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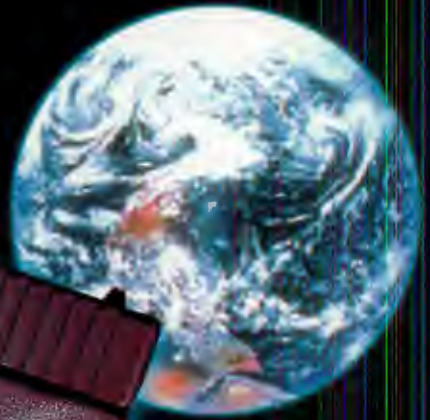
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Blowback

When two of Ted Turner's media outlets, CNN and *TIME*, decided to launch a new program called *NewsStand* with a story that maligned the U.S. military and Vietnam veterans, they ran into some problems. CNN's Peter Arnett and April Oliver alleged that U.S. Army Special Forces SOG troops had likely used nerve gas on women, children and others during a mission intended to kill some 200 American defectors.

The story, sensationally, but unimaginatively, called "Valley of Death" was largely unsubstantiated hearsay advanced as whole cloth by CNN/*TIME* through the use of highly questionable journalistic practices. Obviously, someone played hooky during Journalism 101. "Valley of Death" made three major errors of fact: First, it alleged that Sarin nerve agent was used; second, it claimed there were a large number of American defectors in Laos; and third, the stories' authors tried to put words in the mouths of the witnesses needed to substantiate suspect allegations that can only be termed bullshit.

During the Vietnam War, Arnett was awarded the Pulitzer for a story in which he confused the wartime use of CS/CN riot-control agent (sometimes called tear gas) with the use of lethal chemical-warfare agents. "Valley of Death" is obviously more of the same, except that Arnett is not likely to be forgiven for this one because it goes far beyond confusion.

Soldier Of Fortune challenged Arnett and Oliver to defend their position by debating the key facts of the story with some of those damaged by their reckless reporting at the National Press Club, in Washington, D.C., on 23 June. Neither appeared. Instead, CNN sent two camera crews, apparently to record the events for

their legal department, rather than their nightly news broadcasts.

After General Perry Smith, CNN's military adviser resigned to protest "Valley of Death," the retired two-star indicated that pressure from CNN's lawyers precluded his attending our press conference.

Although the press conference was announced far and wide by the Associated Press and via *SOF's* own press releases, it merited no mention, either on the National Press Club's web site nor in its printed daily bulletin of events. What was not omitted, however, in the NPC bulletin, was that the following day, 24 June, Jane Fonda, "Actress and Activist," would discuss teen pregnancy.



The NPC explained that the press club "sort of picked and chose" the events they wanted to announce. But then we knew long ago that sort of selective PC-"correctness" existed in sizable enclaves within the press corps.

The *New York Post* said that if the charges leveled by CNN and *TIME* were wrong, they should issue the mother of all apologies.

What we would like to know is whether the press corps will even take a close look at the egregious misrepresentation of facts by CNN/*TIME*, Arnett and Oliver. According to Reed Irvine, of Accuracy In Media, both CNN and *TIME* are conducting their own internal investigations.

We don't think that is sufficient. We state that the matter should be analyzed by a panel of independent journalists who will weigh the facts — impartially — and then issue a full report to the American people. Only a full disclosure of the unvarnished truth will help to restore the maligned reputations of those who honorably served, risked, and sacrificed. ✘

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HORIUCHI: STATE CHARGES BARRED BY FED COURT

U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge has dismissed involuntary manslaughter charges against FBI sniper Lon Horiuchi, who shot and killed Vicki Weaver as she stood in the door of their modest cabin holding her baby, during the siege of the Weaver home on



courtesy Jim Brotan

Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in 1992. The federal government has already settled a lawsuit with the Weaver family by paying a \$3.1 million settlement. A similar lawsuit for \$10 million is still pending by Kevin Harris, who was wounded by Horiuchi during the siege.

Although his decision bars the state of Idaho from prosecuting Horiuchi on manslaughter charges, Judge Lodge noted that his order was "not to be construed as a finding by this court as to whether Mr. Horiuchi should be charged with a federal crime" or that it constituted a finding "of guilt or innocence." Boundary County, Idaho, Prosecutor Denise Woodbury, who brought the charges against Horiuchi, said she would need to review the decision before deciding whether there would be an appeal.

Part of the largest armada ever assembled in defense of liberty, Yanks landing at Normandy with Operation Overlord lost more than 3,000 killed and 10,000 wounded. Then a catskinner with the second wave, Bernard Robeck, of Calumet City, Ill., built ramps for LSTs and, later, the first graves for American GIs.

The French people have not forgotten: With the 50th Anniversary of Operation Overlord, 35,000 *Jubilee de la Liberté* medals were minted for American participants. Congressman Jerry Weller (R-Ill.) learned of some remaining medals, arranging for them to be awarded locally to Overlord veterans who could not attend celebrations in France. Here, French Consul General Gerard Dumont, left, and Congressman Waller present the medal to Bernard Robeck while Emilia Brotan, Robeck's fiancée of 35-years, watches.

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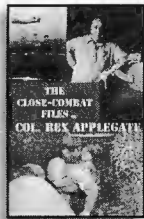
THE INVISIBLE ADVANTAGE

A Step-by-Step Guide to Making Ghillie Suits and Custom Camouflage Accessories
with Tom Forbes

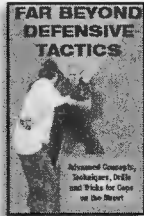
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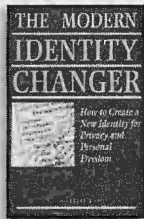
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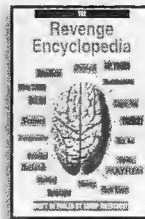
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—P.G.K.

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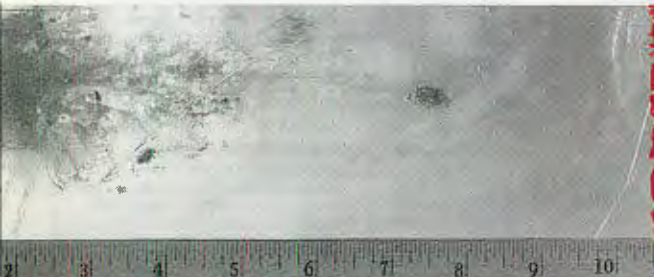
JURY RULES AGAINST FMC

A California jury has ruled that FMC corporation submitted nearly 14,000 false claims over a 10-year period during development of the M2 Bradley IFV. The jury levied a \$125 million verdict against FMC, but additional fines could push that number as high as \$310 million: Some international sources cited a figure of \$388 million. FMC will seek a reversal.

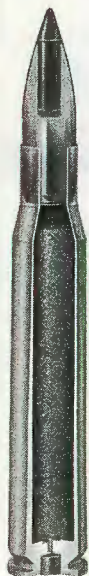
Engineer Henry Boisvert, the whistle-blower in the case, stands to collect up to 30% of the government's award, if it stands on appeal. At issue were mostly claims regarding the vehicle's swimability.

FRENCH NATIONAL GUN LAW

Lead by Socialist deputy Bruno Le Roux, a leftist coalition in the French National Assembly has approved a law banning most private gun ownership. Said Le Roux, "It's time to put a stop to individual arms and reaffirm that the state alone must keep the



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monopoly on legitimate violence." The law, which still must be approved by the senate, bans "arms of defense" including handguns and rifles, except those licensed for hunting. Legitimate violence? Like the holocaust, Tiananmen Square, Waco?

ANTI-TERRORIST NATIONAL GUARD, RESERVE

Details are being worked out for the National Guard and U.S. reserve units to train as response teams for terrorist threats in the United States. "It is as natural as breathing" for reserve components located throughout the United States and already trained to respond to natural disasters, to respond to threats or the use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons, noted one DoD official in an interview with *Army Times*. Sen. Jon L. Kyl, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Judiciary terrorism subcommittee noted in a hearing that, "Terrorist group support networks have proliferated, reaching not only into major U.S. cities but smaller towns and communities as well." He based the statement on testimony from FBI and INS who reported increased terrorist activity in the United States, from fund-raising scams to intelligence gathering.

Declared Dale L. Watson, head of the international terrorism operations section at the FBI, "today's terrorists have learned from the successes and mistakes of terrorists that went before them. The terrorists of tomorrow will have an even more dizzying array of weapons and technologies available to them."

WEST POINT'S \$85 MILLION "GYM" PO'S GUARD

Air Force Major General Edward J. Philbin, executive director of the National Guard Association, has taken exception to a planned \$85 million gym scheduled for construction at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. In a memo to state adjutants general, Philbin noted that \$85 million was greater than the total anticipated for National Guard military construction in fiscal 1999, and that there exists a \$4 billion backlog of construction

required by the Army and Air National Guard. Lieutenant General Daniel Christman, superintendent of the academy, noted that the slated Arvin Physical Development Center is more than a gym and will play a vital role developing future officers. Scheduled for completion in 2003, the complex will "teach survival on the battlefield" along with providing courts for basketball, volleyball and weight lifting.

BLACKBIRD RETIRES, AGAIN

Saying it is unable to afford the \$35,000 per hour operation cost, the USAF is again retiring the SR-71 Blackbird. Although still the world's fastest (Mach 3), highest-flying plane, the Blackbird was never given operational missions again, despite requests from the field for its use over Iraq where it's 85,000-foot ceiling would make it immune to Iraqi missiles. Sources stated that keeping the SR-71 flying might have meant that money budgeted for pet programs, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, would be diverted to keep the SR-71s in the air.

LABOR SCRAPS NUKES

The British Ministry of Defence has removed from service all free-fall nuclear bombs, scrapping a quarter of Britain's nuclear arsenal and leaving the RAF without a nuclear role for the first time in two decades. The Royal Navy's Trident submarines are now Britain's last nuclear line of defense.

The original pledge to remove the WE-177 bombs was made in 1995 by the previous Conservative government, scheduled for the end of 1998. The actual decommissioning of the bombs is expected to take up to five years.

Meanwhile, Defence Secretary George Robinson, is considering plans to take the Trident subs off 24-hour patrol.

Continued on page 12

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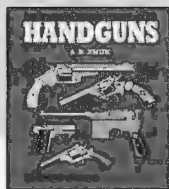
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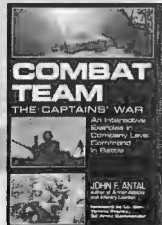
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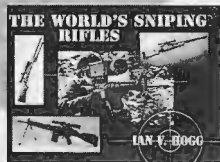
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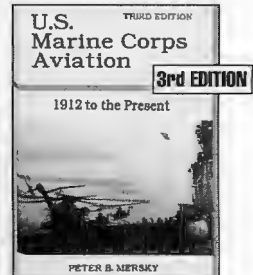
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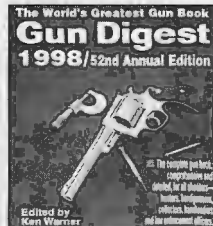
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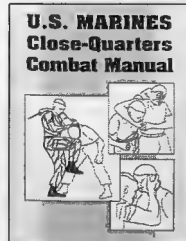
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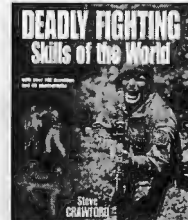
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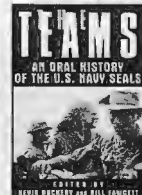
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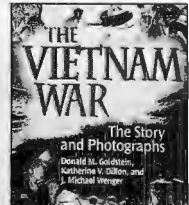
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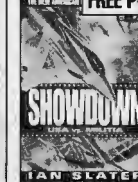
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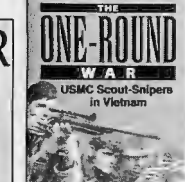
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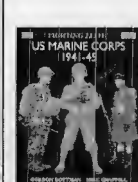
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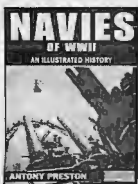
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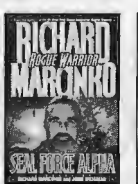
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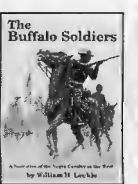
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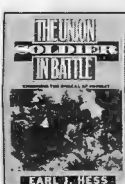
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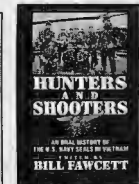
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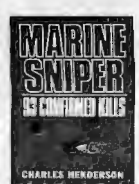
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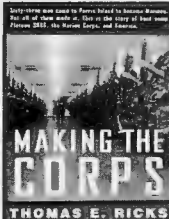
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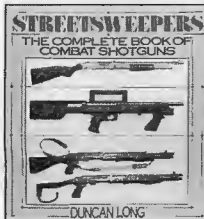
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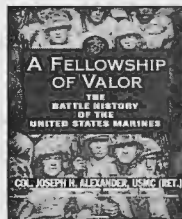
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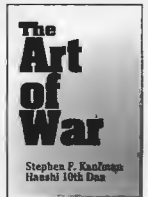
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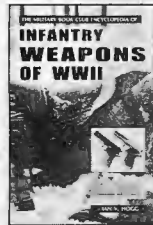


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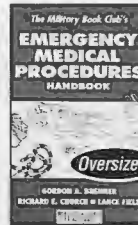
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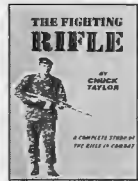
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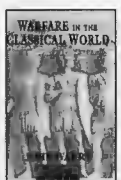
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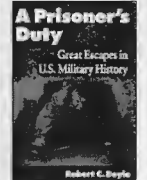
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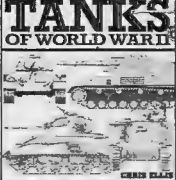
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RANCHERS SUE USAF, LUFTWAFFE

A group of West Texas landowners has filed suit in Federal District Court in Pecos, Texas, against the USAF and German *Luftwaffe*, to protest plans for law-altitude fighter jet training over their property. Most of the proposed flights would include various U.S. fighters and bombers and German Tornado fighters based out of Holloman Air Force Base, in New Mexico, where the Germans have a long-term lease. The flights are expected to make a wide loop, passing through the Davis Mountain region and then into southern New Mexico. The landowners are seeking an injunction that would stop the proposed flights, claiming that such flights would disrupt area ranching and adversely affect wildlife.

AUSSIE VIET VETS SUFFER CANCER

According to a recently published Australian government study, certain types of cancer among Australia's Vietnam War veterans, and spina bifida among their children, are 10-times above the national average.

The study, leaked to the *Daily Telegraph*, showed the incidence of leukemia and cancers of the colon, skin, neck and prostate among those who survived Vietnam is up to three times that found in the general population. Their children are three times more likely to be born with birth defects.

The study, which examined the health of some 40,000 Australian Vietnam vets, also found discovered depressive disorders occurring at three to four times the national average, and a rate of suicide among their children that was five times higher. Panic attacks were also a common complaint. The study linked the illnesses to dioxin, which occurred as an impurity in the defoliant Agent Orange, widely used by U.S. forces in Vietnam.

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SLICK-WILLIE-WATCH

7. THE PERFECT NUMBER

Plenty of Mile High City second-guessers are worming out of the woodwork tossing out righteous accusations that Denver Broncos QB John Elway (number 7 on his jersey, but number 1 in our hearts) snubbed Bubba at the recent White House gathering Slick had convened nearly six months after the big dance to honor the Super Bowl champs. John, it seems, opted to rehab his "twisted knee" on a Denver golf course rather than trade jocular quips with the prez amid the staged East Room gala, attended by "straight arrows" Colorado Governor Roy Romer, Freddie Pena, and assorted other politicians, hangers-on and, perhaps, aspiring interns.

Elway is taking some major heat — even more so than when Howie Long and his Raiders of The Lost Rulebook were flushing him from the pocket — over his PC-perceived social *faux pas*. Whether he has post-grid-iron political aspirations is anyone's guess, but let's be candid: The guy did the correct thing. John's slapping palms and trading one-liners with Slick after the damage he's done to the office of president (not including the Oval Office carpet) would have appalled many true traditionalists who would, even now, catapult No. 7 into the office of his choice in a heartbeat. Johnny, we heartily applaud thee!

A SLICK FLASHBACK

William Jefferson Clinton, as prez and guv, has left a truckload of wounded, dead, and tainted souls in his political wake: Vince Foster, killed by an apparent bloodless bullet wound; Barry Seale, coke-pilot-turned-good-guy, who ratted out some of Bill's hot dog, beer and ball-game buds in regard to the Mena, Ark. guns-for-coke operation which, we're told, is some paranoid Bircher's recurring hallucination. Barry got blown away in Baton Rouge for his trouble.

Forget his sexual antics, Clinton's political and NWO high-wire act is wearing thin. He's now into the fourth quarter of his administration pandering to the same "greed is good" Gordon Gekko-types with whom he's always associated. Now, though, Bill isn't just courting the Dixie Mafia, but international high-rollers. He is dispatching American troops to parched and barren hot spots where locals barely have control of the wheel, in order to shore up existing and looming corporate interests. He is bailing out this 'n' that Far East currency, while veterans rot away in VA hospitals, active-duty troops subsist on sub-standard equipment and pay, homeless men, women, and kids are on the street, and the drug war moves into its second expensive decade with no win in sight. But we must be "internationalist" in mind set, right? You know, the global village.

"BOOMTOWN" BAKU: CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE?

Since 1991, the "Great Game," Part II has been well underway in central Asia in and around the landlocked Caspian Sea, with Baku, Azerbaijan, the headquarters for the region's largest oil con-

sortium led by Amoco and British Petroleum. This means competition for Russia and Iran who prefer that future pipelines be constructed over their territory so they can extract healthy cuts, or shut off the flow at their whim. The "American" solution? Multiple oil and gas pipelines running from Turkmenistan and Kazakstan (where Chevron will dump in \$20 billion) to Baku, and then on to the Mediterranean.

Sounds great, but who's gonna pony up the bucks to buy the political influence in order to get the official nod to build these pipelines? Check out financier Roger Tamraz, who kicked in \$300,000 to Democratic Party causes in order to gain White House access to lay out his grandiose plans. Oh, yes, Tamraz's outfit, Oil Capital (OCL), just happens to be associated with the China National Petroleum Company (CNPC) as a major investor (rumors say \$10 billion), and employs one William Lofgren, former Director of Operations for the CIA in Central Asia. You don't suppose this is one reason Clinton is kissing the butts of the Communist Chinese by sending them vital military and technical materiel, thereby admitting China as a major player in global petroleum and high-tech manufacturing sweepstakes?

Clinton, however, has plenty of company in the likes of Dick Cheney, Lloyd Bentsen, John Sununu, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, all of whom are in the hard scramble for profits, busy licking the boots of foreign lobbyists at the expense of U.S. security interests.

Lest you feel tingles of sympathy for the seemingly ignored Russians, don't. The rumor mill also says that Tamraz's OCL is also associated with Nordex and Gergori Louchanski, the multi-billion-dollar KGB criminal organization. I think loyalty oaths to the United States — and a thorough public airing of former politicians' employment by, and earnings from, foreign firms is way past due.

