also.

If that happens, you won't be able to get this information at any cost, anywhere. So, you see, it's very important that you order **now**, while you have this letter in your hands... and don't risk having these tapes withheld from you!

Sincerely,

  
Dr. R.L. Horine  
Director, TRS

**Priority Order Form for SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Readers Only!**

For fastest service use your credit card and Call **Toll-FREE 1-800-899-8153** (Ask for Department **FC-13**)

**YES!** I'm finally ready to take responsibility for my own self-defense! Please rush me this amazing 3-video **"Fighting Chance"** package... including the Bonus **"Dirty Tricks"** video that's mine to *keep* no matter what I decide later. I understand I have a **100% No Risk Money-Back Guarantee**: If I'm not completely blown away by what I learn, I can simply return the package for a fast refund, *no questions asked*. (But the **"Dirty Tricks"** video is my gift forever!) That's a great offer... so here's how I want to pay:

- I prefer to pay with my credit card; Please charge my:  Enclosed is my Check or Money Order for \$73.00  
 Visa  MasterCard  Discover  AmEx (Make payable to TRS)

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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CA & VA residents add appropriate sales tax. Rush shipping available for additional charges of \$10 for "2-day" shipping and \$15 for "Overnight" shipping. Foreign orders may require additional shipping. Call for more information.

## I Was There

Continued from page 24

opened the package of Oreos, taken out one and began eating it. Now, not having attended the Air Force Academy, I was not familiar with how to deal with the finer points of military etiquette, such as what to do when a senior member of another service calmly rips off one of your cookies. Several responses came to mind, but none of these seemed entirely appropriate.

I realized that the honor of the Air Force was, in a small way, at stake here. I certainly couldn't let the general think I was a complete weenie. Besides, at airport prices, one Oreo is a significant fraction of take-home pay for a second lieutenant. The only response I could make was to reach across the center of the table, open the opposite end of the package (trying not to notice that the other end had mysteriously come open somehow), extract an Oreo and eat it very, very thoroughly.

"There," I thought, "I've subtly shown the general that these are my Oreos, and he should go buy his own."

Marines are known for many qualities, subtlety not among them.



B. Bigler Digital

The general calmly reached out for another Oreo and ate it. (By the way, the general was licking the middles out first before eating the cookies.) Not having said anything the first time, of course, I couldn't bring it up now. The only thing to do was to take another cookie for myself. We

wound up alternating through the entire package. For an instant our eyes met, and there was palpable tension in the air, but neither of us said a word.

After I had finished the last Oreo, they announced a garbled something over the public address system. The general got up, packed his papers into his briefcase, picked up the now empty wrapper, threw it away, brushed the few crumbs neatly off the table and departed. I sat there marveling at his gall, and feeling very, very foolish.

A few minutes later, they announced my flight.

I felt a great deal more foolish when I finished my coffee, threw the cup away and lifted my newspaper — to reveal my Oreos!

Today, two of us are running around the armed forces rehashing the same story, but only one of us has the punch line. And general, if you are reading this, please get in touch with me.

I will be glad to send you a case of Oreos.

*Thus far, theft charges have not been filed against any former USAF 2nd Lt. Marine generals, contrary to popular belief, do have a sense of forgiveness — maybe even a sense of humor. ✕*

### NEXT GENERATION TANTO #1270 & NEXT GENERATION FIGHTER #1272

High performance knives and sheaths for the 21st Century

- Sandvik 12C27 high carbon, high chromium stainless steel blades
  - Heat treated to HRC 56-58
  - Deep frozen (cryogenics) to -120°F
  - Double draw tempered
  - Passivated to inhibit corrosion
  - Hollow ground, high pressure bead blasted blades, and buff polished edges
- Oval shaped Kraton G® thermoplastic elastomer handles
- Sintered powdered metal guards and butt caps

#### Next Generation Tanto #1270

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#### Next Generation Fighter #1272

- Blade length 8", with 2" triple peaked serration, overall length 12 7/8"

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## Next Generation Tanto & Fighter with Kydex sheaths

#1270 ▶  
Tanto

#1272 ▼  
Fighter

# WORLD SITREP

1

## UNITED STATES

**Under armed?** U.S. military struggles to keep adequate presence in Persian Gulf without shortchanging other crisis areas. U.S. sends extra aircraft to South Korea after sending aircraft carrier Pacific to Gulf. Korean General John Tilelli complains Seoul vulnerable to attack for loss of Pacific carrier and battalion of Patriot missiles and ammo ships sent to Gulf. U.S. Sends amphibious group with 2,000 Marines to Gulf, leaving Mediterranean without Marine landing force. U.S. Sen. Hagel warns U.S. forces "stretched to the breaking point." • **Cyber-Attacks:** Iraqi crisis triggers informal contest among Internet hackers, causing record number of cyber-attacks on Pentagon. Attacks cause inaccurate shipments of munitions and equipment to some combat units. One Israeli hacker found breaking into 400 Pentagon computers. • **Nukes, Kooks & Air Force:** Environmentalists block Air Force from testing empty B61-11 nuclear bomb casings against frozen ground in Alaska. Bomb cases are designed to penetrate deep into enemy bunkers, and have been tested 24 times. • **New Phoenix Aviation 20 program** aims, to keep pilots in cockpits. Program allows captains passed over for promotion twice to continue flying to completion of 20-year tour, gaining pension, then give conversion course for airline pilot jobs. • **"Reserve" battle:** Army opposes Total Force Integration and Reserve Components Equity Act of 1999, designed to establish National Guard as "primary" reserve component while dismantling Army Reserve.

2

## RUSSIA

**New Missiles:** Government plans to build hundreds of Topol-M (SS-27) intercontinental missiles by 2010. Half to be based in silos, with the rest headed for 16-wheeled transports. • **Bioweapons:** Dr. Kanatjan Alibek, Russian scientist who defected to U.S. in 1992, gives U.S. startling view of Soviet-era biological weapons program. Alibek says Soviets had intended to include bio warheads in strategic missile attacks on U.S. cities. Alibek says military may have blackmailed Gorbachev into maintaining small clandestine bioweapons program. **Nuke Tests:** Russia asks U.S. for supercomputers to do simulation tests on nuclear weapons, to counter increasing Russian concern of status of aging nuclear weapons. • **Russians need beryllium** to build new weapons, but has no supply other than Kazakhstan, which demands hard currency Russia doesn't have. • **Weapons Inspectors:** First team of international chemical weapons inspectors arrive in Russia early March. Russia willing to withdraw troops from Georgia as part of overall settlement. • **Chechens killed:** Russian border guards kill nine Chechen gunmen; arrest six others in clash over stolen cattle.

7

## COLOMBIA

**FARC Rebel Attack:** Mobile Brigade #3, consisting of 120 soldiers, attacked by 400 FARC rebels in Caguan jungle area. Government sends 1,000 reinforcements to rescue 40 survivors. Australian oil company Coplex pulls out of Colombian oil fields due to rebel attacks. Elections on 8 March return ruling Liberal Party to power. • **Troubled Leadership:** Colombia's comptroller general arrested on drug charges; says he'll implicate others. Human rights activist Jaramillo gunned down in his office, exposing link between army and paramilitary death squads.

10

## SIERRA LEONE

**Junta Captures:** More than 600 armed junta supporters captured by Nigerian troops in northwest in March, bringing total to 1,300. ECOMOG peacekeepers move into northern part of country, where junta and rebel troops remain at large. Junta troops kicked out of Kabala. Junta and RUF troops fight over control of Daru, differing on plans to surrender to Nigerians. ECOMOG captures Daru next day. Analysts note junta has wrecked Sierra Leon economy during nine months of control.

12

## MEXICO

**Mayans ambushed:** Paramilitaries ambush group of Mayans who met with foreign human rights monitors, prompting charges of government campaign to stop such meetings. Government rejects demands from Zapatistas that troops withdraw from positions surrounding jungle bases unless rebels agree to specific date to resume peace talks.

13

## SOUTH AFRICA

**New Racism?** National Party accuses ANC of adopting racist policies. National Party demands Truth Commission provide details of blanket amnesties granted to 37 senior ANC members. Defense Minister Modise announces plans to speed up changing demographics of military by providing special recruitment, training and promotion programs for blacks.

8

## LEBANON

**Security Zone:** Fighting and artillery duels continue daily along Security Zone. Israeli planes attack Hezbollah positions. Israel reports Hezbollah obtained supply of shoulder-launched anti-aircraft weapons and were firing at attacking aircraft, without success. Hezbollah sets up satellite TV station to broadcast in Hebrew to call for Israelis to withdraw from Lebanon. Israel launches new drive to negotiate withdrawal from Lebanon in exchange for security guarantees – the same proposal as was rejected before.

14

## BELGIUM (BRUSSELS)

**In Bosnia to stay?** NATO plan for extending peacekeeping mission in Bosnia may lead to "semipermanent" allied presence there, report European and U.S. defense analysts. Analyst say plan could also signal start of shift in political-military power within NATO from United States to Europe. NATO officials in Brussels and diplomats from 16-member nations renounce the analysis, saying the decision to maintain troops in Bosnia past June deadline does not mean greatly extended stay.

3

### CHINA

**Bus Bomb:** Bomb of unknown origin destroys bus in Wuhan, killing 30. • Chinese government continues arresting dissidents who are demanding reforms. • **Organ sales:** Two Chinese men arrested in U.S. for trying to sell human organs taken from executed prisoner to undercover FBI agent. Chinese government denies involvement in organ trade. • China rejects Amnesty International's criticism of human rights record as "irresponsible." • Premier Li Ping tells parliament army must be trained and equipped for modern war. China increases defense budget by 12% to \$10.96 billion.

4

### ANGOLA

Government warns escalation of armed conflicts may lead to renewed civil war. • UNITA rebels say they missed United Nations deadline to completely disarm because government would not disarm civilians and private militias. UNITA fears such groups will launch wave of revenge killings as happened in Rwanda. Angola government charges Zambia continues selling arms to UNITA rebels.

5

### IRAN

**Nuke Program?** Suspicions continue in U.S. intelligence community of Russia and Iran cooperating on nuclear missile program for Iran. Israeli Trade Minister Sharansky confident Moscow "not knowingly" selling such technology. U.S. investigators arrest two men trying to sell Iran spare parts and Phoenix missiles for F-14s. U.S. offers Russia deals on Satellite launches and nuclear technology if it pulls out of Bushehr reactor project.

6

### NORTHERN IRELAND

**Murder & Bombs:** IRA denies major rift within ranks. Irish police disarm large car bomb near Boer. Letter bomb from pro-British group explodes in Belfast post office, wounding four. Protestant gunmen murder two men in Poyntzpass. Police detonate 270kg Continuity IRA car bomb found south of inter-Irish border.

2

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### CUBA

**No Reform:** Government frees nearly 300 jailed dissidents after Papal visit. Castro unanimously re-elected by National Assembly; rules out reforms in seven-hour acceptance speech. OAU considers reinstating Cuba, a move attacked by Cuban-exile groups in U.S.

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### CONGO

**No Jesse:** President Kabila refuses to meet with U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson after U.S. envoy met with opposition parties and called for end to ban on political movements. • Kabila's troops shut down opposition newspapers and arrest key opposition leader Tshisekedi.

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### AUSTRALIA

**Electronic Warfare:** Department of Defense gears up for 25-year program to coordinate electronic warfare research and development. Program, known as Kawalka, will cost equivalent of \$1.34 billion in U.S. dollars over five years. Largest portion to be spent on EW self-protection for Air Force and Army aircraft, including F-111 strike aircraft, Black Hawk helicopters and C-130 Hercules transport planes.

16

### TURKEY

**Troop withdrawal:** Army leaders to reduce troops by 200,000 in country's troubled southeast, to save money. Pullback is result of Turkey's stepped-up military offensive against separatist Kurds, say army officials. Also, pact with rival Kurdish faction in Iraq has aided Turkey's effort to crush 13-year insurgency by outlaw Kurdistan Workers Party.

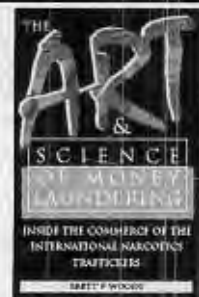
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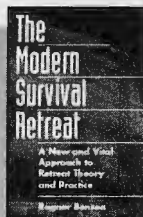
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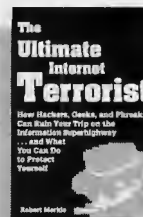
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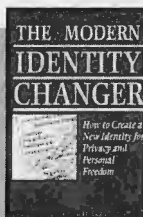
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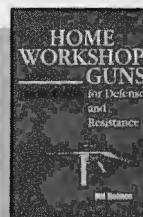
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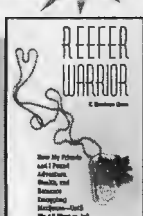
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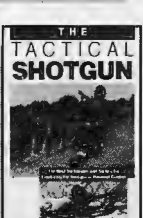
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It's been called "the most brutally effective fighting system ever seen."

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

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

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

### Amazing Scientific System

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

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

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

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

### Easily Defeats Decorated SEAL

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

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

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

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

### Officially Required SEAL Training

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

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

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

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

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

### Top Government Officials Amazed

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

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

### Devastating Power Gives You An Unfair Advantage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# The Height of Seward's Folly

Russians Assault  
McKinley In Winter



by Jacob Livingstone

**A**fter 26 days trying not to freeze or fall to a bone-crushing death, two Russian climbers were the first of their countrymen to make a successful winter ascent of North America's highest mountain. There were no headlines in the national news, but they were only the 14th and 15th to ever climb Mt. McKinley in the dead of winter.

It was 1600 hours on 16 January 1998, the thermometer hovering at 22 below. Veteran Mt. McKinley pilot Jay Hudson witnessed the event from the air, commenting "They are in the history books now."

The Indian name for McKinley is *Denali*, "the high one," and it is certainly an imposing landmark — but what McKinley is most noted for is fatal and failed attempts. With 1,500 square miles of ice and gray rock faces, McKinley is a difficult climb in the best sunny summer weather. In winter it drops to 140 below, with ambient temperatures lingering at 60 below for weeks at a time while winds rage 150 mph. And there are only four or five hours of daylight.

It's a different world at high altitude. The body does not function as at lower elevation. Thin air combines with lower barometric pressure to impede oxygenation of the blood: Oxygen starvation leads to sluggish mental performance. From about 18,000 feet on, cognitive ability is diminished by 50% — more as altitude increases. Equipped only with your remaining room-temperature IQ, staying alive and navigating is tremendously difficult. These are bad circumstances for decisions of any kind, much less dealing with health and safety issues.

The first successful winter attempt of Mt. McKinley was 31 January 1967. It proved costly when one member of that team fell to his death in a crevasse. Later that year, during a summer attempt, seven men died from the cold. Since record-keeping began in 1932, seven women and 82 men have perished trying to conquer the mountain. Of those, 34 unrecovered bodies are still clasped to Denali's bosom.

A friend of the author, Joe Ebner, is among those whose life ended on McKinley. In January 1976, he scaled the summit in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the United States, but the climber he was roped to fell and took Joe with him.

Daryl Miller, the mountaineering ranger at the park says that when he does a body recovery, he thinks of the quote from Edward Whymper posted on the wall of the Talkeetna Ranger Station:

*Climb if you will, but remember that courage and strength are*

**SOF's intrepid publisher Robert K. Brown (black jacket, kneeling) poses with Russian team about to assault Mt. McKinley, in January. With Brown are (left to right) Jay Hudson and Esker Coffey, of Hudson Air, and Russian team members Artur Testov, Vladimir Ananich and Aleksandr Nikiforov**

*naught without prudence, and that a momentary negligence may destroy the happiness of a lifetime. Do nothing in haste; look well to each step; and from the beginning think what may be the end.*

Prior to meeting the Russians, *SOF* publisher Robert K. Brown got an air tour with Jay Hudson. Eyeing winter conditions on the mountain, Brown wondered if the Russians knew what they were in for. Team member Vladimir Ananich said he understood that

their chances of success were less than 50-50, but both the two designated climbers reached the summit. All team members survived without injury except for cracked hands. This is not to imply it was a cake walk: One of the last to die on the mountain was a Russian who perished after a successful ascent last summer.

With a break in the blizzards, Hudson landed the Russians and their gear on an ice field near the 14,000-foot base camp. He first had to test the LZ by repeatedly touching down to get a feel, then taking off again, before actually landing. He did the initial ice-field landing in the lightweight Piper Cub with only one Russian, before he brought the gear and the other two team members in the larger 185 Cessna.

He checked on the Russian team several times during their 31 days on the mountain, before landing once again to haul them off on 21 January. Hudson charges \$225 per climber for the round trip, plus a \$7 base-camp fee. One of the most experienced McKinley pilots, Hudson's family has been flying in the area for 52 years, and he usually trains the National Park Service pilots who fly the mountain. He has worked with the park service during many of the 91 rescues that have taken place since 1992. Air tours around the mountain start at only \$120, depending how many are in the plane.

You can reach Jay at: Hudson Air Service Inc., Box 648, Talkeetna, AK 99676; phone: 907-733-2321.

Permits are required from the Park Service to climb McKinley, with advance registration required two months ahead. The \$150 fee is a bargain, in that it's very cheap insurance: If you play by the rules and get in trouble, they will make every attempt at rescue at no charge. Applications are screened, and rangers spend time with prospective climbers to vet their competence. As the highest mountain in North America, McKinley is a popular climb. Some 30-40% of those who climb McKinley are foreigners. Interested? Contact the U.S. Park Service Mountain Rangers, Box 588, Talkeetna, AK 99676; phone: 907-733-2231. ✕



(left) Daily chores go on despite the clamor of a protracted war. (inset, below) A youthful muj checks out the snug fit of his local trench line.

# TALIBAN-TAG

## *SOF Rejoins The Trenches Of The War Without End*

Text & Photos by Roddy Scott



"The tank has fired ... the tank has fired!" shouted Commander Abdul Majid into his walkie talkie. From his vantage point on top of mount Tapa-e-Zeyarat, Abdul Majid had a perfect view of the sprawling green valley below with a river snaking randomly through the mud-built villages.

The location is in the northern Afghan province of Takhar and it is the front line, occupied on one side by the recognized Afghan government and, on the other, by the *Taliban*, the extremist Islamic movement whose meteoric rise has left all other Islamic fundamentalists looking like moderates.

This is an organization, after all, that has decreed that all men should grow beards, and if you cut your beard you'll be beaten with cables. No longer can you have a simple haircut; you have to shave your head.

All in the name of Islam.

It was a Taliban tank that had just fired, as it had done many times that afternoon. About two seconds was all the time that I and the others on the dusty hilltop had to hit the proverbial deck. Although

crouched in our dusty foxholes and trenches we could hardly get any closer to the ground: I was literally eating dust. If I opened my mouth clouds of dust would instantly waft gently in; layers of it covered my entire body and — worse — my cameras. Every movement I made seemed to send more small clouds of dust swirling around me.

And as I huddled tighter into the foxhole pressing my head against the dried mud, wishing I could be anywhere but on this dusty shell-swept hilltop, there occurred a slight change in the air pressure, a very short *vsssh* sound followed by a resounding *bdump*. Immediately a messy, dusty black and grey cloud billowed into the sky, about 20 meters away. A few seconds later we were all clambering up, back to our more normal crouching positions, exchanging congratulatory grins and rapidly raising our eyebrows in small signs of relief. The shell had missed us, but had hit our general position with unnerving accuracy.

I had arrived on the front line just hours earlier, having hired a taxi from Talaqar, the nearest town. A 50-minute journey was all it had taken before the driver had shaken his head and pointed proprietarily to his car to indicate that he would take me no farther. Viewing the surrounding area I could hardly blame him: The crowded villages, shouting children and farmers tilling the fields with oxen had long since given way to a macabre silence with military-



(top) A tanker takes a breather, his home's "business end" trained on Taliban positions. (above) Mujahideen test their skills — and faith — in their most dangerous game: mine detection. (below) A mujahid's best friend (versus Hinds, anyway). The RPG-7: a serious threat to the overrated armored choppers. (bottom) Gunners' eyes scan Taliban stronghold across the valley, several hundred meters distant.

clad figures moving around against a backdrop of ruined villages and barren mountains.

### "Which Way To The Fighting?"

A government soldier had told me, "If you follow the road to the last checkpoint in the next village you'll get to the fighting." So, I walked along the road with its occasional crater — occasional in comparison to the positively craterized fields on either side of me — until I came to the what was obviously the last village. The word that bombarded my mind, as I strolled along the single narrow street taking in the pockmarked adobe houses and bloodstains caked on the road, was *eerie*. The silence was absolute. There appeared to be no living thing within miles, not even the occasional mongrel dog that seems to haunt front lines. Just silence, blood, bullet holes and craters.

But, of course, there were people around. And it was as I reached the end of the village that the figure of a soldier materialized from one of the nearby houses. I had explained as I shook his hand and exchanged pleasantries in Farsi. "Tea?" he had asked. "No, no, I just want to get to the fighting." I had replied as if after traveling half-way around the world I couldn't wait to get myself shot. "Oh well, then," he had said, "just climb up the hill there, past the guys with the radio at the bottom, make sure you take the left hand track, though, otherwise the Taliban gunners will see you."

Shaking his hand again I trundled off, cameras in each hand, to the sand-bagged position only a few meters up the steep incline. The casualness of it



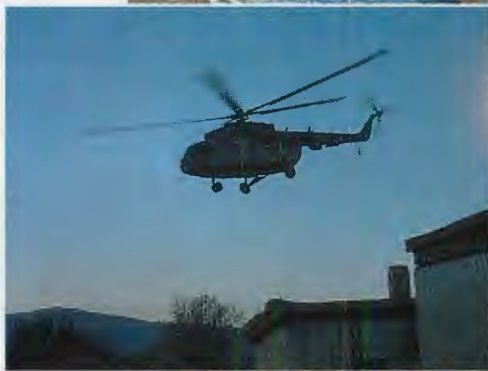
all seemed insane. Fifty minutes was all it had taken to go from the safety and security of the nearest town into a completely different world, and yet here I was asking directions as casually as I would in London.

I could see the Taliban positions on the other side of the river, about 500 meters away. But it was only 20, or so, meters between the last mud house and the sandbags. No problem, if I moved briskly ... or so I had thought. "Yes, keep going," the youth with the radio had said with a grin and brisk handshake.

So up the dusty track I had gone, moving quickly at first — seeking the protection of the blindside of the hill to hide me from the Taliban gunners. But such protection, as it was, was of an illusory nature. Hardly more than 50 meters up the hill the air pressure around me again changed, almost undetectably for a fraction of a second, perhaps; an ever so slight waft of wind as if the air around me was being gently sucked in somewhere. No noise, no five-second



(above) A machine gunner surveys his kill zone through the sights of his weapon. (right) Atop his world, a young warrior no doubt reflects upon home and family in a country that has known almost no peace in his lifetime. (insert) A Hip, workhorse of the former Soviets, their surrogates and allies, lumbers back toward friendly lines. (below) Safely far away on a mountainside, a muj cheers the impact of a round on Taliban positions.



scream of the shell, just a change in the air around me. Then, before my body had fully hit the ground, there was a massive *bduumf*. Just where I had been not-so-casually walking minutes earlier, there was a massive fog of dark-grey smoke.

I wondered if the Taliban tank crew had spotted me and decided to amuse themselves by sending a quick shell in my direction.

Clambering to my feet, I continued my climb up the hill, dusting myself off and checking my cameras. I am half way up the hill, with drops of sweat starting to trickle down my forehead and my legs beginning to ache when I come across a soldier squatting on the path.

With a jerk of his head he indicates that I should follow. I do, and we both move on up, though only for a few minutes. Another

massive *bdumpf* below us throws both of us sprawling to the ground. This time, however, the blanket of smoke is farther away and my guide is instantly back on his feet and motioning me to follow. If the hill had not been so steep I would have run which, as it turned out, would have been a mistake.

### Taliban "Wasps"

A few feet below the top of the hill I am motioned to sit. There is a different sound in the air. The sound of wasps. Wasps traveling at great speed, zipping over our heads above the hilltop. "Taliban," is the soldiers' way of explaining to the ignorant foreigner in tow that we are under, a very few feet under, thankfully inaccurate machine-gun fire.

"Okay, come on," he says eventually, and we climb on, not quite over the top. "You see the trench? When I say run, run." I give a



brief nod and stare at the flat ground of the hilltop around me and at the start of the trench system about 30 meters away. "Okay," he says in an apparent moment of blissful silence, "run," and suddenly I was off, a bit like they run in the movies — low and fast. The difference, perhaps, was only that I was wishing more than anything else that I should be going back, that I should be almost anywhere but running farther forward. I could as easily shoot pictures of the lines a couple of kilometers behind the actual fighting. There were plenty of soldiers there, too. But I was going forward, past pieces of exploded shrapnel and rockets scattered randomly on the ground on either side of me and into the incline of the trench, which was shallow enough for me to still have to stoop as I continued, at a slightly slower pace, through the labyrinthine network until, finally, I landed lying on the ground, gasping for breath at the feet of Commander Abdul Majid.

"Come on, I'll take you on a tour," he had said. So I had smiled and nodded as if a tour of his trenches was just the thing I had wanted. In fact, all I wanted to do was find a snug bunker, curl up and go to sleep, anything to stop the fear coursing through my body at an almost uncontrollable rate.

Instead, I am soon moving down the trench line on my haunches with three soldiers in tow with the constant *zips* of whizzing bullets overhead. A few minutes later I am in a small redoubt overlooking the valley, cautiously peering over the rim of the earthen banks to catch a glimpse of the Taliban positions directly in front, about a kilometer away. *Tape-e-Khane*, says Abdul Majid pointing to a concrete fort perched on the hilltop opposite. To my right, far below and behind me, is the

valley I came along. It is here that the incoming tank shells are zooming in at an uncomfortable rate.

Uncomfortable it may be, but the soldiers around me seem to be cheerfully unconcerned. And this apparent confidence in their ability to survive gives me, in turn, confidence. Where I prepare to hurl myself to the ground at the slightest sound of the whine of incoming shells, Abdul Majid dismisses the sound with a nonchalant wave of his hand, "Ach, it's going over us," he would say with a not very big smile. Or, "It's a present for the Talibs," in the case of outgoing fire screaming toward the enemy positions opposite.

And, to my satisfaction, I find that we are not the only people on the receiving end. Government tanks are giving the Taliban a pasting. Watching cautiously we view large puffs of smoke ignite on the opposite hill-



(top, left) The "Lion of Panjshir" arrives at the front. (top, right) "Three hots ... and a trench." Seasoned vets settled in for the duration. (above) A Hind rests and patiently waits as rockets are mounted — "gifts" for the Taliban enemy.

top. A few seconds later the sound waves reach us and the earth trembles slightly as the vibrations fight their way through.

Tea was served in a plastic beaker and I gratefully swigged away, washing some of the dust from my mouth and generally collecting my wits.

"Two Talibs!" shouted the gunner, wrenching back the cocking mechanism on his PK. Hurriedly summoned by an impetuous wave from Abdul Majid I crawl the few yards to the gunner's position and gingerly peer down at the valley floor. Sure enough, about 800 meters away, walking down the road are two just-discernible figures. In a matter of seconds, though, there is a stream of red tracers pouring toward them followed up by hoots of

laughter from the hilltop position as the two targets dive for cover amongst the nearby shrubbery whilst bullets spatter around them.

Abdul Majid's little war — for by Afghan standards this day was quiet — is taking place in the northeast of Afghanistan and is part of the government siege of the northern city of Kunduz, one of the few towns in the northeast still under the control of the Taliban, the extremist Islamic militia which has decreed television, photographs and many other things of similar ilk un-Islamic. Just to emphasize their evil nature, televisions have been subjected to public hangings from lamp posts in Kabul, the Afghan capital.

In the last few months, though, the military balance has swung toward the government. The Taliban's massive May 1997 offensive, which brought them within an ace of capturing the entire country, turned into an utter disaster. As many as 6,000 Taliban troops were killed or captured by government forces when a senior government commander — who had previously defected to the Taliban — redefected to the government.

The countryside is littered with destroyed tanks, APCs and the like, a final testimony to a disastrous offensive.

Now the government is on the offensive; and Kunduz is being steadily besieged, mainly by troops of Tadjik strongman Ahmed Shah Massoud, who has his headquarters in

the mountainous Panjshir Valley several hundred kilometers to the south of Kunduz. The siege, however, is taking place at a snail's pace. Ground is being taken from the Taliban literally meter-by-meter as government troops fight from village to village in their attempt to encircle, close on, and then cut off the air supplies to Kunduz, which arrive from Kabul at a steady rate of four airplanes a day.

### The Cab's Meter Is Running

So, as I slithered back down the hillside, having declined Abdul Majid's invitation to stay the night (pleading that I had a driver waiting but, yes, I would come back), I

*Continued on page 68*



# Luftwaffe-USA

## German Air Force Invades New Mexico?



Text & Photos by  
**Richard L. Sherrow**

**D**éjà vu! First it was Russian tanks in America's heartland [see "U.N. Troops Invade Arizona," *SOF*, Feb '95] here to enslave the citizenry. Now, missiles were pouring into my fax machine — "The German Air Force had moved into New Mexico and taken over the old abandoned Holloman Air Force Base" and "9,000 German troops and hundreds of aircraft have established a base on U.S. soil in preparation for herding Americans into New World Order concentration camps!"

Unlike the Arizona story, which was picked up by only a few local newspapers, and that caldron of conspiracy *The Spotlight*, this time the story made it onto CNN and into the pages of the *Washington Post*. As usual, *Soldier Of Fortune* isn't content with second-hand info. We prefer to see and evaluate the "threat" ourselves. So off it was to the high-desert of south-central New Mexico and a visit to Holloman Air Force Base and the German Air Force Tactical Training Center-U.S.A.

While I was the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) supervisor at neighboring White Sands Missile Range for a number of years I spent quite a bit of time flying Army helos out of Holloman, so I was looking forward to a bit of homecoming.

Arriving at the base I met up with my German Air Force (*Luftwaffe*) guide, Tech

Sergeant Michael Sprengard. Asked what I wanted to see the answer was simple. "Everything," I said. The first stop was at the unit's personnel office where First Lieutenant Jochem Fass, a personnel officer, gave me a brief rundown on unit organization and personnel strength. At that time there were 28 officers, 252 NCOs and

enlisted troops and 12 civilians assigned, not to mention 330 dependents.

I had planned to interview Lieutenant Colonel Gottfried "Blacky" Schwarz, the unit's deputy commander. But that was going to have to wait, as he had a training flight scheduled that morning. Well, it seemed as good a time as any to take a look at the troops in action. In a few minutes the ground crews would be pre-fighting the jets and that was definitely where the action was.

Driving out to the ready hangars the sky was awash with dark, low-hanging storm clouds giving forth a chilly, non-stop drizzle which served to amplify that "tactical" feeling one gets on an active military base.

Arriving at the hangars, I found what I was looking for. Like crouching forest-green birds of prey sat the Tornados. Impressive from every angle they sat low



Conspiracy theorists suspect German troops in America will eventually herd citizens into "New World Order" concentration camps. Others more familiar with the operation are less frightened. This billboard, erected by the Alamo Gordo (N.M.) Chamber of Commerce, welcomes Germans to the area with "Begrüesst die Deutschen Soldaten und ihre Familien. Herzlich Willkommen!" or "Greetings [to] the German soldiers and their families. Sincere Welcome!"

and quiet, waiting to take to the skies. Entering the hangar I found the ground crews hanging out in that laid-back pre-operation mode, familiar to GIs the world over. The good-natured banter soon vanished. It was time to get down to business. Hanging BDU-33 practice bombs under the bellies of the warbirds. Checking the big 27mm Mauser BK cannons, checking and rechecking, and all the time keeping watch out of the corner of their eye on the stranger in their midst. There was nothing unfriendly in their eyes — it was simply that these men were professionals. The safety of these airplanes and the men who flew them was in their hands, and they were all business.

After a familiarization walk around I climbed up to join the maintenance officer, First Lieutenant Tobias Wandel, for a cockpit briefing. Once topside, I got a full run-down on the weapons systems, controls and avionics systems. Naturally, I had to try it on for size.

Before climbing into the pilot's seat, the crew chief made doubly sure I didn't have any loose items that might fall out of my pockets and into his bird. Although I'd spent many hours in the front seat of Army Hueys and Kiowas they were nothing like this.

### A New Breed

Recognizing the need for a new high-speed, low-level attack aircraft that would meet recently established NATO criteria, Britain, West Germany and Italy joined forces in 1969 to form Panavia. This newly formed consortium was comprised of Europe's largest aircraft manufacturers — *Aerospace* of Britain, *Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm*, of West Germany, and *Aeritalia*, of Italy. As a result of their joint efforts, the Panavia Tornado was born, and took to the air in August 1974.

Becoming operational in 1980, this swing-wing, two-seater jet incorporated the best of many worlds. Computer-intensive, this day/night, all-weather warbird was battle tested during the Persian Gulf War. It proved itself worthy to both friend and foe alike.

The Luftwaffe currently flies the Interdiction/Strike (IDS) version, as well as the Electronic Combat Reconnaissance (ECR) "Wild Weasel" version. With multiple hard-points on the fuselage and wings the Tornado is capable of carrying nearly 20,000 pounds of ordnance, including bombs, rocket pods, guided missiles and electronic countermeasures systems.

Single-barreled 27mm Mauser BK cannons are tucked into each side of the forward fuselage. Capable of spitting out 1,024 rounds per minute, these twin stingers are guaranteed to give any opponent a bad hair day.

With its wings in the forward (unswept) position the Tornado can take off and, with the aid of jet-thrust reversers and anti-skid brakes, land at forward airfields not accessible to many other fixed-wing aircraft. When

its wings sweep back into the attack mode, the Tornado takes on the appearance of a giant angry arrow as it streaks toward its target at an impressive Mach 2.2 (1,455 mph).

For those times when the Tornado must do an in-air refuel there is no longer a need to wait until weather conditions, location, or the tactical situation permits rendezvous with a tanker. Like scuba divers who buddy-breathe, Tornado drivers have the capability

to transfer fuel from jet-to-jet by means of retractable fuel-transfer hose assemblies mounted in their external, 1,500 liter (396 gallon) drop tanks.

### Dial-A-Chaff

An age-old bane of combat pilots has been that annoying "beep" in the cockpit, warning they were being painted by enemy radar. For years, one solution has been to



(top) German Air Force personnel conduct pre-flight checkout of wing-mounted fuel tank and Mauser BK 27mm gun. (above) A German Air Force Panavia Tornado awaits takeoff in a hangar, after pre-flight preparations. For those times when the Tornado must do an in-air refuel there is no longer a need to wait until weather conditions, location, or the tactical situation permits rendezvous with a tanker. Tornado drivers have the capability to transfer fuel from jet-to-jet by means of retractable fuel-transfer hose assemblies mounted to their external, 1,500 liter (396 gallon) drop tanks. (inset) The tail of each German fighter jet at the Holloman Air Force Base features a yellow background and Zia sun symbol from the New Mexico state flag, a German military Iron Cross and two silver darts that represent the unit's two aircraft types — the Tornado and the F-4 Phantom.



eject pre-cut strips of metallic chaff in hopes it would confuse the opposing radar signal. One problem: If the signal returned from the chaff didn't match frequency, the radar signal could be boosted to "punch through" the chaff cloud.

To combat this weakness the Tornado's on-board computer analyzes the enemy radar frequency, then signals the chaff dispenser to cut its chaff strips into the specific lengths required to match the foe's radar beam, thus masking the airplane.

Whether it is screaming in at 1,000 feet off the deck to take out enemy SAM sites and radars; providing high-speed, low-level ground support missions; or blasting enemy aircraft out of the sky at 60,000 feet, the Tornado is definitely one bird you want on your side.

Soon all pre-flight preparations were complete, the crews settled into the cockpits and the big Tornados were rolled onto the tarmac. In short order the powerful twin Turbo-Union RB-199 jet engines screamed to life and the flight of three Tornados streaked skyward and vectored for the Four Corners region of northwest New Mexico.

After a 600-plus mile sortie the jets made their practice bomb run over the Holloman range and headed back to base where I met Col. Schwarz at the Officer's Club for a spot of lunch and some light conversation. It was then to his office for our interview.

### **Luftwaffe U.S.A.**

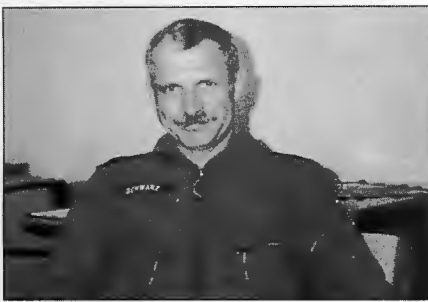
The German Air Force Tactical Training Center at Holloman AFB, under command of Colonel Eckhard Sowada, came about as the result of a worldwide search for an air-training facility. It was to provide good year-round weather and increased air space — all needed for a fighter-weapons instructor course and advanced tactical training for Tornado crews; as well as a basic course and fighter-weapons instructor course for the Luftwaffe's F-4 Phantoms.