One wonders which cushy board of director's chair awaits Slick upon his exit from D.C.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

We'd better mount an effective offensive — and quick! Clinton and his pals are devouring the carcass of this once-respected country and turning it into a cheesy brothel where any person, any service, and any item is for sale to the highest bidder.

The tenacity and toughness of true Americans will be put to the severest of tests over the next couple of years.

The United States will either rid itself of these political whores who would turn it into a New World Order theme park, or suffer the bitterest of consequences.

We have the persistence and the will to toss off the yoke of perverted politics, and together we shall get it done. We have done it before. If you doubt that, you're already an inmate of Slick and Hillary's one-world asylum. ✘



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I Was There

by Frank P. Bergmaier

Careening down a dark road, somewhere in the Dominican Republic, I was in the back seat of a car doing 80 kilometers an hour, with a .45 pointed at my head, trying to figure out how I got into this dilemma. Was it the lure of high-risk security work or was it my passion for dancing salsa and merengue with those incredibly beautiful señoritas that prompted my fourth visit to the island of Hispaniola, the same Caribbean paradise that brought the world Haiti?

Minutes before, I was in a bar called *El Batey* (The Sugar Mill), an open-air disco in the town of San Pedro De Macoris, about an hour east of Santo Domingo. This was my third day in-country to check out employment opportunities with an American security company. I had just arrived at the club with a 23-year-old *muchacha* whom I had managed to fascinate with my dancing on a previous visit. It was early, about 2,100 hours, as we stepped onto the empty

La Noche Mala (The Bad Night)

dance floor and began a syncopated pattern of turns — then caresses — to the tropical uninhibited-tempoed salsa. As I glided across the floor with the señorita, I could sense the unmistakable, but not surprising, feeling of someone staring. Most locals are completely amazed to find a gringo who can dance salsa. Returning to our table as the song ended, we ordered another round of *cuba libres* as the observer approached our table. He was a tough-looking *hombre* with a police radio in his hand and a revolver stuffed down the front of his pants, normal “Juan Law” appearance in this impoverished Caribbean nation, still the potential powder keg that it was in 1965 when U.S. Marines battled in the squalid streets of Santo Domingo. In this country, anything of value is openly guarded with a shotgun.

Not many speak English here and this guy didn't either, rattling off in Spanish that he was a policeman and wanted to see the papers for the rental car that was parked outside.

The merengue music faded as we walked out to check the registration. There, another hostile-looking bastard with an M1911 .45 pistol poking out of his pants loitered next to the car as I unlocked it and pulled out the papers from the rental agency. As guy number one reviewed the papers, he explained that someone with a car like mine had run over a person on a motorcycle and fled. We (my girl included) would be required to go to the police station for questioning — *Ahora mismo!* (Right now!)

Upon their direction, I began driving down the road with the girl in the front seat next to me and *los dos policia* in the rear. It's times like this that one begins to contemplate the kind of justice to be expected in a Third-World banana republic such as this. I've seen Dominican jails, and most *Norteamericanos* wouldn't want to live in this country, much less do time in a Dominican lockup.

The *hombres* in the back began to shout orders and directions with the kind of intolerance that made me wonder what this would be like if I didn't comprehend Spanish.

About 3 kilometers down the road, I was ordered to stop the vehicle. They got out and the guy on my side swung open my door and put a .45 in my face. They shoved the girl and me into the back seat and got in with us. Two other guys materialized from nowhere,



courtesy author

Author and the *muchacha* dancing salsa in the Dominican Republic on “kidnap night.”

hopped in the front, and off we went. My plans for the perfect evening began to sour when the guy on my left ripped off my watch and began to rummage unopposed through my pockets. While this guy helped himself to everything I owned, the guy on the other side began to take liberties with my dance partner that I found to be flat out offensive. I'll never forget the sound of that girl begging not to be raped. Meanwhile, my guy was becoming super pissed because he thought a *Norteamericano* should be carrying much more than the 1,200 pesos (about \$100) I had on me.

I've always marveled at bullshitters who could depict with accuracy how they would handle this sort of thing, but I maintain that one never really knows how they will perform in a combat situation until they're neck-deep in it. Feeling the barrel of the .45 against my head, I began to weigh my options, of which there weren't many. There were four hostiles, each bigger and younger than I, and all armed. Although an escape attempt wasn't out of the question, starting a fistfight in a compact car carrying six people offered no advantage.

Our dialogue began to deteriorate further as the boys made it known that they took a dim view of a gringo dancing with a *muchacha*. They were now flipping up the race card, and making it clear that I was going to die that night. I made my hurried peace

with *Dios* (God) and, strangely, felt some real satisfaction that I at least had 46 good years. But I then felt pity for the girl. Although her fate was not spelled out as clearly as mine, I knew her demise would be a long-suffering one, as I focused on the eyes of the deranged sonofabitch violently trying to tear her clothes off. I had a low sinking feeling at the prospect that my last act on earth would be to watch a rape with a pistol to my head.

The car skidded to a stop on the side of a desolate road. Pulled out of the car, my hands tight on the trunk and a gun at my temple, my pockets were again searched for anything missed. Then attention turned to the girl, all eight hands preoccupied with her body for the moment. At this point, I felt that I could have grabbed a pistol. But was there a round in the chamber, and was the safety "On" or "Off?" Think! A close-proximity unfight with the girl in the middle. No way.

The minuscule degree of hope sank even deeper when I learned the plan was to take us back in the woods. One could only speculate on the horror to take place that necessitated this next stage of our journey. Laughing and giggling a few steps behind us, they pushed us through shoulder-high grass on the side of the road. Wading and stumbling through the darkness, I took another step but couldn't go forward. I was up against a concertina-wire fence obscured by the tall grass.

The razor-sharp wire cut the legs of the panicked girl trying to climb over it. In a continuous motion, I pushed her ass up and over, grabbed the top wire with the same hand and flung myself over like an Olympic champ. Youth was not an asset in this adventurer's arsenal that night, but the only part of me that touched that fence was my left hand and right foot — both on the top wire.

I knew if we had a headstart into the jungle they would never catch this Vietnam vet but, then again, I never sprinted through tropical landscape at midnight with a girl in high-heels.

When she fell I was about 10 paces ahead. One of the most difficult things to do in this world is to start running back toward the guys with the guns.

But chivalry was alive that night. I rushed back, picked her up, and dragged her. Beyond the fence, confused faces assessed the situation.

Obviously, they didn't have the motivation to negotiate the tangled concertina. At that moment, I would have traded everything in this world for an M16. Few things seemed to offer as much pleasure as putting rounds into their faces.

As I gripped her and ran, I couldn't have felt less heroic but more like a competitor in a potato-sack race, as we bolted for freedom and survival in the Caribbean darkness.

Although Frank Bergmaier is involved in real estate deals on the East Coast, he stops short of offering time-shares in the D.R. ☒

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A person is shown in silhouette, rappelling down a rope. The background is a bright, hazy, greenish-yellow light, possibly from a searchlight or a bright sky. The overall tone is adventurous and dramatic.

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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

"Cobra" Camping & Survival Tool

These days, it seems as if everybody is making specialty knives: Compasses in the pommel, Farsi dictionaries etched on the blades, bells, whistles and barometers. There are those folks who feel they need, to borrow a song line from late *SOF* staffer, Green Beret, and songwriter Barry Sadler, "... a hip knife, boot knife, side knife ... and a little bitty one — combination flare gun, dinner set and genuine police whistle." Somewhere along the line, function sometimes melds into fantasy.

While strolling the aisles at the 1998 SHOT Show in Las Vegas, we spotted a rather large dude standing on an evil-looking hook-shaped, fat black blade that was bridged over a pair of two-by-fours. It looked like a cross between a knife, brush hook, hand axe and machete. We just had to check out The Cobra.

A compact 16 inches overall, this tool sports a 10-3/4-inch x 4-3/8-inch wide, 1/4-inch thick, 1075 high-carbon, spring steel blade. The blade tang runs the entire length of the high-impact, polypropylene handle to reduce impact vibration to a bare minimum. The super-tough black Tiolon (TM) finish withstands immersion in salt water for 4,000 hours, as well as 100% concentrations of JP4, brake and hydraulic fluids for 1,500 hours with no degradation of coating function (contact Bay Knife Co. for full tech specs).

The uses of this tool are only limited by your imagination and your understanding of basic tool functions. During a wide variety of *SOF* field tests, a 4-inch pine tree was felled and a 12 x 12-inch hole

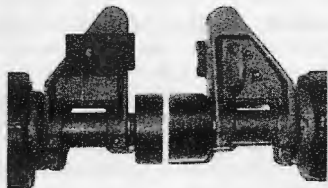


was dug in dry, rocky ground — each in one minute. Tent pegs were cut, driven, and pulled out with The Cobra. Barbed wire and nails were cut. If you can think of it, you can probably do it with this tool. From dressing and quartering large game to serving as a survival weapon, The Cobra is an all-around workhorse that has found a permanent place in this writer's field gear.

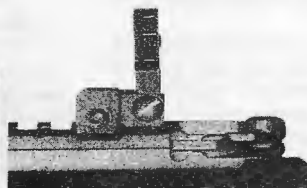
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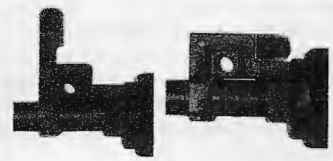
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When I was ordered into combat I wanted nothing but the Truth!!! I wanted a fighting system that had no limitations. That's why I guarantee his system to be the Ultimate Truth!!! I Came Home! Don't bet your life on the LIE of defensive sport-fighting, You'll need more for today's streets—

If you're reading this in a public area, look around, if you were to be jumped by some thug with a knife, club or gun would you know what to do? What if you're with your wife, girlfriend or child could you protect them? Not if you've been trained in the 'arts' or any other fighting system you read about in this magazine.

Yeah, I know you've had training and some of you have become very good at your chosen martial art, sport-fighting or even the half-assed streetfighting your uncle or buddy (the one who did 'time' in 'the joint') showed ya.

But guys, you're kidding yourself if you think that stuff will save your life in a real fight. You know, the type of heinous brawl you read about, where you get jumped unaware and "unprepared" by multiple scumbags with weapons.

Do you really think you can use all that 'grappling' garbage in a multi-fight with weapons? While you're trying to get one dirtbag to 'tap out,' his buddies are doing the "Riverdance" on your head, knees and balls. And why? Because

You Fight Like You Train

If you're training in any sport-fighting scenario use 'blocks' or defensive moves you are in **BIG** trouble if your life is on the line. Especially if your training doesn't seamlessly integrate weapons (knives, clubs and firearms). Why? Because all these systems you read about or train in now are not designed for life and death struggles. They are for sport or non-lethal purposes. Some may claim to be for lethal purposes but they are a joke. No one trains for this because no one can competently and quickly train you: **To kill your attacker (or attackers) who are trying to kill you.** If you are training for 'artistic' or physical conditioning purposes only, stop reading this article now! Only if you are interested in true fighting ability, attaining the true confidence to face any violent situation regardless of the threat if you want to learn the true meaning of...

"Ultimate Fighting"

Then you need to listen to this story. It's 1968, in country Vietnam an 18-year old US Army soldier is in a brutal fire fight. He turns in the middle of the battle to see 4 raging VC soldiers 20 feet away charging straight at him! He immediately attacks and they fall into a ditch. In less than 20 seconds one man emerged from under that pile of dead bodies, that man was Jerry Peterson, 173rd Airborne, 'Charlie' Company.

He spent 15 months in that highly decorated unit as point man. What he learned in that jungle war was, that if you hesitate or go defensive in combat you die! If he had tried to use his M-16 with those 4 VC he would have died because he knew he needed to kill them in close quarters with his hands if he was to survive.

This is true ultimate fighting gents, two guys preparing for months to enter into a ring with a referee, to make sure no one 'cheats' in a 'no holds barred' event, is a sport! Jerry's combat experience proved this and he spent the next 20 years researching all fighting arts and systems. (Looking for the science of human conflict.) During the war he had met some of the best Asian fighters in the world yet he was astonished to find not one 'Guru' or any martial art truly trained for lethal situations.

Back in the states he met most of the 'legends' of the

US martial arts community and not one man none taught true lethal fighting. Why? They simply didn't have the knowledge! Oh, they had some good moves and some correct movements in their techniques but none taught a complete system of fighting. That's when Jerry took his combat proven knowledge and created his 100% effective complete fighting system. This system, called SCARS® (Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary Systems) was closely held information until 1993. But I'm jumping ahead, lets go back to 1987 when SCARS was discovered by the US Navy SEALs. You might like to hear how SCARS became

The First Required Official Hand-to-Hand/Hand-to-Weapon System in US Navy SEAL Training

The Navy SEALs, have the reputation of being the toughest 'commandos' in the US Special Operations Community. In 1987, a special group was created at Naval Special Warfare Command (US Navy SEAL Headquarters) located in Coronado, CA. This groups mission was to standardize hand to hand/hand to weapon training for the worlds most elite commandos. They tested every martial art and 'combat' system for it's effectiveness in the true ultimate fight COMBAT. Every system or 'art' tested was rejected as being NOT combat capable. This includes but is not limited to: *Brazilian or Japanese jujitsu, JKD, TKD, Hapkido, KF, Muay-Thai along with a number of "wannabes" promoted in this magazine making claims they were some sort of official trainers of the SEALs.*

Then they met Jerry Peterson and saw the devastating power of the SCARS program. Jerry dealt with the SEAL, at their level and with his extensive combat record his credibility soared above any of the wannabes the SEALs had seen before. What really impressed the SEALs was that SCARS was created with...

100% Scientific Principles Which You Easily Learn and Instantly Gain An "Unfair Advantage"

In combat there is no room for error. If this system didn't work 'good men would die' and being a combat vet that was totally unacceptable to Jerry. As effective as SCARS proved to be, they were even more blown away by the Offensive Mindset Jerry trains in conjunction with SCARS. This mindset gives you the ability to strike first even if your attacker moves first! The combination of the mental and physical training in the SCARS Program resulted in the SEALs immediately funding the SCARS Project. Jerry created an instructor course that produced over 200+ combat SCARS Instructors. These SCARS certified SEAL instructors have taught SCARS to every type of Special Ops Unit: Green Berets, Air Force Para-Rescue, USMC Force RECON, even members of the ultra-elite DELTA and SEAL Team 6 counterterrorist units, the best of the best. These operators have seen every system imaginable and yet SCARS is the only system ever given credentials from the Dept. of Defense and issued course numbers. And lately, even some SEAL's, have hodgepogged some techniques together and tried to say their garbage is official training for the SEALs. Just ask any other system or instructor in this magazine if they have an official course number from CNET (The US Navy's

Credential Authority). You know what their answer is? NO!

So you're saying 'that's great for the SEALs but how is that going to help me?' Since 1993, over 30,000 fighters like you, have switched to SCARS. They like you, were dissatisfied with the effectiveness of what they learned in martial arts and sport-fighting. They like you, were uneasy on the violent streets of today's world and were searching for what was missing in their training. They wanted the secrets revealed to them about real fighting and SCARS delivered. And they learned...

Why You Must Know How To Kill With Your Hands

Most martial arts and sportfighters dance around the issue of lethal force. They try to explain you must be a 'defensive' fighter in this day and age with all the legal issues. They are horrified by anyone who would dare to open the curtain to expose the glaring lie they try to sell you that it is not important to train for a lethal (kill or be killed) situation. Yet, if you look at any 'art' or 'style' a knowledgeable person will see MANY potential LETHAL strikes, chokes, leverages, throws or kicks, yet it is never pointed out to the student.

Ask any lawyer whether you could say you didn't know that strike would kill the drunk who was hassling you in the bar? Wouldn't it be great to have the training and confidence to....

Be Able To Handle Any Violent Situation: "Lethal And Non-Lethal"

SCARS gives you the supreme ability to simply brush aside that annoying drunk at the bar yet be able to instantly take out that seemingly 'harmless' drunk when he suddenly pulls a knife. Guys, you never know when it is going to happen but the odds are you are going to face a life threatening conflict in your lifetime. Be prepared easily and quickly for your most nightmarish situation. I mean hopefully you'll never have to use this special information but think of the quiet confidence you'll possess having the SCARS arsenal at your disposal. That's why you must call and get your...

Free Special Report Which Reveals The Lethal Side Of Hand-To-Hand And Modern Weapons They Don't Want You To Have

Hey, we can't tell you everything in one page. Call for our free special report and get the NEW details from US Navy SEAL, SWAT Officers and other pro's about SCARS and more importantly from the over 30,000 guys just like you who made the switch to SCARS and can finally have the training and confidence to handle any violent situation. What do you have to lose? It's free, plus you can call **24 hrs a day** and hear our FREE recorded message. You owe it to yourself to get this free Special Report and decide for yourself if SCARS is really as good as the US Navy SEALs, Law Enforcement Professionals and over 30,000 former martial artists say it is? Can you really afford not to make this call right now and start becoming one of the few people on earth who possess this essential information.

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—R.L. Sherrow

Colt's Tactical Combat Knife

Last month we reviewed the excellent M9 bayonet Eickhorn—Solingen makes for the M16 and other rifles with a similar bayonet mounting arrangement. For centuries, Eickhorn's name has been associated with quality cutlery, no doubt a consideration at Colt's Manufacturing when they decided to have Eickhorn make the CTCK exclusively for them. Nearly 40 nations depend on Eickhorn for military cutlery, so Colt is in good company.

The CTCK is more useful than others of similar form, as additional appropriate functions are cleverly engineered into the design. Appropriate ancillary functions on a knife may include any item that might prove useful in the knife's anticipated arena, which does not interfere with the tool's primary function as a knife. Eickhorn may be the first to include a wire-cutting feature in the combination of this fighting knife and its scabbard-type rigid sheath. Its pattern and function parallel that on their M9 bayonet, and it is adjustable for optimal cutting force. The handle-scabbard combination are insulated to 500V assuming you keep your hands free of the metal parts, and the knife itself is free of water or conductive oil. A large synthetic screw cap in the butt comes out to reveal a storage spot for a bottle of water purification tablets or other light survival supplies.



The back of the rugged blade has an aggressive and efficient "universal" saw pattern (cutting on the push stroke) that cuts wood and even structural aluminum very well. A bottle-cap lifter and wire-stripping notch are built into the hilt.

The scabbard is equipped with a square-bar screwdriver, a black synthetic protective cap for the wire-cutter assembly, a thong, and a standard wire web-belt attachment for the frog. There is a quick-release to remove the scabbard from the frog. There is even a sapphire sharpening strip on the back of the scabbard, and the knife and scabbard are fungus resistant. The scabbard and knife handle are of a fiberglass-reinforced black synthetic.

Machining is precise on the 175mm clip-point carbon-steel blade, and the blade is finished in flat-black polymer; other metal parts are flat black, in what appears to be oxide-over-phosphate.

The CTCK is a worthy multi-function tool, and when necessary, a weapon as good as any of its genre.

Continued on page 73

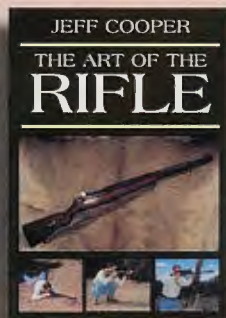
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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Marines to upgrade: 180 AH-1W Cobras and 100 UH-1N Hueys to the 4B standard between 2004 and 2013, to last until replaced in 2023. • Theater High Altitude Area Defense missile failed for the fifth time in May tests; some \$3.2 billion has been spent on THAAD so far ... without a successful intercept. • New electronic eavesdropping satellite Orion now in geo-stationary orbit 22,300 miles above India/Pakistan, can monitor communications over a third of the globe. • Army awards Bronze Star With Valor Device to Joe Galloway, reporter who dragged three wounded GIs from line of fire in Vietnam: first such award to civilian by Army.

2

RUSSIA

Troop troubles: More than 4,000 soldiers deserted from army over past five years, according to Interfax news agency, who said more than 230 soldiers deserted during one week of July 1997. (In related news, Tajik Defense Ministry expresses concern over illegal press-gangng of men into army by armed groups, denying any government sanction for this. An Uzbek soldier stationed on Turkmenistan border killed eight fellow servicemen with Kalashnikov, in dispute over rations.) • Russia's Military Prosecutor's Office has launched operation "Deserter, Give Yourself Up" to encourage deserters to surrender (an estimated 1,500 deserters in Moscow alone): Some 1,600 deserters gave themselves up in April. • The Russian army is scheduled to RIF 80,000 officers and 57,000 warrant officers during 1998, to meet 1999 target strength of 1.2 million: Of those cashiered, 29% will require new housing. • Russia's disciplinary crisis was highlighted by Defense Minister Igor Sergeev's statement that law and order in armed forces is "approaching a critical point, not only in the number of crimes but also in their gravity," also warning of danger of organized crime penetrating military units. • Armed forces inspectors uncovered more than 100 acts of theft and embezzlement valued at 17 billion rubles (\$2.7 billion) in 1997 alone, according to the chief military prosecutor's office. • Wage arrears to service members totaled 11.7 billion rubles (\$1.9 billion) by end of April.

5

PAKISTAN

Goes Nuclear: A scant two weeks after India's surprise nuclear display, Pakistan announced it detonated five nuclear warheads, and a sixth two days later (U.S. intelligence sources expressed doubt all warheads had indeed detonated; Indian sources said only one Pakistani warhead had detonated). Pakistan official sources said largest weapon was 35KT and others were about 15 KT; final test was 15KT tactical-missile warhead. Pakistan, which had insisted no tests were imminent, asserts that its nuclear weapons program is superior to India's. Observers note, however, Pakistani tests included only boosted-fission devices, not thermonuclear or sub-critical devices as tested by India: Pakistan states it could have detonated thermonuclear device if it wanted to.

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SRI LANKA

Angry at quality of food served after hard day of crowd control at major government function in ancient city of Polonnaruwa, some 200 police fired their guns in the air and set fire to their food — half-boiled rice and okra.

9

EGYPT

Has been offered 50 Avenger air-defense vehicles (Humvees with Singers) by Pentagon. • Two brothers were executed for the murder of 10 tourists in 18 September 1997 attack on Cairo bus. • A new company named *Misr Am* has been formed to market Egyptian products to U.S. armed forces.

10

JAPAN

Revisionists at work: A new film, *Pride*, has premiered, praising General Tojo and declaring him innocent of war crimes for which he was hanged; film also denies that Nanjing massacre ever happened. • Okinawan governor Ota has asked United States to remove all bases from Okinawa, suggests relocating to Guam or Hawaii. Japanese Defense Minister Kyuma called for closer ties with the PRC military and dismissed idea that Japanese forces might be involved in any conflict over Taiwan.

12

INDONESIA

Suharto finally resigns after month of various machinations to hold power, or at least turn reins over to puppet successor. Suharto finally turned office over to Vice President Habibbi, who (with military support) announced plans to remain in power until original term expires in 2003.

13

SIERRA LEONE

U.N. Reports total of 600,000 refugees have fled the fighting in Sierre Leone, in wake of continued fighting and coups.

3

CHINA

Issues warning to potential U.S. nuclear contractors that if technology transfers are not part of deals, PRC will take business elsewhere. • U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Kramer meets with top Chinese military leaders in Beijing. • Democrat fundraiser Johnny Chung has told federal investigators he funneled cash directly from Chinese military to Democratic Party; reportedly Chinese Lt. Col. Liu Chao-ying, head of Chinese military electronics company and daughter of Liu Huaqing, then a top Chinese general, gave Chung \$300,000 to win more American business for Chinese firms. Chung kept most of money, but gave Democrats \$80,000 in summer of 1996.

4

INDIA

Goes Nuclear: India caught world by surprise with three simultaneous underground nuclear tests at Pokharan test range. Tested were 43KT hydrogen bomb, 13KT fission bomb (similar to one India tested in 1974), and low-yield sub-critical tactical weapon; two more sub-critical tests followed in two days. Although hydrogen bomb was surprise, sub-critical weapons would be more useful in armored slugfest on plains of Punjab. • India has begun production of *Prithvi* missile with range of 150km (suitable for use against Pakistan), and reports 1,500km *Agni* designed for use against Western China is ready for mass production. New Delhi said India would stockpile nuclear-missile warheads and deploy if needed; would not hesitate to use nukes if attacked, but would not need further tests.

7

MEXICO

Unseemly incident: A group of drunken police officers had to abandon their truck and run for their lives when vehicle they were attempting to intimidate proved to be part of military convoy: one policeman killed and another injured when soldiers opened up on pick-up, thinking it contained Popular Revolutionary Army rebels. • Three-year U.S. money-laundering investigation gained arrest of 26 top officials of 12 major banks, arrest of 18 cartel members, and seizure of \$122 million in drug accounts, plus six tons of drugs.

8

GUATEMALA

Right-wing group "Jaguar Justice" claimed responsibility for 26 April murder of Bishop Gerardi. • Italian priest Pedro Notta, vocal critic of Guatemalan military for alleged human rights violations, has fled the country after receiving death threats. • United States sent four helicopters for recon and rescue support for crews fighting massive and persistent forest fires.

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ISRAEL

Has officially admitted that Jonathan Pollard, now in prison for life in United States, was, indeed, a spy for the Israeli Office of Scientific Liaison.

16

FRANCE

Sabotage to seven power plants on Corsica left much of island blacked out, while independence group "Historic Wing" announced it would resume its violent campaign.

14

NIGERIA

Government continues arresting opposition leaders and raiding their offices, while EU dismissed the "transition to democracy" as a failure. • Police banned opposition demonstrations and deployed in force to prevent same.

15

ALBANIA

The IMF grants \$47 million to speed reforms. Ten people killed in "revenge" attacks for events during last year's armed uprising.

World Sitrep is compiled in part from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications (P.O. Box 8759, Dept. SOF, Amarillo, Texas 79114-8759); subscriptions are \$70 per year (26 issues), \$74.38 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

FLAK



Das Zimmerman Plot!

In the June '98 issue of *SOF* in response to a letter by Ken Roberts of Alamogordo, N.M., the editors alluded to a

German-British plot to "crush the American rebels." I think the Mexicans must be in on it also. If you recall the Zimmerman telegram sent to Mexico from Germany during WWI, where the Kaiser promised Mexico: Texas, Arizona and New Mexico (where Holloman AFB and the Germans are located). The coincidences are just too many — we need to drive the Germans out NOW!!

John Davis
Yuba City, Calif.

You're absolutely right, but you may have spotted only the tip of the iceberg.

Bear in mind that during WW II the government of Japan attempted to recruit support in this country with similar promises. Obviously this is not merely a Hispio/Teutonic plot, but involves shadowy forces from the Far East as well: The Axis threat to Mom and apple pie still lives!

Haitian Nation

Having lived in Haiti for the past 13 years, I'm still asking myself why the Clinton administration has to destroy the only stable group [here], which was the Haitian military (there may be no such thing as a clean military, but ...), and replace it with a non-professional police force, who actually do not believe in what they are doing.

There are several kinds of democracy, each adapted to each country. The First World idea of democracy might not be the one suitable for another country. If you know more than what we know please feel

free to explain [to] me.

I am a subscriber of *SOF* and love it ... Thank you.

Please don't mention my name ... it's not a real democracy we have here ...

(Via e-mail)

Ever since our success in World War I, followed by the bad luck of being the only fighter left standing at the end of World War II, we've had a problem with the idea that since our industrial power is so great we, therefore, must be smarter than everybody else and it is our duty to tell them what to do. The strong always have a moral duty to help the weak, but a lot of the time the best help is to set a good example, lend a helping hand, and then mind our own damn business

Continued on page 29

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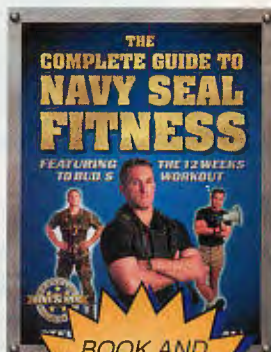
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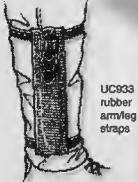
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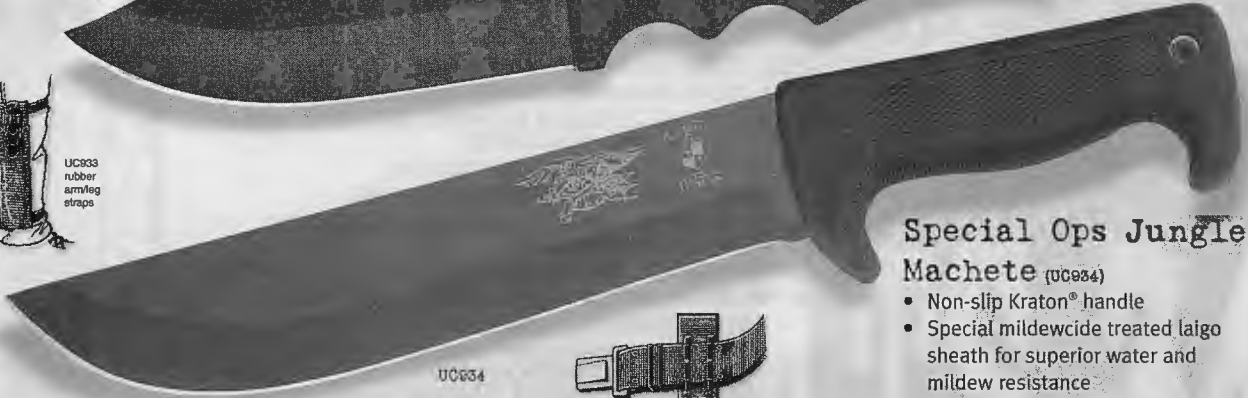
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UC933

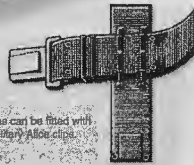
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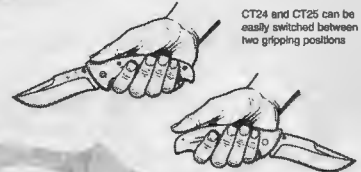
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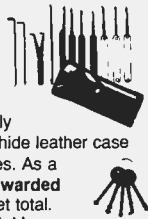
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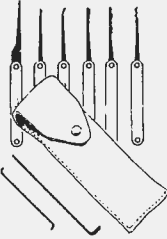
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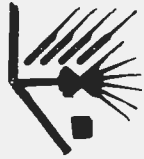
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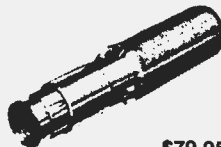
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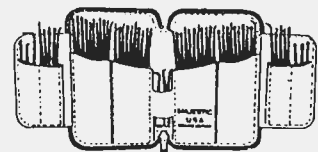
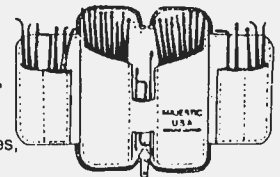


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and let people sort things out for themselves. Our state department might well heed the ancient advice to physicians: first, cause no harm. Our 200-year working democracy has been very fortunate, and emerging democracies can learn a lot from our successes and failures, and from our free-enterprise economic system — but it is doubtful if our meddling in Haiti, Somalia, etc. of recent times will have any lasting effect.



Screaming Eagles

I'm very proud that when American society was so bitterly divided against itself, I was able to serve in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne. I'm a life member of the 101st Airborne Association (I'm on page 269 of *101st Airborne Division*, by Turner Publishing of Paducah, Kentucky).

In reading my latest copy of *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine, I was particularly interested to see a mention of a "101st Airborne Brigade" in the Royal Jordanian Army.

Some time ago, I remember seeing a television news story about Israeli paratroopers patrolling Hebron. Their unit was designated "101st Airborne Division."

Our shoulder insignia represents the "Wisconsin Iron Brigade," which fired the first shots at Gettysburg, and its mascot "Old Abe." The term "Screaming Eagles" was coined by a sportswriter reporting on an intra-service basketball game.

So, are Jordanian and Israeli paratroopers emulating America's 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles?"

John R. Mallernee
Saint Anthony, Idaho

We don't know for sure, but would bet they are. After all, what better model than the best?

Carbine Conundrum

Chuck Karwan's piece on the M1 Carbine (*SOF*, July '98) was a confirmation of much of my own observation and experience. I cannot help but roll my eyes at the marketing by some well-respected authors propounding 9mm carbines, by whatever manufacturer.

I have had failures to feed when upward pressure is on the magazine, using a 15-round GI magazine and GI-spec ammo — is this typical?

Also I suspect penetration would be considerably improved by a flat-point or truncated cone bullet. Has anyone ever made such a bullet? I have great appreciation for your magazine, have subscribed for over a decade.

Yukon Ron
Georgia

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the obvious answer is that if upward pressure on the magazine causes failures to feed, then don't apply upward pressure on the magazine. Extended box magazines often get used for forward grips or monopods, and this is never a good idea on any weapon, as any play in the magazine well can change the angle at which the round is presented for feeding, thus causing misfeeds. If this happens with all magazines, I'd have a gunsmith check to see the magazines are seating at the proper depth. If it happens only with the one magazine, I'd get a new magazine. Or two.

I've always been a fan of the .30 carbine

in its intended role — upgunning from the handgun for troops whose primary role is not as infantry — and of the round as a small-game round. The utility of carbines in 9mm is pretty much limited to urban police scenarios or light plinking: To my thinking the .30 carbine round makes a better "camp" gun, and within its role an effective military arm. I've always been amazed so few weapons were ever made for this round. Except for the "Enforcer" pistol Universal built on a carbine action, the Ruger revolver, the short-lived Kimball autoloading pistol, and the Beretta-designed, Dominican-built Cristobal Carbine are all that come to mind.

Thanks to S.L.A. Marshall's slavishly quoted but totally spurious "research," the Carbine got a bum rap — but for what it is, it's righteous iron.

Sick Slick Salutes

Referring to "Slick Willie Watch," I knew I couldn't be alone in picking up on his "slopalutes" as he leaves an aircraft. He

does know how to salute, as he properly does so when greeting another country's leaders — but it is quite evident he does not want to extend this respect to the men of America's armed forces.

I have seen his "half-assed salutes," and his "Well, we just won't salute this time smirk," but my favorite is his taking advantage of the "I'm working, carrying something, and my hands are full" military salute exception, where a cheerful "Good morning," would be accepted as a respectful substitute. What "Slick" does is get off the helicopter holding his dog's leash in his right hand (oops, the saluting hand), walk 2 feet past the Marine at the door, and then exchange the leash to his unused left hand and continue on from there.

I'm sure that "Slick" thinks he is really "doing the dig" on military personnel around him, but the sad truth is that there is a long history of the salute that crosses nations and cultures as well as time. It is the mark of a man or woman, that reflects the quality of oneself in being able to show respect to a friend or foe, and leaving personal feelings out of the greeting.

As people around the world watch "Slick," even subconsciously they have judged him for what he is. There is only one very big loser here, and he isn't even smart enough to realize it.

James H. Boucher
Locust Grove, Georgia ✕



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The 7.62 NATO Denies Cover

One of the first things taught to Army and Marine recruits is the difference between cover and concealment. Cover is something that will protect you from enemy fire; concealment only protects you from being seen. For example, hiding behind light brush will conceal you, but it certainly will not stop any bullets.

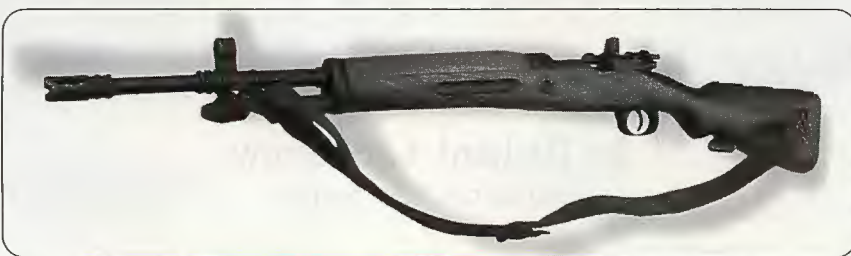
I had to learn the hard way that sometimes things can be cover against some weapons but not others. I was a patrol leader in the 1st Cavalry Division. In one of my first engagements in Vietnam I tried to shoot a VC who had dived behind a substantial tree. I tried to get to him by shooting through the tree with my M16. But after the engagement I checked the tree and found that not one of my bullets had completely penetrated — let alone perforated — the tree. The VC had escaped by low-crawling directly away from me keeping the tree between us. Frankly, I was disappointed in the M16's lack of penetrating power.

Later, on a subsequent operation, I was radioed that we were needed to support another unit. We were told to move to certain grid coordinates to an LZ for chopper pickup. When we got there it was a small LZ, but would suffice if we could cut down one medium-sized tree. Upon inspection I found that the tree was one of those tropical hardwoods that are extremely hard and dense. You could

barely chip its bark hacking with a machete.

As I contemplated my options, which included using some of my precious claymores to blow the tree down or waiting for a demo kit to be delivered, one of my more experienced troops approached me and confidently said, "Let me shoot the tree down for you, el-tee." This particular troop was a very experienced soldier who had been an M60 machine gunner for most of his tour. Though most of

us carried M16s, his rifle was an M14 chambered for the same 7.62x51mm NATO round as his M60. Since this guy was "getting short" the platoon sergeant had taken him off of his beloved machine gun to give him a well-deserved break — besides being heavy, M60s tend to



If the bad guys are behind substantial trees, you are better off with a bolt action in 7.62mm NATO, like this Spanish FR8 Mauser, than with a 5.56mm assault rifle.

draw more hostile fire. This guy refused to carry anything but an M14 and was about to demonstrate why.