(top, right) When all pre-flight preparations were complete, the crews settled into the cockpits and the Tornados were rolled onto the tarmac. In short order, the powerful twin Turbo-Union RB-199 jet engines screamed to life and the flight of three Tornados streaked skyward and vectored for the Four Corners' region of northwest New Mexico. (top, left) Chaff/flare pod mounted under Tornado wing. For years, fighter jets have been able to eject pre-cut strips of metallic chaff in hopes of confusing enemy radar signals. Typically, however, enemy pilots can "punch through" a chaff cloud if it sends off the wrong signal frequency. To combat this, the Tornado's on-board computer analyzes the enemy radar frequency, then signals the chaff dispenser to cut its chaff strips into specific lengths required to match a foe's radar beam. (above) BDU-33 practice bombs mounted under Tornado.



(right) First Lieutenant Tobias Wandel briefs *SOF* on seat controls and instruments of the Tornado's rear cockpit, used by a weapons officer.



Lieutenant Colonel Gottfried "Blacky" Schwarz is deputy commander of the German Air Force Tactical Training Center-U.S.A. After an initial agreement between the secretaries of defense of Germany and the United States in the fall of 1990, the first talks were held to formalize moving Germany's Tornado flying operations to Holloman Air Force Base, N.M. By 1999, 42 Tornados and 600 personnel will be stationed at the base.

After an initial agreement between the secretaries of defense of Germany and the United States in the fall of 1990, the first talks were held to formalize moving the Tornado flying operations to Holloman AFB. In 1992, the USAF/GAF F-4 training relocated to New Mexico. On 23 April 1996 the first Tornado took to the New Mexico skies. In May 1996, a \$42 million infrastructure was in place and the phase, dubbed Holloman I, was operational. When fully up to strength Holloman I will consist of 12 Tornado jets and 300 personnel.

Next on tap, Holloman II, is scheduled to be in place in 1999. Under this phase an additional 30 Tornados and 600 personnel will be stationed at the base. Additionally, another \$100 million to \$120 million, all paid for by Germany, will be injected into support functions and the local economy. Holloman I and II are currently on a 10-year lease, which expires in 2004.

Why New Mexico? Long-recognized by U.S. flyers as the ideal training environment, the American southwest is blessed with an abundance of sunshine, a sparse population, and a wide variety of terrain conditions. All such conditions combine to make for one of the best military flight-training locations in the world. Considering the NATO standard requirement of 180 flight hours per year, it makes the area far superior to the on-again-off-again weather, dense population and increasingly restrictive air-space conditions over much of Europe. For comparison, the population of Berlin is the same as the entire state of New Mexico, and the state occupies only 15% of the land area of Germany.

With the exception of unmarried personnel under age 25, Col. Schwarz told me everyone lives in the neighboring town of Alamogordo. Although there has been a bit of culture shock coming from the green forests of their homeland to the desert scrub brush of New Mexico, the Germans are finding the area and their new neighbors very much to their liking; so much so that some are already asking about extending

their three-year tours of duty. What a coincidence — that's just what I did when I was stationed in Germany.

When I asked what he had to say about the fears being expressed by some that the Germans were part of a New World Order plot, here to bomb American cities and herd citizens into United Nations' concentration camps, the colonel's reply was short, sweet and hard to beat: "Bullshit!" he snorted.

### Nuts And Bolts

The next stop was a tour of the unit's logistics squadron, with its commander, Lt. Col. Freudenfeld. Overseeing supply, ammunition, electronics, maintenance and transportation the Logistics Squadron has a complement of five officers and 233 NCOs and enlisted men.

The majority of the maintenance is done in the United States, with the exception of depot maintenance, which is still done in Germany. Except for the aircraft and associated parts, everything in the unit, from office computers and furniture to vehicles and warehouse shelves is purchased or leased here.

For an American view of the German presence, as well as to discuss the "LTN invasion" rumors, I spoke with Brigadier General Bruce Carlson, commander of the 49th Fighter Wing and Holloman Air Force Base.

General Carlson found it rather amusing that some of the conspiracy tales had Holloman as "an abandoned air base." Considering the 4,500 military and 1,500 civilians assigned here it made for a pretty active ghost.

As for the reception of the base and the citizens of Alamogordo to the German newcomers, the response has been overwhelmingly supportive. Although, the general noted, at the rate the American mess halls attract the German flyboys, "Things get a

little crowded." Not surprisingly, I found Gen. Carlson's observations echoed by the numerous townsfolk I spoke with.

### auf Wiedersehen

After spending two informative and enlightening days with the officers and men of the German Air Force Tactical Training Center-U.S.A., *Soldier Of Fortune* has no reservations about their mission or goals. It was a unique opportunity to meet some truly gracious and hospitable military professionals.

The objective of this mission was to visit and talk to military men about their jobs and equipment. In the process, *SOF* was again able to shine the light of truth on one more misdirected conspiracy theory. Mission accomplished.

*Richard Sherrow is SOF's contributing editor for forensic sciences and has, among other credits, a great deal of time behind the T-bars of U.S. tanks.* ✕



SOF correspondent Rick Sherrow checks out the fit of a Tornado pilot's seat. Whether it's screaming in at 1,000 feet off the deck to take out enemy SAM sites and radar, Sherrow writes, or providing high-speed, low-level ground-support missions, or blasting enemy aircraft out of the sky at 60,000 feet, the Tornado is definitely one bird you want on your side.

## Tech Specs: Panavia Tornado

<b>Wingspan (swept):</b>	28 ft. 2 in.
<b>Wingspan (unswept):</b>	45 ft. 7 in.
<b>Wing Area:</b>	286 sq. R.
<b>Length:</b>	54 ft. 10 in.
<b>Height:</b>	19 ft. 7 in.
<b>Maximum Take Off Weight:</b>	60,000 lb.
<b>Maximum Speed:</b>	Mach 2.2 (1,455 mph)
<b>Maximum Range:</b>	1,500 miles
<b>Service Ceiling:</b>	65,000 feet +
<b>Engines:</b>	Twin Turbo-Union RB-199 Mk 103 Turbofans
<b>Engine Thrust:</b>	16,900 lb. per engine



**Armament:** 2 Mauser BK 27mm cannons with 180 rounds per gun. Under-Wing and fuselage stores include: Paveway laser-guided bombs; HARM anti-radiation air-to-ground guided missiles; JP233 sub-munition dispensers; Sidewinder air-to-air guided missiles; various other bombs, missiles and dispensers.

# SPEED



## Stand Off, Stand Down In The Desert

**KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER** — It is one week before National Liberation Day — seven years to the date when Allied forces freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation — and instead of planning my celebration at a swanky embassy party, I am surveying an Iraqi army-built defensive berm through the main-gun sight of a US Army M1A1 tank.

Outside the 67-ton tracked behemoth, a strong wind is whipping around grains of

have been the primary persuader in finally getting Iraq to the table. But ground units like this one — in the desert less than 25 miles from Iraqi territory — represent the legacy of the “line in the sand” drawn by President George Bush in 1991.

It was these same M1A1 Abrams tanks that destroyed hundreds of Iraqi tanks and APCs during Desert Storm in some of the largest, most one-sided battles ever waged

Like most *SOF* adventures, getting there is half the job. Nearly a month before things reached a rapid boil, *SOF* began contacting the folks at the Army Central Command (ARCENT) at MacDill AFB, in Florida, to set the stage for a trip to Saudi Arabia — where most of the US military’s pre-positioned hardware in the Gulf is stored — to spend a few weeks with one of our armored units which we believed would be part of any first-strike force.

## Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

sand like miniature lawn darts, while thousands of miles away at the Pentagon, planners are busy putting final touches on what everyone on the ground is saying will be days upon days of non-stop air strikes and cruise-missile salvos.

This, according to US Army Sergeant Cordell A. Sherrill, “won’t be your grandfather’s air strike.”

And, Sherrill continued, “it won’t be a replay of Desert Storm either.”

“We won’t need hundreds of thousands of ground troops to make Saddam cry uncle,” the 3rd Battalion 69th Armor tank gunner said. “We’re not here this time to drive him from Kuwait. We’re here to remind him that moving on Kuwait would be a big mistake.”

The threat of air strikes on Baghdad may

in the history of tank warfare.

When *SOF* arrived in Kuwait the US Army had roughly 100 tanks in the field, with double that many still in storage at Camp Doha, the US Army’s main pre-positioned hardware base just outside the capital.

Fifty-eight of those M1A1s were with me at a sprawling, but desolate tactical support area known to the troops as the “Cabal.” The other 42 Abrams tanks, plus a large number of Bradley fighting vehicles, were spread out within a 10-mile by 10-mile box about 40 minutes down a dirt road west of Highway 80, the main north-south road linking Iraq with Kuwait City. At its center was “Battle Base,” the command complex that would oversee any ground action executed by this mechanized infantry force.

### Welcome To Kuwait

After learning the Saudi government wasn’t going to let journalists into the country, and hearing them say they weren’t going to allow the US to use any of its bases for offensive action, we focused our attention on getting an OK to join elements of the US Army already in Kuwait for “Intrinsic Action” exercises. Intrinsic Action is part of a series of on-going field training exercises that have been held in Kuwait since the end of hostilities in 1991.

Faxes and telephone calls flew, and after some intervention by Mr. Claude Young, the American embassy in Kuwait’s top-gun press attache, and the Kuwaiti foreign ministry, I found myself being whisked from the recently rebuilt airport — destroyed in a tank battle between US Marines and Iraqi Republican Guard units — to the Sheraton Hotel.

Think of Tucson, Ariz., or San Diego,



populated by legions of white Chevrolet Caprice Classic-driving Gulf Arabs and you've got Kuwait. The State is an anomaly among its neighbors; it absolutely loves America, and is quite unabashed about its support. Parents name their children after George Bush, and Fudruckers, McDonald's and TGIF restaurants compete for space along the coast road with the Emir's palace. Mention that you're from the States to most Kuwaitis and it'll usually prompt an invitation for a coffee or a tea.

As diplomatic traffic between Baghdad and the UN picked up speed, so too did the arrival of US troops into Kuwait. Word was that the Pentagon had chosen the week following the end of the Nagano Winter Olympics (Feb. 23) to begin their assault. The stage was being set.

Australian SAS troops designated to act as rescue teams in the event that any allied aircraft were downed behind enemy lines had already arrived. Twelve F-117 stealth fighter jets were now stationed at Ali al Salam Airbase outside of Kuwait City and a period of six moonless nights was only a week away. Perfect bombing conditions, Air Force personnel in Kuwait were saying.

ARCENT was reporting that between eight and 10 747s filled with troops were arriving at Kuwait City international airport every day, and equal numbers of C-5s, C-17s and C-141s were landing daily at airbases outside of the city.

Right behind them, however, was an army of international media who descended on the oil-rich sheikdom only to hit a brick wall in the form of a too-small, too-inexperienced and totally unprepared US Army-led Joint Information Bureau (JIB).

While the American Navy was doing everything in its power to accommodate the hordes of journalists and TV crews that had descended on the region, the Army decided to assemble a team of press-hating reserve officers whose only success was in demoralizing all US ground forces. The result was a public-relations disaster for the Army.

With the JIB reduced to organizing press pool events for the mainstream press, and our request to be embedded with an armor unit being processed, we decided to head up to the Iraqi border to see for ourselves what Saddam was doing.

### Saddam Not That Stupid

While we didn't find any Republican Guard mechanized divisions lurking among the berms, we did find 28-year-old Kuwaiti Army 2nd Lt. Abdullah Nasser manning the final checkpoint on the Kuwaiti side of the DMZ, only a few hundred meters from Iraq.

Nasser, a graduate of military-exchange programs at both West Point and Sandhurst, said there were no known Iraqi units close to the border, and if we joined him for lunch at his brigade headquarters he would explain more.

"Speed and Power" — at 67 tons and \$2.8 million a copy the Abrams tank supplies both. It was the M1A1 Abrams that destroyed hundreds of Iraqi tanks and APCs during Desert Storm in some of the largest, most one-sided battles ever waged in the history of tank warfare. Take note, Saddam: They're *baaack!* Noted SOF's host Capt. Robert Ashe, (below), of Albany, Ga. "No one hopes for combat, but there are no concerns about our readiness. It's our business."



"Saddam will not invade Kuwait again," Nasser said after a lunch of traditional Kuwaiti food at the officer's mess. "He's not that stupid. He knows he would pay a price that he cannot now afford. So, what he does instead is cause us to always be on full alert, test our resolve and try to divide us."

Nasser then took us to the brigade's briefing room and unraveled an oversized map showing the border region. "These are our M1A2 tanks," Nasser said. "These are the American positions, and here are the locations of known Iraqi forces. Because of the agreement signed after the war, there's a DMZ that prohibits all parties from placing heavy weapons within it. Our tanks are here, nearly 30 kilometers from the border. Saddam's nearest tanks are here, almost 70 kilometers from our border."

Nasser said that his orders allowed him, in the event of hostilities, to drive his M1A2s upwards of 20 kilometers into southern Iraq to create a security zone.

"There would be thousands of refugees flooding across our border if a war broke out," Nasser said. "We would need this buffer."

The scenario described by Nasser also fit well into the rumors *SOF* was hearing about US armor pushing across the border into Iraq and cutting off the Basra-Baghdad highway in the event of hostilities. The tanks were an important link in the overall military buildup that as of late February included nearly 5,000 ground troops in Kuwait, 350 combat aircraft in the region and an average of 30 warships on station in the Persian Gulf.

Meanwhile, back in Kuwait City, things had gone from warm to hot, with civilians lining up to buy gas masks, expatriates lining up to fly out of the country and civil defense authorities organizing mock air raids for school kids. CNN was reporting that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was heading to Baghdad for last-ditch effort talks. No one, at least no one

in Kuwait, believed Annan's efforts would come to much.

It was time to get things in gear. After pushing, prodding and finally screaming, *SOF* was given the green light to spend a few days living in the desert with the U.S. Army's spearhead armor unit, the men of B Company, 3rd Battalion 69th Armor, from 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mech).

When the 3/69, based at Fort Stewart, Ga., got its orders back in mid-February to head to Kuwait, it came as no surprise, said 3/69 commander Lieutenant Colonel Mike Altomare. "We are America's 911 if a conflict breaks out anywhere," he said.

### Readiness: It's Our Business

In 1994, when Saddam massed six divisions of tanks and infantry on the Kuwaiti border, the 3/69 was among those first to arrive during a fast counter-deployment. Last November, the battalion showed its stuff during Bright Star exercises in Egypt. It recently completed a stint at the National Training Center in California's Mojave Desert.

Soldiers with the battalion widely assume that a conflict with Saddam is just a matter of time. "Being trained and ready, we are at our peak," said Captain Robert Ashe, of Albany, Ga. "No one hopes for combat, but there are no concerns about our readiness. It's our business."

The soldiers have spent hundreds of hours of preparation, honing skills and developing a high level of teamwork necessary to succeed under even the worst battlefield conditions.



(above) The threat of air strikes on Baghdad may have been the primary persuader in finally getting Iraq to the table, but ground units like this one — in the desert less than 25 miles from Iraqi territory — represent the legacy of the "line in the sand" drawn by President George Bush in 1991. Inside Abrams, Staff Sgt. John Brown of 3rd Battalion 69th Armor, 1st Brigade 3rd Infantry Division (Mech) discusses tank's capability. (upper right) Agile Bradley fighting vehicles are deployed alongside tanks, in a theater almost ideal for armored war. (right) East West meets West as Kuwaiti checks out Patriot antimissile battery.



"I was kind of looking forward to seeing what we could actually do in combat," said Private Jason Langley, a tank driver from Huntsville, Texas. If recent gunnery scores are any indication, the 3/69 may be the best tank battalion in the Army. In live-fire tests back in January, *five* tank crews in the battalion received perfect 1,000-point scores. Most battalions would feel honored if one crew scored 1,000.

In recognition of their accomplishment, crew members received a much-coveted bronze belt buckle with the battalion's motto: "Speed and Power." The buckle is described as the tank-crew equivalent of a Super Bowl ring. That motto is an apt description of the capabilities of the \$2.8 million M1 tank.

### Teamwork

One of those perfect crews is commanded by Sergeant First Class Robert Keel, of Pittsburgh. He said the key to a perfect score in gunnery is *teamwork*.

Sergeant Keel's driver is Private Langley. The driver's job is not only to move the tank quickly (up to 40 mph) over difficult terrain, but also to move it steadily while the gunner and commander are attempting to find and destroy enemy tanks as far as two miles away. He said optimal combat speed is about 10 mph, being careful not to force the tank's automatic transmission to shift into a higher or lower gear at the moment of firing.

Loading rounds into the main gun is also

a critical aspect of a tank crew's teamwork. Specialist Chester Foster, of Macon, Ga., is one of the fastest loaders in the Army, capable of pulling a 40-pound live shell out of the magazine, placing it into the breach, closing the breach, removing the spent shell casing after firing, and placing a new shell into the breach within 3 seconds. In contrast, the automatic loaders in Iraqi T-72s typically take from 7 to 10 sec-

onds to perform the same operation. A third critical skill needed to wage tank warfare is that of the gunner. Sergeant James Floyd, of Mills, Pa., is Keel's gunner. Floyd says his job is a lot like playing Nintendo. In fact, his trigger system looks like a steel version of the same controls used in the popular video game. But Floyd is under no illusion about the seriousness of his mission. "When I'm out there, I'm not thinking video game," he said. Instead, he is concentrating on using the tank's thermal imaging sensors to identify and kill enemy tanks. An Iraqi T-72 has an effective range of about 1,800 yards, while an M1's range is nearly twice that. On the other side of the "Cabal" the morning's breakfast mess was being broken down, and as we stuffed our faces with T-rats of sausage and eggs, oatmeal and coffee we ran into Privates First Class David Maue and Joseph Hayes — both part of the US Army's fire support team. "We're the eyes and ears of the artillery," the Buffalo, New York-born

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"We're the eyes and ears of the artillery," the Buffalo, New York-born

*Continued on page 71*



Just outside Kuwait City lie acres upon acres of Iraqi tanks, artillery, and APCs — mute evidence of the unimaginable violence and lopsided victory of Desert Storm.



# Outrage!

## Jack-Booted Terminators Take No Prisoners & Have No Case

by James L. Pate

PHOTOS COURTESY ART ALPHIN

**T**his story's scenario is unfortunately familiar, another example, some legal experts say, of federal law enforcement's failure to learn from past fiascoes such as Waco and Ruby Ridge; perpetuated by a continuing tolerance of totalitarian tactics and abuse of power by the U.S. Department of Treasury's "special" agents.

Dressed in plain clothes with no distinguishing markings — refusing to show badges, identification, or a search warrant — T-men forced their way past a frightened housewife into a family home. The raid was based on allegations by an informant who not only had a strong motive to lie, but is a convicted felon. Few "facts" provided by the snitch had been checked beforehand.