Once I made sure there were no friendlies in the direction of fire, I gave him the okay. He sauntered up to that tree and started firing left to right a couple feet off the ground with his shots spaced an inch or so apart. As I recall, he changed magazines once before he had completed traversing the tree, shouting "Timber!" I inspected the stump, noting that virtually every bullet had gone completely through. Immediately I radioed for an extraction.

It turned out that my unit's "Paul Bunyan" had taken down quite a few trees in various engagements and was well aware of the capabilities of the 7.62 NATO cartridge in that role. That was precisely why he would not now carry any rifle but an M14.

Since my patrols were rarely large enough to carry more than one M60 GPMG, it became my SOP always to have a couple of M14s in my patrol's weapons mix, not to fell any trees, but to have the capability of perforating heavy cover. It was obvious that a formidable tree



(above) Many rifles like the Galil (shown here) have been available in both 5.56mm and 7.62mm NATO. Some buyers have gone to the latter because of its ability to penetrate through such objects as trees. (right) One of the all-time great 7.62mm NATO battle rifles is the FN FAL, like these Springfield Armory variations made in Brazil.



(above) Next to the FAL, the H&K G3 and its spin-offs have been the most prominent and widely used 7.62mm NATO rifles. These are Springfield Armory variations made in Greece by a licensed H&K manufacturer.

that was cover from 5.56mm fire, was not cover from 7.62 NATO fire.

I later made friends with Staff Sergeant Crow on the Division sniper detachment. Crow was a sharp cookie who had picked up early on the penetrative power of the 7.62 NATO. But he also figured that as good as the standard NATO ball ammunition was, the heavy 173gr. match ball the snipers used was better. Routinely, he recorded confirmed kills by engaging

Continued on page 72

Better Killing

Through

Chemistry

SOF Examines Weapons Of Mass Destruction For Tiny Tyrants And Terrorists

by Richard L. Sherrow

Photos courtesy author

Chemical-biological warfare! *Elementis regamus proelium* ... "We rule the battle through the elements." So states the official motto of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. Less august, but far more poignant, is the troop-preferred acronym, UTAWBAG ... "Up Their Ass With Bugs And Gas." Regardless of your point of view, no other weapons in the history of man, including the atomic bomb, have evoked more controversy or been more universally feared and despised by both combatants and non-combatants alike. Nor, has any class of weapons been surrounded by the mystique and misinformation accorded chemical-biological systems.

Until the Gulf War, CBW was largely ignored by the vast majority of people outside military circles, especially the international news media. Despite the fact that for years thousands of Third World peoples from Laos to Afghanistan had been killed or injured by CBW, the mainstream media tended to gloss over the facts. But then again, those developing peoples being slaughtered were the victims of *communist* agents and weapons systems.

From the onset, the Gulf War opened a whole new market. The mass media, not knowing sarin from sushi, trotted out its "Scud Studs" and "poison gas" experts while the profiteers hawked surplus gas masks and "gas-detecting" pigeons. Around the world (the United States included) gullible folks seized by irrational fear snapped up \$9.95 surplus Israeli and "genuine U.S. M-17" protective masks in the naive belief that simply donning one of these jewels would save them from all that



World War I British mustard gas casualties line up for treatment. French started combatants down slippery slope in WW I, but horrible effect of gas warfare restrained both sides in WW II.

evil poison gas. In reality, these surplus wonders would be hard-pressed to protect you from a healthy *rain* let alone a full-scale chemical attack.

Thinking that a piece of second-hand rubber and some charcoal will save your life in a true CBW environment is much akin to trusting a parachute you found in the 99-cent bargain bin at a flea market. *Caveat emptor!*

CBW

Although commonly thought of as relatively modern innovations, entering the mil-

itary arena during the First World War, these weapons, most notably the chemicals, trace their roots back to man's earliest conflicts. Predating firearms, and even bows and arrows, by thousands of years, chemical warfare was not far behind the rock and club in early man's first arsenal of weapons. Just how far back the use of noxious materials goes isn't known, but there is physical evidence that it predates actual armies by tens of thousands of years. There is little doubt that it evolved not long after man began to control fire and observed the irritating effects of the smoke on himself as

well as animals. From its advent, recorded history is replete with examples of chemical and biological warfare, many dating to at least 5000 B.C. Some more recent examples are:

- During the Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.) the Spartans employed chemical warfare against the Athenians by burning a sulfur-and-pitch mixture to produce suffocating clouds of sulfur dioxide gas.

- In 673 A.D. the Byzantine Empire repelled the Arab fleet at Constantinople with Greek Fire. An incendiary mixture that ignited on contact with water, Greek Fire was especially effective against the wooden ships of the day. Kept a closely guarded state secret, its exact composition remains a mystery to this day, although it is thought to have been a blend of sulfur, pitch and some form of sodium in a petroleum base.

- Soon after man learned what would cause disease, biological warfare was born. During the Middle Ages it was not uncommon for warring armies to fling the bodies of plague victims over the walls of besieged cities, or to dump the rotting bodies of men or animals into an enemy's water wells.

- After early European settlers learned that the native Indians of the New World were highly susceptible to "White man's diseases," it wasn't uncommon for them to give the Indians "presents" of smallpox-infected blankets in an effort to wipe out the tribe with bio-war tactics.

- During the American civil war, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton considered, but later rejected, the idea of employing chlorine-filled artillery shells against Confederate forces.

CBW Agents

Before moving on to the more modern history of CBW, and to better understand the pros and cons of chemical-biological warfare, this is a good time to examine the agents and weapons themselves — what they are (and aren't) and their employment and effect on various targets ... especially man.

Thousands of chemical mixtures and compounds are poisonous to man, animals or plants. But of these only a few dozen or so have been found suitable for use as military chemical warfare agents. These are generally broken down into categories determined by their effect on people, animals and plants. Further, they are described by their toxic longevity as persistent or non-persistent agents, as well as

(right) Blistered back of Australian volunteer test subject of mustard gas experiments shows terrible results of exposure. (inset) Thirty-year-old HD agent (mustard) scar on author's forearm, from original blister approximately 1 inch in diameter caused by drop of agent the size of a pinhead.



EOD trainee works with MC1, 750-pound GB bomb during decontamination exercise at Army CB-EOD school, Ft. McClellan, Ala.

their various means of entering the body (i.e. inhalation, ingestion, or skin contact).

Choking Agents

The first to be used in modern warfare, these inhaled agents attack lung tissue to cause pulmonary edema. Sometimes called "dry-land drowning," the victim's lungs fill with fluid, preventing the transfer of oxygen to the body. As the name implies, these chemicals can also produce symptoms of coughing, choking and tightness of the chest. In addition the victim may experience headache, tearing, nausea and possible vomiting. In most fatal cases the maximum symptoms are reached within 12 hours of exposure and death comes within 24-48 hours. Medical treatment includes rest, warmth, oxygen and antibiotics.

These agents are heavier than air, allowing them to settle into low-lying spots such as bunkers and foxholes. Although these agents include chlorine, diphosgene (DP) and chloropicrin (PS), the most commonly used is phosgene (CG).



Author (far left) performs chemical agent leak-test on sealed M125A1 GB bomblet prior to continuation of packaging procedures, Ft. McClellan. (left) In an M3 butyl rubber Toxicological Agent Protective (TAP) suit, author performs leak-sealing procedure on the bomblet.

A clear to slightly yellow liquid, CG has a boiling point of 47 degrees Fahrenheit (8.2 degrees Celsius) and, in low concentrations, may smell like new-mown hay. First used in World War I, phosgene's low boiling point and extreme non-persistence make it a poor choice as a weapon because its high agent-used to casualty-produced ratio.

The prime U.S. delivery vehicles for CG were the AN/M78 500-pound and AN/M79 1000-pound aerial bombs and the M2 4.2-inch mortar projectile.

Blood Agents

Classified as cyanogens, blood agents interfere with oxygen uti-



Packaging sealed and decontaminated GB bomblet. (right) Display illustrating scope of U.S. chemical-biological munitions (left to right): 105mm chemical artillery projos; M74A1 10-pound incendiary bomblet; M110 155mm white phosphorous (WP) howitzer projo; Mk30, 5-inch/38 CS projectile; M4A2 HC Smoke pot; M6 BZ canisters; 2.75-inch WP rocket warheads; M121A1 155mm VX howitzer projo; M360 105mm GB howitzer projo; E139 GB bomblet; M139 GB bomblet; M2 4.2-inch HD mortar round; (on wall): M114 biological-agent bomblet; E120R3 bio bomblet; M143 bio bomblet; M125A1 GB bomblets; M139 GB bomblet.

lization at the cellular level, resulting in disruption of the central nervous system, particularly the respiratory center, followed by rapid death.

The primary agents are hydrogen cyanide (AC) and cyanogen chloride (CK). Death by AC poisoning leaves the blood well oxygenated and causes a pinkish skin color, similar to that seen in carbon monoxide poisonings. Both AC and CK are colorless, rapid-acting agents with death taking place sometimes within a matter of seconds of exposure. However, if death does not occur, full recovery can begin within a few minutes after removal from the contaminated area. In the past, first aid for blood agent poisoning involved the insertion of amyl nitrate capsules into the protective mask. Now, the soldier simply masks and continues his mission.

Due to their extremely high rate of dispersal AC and CK must be delivered in massive quantities to be even marginally effective. In U.S. ordnance this restricted their use to the AN/M78 500-pound and AN/M79 1000-pound bombs.

Blister Agents

Whenever the horrors of chemical warfare are discussed the first thing that is generally on top of the list is mustard gas. Visions of gas-blinded troops, bodies covered by massive blisters stumbling haplessly across a denuded battlefield flash immediately into the mind's eye.

Among the most persistent of the chemical warfare agents, the blister agents, which attack the body through inhalation, ingestion or by skin contact, are designed primarily to degrade combat efficiency rather than kill. When these agents are deployed on the battlefield, troops are forced into performance-reducing MOPP 4 protective gear. While quick decontamination with the M258A1 or M291 kits can halt the agent effects, those personnel who do become casualties may require extensive and often long-term medical treatment.

Normally in the form of a colorless to dark-brown, oily liquid, the vesicants are heavier than water blister agents that have quite noticeable garlic odor. The most common of the vesicant agents are the sulfur mustards H and HD. With its mild fishy odor, HN is the prevalent nitrogen mustard. With a freezing point of 56-58 degrees Fahrenheit, HD is not well-suited for winter operations but does extremely well in hot climates. The particularly insidious aspect of the "H" agents and one that makes them an especially effective physiological as well as psychological weapon is their delayed action. Persons contacting these agents don't develop symptoms for several hours after exposure, much too late for skin decontamination.

Other less-used blister agents are the halogenated oximes, mainly Lewisite (L) and phosgene oxime (CX), sometimes referred to as "nettle gases" because they produce immediate pain upon contact.

The severity and extent of blister-agent injuries is dependent on several factors, including the physical form of the agent (i.e. vapor or liquid); agent concentration; duration of exposure and what parts of the body were exposed. Because these agents attack the eyes, the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts as well as the epidermal (skin) areas, symptoms may range from mild conjunctivitis (inflammation



of the mucous membrane lining of the eyelid and the front of the eyeball) to gastrointestinal hemorrhage to massive blisters on the skin, with severe cases requiring skin grafting. Note: Contrary to old wives' (or old soldiers') tales, the yellowish fluid within the blisters is not mustard agent, and breaking of the blisters will not cause the formation of more blisters. It will however, result in a slow-healing open wound that is prone to infection.

U.S. ordnance which contained blister agents included M2 4.2-in. mortars; M70A1 115-pound bombs, and one-gallon land mines.

Nerve Agents

These rapid-acting agents are among the deadliest in any country's arsenal. Whether inhaled or absorbed through the skin, nerve agents attack the body by inhibiting the enzyme cholinesterase. In normal body functioning, cholinesterase controls the muscles by breaking down acetylcholine, the chemical which causes muscle contraction. Thus, like breathing in and out, acetylcholine contracts the muscles and cholinesterase relaxes them. When this process is interrupted — by a nerve agent blocking the cholinesterase — the muscles contract but can't relax. The results, from mild to severe, are:

- Runny nose

- Sudden frontal headache
- Drooling
- Nausea and vomiting
- Severe muscular twitching and weakness
- Involuntary urination and defecation
- Convulsions, unconsciousness ... and death

Originally, intra-muscular atropine sulfate injections were the accepted field first-aid for nerve agent casualties. Further studies have added 2-PAM chloride to the atropine field treatment followed with diazepam injections at aid stations.

At the end of World War II, the future superpowers wound up grabbing the Third Reich's nerve agent technology, equipment and stores. As a result, the United States adopted Sarin (GB) as its standard "A" agent, while the Soviet Union laid claim to Tabun (GA) and Soman (GD).

As the cold war intensified, the search for more persistent nerve agents saw the United States develop the agent VX, while the USSR thickened GD to achieve the same goal, and then followed up with the formulation of VR-55. Concerned with safety as well as possible terrorism, the United States developed a new family of binary nerve agents including GB-1 and VX-1. Instead of ordnance containing ready-to-use agents, the binary munitions contain two-part mixtures; non-toxic by themselves, they mix in flight forming a poisonous nerve agent on the way to the target.

During the Cold War, a wide array of nerve-agent ordnance could be found in the U.S. inventory, including rockets, guided missiles, bombs and cluster bombs, aerial spray tanks and land mines.

Incapacitating Agents: These non-lethal agents are designed to produce temporary disablement by altering the higher regulatory functions of the central nervous system (CNS). Such disablement may last for hours, days or even weeks after exposure causing delirium and/or hallucinations. Because these agents cause unpredictable, even violent and aggressive behavior, they are more likely to be employed in rear echelon areas rather than front lines.

These agents fall into two major categories. CNS depressants, such as 3-quinuclidinyl benzilate (BZ) and CNS stimulants, such as d-lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). BZ, the U.S. standard, was dispensed by a variety of burning-type munitions, such as the M16 BZ generator and the M138 bomblet.

Although there is really no medical first-aid treatment, affected personnel must not be allowed contact with weapons, sharp objects, matches or any potentially hazardous materials. Like small children or drunks, victims may try to eat non-food-stuffs; fire weapons indiscriminately or even pull the pin and hold onto the grenade.

Riot Control Agents: These agents produce rapid-acting, short-duration incapacitation by sensory irritation. The two basic categories are the lacrimators (tear causing) and nauseating (vomiting) agents.

The prime lacrimators are chloroacetophenone (CN), orthochlorbenzmalononitrile (CS) and the British agent dibenz [b,f] -1,4-oxazepine (CR). These agents cause a rapid onset of heavy tears and an inability to keep the eyes open.

The main vomiting agent has been diphenylaminechloroarsine (DM) also known as "Adamsite" in honor of its inventor, American army major Roger Adams. DM causes coughing and tearing accompanied by a severe headache, soon followed by nausea and intensive vomiting as well as marked depression.

Adamsite has been used in conjunction with toxic agents, the strategy being that when vomiting caused a person to remove their protective mask the toxic agent would kill them. The old joke in the

chemical corps was that DM also produced temporary blindness when the chunks floated up past the eyepieces in your mask.

Riot-control munitions are generally solids and are dispensed by burning or bursting grenades or submunitions such as the M7 series (burning), and M25 series (bursting) CS grenades. They can however, be modified to a liquid form for aerosol spray dispersal.

Smoke and Flame: Although not generally thought of as chemical agents, flame weapons as well as screening and signaling smokes fall under the CW umbrella.

The Great War

The Hague Convention of 1899 specifically outlawed, " ... the use of projectiles, the sole object of which is the diffusion of asphyxiating or deleterious gases." Despite this prohibition World War One saw history's greatest full-scale use of toxic chemical agents in combat.

Contrary to popular opinion, Germany wasn't the first to use chemicals in the "war to end all wars." That dubious distinction goes to French forces who, in the early months of the war, employed hand and rifle grenades filled with ethylbromacetate (EBA). Since it had been used by Paris police in 1912 to quell riots in that city, EBA, though toxic in heavy concentrations, was classified as a tear gas and, therefore, the French didn't consider its use in war as a violation of the Hague Treaty.

In short order, the Germans decided what's good for thee is good for me and formulated plans to release choking clouds of chlorine gas from large pressurized cylinders. The rationale was that they weren't violating the treaty either because they weren't using "projectiles." On 22 and 24 April 1915, German forces near Ypres, Belgium, unleashed their first major chlorine attack. The result was

totally unpredictable. A 5-mile hole was punched through Allied lines, but the Germans, taken aback by such a devastating effect, were unprepared to launch a follow-up offensive.

After several more German gasings the British retaliated in kind. In the pre-dawn hours of 26 September 1915, near Loos, Belgium, British troops released approximately 150 tons of their own chlorine — smashing a 5-mile-deep hole in German lines. And, in the process of gassing thousands of the enemy, they also gassed many of their own soldiers.

Three months later, Germany upped the ante with the introduction of phosgene (CG). The Allies

countered with their own CG attack in June 1916. And so it went, until July 1917 when the Germans introduced mustard gas (dichlorodiethyl sulfide)-filled artillery shells for the first time. In a brutal 10-day barrage the Hun poured 2,500 tons of blister agent onto the battlefield. Accustomed to dealing with the short duration, inhalation-hazard agents, chlorine and phosgene, the Allies underestimated, and, therefore, were not prepared for, the persistence and skin-contact threat associated with mustard gas. As a result, from July 1917 to November 1918 British forces suffered nearly 70% of their war-time gas casualties (approximately 160,000) to mustard gas.

During that same period, the Americans sustained nearly one-fourth (70,000) of their total war casualties to mustard.

Although the British made little use of their own mustard gas (known as Yellow-Cross), they did deliver a major attack in western Belgium that may have helped pre-determine the absence of chemical warfare in the European Theater of Operations during World War Two. Hunkered down on a small hill south of the village of Wervick, the night of 13 October 1918, a unit of the Bavarian Reserve Infantry was overcome by blinding clouds of Yellow-Cross



U.S. chem/bio bomblets (left to right): BLU 21/B45 biological bomblet; BLU 20/B BZ bomblet; BLU 19/B23 GB bomblet.

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Fire Watch In Smoldering Philippines

Mindanao is one tropical island where for the foreseeable future tourism will not be a growth industry. In Manila the guy from the embassy handed me the map across the lunch table and smiled bleakly as I scanned it. For security purposes the intel people had divided the southern Philippines' largest island and those surrounding it province by province into zones of "high-risk," "medium-risk" and "low-risk." "No-risk" zones did not feature.

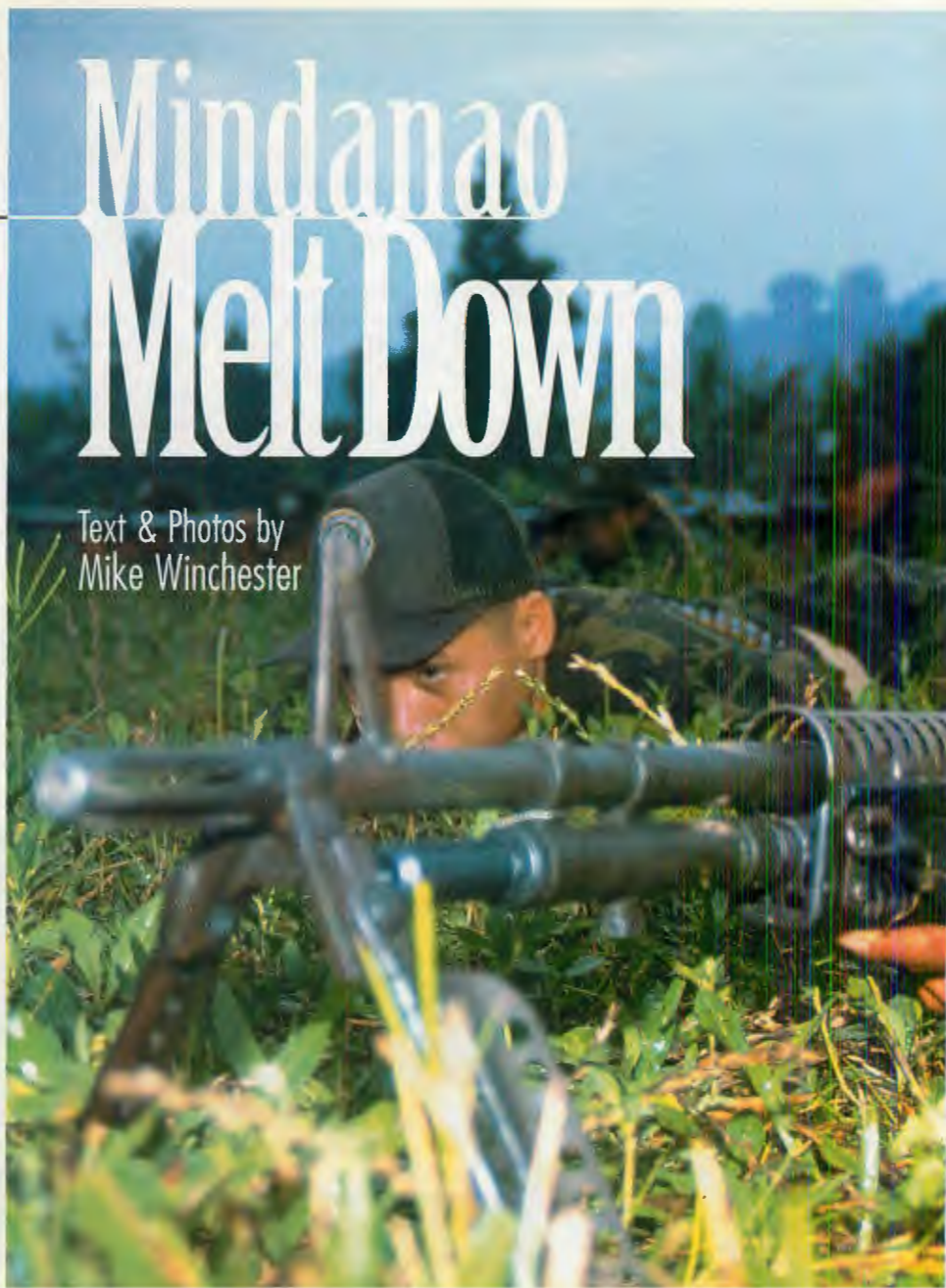
Cotabato City, where I landed the next day, was in the "medium-risk" category. If the kidnap capital of Southeast Asia was classified as medium risk I couldn't help wondering just what sort of activities were going down in the "high-risk" zones. At lunch, my embassy contact had discussed high-profile foreign victims: a Belgian priest, a German businessman, Korean engineers. But favored game are those that never make it into print: local Chinese businessmen or their offspring. Many Chinese families had been moving out of town for the (relative) safety of Manila,

With conviction rates attractively low and

(right) Adhering to the Boy Scouts' motto, "Be Prepared." (below) Weapons-familiarization for anti-aircraft team on the .50-cal. HMG for the "if and when." (below, right) Graduation preparation at Camp Abu Bakr. The "pomp" before potentially lethal circumstances.

Mindanao Melt Down

Text & Photos by
Mike Winchester





profit margins high, just about everybody, it seems, is jostling for a piece of the kidnap-for-ransom action: off-duty Muslim guerrillas, demobilized Muslim guerrillas, plain bandits, "lost commands," bent cops and kaleidoscopic combinations of all the above.

But the man with the crew-cut and aviator shades who had walked up to me before I'd even cleared the airport and had introduced himself as Abu Jihad was none of the above. He was my escort from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). In Mindanao these days that means a man from the government.

In From The Cold

After a 24-year-long war that had cost over 10,000 lives in the Philippine South, the MNLF had come in from the cold in September 1996. That month, MNLF chief Nur Misuad signed a peace pact with Philippine president Fidel Ramos. As a result, the MNLF moved into local govern-

ment with Misuari taking over as governor of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and MNLF guerrilla forces beginning a process of integration into the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). There seemed a reasonable chance another Asian brush-fire war had been extinguished and that the Christians and Muslims (Moros) of Mindanao might live together happily ever after.

But that was then. Eighteen months on when I landed in Cotabato, the happy headlines of September '96 were long since history. Thanks to Abu Jihad, whose main job was bodyguard to Misuari, I met the MNLF chief within hours of arriving. A powerful, passionate speaker, Misuari is a man of undisputed charisma and vision. But that evening he struck me as tired and worried — a man embattled by the pressures of office.

The MNLF experiment in government was not turning out a success. As governor of the ARMM — an entity consisting of four

majority Muslim provinces — Misuari had been spending much of his time outside Mindanao attempting to project the ARMM internationally and drum up foreign investment. But his absences from the governor's office were taking a toll on his credibility. As most people in Manila and Cotabato told it, the result of these extended overseas trips was less a flood of investment capital and more inertia, drift and deepening corruption in the ARMM government. Running an administration by remote control doesn't work.

That was one part of Misuari's problem. The other was a matter that back in 1996 had been buried somewhere near the bottom of the stories hailing peace. But which had now worked its way slowly but surely up to the top: the Moro Islamic Liberation Front or MILF. A hard-line break-away faction from his own MNLF, the MILF had been growing quietly over the years and was now capitalizing on the growing disenchantment with Misuari's administration.

Now, both he and Manila were staring down the barrel of a revived insurgency from a faction that is committed, well-organized, well-connected internationally, and decidedly well-armed. With the communist New People's Army on the ropes ideologically and financially, the MILF has emerged as the largest insurgent force in Southeast Asia — maybe Asia as a whole. And it wants independence from the Philippines yesterday.

In 1997, the Front's shadowy chairman, Salamat Hashim, slipped back into the country after some 20 years of exile in the



Mideast to preside over the Front's 15th Congress and add his own considerable religious authority to the call for full independence. A MILF-sponsored mass rally outside Cotabato the same month drew crowds of several hundred thousand supporters.

But there are no angels operating on Mindanao. For all its sloganeering and calls for Islamic law, the MILF had been roundly accused of complicity in the kidnap-for-ransom game as a means of supplementing its income. In June 1997, the Army finally lost patience and assaulted the Front's second largest base camp — Raja Muda — in an operation by one Marine and two infantry battalions backed by helicopter gunships and 105mm artillery. After that the Cotabato kidnapping spree mysteriously subsided. In July came a cessation-of-hostilities agreement between the insurgents and the government and the on-again off-again MILF-government talks were back on — punctuated by a steady stream of minor contacts by means of which both sides kept their hand in.

Against this no-war-no-peace-some-talk background, I extended cautious feelers to the MILF.

The Front is a jungle-based force but they have political cadres in most cities in Mindanao and within two days a message came back with an offer of a trip to the MILF's jungle HQ at Camp Abu Bakr — in embassy terms a seriously "high-risk" part of Mindanao some 60 miles northeast of Cotabato. A day later I was riding out of Cotabato past marine corps checkpoints and into MILF-land. My driver was a local Muslim building contractor with MILF connections.

An hour out of town we turned inland along a paved highway that snaked up into the mountains through groves of palm trees. There was little sign of the military:



(above) RPG-2 parts and production workshop where imitation is the only form of flattery. A Mindanao "cottage" industry: locally manufactured RPG-2s. (left) Trainees negotiate assault course — getting fit for encounters of the worst kind.



Following clashes a few weeks earlier, army units dug in around Camp Abu Bakr had reluctantly agreed to pull back 5 kilometers from the perimeter. We reached the first MILF check point even before the truck had swung off the main road.

Set in a long valley several clicks off the highway, Abu Bakr is less a purely military camp than a small liberated zone that the MILF carved out of the jungle in the mid-1980s. In effect, it's an embryo of the Islamic state the rebels are proposing to set

up. You don't (yet) need a passport or visa to get in. But they're thinking in that direction: At the last of three check points, manned by guerrillas totting M16s, visitors are required to sign in. Today, Abu Bakr is home to some 15,000 people, of whom one-third are military and the rest civilians. From the check point the track wound back into the base along a wide valley floor passing fields and occasional hamlets. The camp perimeter somewhere out in the jungled hills was invisible. At the end of the valley, where the track ended and the hills closed in, was a large village with mosques, restaurants, a market and a local MILF-run school.

Before we reached it, the driver swung off the main track onto a broad grass-cov-

ered parade ground where several hundred troops in fatigues were being drilled. This was the academy of the MILF's military wing, the *Bangsamoro* (Moro Nation) Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF). What I'd just passed were graduation day preparations for a 45-day officers' advanced training course.

Upstairs, in a simple wooden two-story barracks, I met the MILF's vice president for military affairs and BIAF chief-of-staff, Al-Haj Murad, an articulate and obviously sophisticated English speaker in his late 40s who'd been in the insurgency since the early 1970s.

Clear from talks with Murad was that the MILF has gained ground politically and militarily over recent years, especially since the better-known MNLF went into government — but it has been around since 1984. Its leadership, headed by a Cairo-trained theologian called Salamat Hashim, broke with the MNLF mainstream as far back as 1977, setting up a rival Central Committee

amid accusations of mismanagement and nepotism on the part of Misuari. Some of that was true: Misuari and his wing of the party were Tausug speakers from the island provinces of Sulu and Taw-tawi off Mindanao's southwestern tip. Hashim and his followers were mostly Maguindanao- and Maranao-speakers from the Mindanao mainland. But there were also real political issues behind the split: The mainstream MNLF was left-leaning and secular in its vision. By contrast, most of Hashim's followers had been trained either in Middle East religious institutions or in the network of *madrasahs* (Islamic seminaries) in the Philippines itself.

For a while the MNLF remained split, Misuari based in Ghadaffi's Libya, Hashim in Cairo, Egypt.

The "Khost" Of Foreign Aid

Finally in 1984, the MILF was formally set up on a specifically Islamic platform and the leadership shifted to Pakistan. The same year a training program began, organized through the Arab-backed Afghan mujahideen leader Abdul Rasul Sayyaf. It was conducted both at Sayyaf's own training base in the Pakistani tribal areas abutting Afghanistan and across the border near the communist government-held town of Khost. Between 1984 and 1991, around 500 Moro fighters went through training courses and gained combat experience in Afghanistan. The Afghan experience and the international Islamist contacts it opened up were to exert a major influence on the MILF, militarily and ideologically.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, the MILF entered a period of political and military expansion.

Strategy focused on Muslim village



(above) MILF Chairman Salamat Hashim (center, in safari suit and cap) flanked by BIAF military commanders at Camp Abu Bakr. MILF vice chairman for military affairs and BIAF chief of staff, Al-haj Murad Ibrahim (above, right).



communities and took more than one or two pages out of Mao Zedong's writings on revolutionary guerrilla warfare. The MILF slowly established its own administrative and political structures to parallel and supplant those of the Manila government. At the same time the BIAF set out to follow a three-stage development strategy, moving from a phase of guerrilla warfare through one of mobile warfare using larger units, aiming finally to achieve a conventional capability. Today, a tiered structure consists of a trained regular force — the so-called national army, supported locally by village-based militia and internal security forces.

According to Murad, the BIAF operates today all over Mindanao and the offshore island provinces — which is a slight exaggeration. He also claims it has a manpower pool of 120,000 volunteers and has achieved a conventional capability with six divisions based on camps dotted across

Mindanao — which is a big exaggeration. As far as the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) go, reality is rather less threatening — but still serious enough.

AFP intel estimates put BIAF armed strength at between 8,500-10,000. Some independent estimates suggest it might be as high as 15,000, a figure that would almost certainly include "National Army" regulars, as well as local defense elements. But in terms of hardware, the MILF/BIAF is still in the early years of the Vietnam conflict. Standard rifles are the M14 and M16, supplemented by a sprinkling of M1 Garands and FN FALs. M-79 and M203 grenade launchers, as well as RPG-2s, are also common in BIAF ranks. Heavier weaponry appears limited to M60 GPMGs along with 60mm and 81mm mortars and a few .50-cal. HMGs that provide a limited anti-aircraft capability around major base camps. Despite a certain amount of "nudge-nudge wink-wink" from BIAF commanders, there's no evidence to suggest the BIAF fields SAMs of any type.

The lack of heavy weaponry and limitations on small arms mean the MILF remains essentially a guerrilla force capable of mounting company- and maybe, battalion-sized operations. But probably the only sense in which it's entered a "conventional phase" is the way in which, in the event of full-scale hostilities with the government, it would be obliged to defend (before losing) its base camps which have become important symbols of political legitimacy.

Current emphasis on recruiting, training and organization have gone some way to compensate for lack of weaponry. But it's still this factor that acts as the biggest constraint on BIAF growth. In contrast to the 1970s, when weapons shipments were smuggled into southern Mindanao and offshore islands from MNLF sanctuaries in Malaysia's Sabah state, few significant infusions of external weaponry are reaching southern insurgents today. That has less to do with Philippine navy off-shore patrol capability — an ill-equipped, low-budget joke — and far more to do with the financial limitations of the MILF itself. What new

Deployments At A Glance

Mindanao and its offshore islands fall under the AFP's Joint services Southern Command (Southcom), based at Zamboanga City. Southcom currently deploys some 23,000 troops in 12 tactical brigades. These include two marine brigades, one based on Cotabato City (designated Southcom Rapid Deployment Force); and one based on Zamboanga (but operating mainly on Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi). Ten Army brigades are divided between three divisional commands: 6th Division, based at Cotabato City; 4th Division, based at Cagayan de Oro; and 1st Division, based at Pagadian (see map).

In addition to the MILF, the AFP faces a range of other threats. These include the radical Abu Sayyaf Group and allied National Islamic Command Council; the communist New Peoples Army; and various criminal gangs and so-called "lost commands," often former MNLF guerrillas-turned-bandits.

Abu Sayyaf Group — following a recent series of operations on Basilan Island, ASG strength has been substantially reduced to probably not more than 200 from an estimated high of 700 in early 1996. The ASG, some of whose cadres have trained in Afghanistan and which has links to Palestinian and Egyptian extremists, sprang to prominence in April 1995 with an assault by some 200 gunmen on the coastal town of Ipil that killed over 50 civilians. Despite informal links with the MILF, attempts by the ASG last year to forge an alliance with the larger Islamist group and use MILF training facilities were rebuffed by the MILF.

New Peoples Army — which nationwide retains an armed force estimated at some 6,000 — fields an estimated 1,500 insurgents on Mindanao based mainly in the eastern mountains. On Mindanao, as nationally, the NPA is largely quiescent as it grapples with financial constraints, leadership changes and ideological upheaval. It is no longer regarded by the AFP as a significant threat.

— M.W.

Continued on page 66



Truth Takes A Holiday

Inside CNN's Bogus Gas Attack

by Richard L. Sherrow

Seldom does a news story evoke such a rapid and spontaneous outpouring of rage as did the 7 June premier airing of CNN's latest television news program, *NewsStand*, and the companion *Time* magazine article of 15 June titled, "Did the U.S. Drop Nerve Gas?" The remarkable part is that the outcry wasn't from the civilian populace, but from the many military special-operations personnel, both active duty and retired, to include many of the very same people interviewed by CNN.

Hardly had I settled in to watch the program, titled "Operation Tailwind," which claimed the U.S. military used nerve gas on its own troops in Laos during the Vietnam War, than a gnawing suspicion began to take shape that things were not as they seemed.

The following day, I viewed CNN's *Talk Back Live* and read the *Time* magazine article. By now I was fairly livid. Not that the United States could have been guilty of such a heinous act, but rather that two respected news organizations could have been duped into presenting such an obvious piece of concocted propaganda as a factual story.

After calming down a bit (and rejecting the feasibility of a Prozac patch) it was time

to step back, regroup and evaluate the source of my ulcerous ire in a more rational manner. Where to begin? We at *Soldier Of Fortune* had serious doubts as to the authenticity of the story, but saying it and proving it are two different animals.

The process started with a comparative analysis of the two television programs, *NewsStand* and *Talk Back Live* and the *Time* magazine story.

The first glaring discrepancy was that, throughout the production, the key players kept changing their act. Common sense tells us that truth remains constant. But the "truth" in this tale of wartime derring-do changed from *NewsStand* to *Talk Back Live* to the *Time* article.

In no time I couldn't tell the players without a scorecard. Hell, I couldn't tell the players even with a scorecard. In some sort of order they included:

- Peter Arnett: CNN's international correspondent who gained fame from Vietnam to Iraq for his scathing reports of U.S. "atrocities."
- April Oliver: CNN *NewsStand* producer and on-camera interviewer.
- Robert Van Buskirk: Chief proponent of the Tailwind saga, Van Buskirk was a

of the Tailwind saga, Van Buskirk was a First Lieutenant with 5th Special Forces Group and platoon leader on Tailwind.

- Michael Hagen: Team sergeant with 5th SF Group on Tailwind who maintains that he is still suffering from the effects of nerve-agent poisoning.

- James Cathey: Air Force supply sergeant.

- Eugene McCarley: Captain in 5th SF Group and commanding officer of Operation Tailwind.

- Craig Schmidt: Squad leader with 5th SF Group.

The premise of the story was that in September 1970 the U.S. dropped nerve gas on the Laotian village of Chavan during a "Top Secret" SOG (Studies and Observations Group) mission to kill American defectors. Looking at this "story" as any good investigative reporter should have done, I was soon overwhelmed by the inconsistencies and flat-out contradictions. The BS alarms began sounding and soon there were more journalistic red flags waving than could be found at an old-fashioned Moscow May Day parade.

The dilemma: How to describe what myself and other SOF staffers were seeing and then relay it in a manner that wouldn't drive readers over the cliffs of confusion. I decided to break the CNN/Time story into subject sections, then simply make some questioning observations. Observations that CNN and Time should have also made prior to ever releasing their end product.

The Mission

According to the story, the SOG troops had no rules of engagement: Anything was permissible as long as it was deniable. Quoting Van Buskirk, the SOG motto was right off a cheap gun-show T-shirt; "Kill them all, and let God sort 'em out."