But the agents — a combined force from

the U.S. Customs Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Internal Revenue Service — knew the allegations were sexy enough to grab headlines: Gun-running to foreign countries, money laundering, tax evasion and narcotics trafficking.

Once inside the home, the T-men yelled obscenities at the woman, a respected author of children's books, threatening her when she tried to make a phone call. They further terrorized her by opening and pulling apart feminine hygiene products,

**Art Alphin with two cape buffalo shot by him and Peter Capstick in the Okavango Delta of Botswana in 1990. Alphin used an A-Square Hannibal Model rifle in .500 A-Square; Capstick used the first Hannibal Model rifle in .470 Capstick caliber.**



and pawing through her lingerie, holding up items of intimate apparel and making lewd, crude jokes about her sexual practices.

The overall ransacking of the home was unusually thorough. Although the treasury snitch made no mention of illegal drugs, the words "controlled substances" had been mysteriously added to one list of items to be seized that was attached to the search warrant. Christmas gifts under the tree were ripped open. The terrorized woman heard agents swinging specimens from her husband's hunting rifle collection against the walls, breaking the gun stocks.

Welcome to the disheveled and terrorized world of Arthur Alphin, a West Point graduate and retired lieutenant colonel now a maker of custom hunting rifles, and his wife, Elaine Marie Alphin, an award-winning author of children's books.

"Our lives were irrevocably changed on 19 December 1996," Alphin told *Soldier Of Fortune*, referring to the day that treasury agents launched simultaneous raids against his home in Indiana and his gun business, A-Square Company, Inc., of Bedford, Kentucky, near Louisville. "A-Square was effectively shut down for nearly six months," after treasury agents carted off all his business records and computer equipment. An order already approved for export to France was seized in mid-shipment.

There are some implausibles immediately apparent in the

agents violated his 4th Amendment right guaranteeing protection "against unreasonable searches and seizures," the suit claims.

### Outrageous, Unconscionable

In every step of the legal process since the raids against Alphin's home and business, the feds have dragged their feet as long as the law would allow. Sometimes longer.

In late February, a federal judge issued an order demanding that the feds respond to Alphin's motion for a hearing on the return of the remainder of Alphin's property.

Government lawyers had already ignored two deadlines for responding to the motion.

Alphin remains unbowed, and he said it was only after months of deliberation that he decided to "go public."

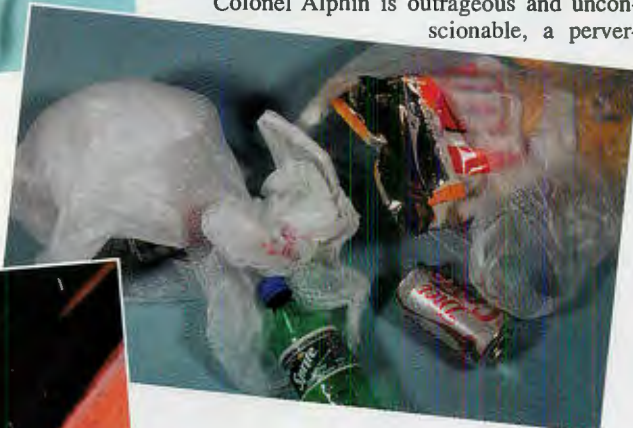
"We are prepared to endure any hardship in order to bring maximum publicity and pressure to bear on the federal government, so that the renegade agents will be disciplined, so that our damages will be set right, and so that renegade agents will be deterred from committing such crimes in the future," Alphin told *SOF*.

At the magazine's request, two retired federal law-enforcement officials reviewed copies of the affidavits and search warrants for the raids on Alphin's home, which is in Indiana, and his business, which is in Kentucky. Both lawyers said no facts were listed that would establish probable cause.

"This is the kind of federal activity that results in Wacos and Ruby Ridges," said James H. Jeffries, III, referring to two of the biggest fiascos in modern law-enforcement, the bloody botches against the Branch Davidian religious community in Texas and the Randy Weaver family in Idaho. "This case against Colonel Alphin is outrageous and unconscionable, a perver-



Trash: photo at right is garbage left behind as Treasury agents raided Alphin's business; trashed rifles were smashed against walls of his home by renegade agents searching for evidence of "gun running, dope smuggling, money laundering, etc." Agents even tore open Christmas presents and — in tune to obscene comments directed toward Mrs. Alphin — feminine hygiene products in Alphin home.



allegations against Alphin. His company does not deal in any of the types of weapons usually associated with gun-running or other illegal domestic sales. His company doesn't sell any handguns, nor even shotguns. It doesn't sell semi-automatic firearms of any type, or any firearms with detachable box magazines. It sells no weapons of a military caliber.

Art Alphin's business sells one type of firearm, and one type only: bolt-action hunting rifles; most of them of the large calibers needed to hunt big game — not the type of weapon desired by terrorists, bank robbers or street punks.

Almost 18 months after the raids, Alphin is yet to be charged with any crime. But only a portion of his property has been returned, and the disruption to his business has caused considerable financial hardship. Alphin has sued in federal court, alleging agents made false statements and showed "reckless disregard for the truth." The



sion of the system.

"If I were still a federal officer, I would seek immediately to terminate the employment of" the agents and federal prosecutors involved, said Jeffries, a retired federal prosecutor now in private practice, specializing in federal gun law. During almost 30 years at the Department of Justice, Jeffries played key roles in the prosecution of white-collar criminals, from mobsters to former Vice President Spiro Agnew.

### "Legal Nullities"

"The warrant applications are legal nullities," Jeffries said. "Any magistrate judge that would read and rubber stamp what was submitted in this case has aided and abetted a travesty of justice. These were open war-

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Alphin was something of a renaissance man at West Point, conceiving/authoring/teaching classes on ordnance technology. Here Alphin (at left, hatless) helps other officer instructors unload Confederate Napoleon which he borrowed from West



Point Museum. Building solid and canister shot, he staged firing demonstrations for cadets. (above) Alphin demonstrates venerable water-cooled M1917A1 Browning medium machinegun.

rants, without the specificity required by law, to vacuum clean a person's home or business."

Robert E. Sanders, who retired as a number-two director in the BATF and also has a specialized law practice in federal-firearms law, agreed with Jeffries.

"They were totally lacking in probable cause to believe any crime had been committed," Sanders told *SOF* after analyzing the documents. "Based on the information contained in the affidavits, I can't find any probable cause to believe this man did anything illegal.

"Unfortunately," Sanders said, "I believe the warrants will be upheld, just because the investigating agents went for the warrants. In reviewing the warrants and affidavits, a judge will probably find no misrepresentation or disregard for the truth."

Sanders noted that the feds face legal problems "on real complicated and technical issues regarding the Internal Revenue Service." Citing Title 26, Section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code, Sanders said it forbids the disclosure of all private tax information, information that, under law, shall not be divulged to any person for any reason, except under a court order.

In the application for a search warrant for Alphin's home, Special Agent J. Thomas Rothrock of the U.S. Customs Service, details in more than a page of informational specifics from Alphin's business and personal tax returns, all provided by, Rothrock said in the sworn statement, Special Agent Daniel J. Hornschemeier, assigned to the criminal investigative division of the IRS. Rothrock said in his affidavit that Hornschemeier "has reviewed the tax returns of Alphin and his

related companies" and then enumerates over the next page gross receipts reported by various companies over a four-year period.

The next step in the legal process for Alphin, as of this writing, is to have a hearing on the return of his remaining property, requested under 41(e) of the Rules of Federal Criminal Procedure. In that motion, Alphin's lawyers assert that the search warrants were "based upon false statements that were made ... with reckless disregard for the truth," and that the agents engaged in "unlawful and unconstitutional conduct."

A 33-page memorandum in support of that motion analyzes, almost line by line, the affidavit and search warrant used to raid Alphin's home. It claims that the raid was unlawful because the agents knew, or should have known, that the information upon which the warrants were based was false. It argues that the property and other evidence should be suppressed, and all government records and copies of those records should be purged from the federal system and turned over to Alphin.



Art Alphin posed in Rhodesia in 1974 with cape buffalo, taken with the first rifle made in .500 A-Square.

## False And Misleading

Agent Hornschemeier alleged that Alphin is president of A-Square and two other companies, A-Cube Company and Brontosaurus Brass Company. He claimed that "these companies have reported gross receipts of \$527,560 for the years 1990 through 1994." In fact, the dollar values cited by Hornschemeier do not relate to anything, and could not be found on any return.

"The only correct statement attributed to Agent Hornschemeier is that Colonel Alphin receives a pension from the U.S. Army, a statement that has absolutely no probative value," Alphin's lawyer, Marc S. Murphy, wrote in the motion.

"For a special agent of the IRS to claim that he reviewed the tax returns of Colonel Alphin and those of his related companies and make such a grossly inaccurate statement is outrageous," Murphy wrote.

Hornschemeier also reportedly alleges that Alphin's international shipments are processed through a customs office at the Cincinnati International Airport, and that documents provided by Alphin to that customs office indicated the sales value for products shipped through that airport for 1990-94, "approximately \$3.5 million more than he reported to the IRS."

As Alphin's lawyer noted, "this statement is false and misleading." Alphin uses two other international airports for exporting his products, in Memphis, Tennessee, and in Huntsville, Alabama. "Moreover, no shipment has exited through Cincinnati for years."

As to the dollar value Hornschemeier said Alphin reported for his exports through Cincinnati, Alphin's lawyer notes that careful examination of the paperwork filed by Alphin in Cincinnati and cited by Hornschemeier were taken from the

front of the export license. On the back of the export license is a work sheet listing the value of what is actually shipped, deducted from the total estimate on the front page.

"Agents possessing the qualifications and positions claimed by agents Rothrock and Hornschemeier should be familiar with this procedure," the motion asserts. "The failure on their part to follow the correct procedure resulted in a false and misleading statement being given to the examining magistrate.

"Likewise, the allegation that more than \$3.5 million in product have been shipped, but not reported to the IRS not only does not withstand a common sense test, it is entirely baseless," the motion states. "Assuming for argument's sake that there were \$3.5 million in sales, a reasonable split would have been approximately \$1 million in sales for rifles and \$2.5 million in ammunition. At an average export invoice value of approximately \$2,500, this would mean that 400 rifles were illegally exported.

### Ludicrous ... Absurd ...

"A-Square's facilities and all its records were regularly inspected by Frankfort, Kentucky, ATF agents Wanda Reed, Ken Phillips and Deborah Rankin," the motion states. "If 400 rifles had been ... illegally exported, they would have been present on the production floor and then 'covered' by 400 false entries in the FFL Bound Ledger, which has a total of 1,280 entries to begin with. Given the Frankfort ATF agents' extremely tight, triple cross-check procedure, any such rifles and false entries would have been discovered. But [Rothrock] apparently never contacted the Frankfort ATF offices.

"Likewise, a claim that A-Square Company exported approximately \$2.5 million worth of ammunition without reporting the same is ludicrous. A reasonable split would have been approximately \$1,650,000 of .375 H&H ammunition and approximately \$833,000 of .458 Winchester ammunition. This would have required shipment of 42,226 boxes of .375 H&H ammunition and 20,912 boxes of .458 Winchester ammunition. This would require 1,760 exterior shipping cartons for the .375 H&H ammunition and 1,162 shipping cartons for the .458 Winchester ammunition.

"The total weight," the motion states, "would be 149,022 pounds. Added to the 7,200 pounds of rifles, this would have resulted in a total shipping weight of 156,222 pounds, or 78 tons. A claim that this quantity and weight of product could have been surreptitiously exported is absurd.

"Furthermore, the simplest of checks would confirm that such weight of shipments did not occur. For example, it is



**Lion taken by Jerome Knapp a few years ago with a Hannibal model rifle in .416 A-Square. A-Square's success in the business arena is a direct reflection of the success of Alphin's products in the field.**

known to [U.S. Customs] that A-Square normally uses Federal Express. They could easily have verified the actual weight of all A-Square shipments. Further, the freight, not counting restricted article fees or excess valuation (insurance) charges [on the amount alleged by the government] would have been \$246,404.

"As shown on the Form 1120s, the total freight and postage actually paid during the years in question is approximately 5 percent of this figure."

Alphin's motion also argues that if other freight carriers or shippers had been used by A-Square, it would have been picked up by customs records at the three airports used by



**Manning booth at SHOT Show, Alphin talks big game hunting with prospective dealers. Except for the bizarre raid by misguided Treasury agents, A-Square's meteoric rise to prominence in its field has made it a textbook free-enterprise success story.**

Alphin's company. Such shipments are compared against invoices, both in spot inspections by U.S. Customs on departure "and habitually opened by customs in the destination country."

"There has never been a discrepancy, and this was a matter of public record known to [Hornschemeier], yet concealed from the magistrate," the federal court motion notes. "If this quantity of goods had been mailed through United States Mail, then from January 1, 1990, to December 31, 1994, A-Square would have had to mail, for each day the post office was open, approximately 105 pounds of goods."

The motion contends that such ship-

ments would have been detected by postal workers, "particularly since the [investigating agents] had placed a mail cover on A-Square ... This entire paragraph of the affidavit is fantasy. It is so grossly inaccurate and misleading that the [agents] either knew it to be false or were reckless and negligent in their investigation."

### Fire A Convict, Go To Jail?

Belying a working knowledge one would assume a government agent would have of government forms, Hornschemeier claimed, according to Rothrock's affidavit, that Alphin reported only \$39,560 in gross sales for his business in 1991 and 1992, but "reported gross sales of approximately \$281,400 on ATF Form 5300.26, Federal Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Return for the same period."

This claim was "apparently misleading," Alphin's motion argues. The statement in both instances is correct, but gross sales "for purposes of ATF Form 5300.26 is entirely different than 'total gross sales' on Form 1120S (Federal Corporate Tax Return) — a fact which must be known to Agent Hornschemeier. The Federal Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax is not paid on gross sales. Many items, such as cartridge cases, bullets and dies, which are a part of gross sales, are exempt from Federal Excise Tax and are not reported on ATF Form 5300.26."

Then there is the matter of the Department of Treasury's informant. Apparently the woman's motives were not scrutinized, nor was her criminal record made known to the magistrate who signed the search warrants. Her allegations against Alphin were apparently taken at face value.

The "confidential source of information," or SOI, as the affidavits refer to the woman, is a former A-Square employee who was on parole from a 20-year sentence for embezzlement. She got a job at A-Square, Alphin said, "using an alias and false papers. She was fired for stealing and, after her record was discovered, reported to the parole board. None of this was in the affidavit."

Nor did the application for search warrant mention that Alphin had voluntarily contacted ATF agents Deborah Rankin and Eugene Baker to report "the fact that his business had unknowingly employed a convicted felon."

Rothrock was either so sloppy in his investigation that he failed to check out his informant's background, or he knew she had a criminal record and concealed that information from a federal magistrate.

Rothrock's claim that Alphin tried to smuggle a rifle through the Cincinnati airport on 1 August 1996 drew an unequivocal

denial in Alphin's motion. On that date, Alphin said, he was on New York's Manhattan Island, at his wife's hospital bedside as she recovered from corneal transplant surgery.

Alphin confirmed the accuracy of one allegation by Rothrock, that a customs official seized a .416-Rigby rifle from Alphin at the Cincinnati airport on 14 May 1996, when Alphin was returning from a business trip to France. Alphin disputes, however, Rothrock's claim that the seizure constitutes "a violation of Customs regulations."

As Alphin's lawyer explains in the motion, the rifle in question was a company-owned firearm manufactured by A-Square and used by Alphin at a shooting demonstration in Paris. The motion said the decision by customs to seize the rifle was "arbitrary" because they would only accept a certain customs form verifying that the weapon was owned by Alphin prior to leaving the country and had not been purchased abroad.

### Follow The Law, Go To Jail?

"It had 'Made in the USA' stamped right on the weapon," Alphin told *SOF*, explaining that it was made in his production shop. Alphin said he had a similar experience in 1992, when a customs inspector named Kuchler was about to seize firearms and camera equipment from Alphin as he returned from a trip to Zambia. But Kuchler relented, Alphin said, when Alphin furnished him invoices and other purchase documentation proving that the items originated in the United States.

To obtain the customs form in ques-



Alphin and bear taken at "uncomfortably close" range on Kamchatka peninsula of Russia in 1991.

tion, Alphin pointed out, one must visit a customs office with any valuable merchandise, such as cameras, firearms or jewelry, to register the items prior to foreign travel. A copy of the registration is then given to the foreign traveler, which he may produce on return to the United States to prove he owned the items prior to going abroad.

The trouble with complying with that customs regulation where firearms are concerned, Alphin pointed out, is that the prospective foreign traveler would have to take the gun into either an airport or a federal building, where such customs offices are located. Taking a firearm into either an airport or a federal building, is a crime.

After the incident in 1992, in which Alphin was allowed to keep the rifle after showing satisfactory documentation on its manufacture and purchase, Alphin said he contacted the federal departments of commerce, justice and treasury. Each informed Alphin, he said, that the purchase documen-

tation was sufficient to meet the intent of the customs regulation. He also placed on file with Kuchler's office proof of origin and registry for the rifle involved in the incident of May 1966.

"Return to the U.S. with items originally taken out of the U.S. is not a violation of anything," Alphin's motion asserts. "... The statements made by [Rothrock] were intended to mislead the magistrate."

The money laundering allegation by Rothrock is also sure to get critical scrutiny. In essence, Rothrock alleges that money launderers have multiple bank accounts, and com-

monly own a legitimate business, then leaps to a conclusion, without a single supporting fact, that Alphin has multiple bank accounts and owns legitimate businesses, so he must be laundering money.

In an attempt to support his money-laundering allegation, Rothrock revealed in his affidavit that the government's surveillance of Alphin's personal and business mail detected the receipt of "mail from a bank in Johannesburg, South Africa ... On his personal tax returns, Alphin claimed he did not have an interest in, or signature authority over, a financial account in a foreign country ..." He also claimed in the affidavit that Alphin controlled bank accounts in California.

"Bank statements are issued on a regular and predictable basis," Alphin's motion said in response to this particular allegation. "The statement that Colonel Alphin receives mail from a bank in ... South Africa, and the innuendo inherent therein, is calculated to mislead ..."

The motion goes on to explain that, yes, Alphin received two letters from Volkskas Bank in Johannesburg, both of them general correspondence, neither of them a bank statement. It goes on to explain that Alphin's company bought a car in South Africa for his use when visiting, which he does on a regular basis to consult with safari clubs and others interested in his line of game-hunting products.