- The article further quotes Van Buskirk as saying, "My orders were, if it's alive, if it breathes oxygen, if it urinates, if it defecates, kill it."

- According to Captain Eugene McCarley, the body count at the village/enemy base camp was, "ninety-some ... upwards of 100." To which Peter Arnett interjected, "Including women and children."

- Sergeant Mike Hagen added, "the majority of people there were not combat personnel. The infantry people they had we overran immediately. We basically destroyed everything there." Observation: Since there is no prosecutorial statute of limitations on murder or war crimes it seems more than bizarre that Van Buskirk, et al. would admit on national television to being party to the intentional slaughter of innocent men, women and children — not to mention the murder of American "defectors."

Remember, this "operation" took place a full 18 months after the international news media broke the story of the infamous My Lai massacre, and six months after Lieutenant General William R. Peers' special investigations-panel called for the crim-

inal indictment of 28 of those involved in My Lai. Are we to believe that any commander in his right mind would ever consider issuing, or following, such orders as described by Van Buskirk?

- As the mission unfolds we are told that the American force came under heavy enemy fire while flying into their objective and were forced to land "several miles from the base camp" and spent the next three days fighting its way to the objective. According to Hagen, "We had casualties before we even hit the ground." Observation: If you find yourself taking that much fire going into your LZ (landing zone) it's a pretty fair indicator that you've been compromised and that maybe it's time to abort the mission. Further, after a three-day moving fire-fight do you really expect anyone to be home when you reach the objective?

Next comes the part of this tale that I find more confusing than the old Abbott and Costello skit, "Who's On First." The village. It was, but it wasn't. They knew about it, but they didn't.

In the beginning of the story the audience is told that on the third night of the fighting the SOG team "hunkered down near the village" while Air Force A-1E Skyraiders "prepped" the target with nerve agent GB:

- At first light the commandos attack the village, even though Van Buskirk had earlier claimed that everyone on the team was wounded (Van Buskirk claimed that his legs were full of grenade frag and his rucksack had been shot off) and nearly out of ammo. Observation: Earlier in this tale Capt. Eugene McCarley says, "We weren't looking for any village. We had no idea one was there and we stumbled on it by accident." Van Buskirk's version was that, "We had come into the camp quite by accident. My sergeant and I'd seen two dogs and we decided to follow the dogs, kill their owners then go to the LZ. The dogs took us to the camp."

Time out. First, they have A-1Es gas a village/base camp they don't know is there, then they plan and execute a dawn attack on the same "unknown" village? Makes as much sense as the rest of this story.



According to Hagen, "We had casualties before we even hit the ground."

- Van Buskirk tells of the Montagnards advising him and Hagen that the hootches contained "*beaucoup* roundeyes" (what Van Buskirk deemed American deserters) dead in the hootches. To which Arnett throws in, "Bodies that looked like Americans, in the hootches." Says Van Buskirk, "A dozen, 15, maybe 20."

Arnett: "Van Buskirk looked inside only one hootch. He says the dead looked like hamburger meat."

Van Buskirk: "When I looked in the hootch it was a mess ... just pieces of human beings."

Arnett: "According to several commandos, the bodies thought to be American defectors were not identified and no bodies were brought out."

Observation: Let's see if I've got this right. The SOG team, one of whose missions in life was intelligence gathering, never took any photos of the "American deserters" even though they took plenty of photos of every other aspect of the operation, including the Spads (A-1E Skyraiders), or of patching up the wounded and the defector-filled hootches, never gathered documents or otherwise acted "intelligent." Yet, remarkably, Van Buskirk could tell not only sex, but national origin and military status just from "hamburger meat" and "pieces of human beings."

Further, after 30-plus years in the explosives business, I find it miraculous, to say the least, that the bodies inside these flimsy hootches are "hamburger" yet the hootch is intact.

- Then there was Jim Cathey. Said to be an Air Force supply sergeant, he claims to have been on the ground observing "long shadows" in the village base camp for a period of five hours. Observation: First, just what is an Air Force supply sergeant doing on the ground in the middle of a SpecOps mission — let alone five hours before the main force arrives. Second, how did he wind up "observing" a village base camp that Van Buskirk claims the team didn't know existed? Interestingly, when CNN showed Cathey's Air Force decorations the first to be seen was the Army Good Conduct Medal.

The Whirlwind Of Tailwind

23 June — *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine Editor/Publisher Bob Brown and a small patrol made a rare raid inside the beltway of Washington, D.C. The mission was clear — conduct an emergency extract of a heroic SOG patrol from the revisionist journalists of *CNN/Time* magazine, who on 7 June, nearly 30 years after the actual event, put their lie-guns on fullauto and riddled the patrol's honorable performance with a dastardly fusillade of lies, distortions and character assassinations.

Unless you'd been totally ignoring the national media, you'd heard of the first story presented on a new *CNN/Time* joint program, *NewsStand*. Titled, "Valley of Death," this electronic atrocity purported to describe an action that occurred as part of Operation Tailwind and presented these totally implausible claims: (1) that in September 1970, a SOG team of U.S. soldiers and Montagnard strikers was ordered to raid a compound in the Laotian jungle; (2) that the mission was to kill numerous American defectors that were thought to be located at this site; and (3) that USAF Spads dropped lethal Sarin nerve gas onto the enemy force while it was closely engaged with the SOG patrol, killing women and children at the compound (but inexplicably not killing any members of the SOG unit).

Words strong enough to describe the full measure of CNN's treachery cannot be printed, even in a magazine known to print an unprintable word or two. The reporter of record, Peter Arnett, and his two producers, April Oliver and Jack Smith, did what even the NVA soldiers never did — tarred these valiant warriors as wanton killers of women and children.

But CNN's sleazy attempt to assassinate the historical truth has backfired, and disastrously so for the new owners of Ted Turner's once "hard news and breaking news" network.

At a well-attended press conference at the National Press Club (appropriately held in the First Amendment Room), Brown presented a panel of retired and former warriors with specific expertise to debunk the CNN mendacity. The three most effective panelists were themselves veterans of SOG operations in Southeast Asia.

Former platoon leader Steve Feldman spoke of monitoring the radio nets at the base camp while his SOG buddies fought for their very survival in the mountainous jungle. Anyone who has ever had comrades in a desperate fight can relate to Feldman's main point: None, not a single one, of the sensational issues raised by Arnett and crew were discussed over the commo nets as the events took place. At times like this, OPSEC and caution largely go out the window. Truth is spoken by desperate soldiers, fighting in close quarters. There isn't time to be concerned about not mentioning significant acts, like U.S. defectors being encountered and killed, and lethal nerve gas being used in one's immediate proximity.

Tom Marzullo, a former SOG NCO, had begun his own investigation last fall when he heard of the CNN investigation. At the *SOF* news conference, he announced that CNN had just taken legal action to keep their former military affairs consultant, Major General Perry Smith, USAF (Ret.), from discussing the circumstances of his resignation from CNN for their failure to correct their egregious mistake.

But, by far, the most devastating witness to CNN's calumny was former SOG medic Mike Rose. This now-middle-aged soldier had been the medic with the very SOG raid that CNN strained so hard to smear as war criminals. As Mike described in calm, matter-of-fact-tones the four-day running firefight his unit had deep inside Laos, the gap between their true heroic action and CNN's squalid grab for headlines, could not have been greater.

The gap was made larger to this observer by the fact that Mike Rose did not even wear on his suit's lapel the DSC pin he had been awarded with the Army's second highest decoration for battlefield valor. (Bob Brown mentioned that Mike's performance had initially been recommended for the Medal of Honor.)

From conversations with several other journalists, I know there is great concern that such rancid crap can be presented on a major news outlet, can be hyped as the result of an eight-month investigation, and can be so flat-assed wrong. The CNN production team's blatant errors and selective use of questionable sources, while ignoring much more credible sources, raise questions as to whether some unseen agenda was driving the story along a pre-determined — and known to be false — story line.

Bob chose to throw the full weight of *SOF* into what may well be the pivotal battle to rescue the truth about U.S. military operations in the Vietnam War from the assault of those who are either terminally incompetent or intentionally dishonest.

While I am ashamed that drivel like "Valley of Death" can pollute the airways of our country, I was proud to share a room with a soldier like Mike Rose. We owe him and his cohorts who served with honor our best efforts to redress this injustice.

What can *SOF* readers do? I suggest three actions: (1) monitor the in-house investigations announced by CNN and *Time* to see that full accountability is exacted; (2) demand that congress investigate what threat this debacle has created to our country's decades-old efforts to control the use and proliferation of chemical weapons (because CNN's false claims that Uncle Sam did in Laos, what Saddam did to his Kurds obviously effects our credibility); and (3) ensure that the Federal Communications Commission considers this episode, and CNN's corrective actions, before renewing applicable licenses for CNN to continue to operate "in the public interest."

— Roger Charles

The Ordnance

In the *NewsStand* piece, Arnett claims that CNN researchers had determined that the ordnance dropped from the A-1E Skyraiders during Operation Tailwind was the CBU-15 filled with the nerve agent sarin (GB).

• As Arnett described it, "During the evening American planes gassed the camp with deadly sarin nerve gas, dropping the special weapon CBU-15."

Observation: In fact there was a "CBU-15," and it did carry GB. However, it's not that simple. To better understand what we are talking about, lets look at the actual ordnance being alluded to, as well as "the rest of the story."

The CBU (Cluster Bomb Unit)-15/A was actually the designation of the SUU (Suspension Unit)-13/A when that unit was loaded with BLU (Bomb Live Unit)-19/B23



The most devastating witness to CNN's calumny was former SOG medic Mike Rose.

GB sub-munitions. The assembled unit was designed to be mounted on under-wing hard points of various military aircraft and could dispense up to 40 sub-munitions. The dispenser (SUU-13/CBU-15) was *not* designed to be dropped from the aircraft. It dispensed its sub-munition payload then returned with the aircraft for reloading.

Actually, the SUU-13/A could take on several designations, depending on its payload. For example:

BLU-19/B23 GB Bomblet + SUU-13/A = CBU-15/A

BLU-20/B23 BZ Bomblet + SUU-13/A = CBU-16/A

BLU-39/B23 CS Bomblet + SUU-13/A = CBU-30

The sub-munition (or bomblet) at the heart of this system was the BLU-19/B23. Filled with 1.7 kilograms (3.74 pounds) of nerve agent GB (sarin), the BLU-19 was a sheet-steel cylinder 9.4 inches long and 4.6 inches in diameter. Running the center length of the bomblet was an explosive burster fitted with an FMU-50/B all-ways-acting fuze.

Forty BLU-19/B23 bomblets were loaded into the CBU-15/A giving a total

agent weight of 68 kilograms (149.6 pounds). Set prior to flight, the bomblets could be individually or ripple-fired. To demonstrate the total illogic of the assertion of GB use on Operation Tailwind, theoretical weather conditions, etc. were used to whip up a quick-and-dirty estimated cloud-width/downwind hazard area of the alleged toxic GB cloud:

With only *one* BLU-19 being dropped, the toxic cloud would be approximately 100 meters wide at the base, 200 meters wide at the apex and 400 meters long. Without detailed knowledge of several factors, calculating the hazard for a full load of 40 bomblets wouldn't be possible. However, given optimal conditions, such a cloud could very well cover several square kilometers.

The bottom line is, given the statements of Van Buskirk, Hagen and others that many of them had thrown away or damaged their protective masks, even if it were an available option the idea of calling in a GB strike would be suicidal. Period!

Smoking Guns

The biggest give-away that this entire assertion of CBU-15s or BLU-19s being used is absolute *Bravo Sierra*, is the fact that the world never heard about it until now. Not from the American news media or former GIs, but from *Pravda* and the entire Soviet propaganda machine. A fact that eludes those who have never seen a battlefield (and even many who have), is that there is always a lot of shit left over. From high-explosive projectile or bomb fragments, to empty metal smoke munitions to the remnants of chemical or biological ordnance, there is always something left that bears the "signature" of what it was and who it belonged to.

Consider, if BLU-19s were used as described they would have left behind metal fragments and agent residue with "U.S.A." written all over them. Further, an autopsy of the corpses would have fairly screamed "nerve-agent poisoning." And if you don't think Ivan wouldn't have discovered and exploited this to the ends of the earth, have I got some swamp land for you!

Classical Gas

Moving on to the real heart of this yarn it soon becomes even clearer, if that's possible, that Mr. Arnett and crew failed to do their homework.

In describing the "cover gassing" of the withdrawing SOG team, Van Buskirk and crew really let the cat out of the bag. For example:

• Craig Schmidt states that, "Everything got sticky. We turned our sleeves down to cover ourselves as much as possible." Observation:



"Everything got sticky. We turned our sleeves down to cover ourselves as much as possible."



"I looked down into the valley and all I see is bodies. They're not fighting anymore. They're no longer combatants ... you're climbing over bodies."

GB is not "sticky." Its viscosity and evaporation rate is much like gasoline. Further, if you ever got enough GB on your skin to tell if it was sticky, or even watery, take out the fork — you're done.

• After claiming that he had thrown away his protective mask, Van Buskirk now calls in a GB strike, telling the pilots, "I want the bad of the bad." Observation: Forget the "B" movie dialogue. Here's a troop leader who not only has no protective mask himself, but admits that many of his men are, likewise, without ... and he calls in a nerve-agent strike? Riiight!

• Now Van Buskirk says that he was, "Running and throwing up and unable to breathe" and that Hagen was, "in convulsions ... snot running out of his nose ... his eyes were dilated ... the man was bent over." Observation: What Mr. Van Buskirk is attempting to do is describe himself and Hagen suffering from nerve-agent poisoning. Just a couple of problems here: Nerve agents cause the eyes to pinpoint, not dilate. And the biggie: If Van Buskirk and Hagen were displaying the described symptoms as a result of a GB attack they would be in what is known as the serious phase of nerve-agent poisoning. At this stage they would most likely be beyond self-aid and would require immediate first-aid assistance. And they would damn well require atropine. Ironically, although Peter Arnett claimed that the team was equipped with atropine injectors, no mention is ever made of any being used.

• In describing the "nerve-gas" attack, Van Buskirk says, "it started coming ... pop ... pop

... pop ... pop ... pop." Observation: If what he describes was a GB attack the multiple "pops" would indicate several GB bomblets. If this were the case (if it were GB) under the conditions described, *no one would have survived*. On the other hand, what he describes does fit an airdrop of the E-158/E-159 Tactical CS (riot control agent) Canister Cluster: CS, a non-lethal "tear gas" agent, was commonly used during

the Vietnam War.

Say What?

During the final phase of the SOG team's extraction Van Buskirk's description of events, which had so far been right out of the *Twilight Zone*, were about to enter the realm of the *X-Files*.

The effect of the "gas" on the enemy troops was described by both Hagen and Van Buskirk:

• Hagen says, "They had thrown up. They're in convulsions on the ground. I don't think too many of them got up and walked away."

• Van Buskirk claims there were enemy bodies everywhere. First he says, "I looked down into the valley and all I see is bodies. They're not fighting anymore. They're no longer combatants ... you're climbing over bodies." Then he changes his story and describes the enemy corpses as being, "so frantic they're getting in the helicopter with you. We had to shoot them off the back ramp." Observation: Beam me up Scottie!

Although this critique has already grown long, and could continue to go on *ad nauseam*, the point has been made.

The bottom line is that not just nerve agents, but in fact all toxic chemical warfare agents were, and are, classified as "special weapons." This placed them in the same category as nuclear weapons. You didn't just wake up one morning, decide, "I'm going to deploy some GB today" and pop down to your local ammo dump to load up a few rounds. Just as with nuclear munitions, the use of lethal war gasses was strictly limited to presidential directive and there was no such directive ever issued during the Vietnam War.

The fallout over this story is far from over. Shortly after the story aired, CNN's military analyst since the Persian Gulf War, retired Air Force Major General Perry Smith, resigned in disgust. Never consulted by Arnett or any of the *NewsStand* production staff during the preparation of this piece, and failing in his attempt to convince CNN brass to issue a retraction, Smith said, "I can't work for an organization that would do something like this and not fess up to it."

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



(above) The U.S. scored its first win in the second bout when Marine Recon Jose Quesada (right) brought Spanish counterterrorist Jesus Dominguez (left) to the floor twice in the first round.



(above) The fight that garnered the most vehement outrage and ecstasy from the front-row Marines was the all-out brawl between former Marine Recon John Bates and Belarus Spetsnaz Dmitrei Stepanov (recovering in corner). (right) Air Force PJ Joseph Epperson (left) takes a hair-raising blow from Russian Spetsnaz Sergei Beechkov (right), who won by TKO as a result of Epperson's severe cuts. Higher-ups at Fort Bragg urged U.S. military personnel not to participate in the event, amid bad press surrounding the Ultimate Fighting Championship. Unlike that competition, however, U.S.A. vs. the World was sanctioned by the North Carolina Boxing Commission and mistakenly compared to less-reputable events.

BRUISE BROS.

U.S. SpecOps
VS.
The World

Text & Photos by Robin Postell





W

ithout a Cold War, some feel the world needs new tension — and a new challenge — for well-trained professional killers.

Problem solved. Welcome to the first-ever U.S.A. vs. The World competition, where 20 of the best trained killers from the United States square off in hand-to-hand combat against special operations commandos from around the world — trying hard not to kill each other.

That means fighting to win, while remembering it's a sport, not real war.

"Our hand-to-hand combat training is designed to kill people," says 30-year-old Demetrius Maxey, an Annapolis grad and Marine Recon member who served as captain of Team U.S.A. "We don't train just to take down and control. We learn a few basic moves, but our intent is to use everything at our disposal to kill the other person."

On 29 January 1998, a gung-ho team of American SpecOps personnel sat side by side in a press conference at the Ramada Inn in Fayetteville, North Carolina, two days before the event at the Crown Coliseum. They weren't far from the front lawn of Fort Bragg, U.S. special operations headquarters. On their own turf, they chuckled amongst themselves and eyed the World Team with mild curiosity.

Maintaining any sort of game face in this atmosphere was nearly impossible. In such close quarters, having all been romping around the small North Carolina city promoting the event — scheduled to air on pay-per-view — they'd all been bumping into one another on too regular of a basis to feel serious tension. This made things a bit different than a battlefield.

(left) In hand-to-hand combat, professional warriors are trained to kill. In the U.S.A. vs. The World competition, they try to spare the opponent's life — by wearing gloves. This bout, between Jose Garcia of Mexican Special Operations (left) and Luis Rodriguez of American Army Intelligence (right), ended in a draw.



(left) It was a fervent and hell-bent charge toward victory for both teams as the first, and only, female competitors entered the ring. Natasha Larionova, of the former Russian KGB, had ample ring experience while her competitor, Air Force Combat Squadron member Christine Waicukauski had very little. Although nearly identical in size, it was Larionova (above) who won by a TKO.

Smiley-Faced Killers

"We're trying to keep the animosity between us but it's kind of hard," confessed Tim Tillman, ex-Army airborne, scheduled to fight Aleksandr Maksimtosov, of the Ukrainian MIA, formerly the KGB. "This is a unique experience. It's really hard to figure this guy out when he's all smiles. Knowing what's going to happen tomorrow night and trying to get your game face on is hard, because he doesn't seem to have one."

Nevertheless, smiles or not, it was a formidable gathering of the top commandos in the world, hand-picked for their superlative abilities as trained warriors. And as the conflict between the U.S. and Iraq heated up, it placed an even more serious shadow of reality upon the otherwise jovial gathering.

World Team consisted of two Beirut special operations personnel, chosen by the Lebanese government and accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Wehbe Raef (a former Lebanese SpecOps member who came to America five times to train at Forts Bragg, Benning and Knox) of the Lebanese Ministry of Defense, as well as seven competitors from the former USSR, accompanied by General Alex Rotonsky. Added to the multi-lingual group was a Brit from the SAS, a Spaniard SpecOps member, a Mexican SpecOps member, one member of the Japanese Boat Squadron, a Canadian Sartec, and two former Cuban SpecOps operatives from the Navy and Army.

Team U.S.A. consisted of one active Navy SEAL, four Army members (one active), nine Marines (four active; five former), and two active Air Force members (one PJ, and one combat squadron member, a 21-year-old female).

It was easy to forget who these people were and what they were trained to do. All were trained killers, from all corners of the globe, preparing to meet in a Pentagon-shaped ring to duke it out in what promoters and competitors were promising would be the most entertaining fighting event in the world.

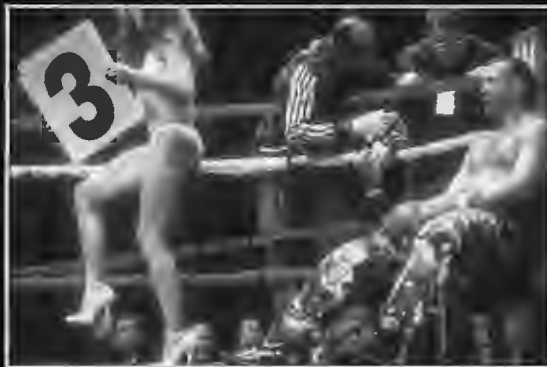
It certainly had all the right elements to achieve such status. None of the individuals competing were in it for money. In fact, there was no purse involved — only a tall, flashy trophy and an all-expenses-paid trip to Fayetteville. There was a lot of pride involved and good old-fashioned patriotism to fuel it.

Fresh New Tension

"Maybe this can start a new trend, to develop more competition between the world and the U.S. It could maybe make for a better understanding of each other," commented former Army Airborne Tim Tillman, who is a North Carolina kickboxing champ. "Since the breakdown of communism, maybe this is another way to start fresh tension. Russia was always the bad guy when I

was growing up. But now it's a little different atmosphere."

Arnott also pointed out that it was a positive event to foster good relations not only between countries but also among the branches of the U.S. military. "It's not Navy against Army. We have quite a few active guys on the team, and some former ones — yet they've come back just like they're active," he said. "You see that whether they're from the Army or the Navy or Air Force, they've got this unity among them. They're a team, they're U.S. Military. That's nice to see instead of Hey, I'm Army you're Navy, let's fight. They're looking at the Russians and the Lebanese thinking,



After surviving a pummeling round with Bates, Stepanov takes in the local scenery in North Carolina. (below) Bates, after defeating Stepanov.



"That's my opponent." This could be good for the morale of the military."

Arnott, founder of the event, has been a promoter of kickboxing fights since 1982. In his dealings he's found that money always tends to change the nature of things. And what better situation for a promoter to be in than to have 32 of the top military personnel in the world willing to fight not for money but for glory? That would go a long way toward keeping costs down, certainly. After dealing with prima-donna kickboxers for years, no doubt Arnott was pleased with this new fare of competitor.

"You know how you get all psyched up when you watch the Olympics?" explained Tim Tillman, regarding his decision to fight for no money. "Just being able to be selected for a U.S. team, knowing that you are being selected for being one of the best in

the country is quite an honor. I do it because of pride. I served my country for eight years and just got out totally from the reserves and for me it's just a great honor to represent the United States. Does money always have to motivate you to do something?"

Hard to believe no savvy promoter came up with the idea sooner.

"This came about three years ago. We were looking at the concept of what would make a real exciting fight card," stated Arnott. "It seemed to me that the people who had been involved in special operations were some of the most dedicated people I'd ever seen, some of the best trained. They call themselves warriors."

Arnott remembered watching a fight between a professional boxer considered the underdog who was enduring an onslaught from his opponent, the favored competitor who had a record of 14-1. The underdog won. Arnott never forgot it. After the fight Arnott spoke with the champ.

Discovering Tough Guys

"He said that the training he'd had in the Marines gave him the heart and desire that you just don't quit. You always try and never, ever quit," recalled Arnott. "That impressed me. As I talked to him he let me know that he had been with Marine Recon, which is a special unit. As I did more research I realized that each of these groups that had trained had trained probably tougher and more physically and mentally disciplined training than anyone in the world.

"They put these guys through courses that if I could have ever put any of my fighters through they would have been invincible. These guys never quit and their attitudes are just incredible. So we wondered: If we had a group of these guys put together, representing the U.S. and the world, from selected commando units, what type of event would we have? We would have an event with fighters who would never quit, never back down, who would fight for pride, for their nation, for their uniform."

Arnott read a story about how the Navy SEALs trained, and its infamous "Hell Week," where they suffer day upon day of sleepless agony, enduring every imaginable crushing attempt to break their will.

"Guys who had dislocated hips and fractured bones will continue on because they know that if they get cut, then they're cut. That's it. And they want to be able to make it," said Arnott. "They have that determination. They're not doing it for the money. They're doing it because they want to be Navy SEALs. The same goes for the Marines, or the Green Berets, or anyone else. They do it because they want to do that because of their own ego. These guys have egos and are very proud of themselves and their abilities. They also have that pride for



(above) Team U.S.A. accepts trophy. Mission accomplished. It was time for the cold beers owed them in a pre-fight bet with the losing team. (right) The World Team consisted of seven competitors from the former USSR, accompanied by General Alex Rotonsky. Here, Gen. Rotonsky, right, and an assistant demonstrate hand-to-hand combat techniques with the aid of a stool. (left) Although commandos and SpecOps stop short of killing each other, U.S.A. vs. The World is clearly a blood sport, as evidenced by the author's program after a few rounds near ringside.



World Team consisted of two Beirut special ops, chosen by the Lebanese government and accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Wehbe Raef of the Lebanese Defense, as well as seven competitors from the former USSR, accompanied by Gen. Rotonsky. Added to the multi-lingual group was a Brit from the SAS, a Spaniard spec op, a Mexican SpecOps member, one member of the Japanese Boat Squadron, a Canadian Sartec, and two former Cuban spec ops from the Navy and Army.

who they represent, because they are very well-disciplined."

As a kickboxing promoter, Arnott's excitement was palpable. Competitors eager to step in the ring to fight one another with this type of attitude would make the event a whole different ball game than a fight between guys who are out there just thinking of what they're going to get out of it.

"With other fights I've done," continued Arnott, who began studying martial arts at age 14 and competed and trained actively

into his early 20s, "you might have guys who think they don't have a chance of winning and will do whatever they can just to get out of there, or quit, or tap out, or give up in the corner, or whatever, because they'll get money anyway. Or they'll think maybe they don't have the chance to make any money and they'll just quit. You'll never see this here with these guys because it's the pride of 'I'm not going to surrender to Russian KGB if I'm a Navy SEAL' and vice versa."

John Bates, a 28-year-old Marine

sergeant with black belts in tae kwon do, judo, and karate, believed it was a good chance for the U.S. military to prove its might and joked, "I was going to try and get the World Team drunk and give them hangovers but they're not real friendly and don't speak much English."

Kidding aside, there was a standing bet between the teams. "They lose, they buy us five cases of cold beer," laughed Bates, who spent seven months in the Gulf War. "And if we lose, we buy them five cases of cold beer."

Red Tape Resistance

Getting the event off the ground hadn't been without its pitfalls. From the start, the threat from one general at Fort Bragg had been clear: participate and suffer the consequences. The warning from Fort Bragg higher-ups put a slightly ominous damper on the festivities. But the show had to go on.

The general was concerned the event would cast a poor light on the U.S. military, as it came on the heels of massive controversy surrounding the Ultimate Fighting Championship — a pay-per-view no-holds-barred tournament that pits different martial arts styles against each other. However, unlike the Ultimate Fighting Championship and similar events, U.S.A. vs. The World had full sanctioning by the North Carolina Boxing Commission. Still, the warning held.

But event president Don Arnott and his stable of world-class warriors would not be daunted.

"The military doesn't like their members participating in an illegal activity," remarked Arnott. "They got us confused with the Ultimate Fighting Championship. Unfortunately, they were simply misinformed. They had no clue what it was about. It was some general making up his mind and putting a stamp on it."

Both the Lebanese fighters and the Russian fighters were not only hand-picked by the military command, they were accompanied by representatives. The 27-year-old female from St. Petersburg, a former KGB operative, said: "If I win my fight, maybe I get another," and she patted her shoulder to indicate additional stripes.

The general's public affairs officer called Arnott asking for tickets, stating that if he could attend the event and deliver a good report, then perhaps the general would be more lenient the next go round.

This was merely one final obstacle, after two years of steady planning, for U.S.A. vs. The World. The British Columbia-based Universal Warriors, headed by Arnott, finally gathered steam.

"The World Team and the U.S. Team have decided they want to defend their

Continued on page 70

Seeds Of Discontent

David vs. Goliath In The Garden Of Eden

Text & Photos by James L. Pate

This is the first time — probably the only time — the reader will find an article in *Soldier Of Fortune* that concerns endangered wild flowers. But one day you may read again of Keith Robinson, a courageously stubborn Scot and self-appointed savior of some of Hawaii's most endangered native plant species. And in that quest, he also has become a champion of private-property rights and, more importantly, the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The Kauai Wildlife Reserve, as Robinson calls his 100-acre enclave hidden deep in the family's 47,000-acre Kauai estate bordering Waimea Bay — site of Captain James Cook's first landing in the islands in 1778 — “could not exist if it

were not for the Second Amendment,” he emphasized repeatedly during several days of interviews with *SOF* in April.

“If I were an ordinary unarmed taxpayer,” Robinson said, “the government ... could have just thrown me out. ... Nobody would have paid any attention. Even though there are antigun laws in Hawaii ... I was able to pose a credible warning that I would defend my rights and property, if necessary, with deadly force. ...”

This story is written with the hope that if Keith Robinson's name does gain wide recognition, it does so in acknowledgment of his hard work and refusal to compromise his old-fashioned principles, and his successes in saving endangered plant species, and not in the notoriously tragic context of a David Koresh or a Randy Weaver.


Robinson, 56, describes relations between himself and “the high-level muckety-mucks” in state and federal environmental agencies as “a persistent state of cold war.” He has repeatedly said in public — including testimony in Honolulu before a legislative committee considering enactment of a gun-control measure — that he would have no hesitation about using deadly force to defend his constitutional rights.

“I have no wife and children to worry about,” he explained to *SOF*. “Honest people like myself have no future under the present system. And with my family's awful hereditary history of cancer, I expect that within 10 or 15 years, I could easily die a painful, lingering death, just like my father did.

“Now don't get me wrong,” he cau-

Keith Robinson stops to confer with his brother, Bruce, and a hunting party of native Hawaiians on Niihau, where feral pigs (inset) have all but destroyed the ranch's fragile, drought-stricken pastures. The family's knowledge of plant and animal management, and of habitat destruction, is born of bitter experience and hard work, although state and federal bureaucrats in air-conditioned offices would like to take over the Robinson's private land holdings with the attitude that “we know best.”



A man wearing a green hard hat and a light-colored long-sleeved shirt stands on a dirt path, looking out over a vast, hazy mountain range. The terrain is rugged and covered in dense vegetation, with the mountains in the distance appearing blue and misty. The man is positioned in the lower right foreground, looking towards the left side of the frame.

tioned. "I'm not a nut prone to commit suicide, understand? But if the government comes to get me, and take my reserve by armed force, I have nothing to lose, and I may be able to strike a blow for freedom in the process that would get the attention of other Americans, to get them to realize that their rights are being threatened, too."

One Man And Right Equal A Majority

Robinson's story is not just about wild flowers, but about a solitary man — a gadfly, if you will — who has chosen to take a stand against the arbitrary whimsy of pernicious federal environmental law and its subordination of the private property rights supposedly protected by the U.S. Constitution.

A gadfly is defined as "a person who annoys others or rouses them from complacency." He has defied federal and state environmental protection laws, such as the Endangered Species Act, denounced the agencies mandated to enforce those laws, dared them to encroach on his family's extensive land holdings and publicly declared his intent to use deadly force in his defense.

And in that laborious process, he has nurtured a small network of underground Luther Burbanks and other supporters — some of them common-sense government bureaucrats — who have watched in bemused curiosity as they wonder what this eccentric man in sweat-stained work clothes and green construction helmet might do next.

He and his brother, Bruce; and their aging mother, Helen; are fourth- and fifth-generation descendants respectively of Eliza Sinclair, an adventurous Scots woman

who decided in the early 1860s to sell the family's prosperous sheep farming operation in New Zealand and strike out for a more stimulating frontier. The family looked at British Columbia and northern California, but sailed back to Hawaii. They bought Niihau, Hawaii's westernmost island, for \$10,000 in gold from the monarchy, and later expanded their holdings to nearby Kauai, which gets far more rain than drought-prone Niihau.

The Robinson family, now part of Gay & Robinson sugar company, owns approximately 47,000 acres on the south shore of Kauai, another 4,000 acres on the island's north shore, and the entire island of Niihau, which covers roughly 100 square miles.

Keith Robinson recalls an idyllic childhood, growing up on Kauai, and spending weeks at the sprawling plantation house his ancestors built on Niihau in the 1870s. It is a crumbling ruin now, its airy kitchen still equipped with the cookware used to feed an



Departing the "Forbidden Island," hunting party prepares to leave Niihau, Hawaii's only privately owned island, now beset with economic woes caused, Keith Robinson said, by state government run by "power-mad taxaholics whose political philosophy is part Karl Marx and part Marie Antoinette." If the chopper looks familiar, you saw it in *Jurassic Park*, filmed on Robinson's 47,000-acre ranch on nearby Kauai.

Invaders Zero, Hawaiians One

Niihau, Hawaii's westernmost island, was of intense interest to the governments of both Imperial Japan and the United States in the 1930s. There is evidence, for instance, that Japan considered the island as a staging area for an invasion of the Hawaiian Islands, and it was a designated emergency landing spot for fighter aircraft returning from the attack on Pearl Harbor.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the first U.S. commander-in-chief to visit Hawaii, in 1934, and on that trip, he cruised the Kaulakahi Channel between Niihau's northeast tip and the much larger island of Kauai, 17 miles away. A decade later, with World War II in its final year, FDR pondered the possibility of acquiring Niihau as an ideal site for a headquarters for the new-world-order body he envisioned, what later became the United Nations.

"He made a note of the idea," wrote Ruth M. Tabrah in her history book, *Niihau: The Last Hawaiian Island*. But the note wasn't turned up by scholars until "long after the establishment of the U.N. headquarters in New York ..."

The U.S. Navy sent an unofficial emissary, an eminent intelligence officer, to visit the island's owners, the Robinson family, in the early 1930s. He had an unusual request: Would the Robinsons consider criss-crossing its flat pastures and dry lake beds with trenches that would make them unsuitable for landing an airplane? The federal government could appropriate no funds, he quietly explained, for such a budgetary line item might draw unwanted attention. But, he assured them, their cooperation was of the utmost vital interest.

The Robinsons, Scots immigrants from New Zealand whose ancestors bought the island from the Hawaiian monarchy in 1864, agreed. The hard scabble digging in the orange volcanic soil began by hand, and a small bulldozer was later bought to speed up the tedious process. It remains on Niihau today, behind the ruins of the original

Robinson plantation house, a vine-enshrouded, rusting hulk that bears silent witness to Keith Robinson's belief that the U.S. government and Roosevelt knew well in advance that Japan planned to eventually attack Hawaii.

The rest, as the old saw goes, is history. By 7 December 1941, the secret trenching project was complete. The island ranch and the family's extensive holdings on nearby Kauai were then run by four Robinson brothers, all Harvard-educated.

Residents early that morning had heard and seen swarms of airplanes overhead, flying eastward toward Oahu. At about noon, a ranch employee, Hawila Kaleohano, was returning home from church when he was startled by a plane with bright red orbs on its wings descending from the sky with the obvious intention of landing in a grassy field. The pilot of the Mitsubishi A6M2 fighter, a squadron section leader named Nishikaichi, could not see from the air that concealed beneath the grass were deep furrows plowed for just such an event.

The landing gear and an auxiliary fuel tank were ripped from beneath by the rough terrain, but the Japanese Zero was otherwise intact, Nishikaichi momentarily stunned. Kaleohano mounted one wing and opened the canopy. The disoriented pilot reached for the Nambu Type 14 pistol in his shoulder holster. Kaleohano, a muscular man accustomed to hefting sheep on his shoulder, dis-



Keith Robinson, right, and Captain Tom Bayley, skipper of nuclear attack submarine *Santa Fe*, examine scavenged remnants of Japanese Zero. Short of fuel, it landed on Niihau 7 December 1941, hours after attacking Pearl Harbor — the first intact Zero recovered for intelligence analysis. It also led to first defection of a U.S. citizen, an islander who helped Zero's pilot escape. Initially stripped by Naval Intelligence of its engine and other vitals, air frame has been scavenged over the decades.



Merino sheep, brought from New Zealand in the 1860s, romp across beach near Kikepa Point on Niihau. Robinson family, beset with estate tax bills in excess of \$1 million, has been forced to shut down ranching operation, idling most of native workforce. The families live rent-free in modest, but well-kept, houses and live off the sheep, cattle and feral pigs, as well as the ocean's bounty, in a simple and idyllic — but sometimes harsh — existence.

armed the pilot and, noting bullet holes in the aircraft, took one of America's first prisoners of war in the Pacific Theater.

As he marched the pilot at gunpoint toward the nearby plantation house, Kaleohano noticed that Nishikaichi seemed eager to conceal a bundle of papers protruding from the inside pocket of his flight jacket. The sheaf of military orders, which would become an intelligence bonanza, were confiscated and carefully hidden.

Nishikaichi spent that Sunday night locked in a barn behind the Robinson estate, until Navy authorities could be contacted at Pearl Harbor. Without radios, the locals had no way of knowing that the Navy base was in flames, much of the U.S. fleet crippled or destroyed. The Niihau incident might have ended there except for a ranch employee named Yoshio Harada, a Hawaiian-born U.S. citizen whose parents had immigrated from Japan.