### Money Shrinks In Laundry?

"This fact was disclosed on all tax filings and the vehicle was depreciated over a five-year period of time," Alphin's motion states. "The car is garaged, registered, maintained and insured on A-Square's behalf by two South African individuals. In order to facilitate this arrangement, Colonel Alphin uses personal, after-tax income, changes it to South African Rand and deposits same into an account at Volkskas run by the two individuals."

Rothrock knew, or should have known from the lack of regularly mailed bank



Alphin mans ballistics test range at A-Square factory in Bedford, Kentucky. His penchant for big-game hunting has melded with his engineering talent to form the successful A-Square business. A-Square proprietary designs/calibers have recently been licensed to Ruger and Winchester.

*Continued on page 70*

# KILLING OLD FRIENDS

## *Cold Shoulder For Cold War Ally*

by Al J. Venter

Nearly being shot by a pre-teen zombie in the Angolan bush was my closest brush with death in more than 30 years as a hack covering Africa and the Middle East.

The youngster, who wore a uniform of sorts, might have been 11 years old. He was nasty, high on *wacky-backy* and the only thing old about him was his rusty

Kalashnikov. I was white and, it soon became clear, he simply didn't like whites — especially those bigger than he. When he struck at me with his fists — arms outstretched — he almost had to stand on his toes. It should have been comical but it wasn't. I couldn't argue much, since he had a gun.

The little shit was part of a group manning a roadblock on the narrow strip of tar that led

out east from Huambo — or what was then still called *Nova Lisboa*. We had heard there were ambushes to the south, so we thought we would make a detour. Bad mistake.

As we approached the roadblock, a Portuguese refugee traveling ahead of us had been halted by a rebel soldier screaming insults and waving a gun in his face. The Angolan, already sweating furiously in the

Savimbi at a press briefing at one of his bush camps prior to a strike on the enemy. Below are *UNITA* soldiers on parade at Jamba, Savimbi's bush HQ in the east of the country during an earlier phase of the war. This army was gradually molded into a crack combat force by the South Africans.





early morning heat, was angry and we never found out why. Had we not arrived when we did, he would probably have killed the man.

I got out of our four-by-four and braced myself. Suddenly, the crazy one clubbed the Portuguese once with his rifle butt, and then again. Blood flowed. The impetus of the attack forced the traveler to fall backwards into his cab.

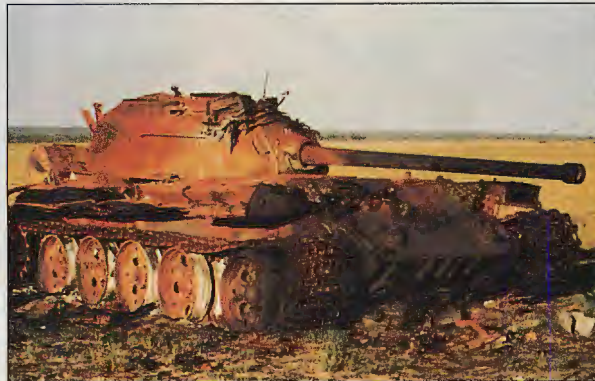
'Vai!' the soldier shouted in Portuguese, spittle dribbling from his lips. Go! 'Vai!' he screamed again, raising his AK. There was no mistaking his intent.

In a single, fluid movement that couldn't have taken more than half-a-second, the victim swung his legs into his vehicle, turned on the ignition and moved the gear lever forward. In a swirl of dust, he was gone. Now it was our turn. Because I was the closest, the soldier turned to me.

Then a strange thing happened. A remarkable change overtook the man. The screaming madman that I had been watching moments before, aghast, came toward me, hand outstretched. A smile creased his face from one ear to another.

'Bom Dias,' he boomed, in a genuinely friendly tone. I was speechless. If I hadn't just witnessed the near execution of a fellow traveler, I might have thought that this was one of Africa's good guys. The metamorphosis was total. Not so with the youngster who accosted me shortly afterward.

Angola — then and now — is full of such contradictions. Such as a month or so before when I was out walking with Allen Pizzey — who was yet to join CBS — looking for something to do within sight of Luanda's



(above) UNITA troops climb onboard a captured Russian APC after one of the conclusive battles of the war at Cuito Cuanavale. One of 14 Angolan Army T-55s (left) knocked out by a combined UNITA/32 Battalion force on the Lomba River in mid 1980s. (below) This Soviet SAM-7 was captured by the South African army during a major battle with Angolan troops. Here, it's tested by a South African army engineer and his sidekick. This and many other such weapons were passed on to UNITA guerrillas.





magnificent four-centuries old Fort Sao Miguel. In the capital, at least, it had all been relatively painless so far because Angola in 1975 was in transition.

### Heavy Fire And Torture

Suddenly Pizzey and I — as well as everyone else in that part of town near the *Ilha* — came under heavy machine-gun fire. That was fine; it had happened before and we knew how to look after ourselves. But then the opposition decided to use mortars to retaliate and it soon became hairy. These days, Pizzey, now the CBS man in Rome covering the Middle East, laughs about it,

It was at about this time that the name of a black guerrilla leader — one of many at the time — emerged from the bush (the *Dembos*, as they referred to the encroaching jungle in those parts). Dr. Jonas Savimbi had been around but it was early days and at that stage he lacked the prominence of people like Agostinho Neto or Holden Roberto. His movement was called The Union for the Total Liberation of Angola. Its Portuguese acronym was *UNITA*, which stuck.

The child who had been trying to knock seven tons of shit out of me at the roadblock was one of Savimbi's irregulars. He arrived as the soldiers were

checking our gear and went at me from the start. He kept hitting me until an older man — probably an officer — arrived and saw the look on my face, by now a bit bloody. He ordered the youngster to stop and when he didn't, he was rewarded with a cuff across the ear. My torturer did nothing until his boss left and then he started again, this time with renewed effort because I had caused him to lose face.

Looking back, I realized later this apprentice psychopath had every intention of killing me. He would hit me a few times, look down toward his AK, raise the business end toward my chest and then start with his fists again. There was no reason for his actions except that he had probably never killed a white man before.

His attitude was peculiar since racism had never been a problem in Lisbon's African colonies. The colonials had been mixing easily with the locals for centuries. It's an overworked homily, but its true: God made man white and God made man black, but the Portuguese made the mulatto.

I'd been making my way — with others eager to get out of this carnage — through some of the most remote country in Africa. We traveled south toward the Namibian border. There, we hoped, the South African army would be waiting for us. They were, though we saw a lot of dead people along the way including some who



(above) A Russian-built T-55 tank lies in ruin, after being blown apart by UNITA armor — just one of the many skills imparted on the guerrillas by South African instructors. This Soviet-built Ural heavy transporter (right) was among Soviet hardware taken by UNITA forces during the war against Luanda's troops. (far right) South African mercs fighting for Luanda found dozens of Russian air-to-air missiles lying about the air bases they flew from. Though in perfectly good condition, they were discarded, wasting millions of dollars.



Huge piles of captured Soviet hardware, including these 120 mm Eastern Bloc mortars, were captured at the Battle of Lomba. Luanda, in the end, provided Savimbi with much of the strength UNITA needed to continue fighting the war.

were burned alive.

In those weeks since I had left Pizzey in Luanda, I had spent time getting my story, which also meant toting an FAL as a "freelance" against anti-government *MPLA* Marxist troops trying to encroach the defenses of Nova Lisboa. This once-beautiful city was then Savimbi's stronghold.

### Still Fighting Marxists

Almost 25 years later, Savimbi is still at it. He remains as implacably opposed to Marxist *MPLA* rule today as were his people when they used Chinese 82mm mortars to hit back at whomever was shooting at them in the shadow of Luanda's old Fort San Miguel.

Today Angola epitomizes one of the great tragedies of the 20th Century. The country has been at war since 1961 — first against Portuguese colonials who shamefully and hurriedly withdrew to the Metropolis when they threw in the towel in 1975; then against each other. A succession of civil war followed. The more recent, better-publicized phase, includes two years of internecine combat in the early '90s

against South African "volunteers" who were hired by the mercenary organization Executive Outcomes to oppose their old allies.

### Killing Old Friends

Paradoxically, Savimbi was now fighting the same South African special forces-turned-merc with whom he and his men had shared decades of war. For a full generation, South Africans and UNITA had been allies. Both, right or wrong, had a common vision: they were opposed — often passionately — to the same brutal Marxist government in Luanda that had originally forced Savimbi into the bush.

In that time, UNITA's troops were being trained by their South African allies. They had lived and fought and died beside each other. Personal and emotional ties, as we now know, had gone deep, though those who became turncoats and ended up fighting for the Marxists would probably disagree.

Curiously, Savimbi and his UNITA army were once a powerful Western ally in the battle against Soviet-backed subversion in Africa. Following MPLA's victories after independence (with Russian and Cuban assistance) Washington all but embraced Savimbi. It's an adage as old as war itself: If your enemy is my enemy, then we are friends.

UNITA was the first African liberation movement to receive Stinger SAM ground-to-air missiles. Those, and other weapons, were intended to counter the \$3 billion worth of war materiel the Soviets were pouring into Angola. Moscow also arranged for Castro to send 35,000 of his best-trained troops to this West African country in a bid to reinforce Luanda's military grip.

Among those who rallied to Luanda's call were Vietnam, East Germany, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, North Korea, Libya, the Sudan, Poland and, of course, Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

Other countries, wary of Eastern bloc gains, rallied. In Africa, Morocco's King Hassan provided Savimbi with training facilities and arms. Mobutu's Zaire (the Congo today), became his most powerful ally. Kinshasa gave Savimbi access to the outside world as well as a market for his diamonds: UNITA was then controlling about half of Angola's diamonds.

There was also Pretoria, invariably paranoid about communists and desperate for friends in a shrinking world because of Apartheid. South Africa was powerfully opposed to a Soviet presence in Africa, fearing their own blacks might become infected with the same liberation virus that had afflicted Lisbon's colonies.

Other countries that came to UNITA's aid were a mixed bag and included Saudi Arabia, some Gulf States, Communist China, the Shah's Iran (until the *mullahs* took over) and, very discreetly, several European countries



UNITA guerrillas examine an Angolan Air Force MiG-21 brought down in eastern Angola with an American Stinger missile.



UNITA General McKenzie, named after a Scottish missionary that worked in his village, stepping off an Executive Outcomes jet at Saurimo. He defected to Government forces in 1993 and is now a general in FAA.

including France. Never to be bothered with trivialities such as ethics or ideology, you can always count on the French to look after themselves and bugger the rest if there is a *sou* to be made. The Elysees Palace would support the devil if it could score; just as Paris is quietly doing now, pussyfooting on Iran and Iraq in the hopes of getting at their lucrative oil contracts.

### A Slick Incentive

The bottom line — then and now — in this vast West African state was oil. It was first discovered offshore by an American company in the mid-1950s. The Cabinda Gulf Oil Company (Chevron) were offered good pickings in a string of unusually rich, low-carbon, oil fields in which this American company had a 39% stake. The bulk of it, even today, is exported to the United States. Now, with the communists dominating Angolan politics, that source was threatened.

Independence from Lisbon meant that quite unexpectedly — since nobody had

anticipated the Portuguese dumping their colonies — Angola had acquired a very significant strategic significance. Moscow was delighted, especially since almost all the revolutionary leaders were radicals.

Once Savimbi was a factor, Washington was happy as long as UNITA could keep chipping away militarily at MPLA's power-base. Luanda, it was determined by US strategists, would lack the political and economic clout needed to maneuver and possibly supplant American interests in the country. Thus began the bloody, bitter civil war that, intermittently, continues today.

### The Brink Of Bloodshed

Although there is a cease-fire in effect as I write, everyone is aware that both Savimbi and Luanda are preparing for the next round. The only difference is that though the 'Evil Empire' is history, the Angolan Government remains Marxist.

And today, Angola's Marxists are no longer pariahs in the eyes of the West. Enlightened pundits say the time has come to dump Savimbi. In spite of a track record of loyalty and dedication — and God knows how many hundreds of thousands dead (as well as three million land mines still in place in the country) — dumping Savimbi is exactly what Washington, London, Paris, Bonn and the rest have already done.

The United Nations has imposed sanctions on the rebel leader and his people in a harsh bid to bring him to heel. But then Savimbi is about the U.N.'s size. Pity they can't do the same with Iraq.

Early 1998, and Dr. Savimbi remains ensconced in rather splendid isolation in the hilly bush country of Bailundu, about a hundred miles north of Huambo.

He has chosen his headquarters carefully. The country is ideally suited for guerrilla war. An attacking force would have difficulty making headway through a succession of high-lying hills and gorges that surround the place. For access, he has an airport at Bailundu's 'twin-town' of Andulo. Until recently there had been a regular stream of flights into the well-defended airport — all of them illegal and unscheduled — and all through porous Angolan air space.

### Smuggling Munitions

That was the situation until 21 January, 1998, when Angolan air force MiG-21s intercepted a South African registered DC-4 headed for Andulo. It had filed a flight plan out of Johannesburg and was supposed to be headed for the Congo. At its last refueling stop in Lusaka, Zambia, it turned sharp west into Angola. Angolan air force MiGs were waiting and the plane was forced to land at Menongue. On board were eight South Africans and a cargo which one report said

*Continued on page 69*

# Norinco's

# NATO Sniper



With match-grade ammunition, the NORINCO .308 SVD will shoot 0.7 MOA, while retaining the exceptional reliability and durability of all Kalashnikov-type weapons.



## **Dragunov's Mass-Produced SVD Sharpshooter**

Don't confuse the Mission Essential Need Statement (MENS) of the Dragunov sniper rifle (*Samozaryadnaya sniperskaya vintovka Dragunova* — SVD) with that of the United States Marine Corps' M40A1. Russian snipers train for 45 to 60 days in their units. USMC snipers spend three months at Quantico. But, more importantly, each Russian motorized rifle platoon has one Dragunov-armed sniper. Thus, the SVD was designed to be a mass-produced

sniper system, and within that parameter it does quite well.

By 1942 the flawed semiautomatic Model 1940 Tokarev (SVT-40) sniper rifle was abandoned and production of the

Mosin-Nagant M1891/30 bolt-action sniper rifle recommenced. Desiring to move beyond a 19th-century rifle, development of a new semiautomatic system began in 1958 at the arsenal in Izhevsk, where the Kalashnikov was produced. Principal designer on this project was Evgeniy F. Dragunov (1920-91), who was born in Izhevsk into a family of gunsmiths, and whose sons followed in his footsteps. The biggest problem was to resolve the contra-

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TEXT & PHOTOS BY  
**Peter G. Kokalis**

dictions between reliability (maximum tolerances) and accuracy (minimum tolerances). After trials in competition with a design by Konstantinov, the Dragunov was adopted for service on 3 July 1963.

Chambered for the 7.62x54R cartridge, the SVD is gas-operated and fires from the closed-bolt position. It employs the same rotary bolt system as the Kalashnikov assault rifles and RPK squad automatic. There is a two-position gas regulator, for normal and adverse conditions, that can be adjusted using the rim of a cartridge. This rifle operates by means of a short-stroke piston which is not attached to the bolt carrier as it is on other Kalashnikovs.

This lightweight, hard-chromed piston is driven back by the gases passing through the barrel's port in the gas cylinder. It impinges against a spring-loaded, 11.75-inch steel rod, riding over the barrel, which in turn delivers its rearward momentum onto the front face of the bolt carrier to drive it and the bolt rearward and out of battery. Long-stroke operation results in movement of a heavy mass which jars the weapon and decreases the accuracy potential, one of a sniper weapon system's most important parameters. Both the Kalashnikov series and the SVD have three locking lugs, the largest lug (which has a slot cut into it to accommodate the unusually large claw extractor) also has a projection on it which serves as the cam that rides in the bolt carrier's cam path to rotate the bolt (35 degrees) and unlock it (and during the counter recoil stroke to rotate it into battery). As the carrier and the bolt go back together, the recoil spring is compressed to

tor lever makes the usual loud AK noises.

The curved Dragunov magazine holds 10 rounds and, since this is a rimmed cartridge, care must be taken that the round on top is in front of the rim of the cartridge beneath it. Unlike the AK, there is a hold-device that locks the bolt rearward after the last shot has been fired. The magazine release catch, directly in front of the trigger, is a spring-loaded flapper-type and magazines must be inserted from the front and rolled back to engage the catch.

### Cold-War Optics

The four-power PSO-1 scope features battery-powered reticle illumination. But, the batteries are of a type unique to this unit. A rubber eyepiece provides the correct eye relief of 2.7 inches. Field of view is six degrees. There is an unusual rangefinding reticle pattern that has been adapted from the RPG-7V's optical sight. It consists of a series of steps above a solid base line. Every other step is marked in two-hundred-meter intervals, from "2" (the highest step) to "10" (the step closest to the base line). Just align an enemy soldier with his feet on the base line. The system is based upon a target 5 feet 7 inches (1.7 meters) in height. The step that matches the top of his head indicates his distance to you in meters. Then dial this distance on the elevation knob on top of the scope and you're good to go. There is also a graduated scale, covering plus/minus 10 mils in 1-mil increments, for windage adjustment above the elevation reticle pattern. Use the aiming point in the center of the windage scale as your aiming point. Both the Israelis and

Swarovski of Austria have copied this rangefinder reticle pattern. The sight incorporates a metascope for the detection of infrared light sources. The optical sight's side mount is integral with the scope tube. The PSO-1 can be replaced by the NSPUM or NSPU-3 night vision scopes, in which case the system is referred to as the SVDN2 or SVDN3, respectively.

Supplementing this are iron emergency sights taken directly from the Kalashnikov rifle. The round front sight post, which is adjustable for both elevation and windage zero, is protected by a circular hood with a hole in the top to provide entry for the elevation-adjustment tool. The sliding tangent-type rear sight has an open U-notch and is adjustable for elevation in 100-meter intervals from 100 to 1,200 meters. The 300-meter battle-sight setting is marked with the Cyrillic letter for "P."

The receiver is a milled drop forging. It and all of the other components, except for the bolt group which has been left "in-the-white," are provided with a satin black baked enamel finish. Overall length is approximately 48 inches (1,220 mm) and it weighs 9.5 pounds (4.3 kg), empty, with scope. The barrel is 22.25 inches (547 mm) in length, and has four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254 mm). The bore and chamber are chrome-lined in the manner common to all ComBloc small arms. The SVD barrel is equipped with a lug to accept the Kalashnikov wire-cutter bayonet (a bizarre accessory for a sniper rifle). The flash suppressor has five ribs with slots in between and is reminiscent of that found on the U.S. M14.

drive the carrier forward again. As the bolt is rotated into battery, the carrier trips an auto-safety sear before firing can take place. Since this is a semiautomatic-only rifle, the trigger mechanism is quite simple and consists of only the trigger, sear, auto-safety sear and its coil spring, hammer, disconnector, hammer and trigger pins and multiple-strand spring. Because of the disconnector, the trigger must be released completely after each shot to re-connect the trigger bar with the sear.

The standard Kalashnikov safety lever is used, but it has only two positions. With the lever set in the upper position to safe and a magazine in place, the bolt carrier can be retracted only enough to inspect the chamber for a loaded round. Stiff and exceptionally difficult to manipulate downward into the fire position, the selec-

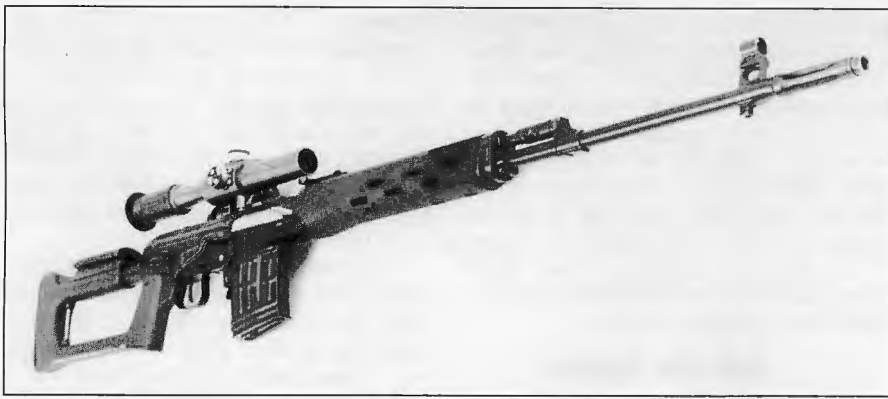
**While some may be attracted to the NORINCO .308 Dragunov (above) for its potential as a sniper weapon system, most will be collectors who want to own and shoot a piece of history. (below) Whenever possible, sniper weapon systems should be fired from the prone position, or, if not, then a braced position of some type. However, the sitting position is almost as stable as prone, and can be useful when shooting in high brush.**



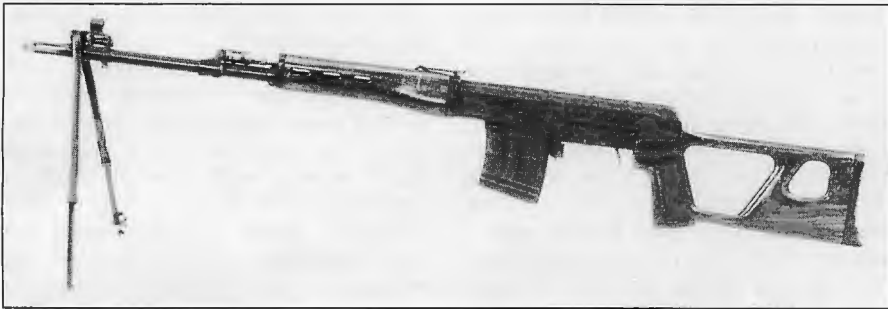
The skeletonized, wood-laminate buttstock, with a leather padded cheekpiece that can be removed (and, thus, lost all too easily in the field), does little to minimize the sharp recoil of this full-power rifle cartridge. It has a smooth steel buttplate and a red phenolic, glass-reinforced pistol-grip cap. The two-piece forearm, also of wood-laminate construction, has six elongate ventilation holes on each side and two on the bottom. Vent holes on the top would only result in heat risers obscuring the sights.

### Building A Better Dragunov

Several other countries have made Dragunov-type sniper rifles. In the early 1980s, the Romanians introduced a sniper weapon system called the FPK that looks like a Dragunov, but is based upon the



(above) Current caliber 7.62x54R Russian SVD as produced by the IZHMAH factory in Izhevsk, Russia. Note black synthetic buttstock and handguard. Newest models feature synthetic magazines, as well. (below) Experimental Russian selective-fire SVD with bipod and buttstock of slightly different configuration. Note absence of trigger guard.



AKM assault-rifle receiver. Chambered for the 7.62x54R round, it has an RPK-type bolt carrier/piston rod assembly, instead of the Russian Dragunov's short-stroke piston. The buttstock, forearm and flash suppressor are all of a different configuration than those of the SVD.

Yugoslavia's Dragunov, the M76, retains the Kalashnikov's original long-stroke method of operation with the piston and extension attached to the bolt carrier. The M76 is chambered for 7.92x57mm cartridge, also used by the Yugoslavs for machine guns, such as their copy of the MG42. At 11.6 pounds, significantly heavier than the Russian SVD, the M76 has an overall length of 45.4 inches. A simple, three-position regulator was fitted to the gas block. It can be adjusted only after the gas tube has been removed. The ON M76 scope is patterned after the Russian PSO-1. Instead of a bulb and battery, self-luminous tritium illuminates the reticle pattern. A blond, tight-grained wood, lightly stained and oiled, has been used for the buttstock (solid instead of skeletonized), pistol grip and hand guards. A 1/2-inch thick, solid black rubber recoil pad extends the length-of-pull and is effective in reducing the perceived recoil.

In recent years the IZHMAH factory (Dept. SOF, 3 Derjabin Str., 426006 Izhevsk, Russia; phone: 011-7-3412-240702; fax: 011-7-3412-781055) has expanded their SVD line. Current SVDs are equipped with black synthetic buttstocks, handguards and magazines. There is also a folding stock version called the SVDS (see "Dragunov — The Man Behind The Legend," December '96) and a little-publi-

cized bullpup configuration that is usually fitted with a sound suppressor and has been issued to the OMON ("Police Special Assignment Group"), an elite Russian law-enforcement unit. Furthermore, the Russian SVD can now be obtained in calibers 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester) and .338 Lapua Magnum. A sporter version, called the "Tiger," has been imported to the United States in caliber .308 Winchester, and is also available in 7.62x54R and 9.3x64mm chamberings. A caliber .30-06 model of the Tiger is currently undergoing testing. There was even an experimental model with selective-fire capability and a bipod. It was never placed into series pro-

duction. A caliber .22 rimfire SVD was made for training purposes, but little information has ever surfaced about it.

## Chinese Dragunov

An almost exact duplicate of the Russian SVD has been produced in the People's Republic of China for several decades. More recently, a variant in caliber 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester), manufactured by NORINCO, was imported to United States by Brolin Industries, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 2755 Thompson Creek Road, Pomona, CA 91767; phone: 909-392-7822; fax: 909-392-7824). *Soldier Of Fortune* recently received a test specimen of this rifle for test and evaluation.

The Chinese .308 Dragunov comes equipped with a wide array of accessories: including a PSO-1 type scope with metal storage container and canvas cover, three 10-round magazines, detachable leather-covered padded cheekpiece, front sight windage zero adjustment tool, three-piece steel cleaning rod with handle, plastic oil bottle and an RPD-type tool box containing gas cylinder reamers, gas port reamer, cleaning rod stem, nylon bore brush and combination tool. All that, but not one of the most important accessories: a sling. A sling is to a rifle as a holster is to a pistol. The complete rig carries a suggested retail price of \$2,000.

There are some significant differences, in addition to the chambering, between the Chinese caliber 7.62x51mm SVD and the Russian rifle upon which it is based. As this rifle was obviously intended for the U.S. market, the auto safety sear has been omitted. The BATF has ruled that the presence of an auto safety sear turns a weapon into a machine gun.

Since the .308 Winchester round is rimless, it is no longer necessary to have a curved magazine, so the staggered-column, detachable box-type magazines provided are rectangular in geometry. They are just as hard to remove and insert as previously.



Scope found on NORINCO .308 SVD is a copy of the Russian four-power PSO-1, but with markings in English. It is under-powered and the reticle pattern is too busy for long range shooting under the stress of combat.



NORINCO .308 SVD is equipped with the usual skeletonized, wood-laminate buttstock, with a leather padded cheekpiece that can be removed.



NORINCO .308 SVD comes equipped with a large array of accessories.

On a more cosmetic level, while the bolt group remains "in-the-white," the receiver, barrel and all other external steel parts were given a glossy black baked enamel finish over phosphate. The wood laminate stock was oiled and then lacquered. Russian scopes carry a distinctive gray anodizing; the NORINCO scope is black-anodized.

While the 4X24mm scope is equipped with a retractable sunshade at the objective end and there are rubber lens caps for both the objective and ocular, the rubber eye cup is missing. Both the windage and elevation knobs, as well as the light switch, are marked in English. Whether the elevation knob, marked in 100-meter increments from "0" to "10" has been re-calibrated from the trajectory of 7.62x54R ball to 7.62x51mm ammunition, and if so, what bullet weight, is uncertain. I doubt it. Starting at "3" there is an unmarked detent between each number that indicates 50-meter intervals. Both the windage drum and the reticle pattern remain identical to that of the Russian SVD.

The trigger-pull weight of our test specimen was 2.0 pounds, after picking up the slack and pulling through the inevitable creep associated with Kalashnikov-type triggers. This is, in my opinion, too light for the stress associated with combat environments.

### An MOA SVD?

The ammunition used in our test and evaluation of the NORINCO .308 SVD

was provided by Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, PO Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709-3090; phone: 605-348-5150; fax: 605-348-9827 — call for information about purchasing direct at retail if there is no Black Hills distributor near you). We selected 168-grain boat-tail hollow-points (BTHP) without moly-coating, as a considerable number of rounds must be fired before the bore has been sufficiently coated for any effects of the molybdenum disulphide can be detected.

This rifle fired several 0.7 MOA three-shot groups at 100 meters. This is very good, especially so for a semiautomatic sniper weapon system that has been in recent years severely criticized in the West for its supposedly mediocre accuracy potential.

*Continued on page 66*

## Norinco .308 SVD SPECIFICATIONS

**Caliber:** 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester).

**Operation:** Semiautomatic; gas operated with short stroke piston; locked breech; three-lug rotary bolt duplicating Kalashnikov method of operation; AK-type safety lever.

**Weight:** (with scope, empty) 9.5 pounds (4.3 kg).

**Length, overall:** 48 inches (1,220 mm).

**Barrel:** Four-groove; chrome-lined bore and chamber, with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254 mm).

**Barrel length:** 22.25 inches (547 mm).

**Feed mechanism:** Ten-round, staggered-column, detachable, box-type magazine.

**Optical sight:** 4X24mm PSO-I type with battery-powered reticle illumination; field of view is 6 degrees; rangefinder reticle pattern after that of the RPG-7V; incorporates a metascope for the detection of infrared light sources. The optical sight's side mount is integral with the scope tube.

**Emergency sights:** AK-type: round front sight post, which is adjustable for both elevation and windage zero; sliding tangent-type rear sight with an open U-notch, adjustable for elevation in 100-meter intervals from 100 to 1,200 meters.

**Furniture:** Skeletonized, wood-laminate buttstock and handguards, with a leather padded cheekpiece that can be removed.

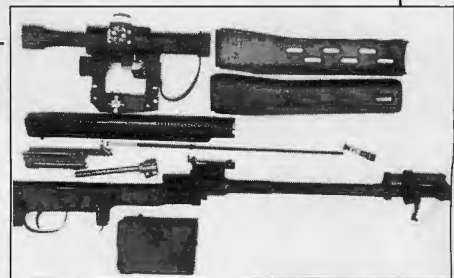
**Finish:** Glossy black enamel over phosphate; bolt and carrier left in-the-white.

**Manufacturer:** China North Industries (NORINCO), Dept. SOF, 7A Yue Tan Nan Jie, P.O. Box 2137, Beijing, People's Republic of China.

**Importer:** Brolin Industries, Inc., Dept. SOF, 2755 Thompson Creek Road, Pomona, CA 91767; phone: 909-392-7822; fax: 909-392-7824.

**Suggested retail price:** \$2,000, complete with PSO-I type scope with metal storage container and canvas cover, three 10-round magazines, front-sight windage-zero adjustment tool, three-piece steel cleaning rod with handle, plastic oil bottle and an RPD-type tool box containing gas cylinder reamers, gas port reamer, cleaning rod stem, nylon bore brush and combination tool.

**T&E summary:** Excellent accuracy with match-grade ammunition. Exceptional reliability and durability. Scope is under-powered and reticle pattern is too busy for long-range work in high-stress environments. Will appeal mostly to collectors who want to both own and shoot a piece of history.



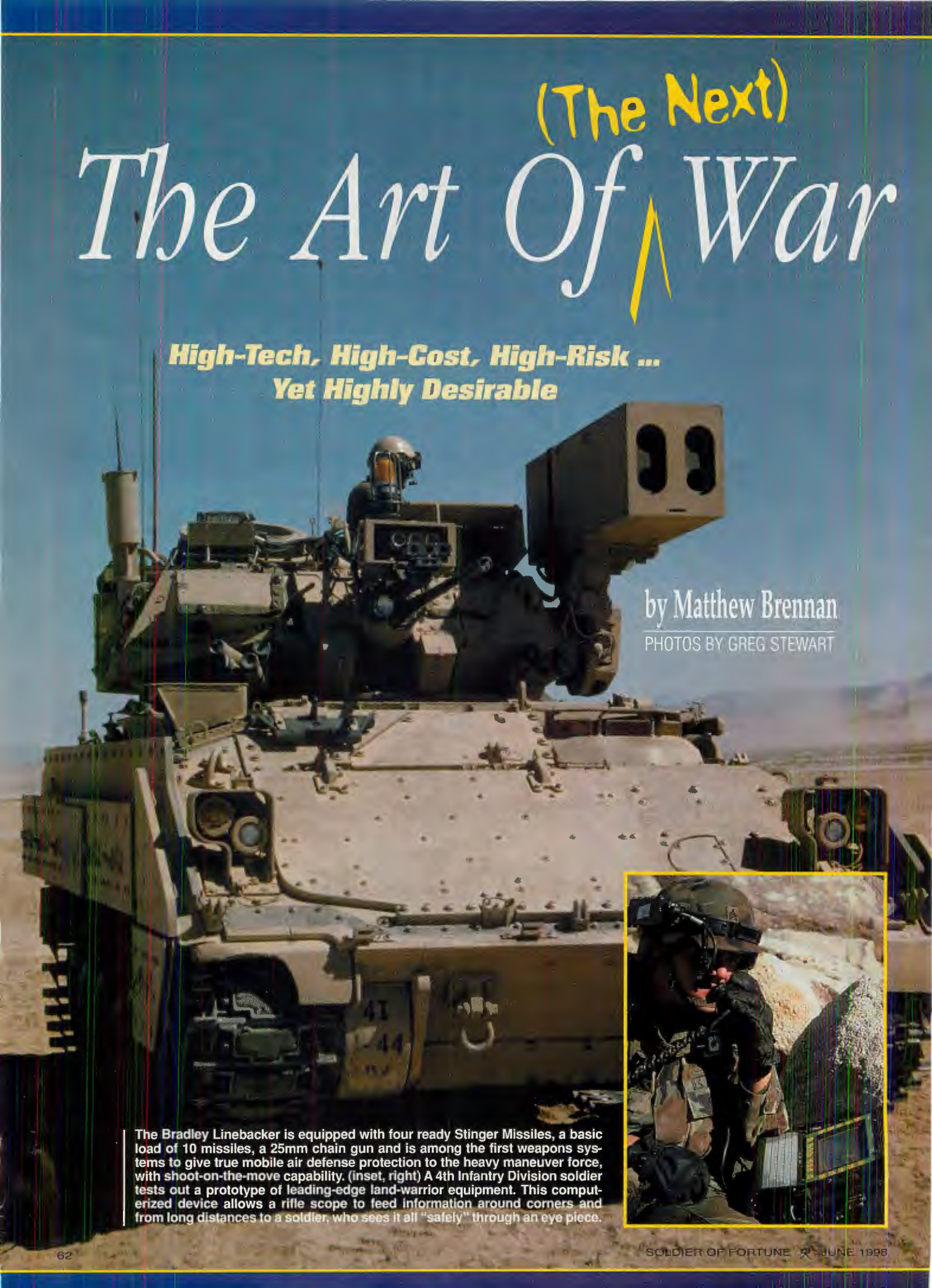
NORINCO .308 SVD, fieldstripped.

# (The Next) The Art Of War

**High-Tech, High-Cost, High-Risk ...  
Yet Highly Desirable**

by Matthew Brennan

PHOTOS BY GREG STEWART



The Bradley Linebacker is equipped with four ready Stinger Missiles, a basic load of 10 missiles, a 25mm chain gun and is among the first weapons systems to give true mobile air defense protection to the heavy maneuver force, with shoot-on-the-move capability. (Inset, right) A 4th Infantry Division soldier tests out a prototype of leading-edge land-warrior equipment. This computerized device allows a rifle scope to feed information around corners and from long distances to a soldier, who sees it all "safely" through an eye piece.



An M1A2 rolls across the dusty desert floor:

Tank Commander: "Gunner, Sabot, Tank, one-two hundred!"

Gunner: "Acquired!"

Loader: "UP!"

Tank Commander: "Fire!"

DWWWEEEEEEEEEEEEEETTT ...

Gunner: "On the way ..."

-pause-

Tank Commander: "I said FIRE!"

Gunner: "No go. Listen."

DWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEETT ...

Tank Commander: "awd, I hate that sound. Jones, shut down. Stevens, put the gun over the back deck ... we're 'dead' again ..."

To anyone familiar with the U.S. Army's premier heavy force training site, the National Training Center (NTC) this is an all-too-familiar scene. Over and over again U.S. Army heavy forces, those based in tank and mechanized infantry units, rotate to the NTC and regularly get their collective clocks cleaned by the best heavy force on the planet, the vaunted OPFOR of the NTC.

But this time more than a few people hoped things might be a little different. There was recently a rotation to the NTC that was supposed to be a harbinger of the future, the Advanced Warfighting Experiment (AWE). In fact, according to some, this time the OPFOR would be danced around and destroyed at will by the visiting "Bluefor." It didn't work out that way. In mission after mission, seven times in all, the OPFOR once again demonstrated they were indeed still the kings of the close-fight hill.



This 4th Infantry Division 3-66 Armor M1A1 MBT provides security for brigade tactical operations centers at the National Training Center in the Mojave Desert of California. In the background sits a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Over and over again U.S. Army heavy forces, in tank and mechanized-infantry units, rotate to the NTC and regularly get their collective clocks cleaned by the best heavy force on the planet, the vaunted OPFOR of the NTC.

The attentive reader will note the tank in the scenario above was an M1A2. That's right, an "A2" — the newest and baddest tank on the street. A tank that can "talk," a tank that "knows" where it is, and a tank that can tell you when there is something wrong with it. This is a tank that has more computing power than an Air Force F-15. Coupled with a 120mm main gun and the best armor protection in the world this is, in short, one ass-kickin' machine.

The force that was using that tank, and 55 others like it, was the Army's newest unit, Force XXI. The Army deployed the EXFOR (Experimental Force, another name for Force XXI), a reinforced brigade, to Fort Irwin in the Mojave Desert of California to face the OPFOR head-to-head. The results were less than the advocates of technology hoped for, but what else is new?

In essence, what happened in the swirling dust of the NTC was just another round of the eternal argument between training and technology. The fight falls out like this: "Do we want to devote more money to the troops, or to the toys?" The OPFOR, equipped with 1960's technology and simple tactics but trained like nobody's business, kicked the stuffing out of the prototype of the 21st Century combat force. Thus it would appear that the training camp won that round, but that would be selling the Army short, and in fact appear to be beside the point.

### Force XXI: Warfighters Or Testbed?

What happened was an experiment. That fact should come out loud and clear across the nation. Unfortunately, what the popular



(above) The M113 is the work horse for all mechanized units. A strip of buttons near the front of the vehicle detects bursts of laser energy during practice battles, shutting all weapons down if the vehicle is "hit" by weaponry the computer deems capable of destroying it in real life. (left) Built by United Defense, this Fire Direction Center Vehicle (FDCV) is designed to receive information from the Support Team (FIST) vehicle and direct fire based on that information and other data coming in from commanders in the field. Also known as the Field Artillery Operations Center Vehicle, the unit provides ballistic protection against direct and indirect fire.



civilian media picked up was that the Army sent it's newest and shiniest out to the desert, and it came back badly dented. Fact is, that was the whole point of this shindig. At least this one time the Army has come out and stated, in plain and simple language, "Look, we're gonna try this out before we buy it. We're going to do our damndest to smash this stuff, and if some of it still works, and it fits what we need, then we'll see about buying it." From where this grunt sits, that looks like some common sense.

Of course, before they could send more than 5,000 troops to the desert, they had to whittle down the toys a bit. That's where the Force XXI concept comes in. This hybrid, non-deployable unit was the brain-child of

retired Army Chief of Staff General Gordon Sullivan. He was the original driving force behind this unit, and the doctrine that it is supposed to develop. Basically the concept goes like this: Take a brigade, put all the gee-whiz toys the contractors throw at us with their new computer-based technology into this one unit, man it with a stable force for a couple of years, and let real-live-honest-to-God troops tell us what works and what doesn't. Thus was born the Army's newest testbed unit.

The Army has done this a couple of times before. There was the experimental and abortive "Tricap" division of the mid-70s (based on the 1st Cavalry Division), and before that there was the 11th Airmobile

(Test) Division of the early '60s (which became the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division of Vietnam fame, and still further back there was the Experimental Mechanized Brigade of the 1930s. All of which, more or less, did the same thing, they tested the hot new gear and tried to figure out how to make it go. Each time they were driven by a change in the technology. This time however, the new technology is not really a weapon, it is the computer.

Sure, we all know today's computers can do loads more than just four years ago. It only gets worse as time passes. For example, the computer that this article is being typed on has more power by itself than all five of the original computers that took the first Space Shuttle beyond the atmosphere. There are civilian pundits galore who want to tell the Army what this means. The Army has told them all to get stuffed and has come up with its own vision of the future. Whether that vision is right or wrong remains to be seen. The point is, at least this time it looks like the Army is breaking out of its shell and stepping forward instead of looking back towards the last war.

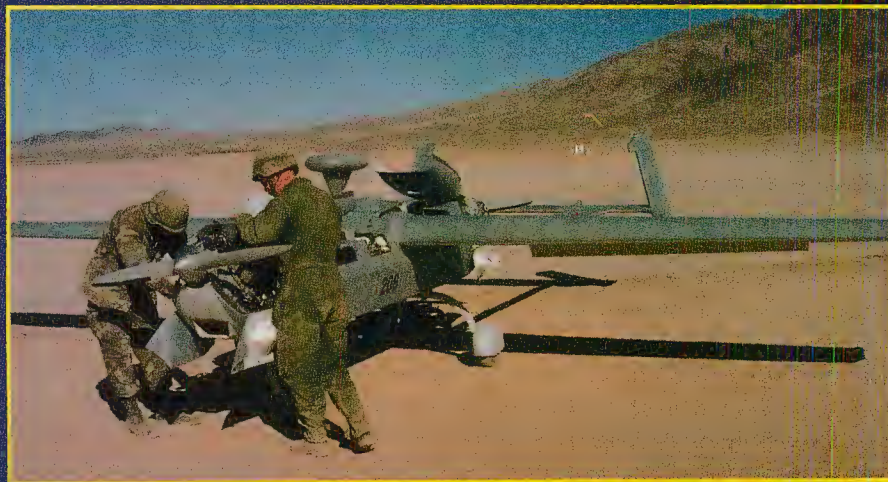
Not wanting to bury your head in the sand is always a worthy goal, but the Army is backing that goal with a real live unit. Force XXI is based upon the 1st Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. As it is currently constructed it has two battalions of Infantry (one mechanized 1-22 IN), one light (1-5 IN) and one battalion of Armor (3-66 AR) for maneuver, an Artillery battalion (4-42 FA), a supporting Attack Helicopter battalion, and all habitual associated units (like an Air Defense company and a Support battalion) that a normal brigade team would have.

### Down In Gritty Hell

They started with more than 200 new "initiatives" to test and see if they would work. In the end, just prior to the deployment to the NTC they had managed to pare down the 200 to 72 that would deploy with the troops to the gritty hell known as the Dustbowl. Unfortunately, during all of this they didn't get a whole helluva lot of time for training the old fashioned stuff, the stuff that never goes out of style, like shooting



(above and left) The Bradley Fire Support Team (FIST) Vehicle serves as the eyes of the artillery. It can plan, coordinate and direct artillery fire in timely and accurate fashion. These FISTs are each equipped with a 25 mm Bushmaster Chain Gun. (below) This Israeli-built Hunter Short Range Unmanned Aerial Vehicle is remote-controlled and used at the NTC for battlefield observation. It takes real-time video, giving commanders a bird's eye view of the fight. It can loiter in the air for eight hours, at a ceiling of 1,500 feet.



and moving in the close fight.

The Army has apparently learned its lesson in a lot of ways from the procurement fiascoes of the late '70s and early '80s and has come down hard and fast with a rule for those trying to sell it new systems. In essence, it goes: "If your tools don't work after we let the soldiers loose on them, then we ain't gonna buy them. Got it?" Talk about "soldier proofing," this was like the Olympics for the defense establishment, and if their stuff did not work then it was "bye-bye baby."

There are those who suggest caution in all of this. Among the more vocal is Colonel David Hackworth, (Ret.). No stranger to *SOF* readers, Hack asks the question, "When a bullet snapped through my map case, I could still unfold my map and read it. When a bullet smashes through your computer display, can you still function?" This is a valid point, one Army leaders would do well to consider while deciding what to buy and what to scrap. Others, including active duty officers interviewed for this article, express a similar concern the Army may be cutting readiness too far in order to buy the new wonder weapons. Hackworth himself foresees two potential types of conflict, one in which both sides are extremely high-tech, which will result in a Mexican Standoff. The other, more likely, would be low tech, fought in the cities, and require soldiers of the old fashioned variety. Either way, caution is what many officers and soldiers advocate, even as they look to the future.

So what made the first cut? And what ideas determined what they looked for? That can be found fairly easily in the Army's TRADOC (Training and Doctrine Command) Pamphlet 525-5, Force XXI OPERATIONS. The Army explains to itself in this manual just what it sees as the future of warfare, and the future is in information.

### Information Warfare

About 185 years ago there was a Prussian officer who was more than a little pissed off as he watched a squat little Corsican stomp all over his vaunted army. After the Frenchman was finally beaten at Waterloo, Carl von Clausewitz got to thinking about war. He then wrote down his ideas in a weighty tome titled "On War." Some of Clausewitz's ideas are now taken as gospel, mainly because real troops with combat experience keep agreeing with what he said so long ago.

Clausewitz coined the terms the "Fog of War" and the "Friction of War." "Fog" is the military truism that you cannot know everything that you would like to know about your enemy, or even about yourself. "Friction" refers to those million little things that turn a simple mission into a goat-screw as they pile up. What the Army thinks it can do with the new computer technology is pierce the fog of war, and reduce the friction. They call this "information warfare." It shakes out like this.

If you have computers on most of your systems, and these computers can commu-

nicate with each other (like computers on the internet do) then they can keep each other, and their users, better informed about what is really going on out there on the battlefield than can some scared second lieutenant with a map, but without a clue. The advantages to this are obvious to anyone who has been shot at; it's a very nice thing to know more about the bad guys, and yourself, than the bad guys do. This whole process is called "digitization," and it is the hottest buzzword in the Army today.

### Digital Weapons

Probably the hottest weapons on the current Army shopping list are the M1A2 and the new "Longbow" version of the AH-64 Apache helicopter. What the Army hopes will make these two weapons, and others like them, so effective is not only the fact



An Army Public Affairs Officer observes a deliberate attack near the Alligator, a well-known ridge at the NTC.

the machines "know" where they are, but they can share this information with other weapons over what the Army is calling the "Tactical Internet." This creates a "Sensor-to-Shooter" link that has the potential to rain damn-damn on the enemy while the friendlies stay under cover. Traditionally one of the biggest problems with firing a weapon to kill the enemy was that it was so visible. Not much you can do about that so long as we are using chemical- (i.e. powder) propelled projectiles. On the other hand, if all you do is shoot a little beam of light, and then use a computer and a secure radio to tell another weapon that can fire-and-forget where the enemy is, you can pretty much ruin somebody's day with impunity.

This concept even applies to the M1A2, a weapon which usually relies upon straight-up brute force to accomplish its mission. It can "lase" to a target (determine the range by shooting a laser and measuring the time that the light takes to bounce back) just like all modern tanks can, but it can also instantly calculate an 8-digit grid coordinate

for that target by comparing the tank's own known location, the azimuth of the laser, and the distance to the target. Then this information can be sent as a report to higher headquarters or instantly converted into a fire mission for the artillery and sent digitally over the radio straight to the artillery battery. The artillery, which has its own new weapon — the M109A6 "Paladin" 155mm Self-propelled howitzer — can go from a road-march to rounds down range in less than 2 minutes. If they are already set there can be "Shot, Out ... Splash, Out" within 30 seconds from the moment the M1A2 spotted a target. Now that is some responsive Redlegging.

On top of this the new Abrams tank has a few other tricks. Inside the turret there is a computer monitor for what is known as the Intra-Vehicular Information System, IVIS for short. This is the "brains" of the machine, and the basis for what the Army hopes will be a "Revolution in Military Affairs." The computer screen of the IVIS system can display the exact grid coordinates (courtesy of the built in GPS) of the tank, as well as the exact location of all the other tanks in the unit. No more second lieutenants calling the first sergeant with, "Uhhhh, Top, I think I am at ES 124753 ... there's a stream right next to me, and I sorta buried the track up to the turret ring ... could you come and get me?" Now Top can look on his own monitor and figure out that not only is the lieutenant jammed, but he's lost too, and he can send the recovery vehicle ... or if the lieutenant happened to stumble upon the enemy, the Commander can send reinforcements, to the right place, the first time.

Not to leave out the infantry, there is also a variant of this system that has been added to the current M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Although it lacks the ability to "lase" as a tank does, this system, called "Applique" is in its own way even more versatile. Again, what they have done is tie a GPS location system, a radio, and a computer together to create a Bradley that can communicate a lot of information quickly. This system, like the IVIS, can also handle maps and graphics. In theory this means there need not be tons of alcohol marked acetate maps cluttering the turret of every American armored vehicle. What once took hours to copy and then relay (positions, map graphics, operations orders) can now be digitally distributed to every single vehicle in the entire Task Force with the push of a single button. These graphics overlay on the position maps on the display inside the vehicle, and since they are digital, the first "copy" is the same as the 100th, or 1000th, for that matter.

For all the impressive nature of this myriad of high technology, combating any tendency to take themselves too seriously has always been a strong point of the rank-and-file of the American Army. One example of this was the name given to the division

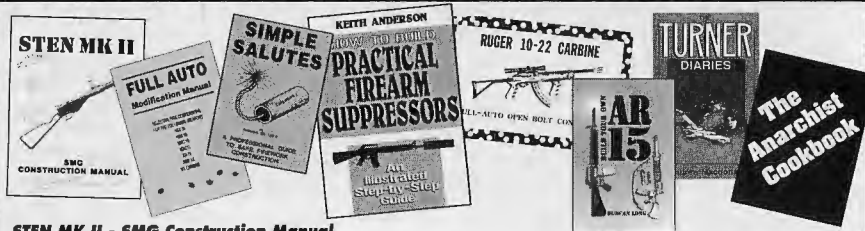
*Continued on page 72*

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## Norinco's NATO Sniper

Continued from page 61

I suspect the problem has been the lack of any 7.62x54R match-grade ammunition available for testing purposes outside of Russia. The factory making match-grade 7.62x54R ammunition is located in Novosibirsk and their headstamp code during the Cold War was "188". The new headstamp is "LVE", which stands for the name of the factory, "Low Voltage Equipment." Unfortunately, match-grade 7.62x54R ammunition could not be identified by the headstamp alone, as this factory makes standard ammunition also. Only the box states whether or the ammunition was designed for the Dragunov. During the war in El Salvador, I used to cull out from captured lots all 7.62x54R ball with a "188" headstamp for the National Police's Special Reaction Team's captured SVD. It never shot well and in the end I assumed it was standard ball ammunition the FMLN was probably using in the PKM GPMG. The guerrillas always destroyed the boxes as they thought that was the only way the country of origin could be determined.

Will the NORINCO .308 SVD shoot sub-MOA groups at distances beyond 500 meters? It's possible. But, a four-power scope is inadequate for long-range sniping by today's standards. We need a 10-power piece of glass, and maybe more at the really far ranges. In addition, the SVD's reticle pattern is too busy for long-range shooting in a high-stress environment.

The barrels used for this rifle are not match-grade, just standard .30-caliber barrels. However, their 1:10-inches twist is actually superior to the 1:12-inches twist more commonly encountered in .308 Winchester sniper rifles. A twist of 1:10-inches will do a better job of stabilizing heavy (especially 180 grains and even heavier) bullets at extremely long ranges (1,000 yards and greater) and also usually provides somewhat greater accuracy potential in cold weather.

Perceived recoil is sharp, but nothing an experienced operator cannot handle. Reliability and durability are not at question with any SVD, which is a robust and completely reliable design. The ejection pattern is typical of the Kalashnikov series, to the rear on the shooter's right side and quite violent: about 20 feet back and a deficiency with regard to position disclosure.

While some may be attracted to the NORINCO .308 Dragunov for its potential as a sniper weapon system, I suspect that most will be collectors who want to own and shoot a piece of history with match-grade ammunition that will demonstrate its fine accuracy potential. This is a well-built example of one of the most famous sniper weapon systems of the Cold War. ☒

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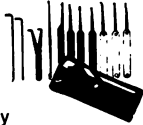
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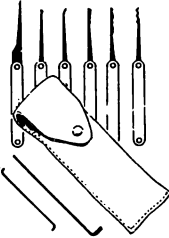
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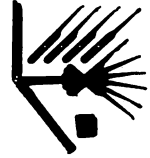
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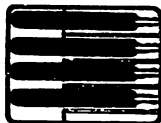
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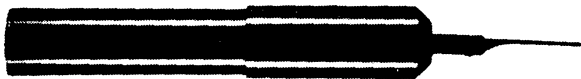


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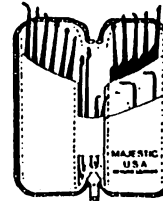
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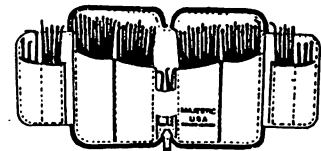
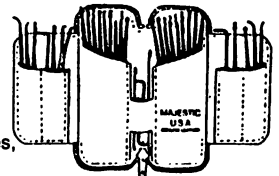
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Principles Only

## Taliban-Tag

Continued from page 39

wondered how long it would be before the government launched a decisive large-scale offensive, a final devastating blow to the Taliban in the north of the country and to destroy forever the prospect of yet another Islamic fundamentalist state with all its dreary misinterpretations of the *Koran*.

And it was for this reason that I decided to return, a few days later, to the front line. Hopping on the back of a troop lorry from town, I headed out again to the front.

This time, I bivouac with troops in one of the many deserted villages around the front. Most are young teenagers. For the next two weeks I trundle around the surrounding hills with them as guides. "No, don't go up there," they would say, "the area is mined." Although with 10 million mines dotted around Afghanistan it seemed strange, indeed, that anywhere could be decreed safe.

Other days, though, their local knowledge and intelligence of the area would not prove so reliable. Setting out one sunny morning from the barracks — as our shattered little house was referred to — my guides decide to take a shortcut across the mountains.

I should, of course, have remembered the advice given to me in England by a colleague, also a veteran of the Afghan war against the Soviets, who had made over 30 trips into the country.

Bear in mind, his "cheery" fax arrived as I was packing my bags alerting me that more journalists died traveling with the mujahideen than were ever killed or captured by the Soviets. He reminded me of some of their excuses: "Oops, sorry, I didn't think it was loaded," was rather too late for one unfortunate hack. "I'm so sorry, I thought you said 'reverse'," was another, given belatedly to a tank-squashed cameraman, and, "Oh, didn't we tell you about the mines?" encompass the more classic examples.

In this case the boys need to get to different sections of the front line, and have taken me in tow. For a short while we stop on a hill-top and two of the boys scuttle down to a nearby village. They return minutes later with melons; just 5 kilometers away and clearly visible is the Taliban stronghold which I had watched being pounded by government tanks a few days before. A picnic was held, Afghan-style, in the middle of a war.

"No, no, don't worry," is their response to my minor query as to whether the Talibs might decide to send a couple of shells our way. They were right, on that front at least. But it is only when we reach the village of Deiwiran late in the evening when other soldiers ask why I walked across the mountains, that the boys' local knowledge appeared to be a little flawed.

"Don't you know," came the half-amused half-relieved response to my casual and off-hand shrug, you walked through a minefield?"

For the most part, though, the situation as I tour the various parts of the front

remains calm, if daily shelling can be called a tranquil situation.

I can hear the steady *whummp whummp* of rotor blades coming from the mountains behind. "Government helicopter," says Ziub, a young mujahideen, who has climbed up with the rest of the gang to see what's going on. Sure enough, from over the hilltop the throbbing of rotor blades grows louder until the Hind helicopter gunship heaves its ugly and sinister outline over the horizon.

"Excellent!" says another youngster excitedly, "They're going to give the Talibs a pasting." He was right. I clearly see the four rocket pods — fully loaded — attached to the wings as the Hind lumbers in low and fast over our little rooftop.

We crowd round on the roof to watch the show as the Hind powers its way toward the Taliban lines. Islamic nutcases the Taliban may well be, but their gunners were no slouches. The air around the Hind quickly becomes thick with flack as the Talib gunners bombard the helicopter. "Look, over there," says Ziub, pointing at four virtually simultaneous explosions a few hundred meters from the Hind, "they're volley-firing RPGs."

The din of the Talib gunners, though, is drowned out by a sound, as if a powerful wind had been unleashed. The helicopter, which is now high above the Taliban positions, dips its nose and multiple streaks of flame spit from beneath the wings jettisoning clouds of smoke. "There! There!" says another soldier pointing to a series of puffs of smoke along the hill ridge, where the rockets were crashing into Taliban positions. It lasted all of three minutes before the Hind was winging its way back over us, while we waved from the roof. With the afternoon's entertainment over we troop back downstairs.

## "Got Any Stingers ... ?"

Equally distinct, but less pleasant, was the sight a few days later of two Taliban Hinds cruising shark-like through the air toward our lines. It was with no little relief, though, that they changed direction, hovered for half a minute, then pounded a different section of the front, before sloping back below the horizon making scuttling into our not-very-deep bunkers unnecessary.

But the sight of them prompted me to ask the guys something I had almost forgotten. "Got any Stingers around here?" There are supposedly Stingers galore in Afghanistan, a hangover from the good old days when the Soviets were charging around in a futile attempt to support an unpopular communist government. Equally, there are a fair number of reports of CIA operatives, in various guises, still lurking around the region attempting to buy back the Stingers before they really do get into the hands of state department black-listees — international terrorists. It is for a combination of these reasons that Stingers have long-since disappeared from public view in Afghanistan.

The man reputed to be loaded with

Stingers, though, is Ahmed Shah Massoud. And it is his soldiers I have just asked.

"Lots," comes the reply, "but they are all in Panjshir. We only use them when we really need them; and at the moment we don't need them." In the aftermath of an attack by a Hind helicopter gunship this all seemed a bit rich; but then it was their skins, most of the time, and then Hinds aren't quite all their cracked up to be. A few weeks ago, one of the soldiers tells me, a Talib Hind was shot down on a different front. There are lots of trees there, and they volley-fired about six RPG-7s when it was low. No problem.

Thinking back on it, it seemed quite credible. After all, of the two Hind attacks I'd witnessed I couldn't really say that the Hinds had gone for much of an attack at close quarters.

Whatever the odds, it didn't look like I was going to see a Stinger in action. But if Hinds were being wasted on a different front it seemed that I was in the wrong place.

A few days later I pack my bags and begin the 400-km trek south toward the Kabul front line, for what I hoped would be some real action.

*Next month, we travel into the "mouth of the beast" — to bloody Kabul — where warring factions shall likely slaughter each other well into the next millennium.*

*Roddy Scott has reported from combat zones for SOF over the past several years.* ✕

## Killing Old Friends

Continued from page 57

was mining equipment. Another news report spoke about munitions. All were arrested.

It was not the first time Luanda had tried to halt flights to Savimbi's bailiwick. My own sources in South Africa disclosed recently that the Angolan army (FAA) had hired a group of former Executive Outcomes mercs, armed them with portable Russian-built SAM-14s and sent them into the hills around Bailundu to await Savimbi's unscheduled flights.

### Swift Executions

While the objective is clear, this is an extremely difficult task. UNITA troops — masters of so many guerrilla disciplines — have been entrenched in the region for a very long time. Backed by armor, they are ranged in a succession of defense lines that go out almost 50 miles. Also, every approach road is mined.

A hostile force would have great difficulty operating without back-up in a region where a strange face is likely to be quickly reported by the locals since all are committed to the UNITA cause. Moreover, previous experience in clashes with FAA a few years ago, showed Savimbi does not take prisoners. We now know that those Executive Outcomes personnel captured by UNITA during the battle for the Cafunfo diamond

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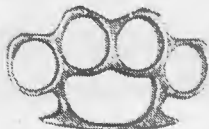
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fields — six to eight of them — were tortured and summarily executed.

The region in which Savimbi is concentrated has become UNITA's center of operations in Angola. The presence of an estimated 40,000 well-trained and well-equipped first-line UNITA soldiers is regarded by Luanda as a serious long-term threat to its national security.

So far, there have been no reports of successes from those government agents that have been deployed with SAMs. But, as they say in Africa, he who has the time has the advantage. Savimbi, with all his problems, has little of either.

Right now, Luanda is doing its best to force Savimbi to come to Luanda and take up his place in the transitional government. He has been offered the post of second vice-president. Not good enough, says the graduate of the prestigious Swiss School of International Politics. He wants joint leadership and, knowing Angola, he's not going to get it. Rather, should he go to the Angolan capital there is good chance history might repeat itself.

The last time that the UNITA movement acceded to a UN-brokered "peace formula" in the early '90s and ordered thousands of its men — as well as a good proportion of its top command structure — out of the bush, almost all were massacred in what is referred to as "The Night of the Long Knives."

They had hoped to kill Savimbi as well, but wily devil that he is, he slipped through the net. UNITA, consequently, has good reason to be suspicious of any Luanda peace offer. Savimbi is convinced that it could happen again. Meanwhile, Dos Santos has assured Savimbi he would be safe "under my protection." He has said that he would allow the UNITA leader to bring 400 of his bodyguards with him.

## Angola's Pre-chewed Meat

The bearded guerrilla leader counters he has heard it all before. Even if he were allowed a 4,000-man bodyguard, such a force — without armor or air support — would be easy meat for the combined strength of the Angolan army and air force.

The last time that FAA went on to the offensive in a series of well-coordinated surprise attacks against UNITA in 1993, they used several tank divisions to sweep through Luanda, Lobito and Huambo in their bid to eliminate UNITA. They almost succeeded. These burnt and blasted buildings still stand in all these cities and bear grim testimony to fickle Angolan politics.

Who would raise an eyebrow if it were to happen again? Just about everyone who knows anything about Angola expects that it will. More to the point, who really cares?

Right now, Washington is preoccupied with other matters.

*Al J. Venter, a regular contributor to SOF for much of the past quarter-century, resides in Washington state. He returned to his old haunts in Angola recently to relive a little history. ☒*

## Outrage!

Continued from page 53

statements, that his implication to the magistrate that Alphin had a foreign bank account was false, and that the mail cover's failure to detect other foreign banking correspondence should have been made known to the magistrate.

Rothrock's affidavit also implied that Alphin was somehow using the South African account to launder money. Alphin's response, filed in U.S. District Court in the Southern District of Indiana, was to the point.

"The South African Rand has steadily fallen in value in the 20 years from 1977 to 1997," the motion states. "It started the period at" \$1.24 in U.S. currency to one Rand, and, as of the court filing in July 1997, stood at \$0.24 to one Rand.

"Agent Rothrock claims to have banking experience" the motion noted. "Surely he knows that no money launderer in his right mind would stash money in a country whose currency fell so steadily and so far in value. Yet he did not reveal this to the magistrate."

Alphin, a former West Point instructor and third generation career military man, said he has been "very disillusioned" by the experience.

"You read about excesses like Waco," he said, "and you tell yourself this must be an isolated incident. Now I wonder. There are a number of federal law-enforcement people who are drunk with their own power. There needs to be an internal review system to keep them under control."

Meanwhile, Alphin is working hard to maintain his business, which before the raids was getting about half of its revenue from overseas sales. That all ended, though, when his export permits were withdrawn because of the legal troubles. Through the intercession of U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, Alphin was able to get the State Department to issue him another permit for France.

In March, A-Square made its first foreign shipment since the Treasury Department agents raided his home and business. Although he has no criminal record and has been charged with no crime, Alphin's product was seized by U.S. Customs agents in Indianapolis on 9 March, then released on 11 March after legal pressure. He still has not been granted permission to renew shipments to Germany and the U.K.

The jackboots continue to march.

*An escrow-type legal defense fund has been established through a law firm representing Col. Alphin. If you'd like to contribute, make out your check to: Alphin Defense Fund, c/o Dolt, Furkin and Thompson, ATTENTION: Tyler Thompson, 310 Starks Building, 455 South 4th Avenue, Louisville, KY 40202. ☒*

Continued from page 47

Maue said. "We can also act as forward observers for the stealth fighters, directing smart weapons to their targets."

When asked about any new toys or gadgets that the Army had in store for Saddam, Hayes said that American artillery forces had been equipped with a new, improved version of the "Copperhead" — an intelligent 155mm shell that could be directed to target by a joystick-directed computer system. "That's about all I can tell you without getting in trouble," grinned the Waycross, Texas, native.

It was back to the 3/69 command center, where Lt. Col. Altomare was going over contingency plans with his staff. "I'm sending out a patrol beyond the berm in a little bit, I think you should join them," Altomare said. "You'll ride in Captain Ashe's tank."

**Cruisin' In SOF Cadillac**

An hour later the two-tank patrol left the "Cabal," with me taking the loader's position. The M1A1 is one hell of a tank, and glides across the sand like a jet-turbine propelled 1965 Cadillac Eldorado.

"If hostilities broke out we could be on the border in about 90 minutes," Ashe said. "I don't think the Iraqi tanks could even make it out of their barracks before an A-10 [the "Warthog" with the incredible kill record during Desert Storm] or an Apache took them out. If they still kept coming, however, we'd be there to meet them."

The Iraqis would never know what hit them.

Colonel Altomare said he insists on a level of speed across the battlefield that other commanders might consider risky. To Altomare, offense is always the best defense. "I don't care about your tactics," he said, referring to the Iraqis, "because I am going to surprise you."

Altomare's description of the perfect tank battle: The enemy never sees a tank, only the flash of the M1A1's muzzle. By then the battle will be over.

Just outside of Kuwait City, near the airport, lies row after row of twisted and burned out Iraqi tanks, artillery pieces, and APCs. Even seven years after Desert Storm, these rusting hulks tell a tale of unimaginable violence. Steel tank treads are bent and twisted like rubber bands and inch-thick plating is punched open like a pencil through tin foil.

Kuwaiti officials try to discourage anyone from visiting the elephant's graveyard of Iraqi heavy weapons, in part out of concern for unexploded ordnance. But after visiting with the 3/69, we can't think of a better illustration of just how outgunned the Iraqis would be on a desert battlefield in 1998.

Mark H. Milstein is SOF's Chief Foreign Correspondent. ✕

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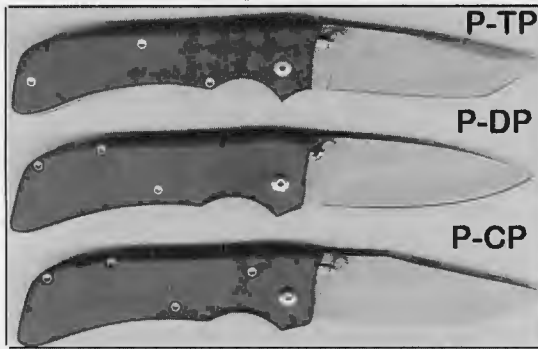
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## The Art Of (The Next) War

Continued from page 65

commander's section of the 4th Infantry Division field headquarters last year. Noting that within the CG's van there were three 37-inch monitors, a wrap around desk and touch pad controls for just about everything from video conferences with the subordinate brigade commanders to a "live" (simulated in this case) feed from a JSTARS recon bird, the troops realized they were very likely peering into the future over the shoulder of their division commander. Not to be overawed, one young troop promptly nicknamed the CG's van "The Starship Enterprise." The name stuck.

### Hard-Core Knuckle-Dragging Grunts

What does this mean for the young American considering joining the Army of the next century? There are more than a few theories on that as well. All agree on one point: There will always be a place for the hard-core knuckle-dragging grunt. Light infantry, which for the obvious reason of weight sees less of this high-tech gear, is not going away. There are too many nasty little spots around the planet — jungles, mountains, cities — that require a man with a rifle and little else but his own courage to stand there and make that spot unpleasant for others.

On the other hand, all of this high-tech gear is making its mark. Army leaders today are particularly happy when they find a soldier who is already familiar with and comfortable with computers in general, because computers are now everywhere. Mechanics use them for engine diagnoses, grunts use them for navigation, artillery soldiers use them for ballistic calculations, and supply specialists use them for everything. So if you are thinking about joining the Army today, think about taking that computer course now.

If there is a downside here, it's that there can be little doubt the Army is suffering in readiness. How much of this is because more money is being poured into procurement is not clear. But when the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Readiness (Louis C. Finch) puts a gag order on his own office lest the bad news reach the American people, that is a sure sign that not all is well in Mudville.

Colonel Hackworth, himself, while he has reservations, concedes, "we will need it [the technology], and it'll be a vital tool in the future, but we need to be very, very careful about what we buy and how we buy it."

*Matthew Brennan is among our newest regular writers. In the true SOF tradition, he's happy to take our money but he's not one much given to publicity. Look for future contributions from this Army officer on the current U.S. Army and the future of land warfare. ✕*

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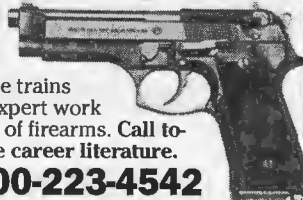
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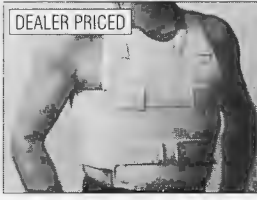
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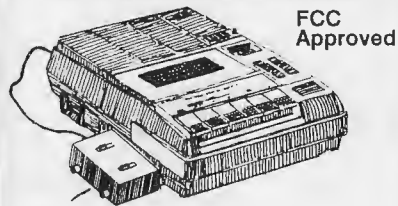
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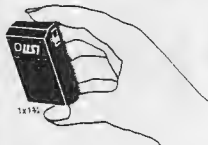
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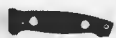
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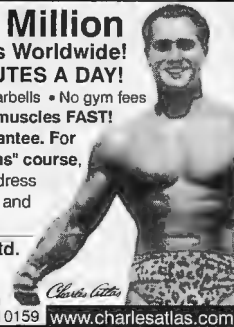
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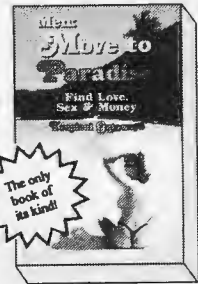
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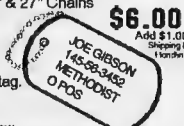
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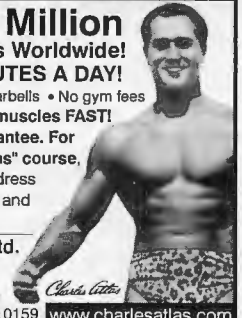
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## Desert Thunder - Another Clinton Blunder

**T**he latest storm over Iraq may pass without a drop of rain, but keep your umbrella handy. Saddam Hussein will be back with another storm before you can say "El Nino."

Serial monsters never change their MOS.

The pundits will argue over who won this round, and Bill Clinton and Saddam Hussein will both claim victory. But whatever the call, this latest round was not our country's finest hour.

Over the last five years Clinton and crew have performed like the gang that couldn't shoot straight with a perfect record of blunders, called bluffs and wrongheaded uses of power.

Since 1993, Clinton has been allowed to use the U.S. military as though it were a muscle-bound bully with an IQ to match his hat size. When it comes to military matters, Clinton and his strategists haven't done anything right while simultaneously ignoring common sense and violating the critical principles of war that professional soldiers must live by if they are to win.

Clinton and advisers are so incompetent that I'm surprised they didn't threaten to carpet bomb Nevada when weapons of mass-destruction were reported there. Bombs over Nevada would have had the same results as the planned bombing campaign on Iraq: lots of craters in the sand, lots of deaths and the president's ever-changing objective not achieved because no one knew where the bugs and germs were stashed.

A look at Clinton's 1993-'98 military adventure track record:

- Somalia: 500 U.S. casualties; \$4 billion bucks blown and, in the end, we — the world's last superpower — were booted out of that devastated country by barefooted rebels. Then Clinton, calling our losses "unfortunate casualties," provided the enemy commander with a U.S. airplane and a security detail to keep him safe.

- Haiti: He invaded that tormented island with 20,000 U.S. warriors, huffed and puffed about cleaning up the place and making it right for democracy. Now, \$4 billion later and only months after our forces departed, conditions have returned to the horror that existed before we went in.

- Bosnia: We're already in for \$8 billion and the meter's running at about \$2 billion a year. Our forces have been assigned an LAPD-type police mission and could be stuck there for decades with a guaranteed catastrophe awaiting the Bosnian people when the last U.S. soldier pulls out.



*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.*

- Iraq: Since the end of Desert Storm, Iraq's been an annual billion-dollar-plus running sore. We've repeatedly bombed and deployed huge forces which cost billions more — with zilch results — and then threatened to bomb again each time Saddam acts up. After each crisis, the monster always pops up from his bunker wearing a big smile while giving us the bird. This last time Clinton really painted himself into a corner, but fortunately for him the U.N. tossed him a face-saving rope.

These operations plus dozens of other Globo-Robo-Cop missions have been mainly exercises in futility, bad for the grunts but good for corporate America's bottom line. They've flat broken our forces, which under Clinton have been down-sized, right-sized, politi-sized and repeatedly forced to do too much with too little. Each of these do-good operations, which have nothing to do with our national security, takes money from training, new equipment and spare parts budgets and have worn out our soldiers and their equipment.

Boxers lose their skills and sharp edges if not constantly in the ring sparring and training. Warriors are the same. They're not meant to be policemen or traffic cops or customs inspectors.

When Saddam jumped out of his sand box last November our ground forces were out of gas. So Clinton couldn't do much

but threaten to bomb — which the last 50 years have shown doesn't work without a force on the ground.

Congress needs to examine Clinton's misuse of our forces and report to the American people on the real state of our military readiness. We deserve the truth. Those are our sons and daughters being put at high risk and our tax dollars being wasted.

Last, but not least, the president should be stripped of any authority to unilaterally declare war. War is too critical and too costly to be left in the hands of Clinton and his fumlbers.

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

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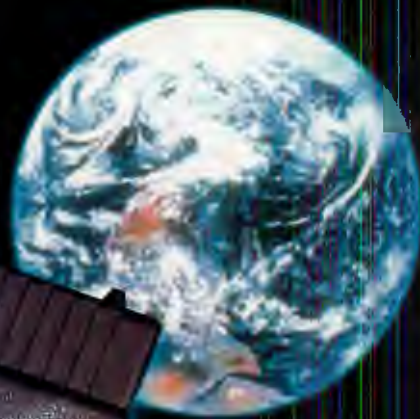
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