Harada, then 37, had come to Niihau three years earlier under somewhat murky circumstances, with the implication that he was fleeing gambling debts. He got a job as the supply keeper for the Robinson's ranch, and his wife, also the offspring of Japanese immigrants, worked as a housekeeper for the Robinsons. They were among a crowd of curious onlookers who gathered Monday morning to see Nishikaichi.

According to Tabrah's history, Nishikaichi "cleverly played on Harada's sympathies" and began speaking to him in Japanese, which the other Hawaiians could not understand. The upshot was that Nishikaichi convinced Harada to help him escape, and Harada became the first U.S. citizen to defect to the Japanese.

The ranch employees were at a loss as to what to do with the captive because the Robinsons were all at their estate on Kauai. Alymer Robinson, who usually arrived on Monday morning, failed to do so. Hawaii was by then under martial law and all but military marine traffic was forbidden. By Wednesday, Harada and his wife convinced Kaleohano and others that Nishikaichi should be moved out of the locked shed to more commodious quarters. It was done, and Nishikaichi was left under the guard of two men, one of them armed with a shotgun. On Friday, when the unarmed guard decided to fish to relieve his boredom, Nishikaichi and Harada made their move, easily overpowering Hanaiki Niheu.

A reign of terror lasting several days ensued, as Nishikaichi, apparently desperate to recover his captured documents, began ransacking homes at gunpoint, aided by Harada. The shotgun and the pilot's pistol, which they also recovered, were augmented by two machine guns that were removed from the Zero and mounted in Niheu's horse-drawn wagon.

Nishikaichi fired his pistol at Kaleohano, his original captor, as the Hawaiian ran for the bush from his hiding place in a privy. An

extended family that included scores of native ranch hands and Hawaiian cowboys. The horse-drawn buggy that carried him to church as a youth sits crushed by a collapsed shed roof. During a visit to the island that is closed to outsiders without an invitation, he wistfully pointed out his old bedroom, and recalled days of hard work under the tutelage of his grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles, and native Hawaiians.

After graduation from the University of California with a degree in ranch management and horticulture — a time when he helped police infiltrate the increasingly violent left-wing antigovernment movement — Robinson went home to help run the family business. His armed run-ins with hippies and local marijuana growers, who trespassed on family property to raise their illicit crop, became the stuff of local legend. He wasn't always well-liked by everyone in the community. But he stuck by his principles — and his guns.

old woman who was reading her Bible was threatened by the pilot, who got a stern lecture on the wages of sin. Nishikaichi fired several shots into her ceiling, but the woman, unfazed, calmly returned to her reading.

Driving the wagon to a rise overlooking the little village of Puuwai, Nishikaichi opened fire at midnight with the machine guns, firing a stream of tracer bullets over the rooftops. The villagers fled into the bush to hide. Ultimately, two islanders decided something must be done to stop the enemy pilot and his traitorous comrade.

While the pilot and his accomplice were in a home threatening the occupants in an effort to recover the pilot's papers, the two men, Benihakaka Kanahale and Koahakila Kaliimahuluhulu, snuck up to the wagon and quickly removed the belted ammunition, rendering the machine guns useless. They then waited for morning to surprise Nishikaichi and Harada.

The surprise backfired, though, and Nishikaichi got the drop on the two brave islanders that Saturday morning. But as Nishikaichi threatened to shoot a husband and wife if his papers were not returned, and then begin killing residents one by one, Kanahale made a move. The pilot shot him in the chest with the .32-caliber Nambu pistol. As he raised the pistol for the coup de grace, a neighbor's wife grabbed the pilot by the arm, and the gravely wounded Kanahale made one last valiant effort.

The big Hawaiian, one of the strongest ranch hands on the islands, grabbed the smaller Japanese man by the neck and leg and hoisted him up like a sheep. Nishikaichi fired one shot, which grazed Kanahale's thigh. Adrenalin-charged, Kanahale threw Nishikaichi against a stone wall, crushing his skull. The pilot was also found with his throat slit, an act one account attributes to Kanahale's terrified wife.

Seeing what happened, a horrified Harada turned the shotgun around, pressed the barrel against his belly and pulled the trigger. Mrs. Kanahale fled for help and Harada, prostrate and bleeding, begged Kanahale not to leave him to die alone. Pulling himself up, the hefty Hawaiian limped for the door, turning as he stumbled out to say, "I don't want to die here with you."

A rescue party arrived the next morning, 14 December. They found the village eerily quiet and apparently abandoned. The residents, it turned out, including the wounded Kanahale, were all in the old church, calmly holding their regular Sunday service. Interrupting, the rescuers asked where to find the Japanese pilot.

"He's dead," they were told, and the Niihau people returned to their singing.

—J.L.P.

A very patriotic man, an Army veteran who was once a nationally ranked rifle shooter, Robinson laments the loss of the nation's moral direction.

"American government ... has become a promoter and defender of evil," he wrote in March to a Japanese magazine editor. "I do not make these charges lightly. ... Our national government is systematically destroying the nation's morality ... waging an active war against decency and common sense. It is deliberately forcing U.S. citizens to accept and tolerate sodomy. ... Our government discourages hard work and thrift with heavy taxation; it rewards laziness ... and vice with generous welfare benefits.

"From the cradle to the grave, the government discourages discipline and encourages lawlessness," he wrote. "Parents who spank their children are accused of child abuse. Teachers who discipline unruly students are reprimanded or fired. Burglars and trespassers who get hurt can sue property owners they raid. Honest citizens can be prosecuted and jailed for resisting or injuring criminals."

While Robinson has drawn scant attention from the U.S. news media outside Hawaii, he caught the fancy of the national print and broadcast media in Japan for his stubborn refusal to compromise in a dispute with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other environmental agencies. In open defiance of federal law, he distributed seeds of endangered plants to "private individuals, the state government, anybody ... I have never accepted money for my work, ever. ... This work is entirely funded from my own pocket."

Sour Endangered Grapes

Keith Robinson is less an irritant to bureaucrats for his outspoken criticism of them than because of his unequalled successes in single-handedly doing a lot more with far less than the government in saving endangered native plant life in Hawaii, which has more such flora on the verge of extinction than any place in the U.S. and most of the world.

Hawaii is the most isolated of any major island chain in the world, centrally located in the earth's oldest, broadest and deepest ocean. Scientists believe that when the first humans arrived more than 1,000 years ago, 99% of the animals and plants they found existed nowhere else on the planet. They had evolved in total isolation and had few or no natural predators. That changed as humans brought a variety of new plant and animal life.

In 1986, Robinson began his endangered native plant preserve in secret. It was grueling work, and all of the fencing and

other equipment needed to protect the specimens from voracious feral pigs, rats and other predators had to be packed in on the final stretch on Robinson's back. His work soon drew attention. Sometimes it was positive, sometimes not. But no one could deny that Keith Robinson had a proverbial green thumb.

In 1992, for example, only one example



Keith Robinson (above) surveys remnants of reservoir on arid Niihau, Kauai, only 17 miles northeast, has volcanic mountain jungles averaging more than 400 inches of rain, with towering waterfalls, such as one owned by the Robinsons that was featured in *Jurassic Park*. The Navy wants to lease reservoir site to test missiles. Against the expressed wishes of Niihau's 190 residents, who say the test facility would provide badly needed jobs on Niihau, Hawaii's tree-huggers oppose the Navy lease, saying it would endanger environment. (below) Niihau resident Paul Kaohelaulii, left, and his wife, Luana, right, talk with Bruce Robinson, one of the island's owners, in front of the village square at Puuwai, site of island's one-room school, community building and century-old church. Robinson's great-great grandmother, Eliza Sinclair, bought island from King Kamehameha V for \$10,000 gold in 1864. Hawaii's liberal political elite criticize Robinson family as feudal landlords and characterize island residents as de facto vassals — but the islanders say they cherish their simple, albeit sometimes hardscrabble life. Robinson is married to a Niihau native, making the fate of the island, its inhabitants and its owners a family affair.



remained of the *cyanea pinnaifida*, a single-stalked flowering plant topped by a cluster of long, narrow leaves. It was under a rock ledge, a sickly specimen that did not flower. A plant biologist at the University of Hawaii's Lyon Arboretum cloned cuttings from the plant. Those samples flowered in the lab, but failed to produce seeds.

Enter Keith Robinson. He had single-handedly saved several other plants from the brink of extinction, without spending a penny of money from taxpayers or anyone else. Familiar with his successes in preserving dozens of examples of endangered native plants, the arboretum sent Robinson some of the cloned plants in pots. He was able to bring them to healthy maturity, and produced thousands of seeds for further distribution.

No Grandfather Rights

But by 1989, three years after Robinson began what had, up until that time, been legal efforts to save rare plants, provisions of the Endangered Species Act went into effect, making Robinson as much an outlaw as the marijuana growers he had frequently evicted from his family's property at gunpoint.

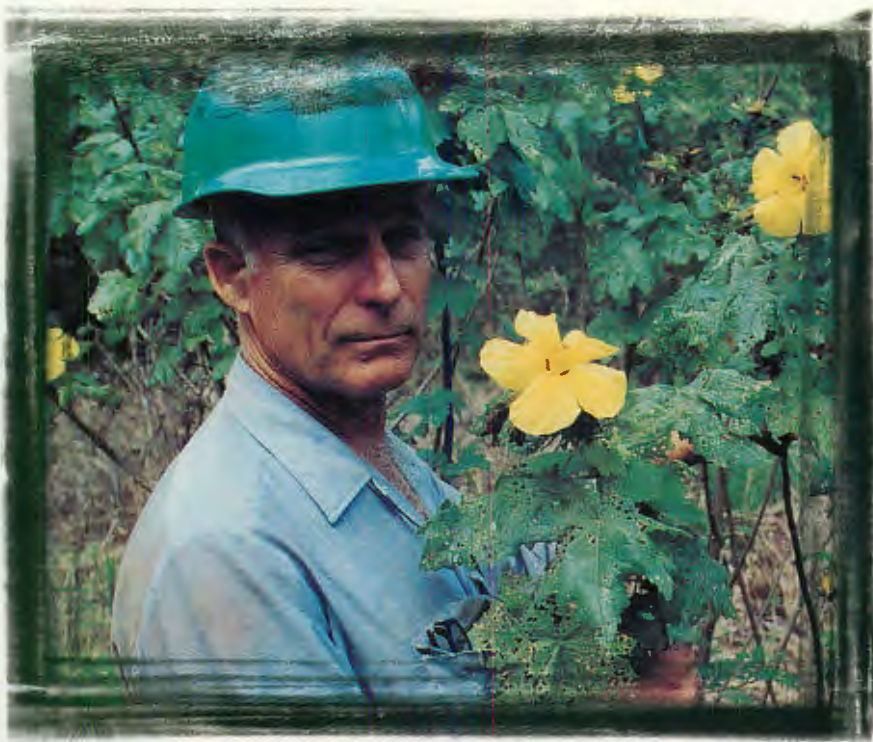
"I was working on my project before the rules got changed," he told *SOF* as he led the reporter on a tour of his preserve. "I'm in for a penny, I'm in for a pound. Those retroactive, ex post facto rules and regulations have made me an arch criminal, like some Bolivian drug lord. So I said the heck with it, I'm not going to obey any law that I consider crazy. I'm just going to concentrate on making the species survive.

"I was already in so deep, it didn't matter anyhow. I'd already violated the environmental law," he gleefully acknowledged. "My only criteria: Is it honest, is it efficient, does it actually get the job done? I don't worry much about anything else."

One example was an endangered plant in Wiamea Canyon. The government went out to preserve it in place, against Robinson's warnings of failure in those circumstances and in that location. The government spent \$25,000 in one location and, for the most part, failed. Meanwhile, Robinson took seeds of the same plant — harvested illegally, he admitted — cultivated them at his pre-

serve and successfully mass produced them. His cost: \$250.

But Robinson's defiance of federal and state environmental laws, which had been done in the dead of night on strenuous hikes into steep, volcanic valleys, became public when the Honolulu newspapers published a story that he was giving away seeds for one of the world's rarest plants, the



Hidden deep in family's 47,000-acre estate on Kauai, Robinson began his preserve years before enactment of federal Endangered Species Act, but after its passage, it became Class C felony for him to own or handle federally listed plants. Robinson defied law, publicly offering free seeds to anyone, including feds. When U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service learned his preserve had only surviving examples of rare native tree, bureaucrats drafted plan to "secure and manage" private property "owned by Mr. Keith Robinson." While federal management has met with very mixed results at very high price, Robinson's hard work and stubborn resistance to government inference has made his private reserve, which accepts no outside funds, an outstanding success. Here Robinson shows a *hibiscus brackenridgei*, the state flower of Hawaii, now almost extinct.

Solanum sandwicense, an Oahu relative of the tomato and eggplant, extinct in the wild.

After harvesting thousands of seeds that he had produced on his preserve, he tried to give them to the Lyon Arboretum and the state Division of Forestry and Wildlife. They refused, citing state and federal law forbidding anyone without a license from

handling any endangered species. Robinson announced in the newspaper articles that he would send 10 seeds at no charge to anyone who sent him a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The response, he said, was staggering.

"I got more than 400 requests, some of them from some very prominent people

whose names I'm sure your readers would recognize. I handled each request personally, to ensure their privacy."

Even Hawaii's state forester, Michael Buck, acknowledged that the law was "crazy. I'll give [Robinson] a permit to do anything he wants to do."

After a decade of refusing proposals to amend the law to help further the distribution of seeds of rare species, instead of making outlaws out of well-meaning people, the law was changed. But Robinson's troubles with the government didn't end there.

In 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service drafted a "recovery plan" for an endangered native Hawaiian tree, the *Caesalpinia kavaiensis*, noting on page 17 that the only "mature, fruiting tree is on privately owned land. Currently, access to this land is not allowed, but the owner has an ongoing native plant conservation program. ..."

Who Would Protect From The Protectors?

Deeper in the federal environmental proposal, on page 51, a more ominous notation was made, calling for the federal government to "secure and manage ... habitat owned by Mr. Keith Robinson."

Although he had earlier allowed federal wildlife biologists to visit his preserve, Robinson said he stopped doing so when he began to suspect that their interest in his activities was not so benign as they might have him believe. This proposal confirmed his fears. He said he communicated his intent to defend any encroachment on his preserve with deadly force, and he wrote a letter saying he had destroyed the tree.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sent a reply, saying its intentions were not malevolent, and had been "misunderstood."

Robinson, who said he thinks the "eco-Nazis" will try sooner or later to take over his property, acknowledges that if the government does try such a forced seizure, "they'll probably get it. I'm only one man, and I'm not as young as I used to be. But they'll lose [people] ... because I'm an experienced shooter operating on his own terrain. ..."

"After Waco and Ruby Ridge, if the government's next heroic exploit is to attack and murder a conservation worker in his own preserve," he said, "that is going to look very strange. ..."

"The government is pretending to be seriously misunderstood," he said. "Especially the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They're so sorry that I misunderstood their intentions. They say that I'm paranoid, that they never really were interested in taking over my preserve, that the phrase 'secure and manage' Mr. Robinson's property does not imply any takeover. Hogwash."

Robinson's pristine preserve is a magnet for the "eco-Nazis and tree-huggers." While emphasizing that he has close friends among the low-level "Indians" who work



Hero's welcome for returning native son: Henry Kaipo Kanahale, Jr. is hugged by one of his sons on arrival at village square on Niihau. Kaipo is senior enlisted engineer on *Santa Fe*. His skipper, Capt. Tom Bayley, is second from left. Kaipo, whose father is island leader and church elder, wanted to come home for re-enlistment ceremony on what will probably be his final hitch. At far left is chopper pilot and Vietnam vet Dave Nekomoto; at far right is *Santa Fe*'s senior enlisted sailor. The Navy and Niihau residents have had a close relationship since the 1930s.

Continued on page 68

Snub Knows No Limits

Are Banks Anti-Semitic Or Anti-Semiautomatic?

by Wayne Laugesen

Longmont, Colo. — Rambo beat the commies, David killed Goliath and the Broncos won the Super Bowl in '98. Underdogs can win.

Meet Bob Glass, a gunstore owner who taught a giant national conglomerate — Norwest Banks — to not mess with firearms owners. His tireless crusade against discrimination sends a clear and powerful message to big business everywhere: Gun owners won't be pushed around, even in today's increasingly hostile anti-gun political climate.

In short, Glass was denied a bank account at Norwest because his inventory includes legal firearms considered by uninformed critics to be "assault rifles."

Astounded, Glass stood up for himself by demanding a written explanation of the bank's decision to refuse him as a customer. By the time Glass was through with them, bank personnel were reaping the backfire of their vicious intolerance. Through interviews with the local and national press, Glass had media throughout metropolitan Denver critical of Norwest and sympathetic to the plight of Paladin Arms.

Supporters of Glass planned a rally at the bank. Radio talk show hosts took up his cause. Renowned defense attorney Lee Hill came to his defense, adding Glass to a list of clients that includes Native American activists Russell Means and Leonard Peltier.

Hill, Glass's attorney, said the bank's actions were a "throwback to the McCarthy era." He added: "We're not talking about a dangerous gun-wielding extremist. They insulted Bob Glass and they insulted all of his customers by the way they treated him and anyone who would choose to own a defensive firearm."

Glass contacted gun manufacturers throughout the United States, telling them his story. One major gun manufacturer, with accounts at Norwest, considered pulling its accounts if the bank's shenanigans didn't stop.

After days of media scrutiny, the



Norwest Banks eventually apologized to Glass, and invited him to open an account. No further details about the agreement are available, as all parties agreed to keep them secret.

Longmont branch personnel were gasping for air. They called in John Nelson, president of all Norwest Banks in Colorado.

Within days of Nelson's involvement, the bank was publicly apologizing and welcoming Glass with open arms to open a new account. He declined, having found another bank in town that welcomed his business from day one.

Take A Hike, Gun Dealer

The ordeal began on 10 April 1998, when Glass walked up the street from his business, Paladin Arms, to open a new bank account at Norwest Bank's Longmont branch. He brought his two friendly dogs, a Siberian Husky and a Samoyed, and was treated hospitably by a female bank representative. She gave him the welcoming pitch and all the colorful brochures.

She asked what business Glass owned, and he answered "Paladin Arms."

"Oh, yes, I've seen you around town walking your dogs," Glass recalled of her response.

Glass took the brochures and returned to his store, where he planned to review them and decide what type of account to open. An hour later, he received a call from bank Vice President John Yarberry. But it wasn't one of those heartfelt "thanks

for considering us" follow-ups.

Rather, it was the voice of a cold, unfriendly banker blatantly discriminating against him. Gun control, it seems, is always rooted in vicious intolerance and the need for one individual to control or oppress another.

"In an amazingly rude and condescending voice, he said, "We're not interested in doing business with you; we know what kind of business you run," Glass told the *Boulder Planet* newspaper.

Dismayed, Glass walked back to the bank in hopes of discussing the matter. The friendly account representative he'd spoken with earlier said, "It has to do with the fact you sell guns."

Glass politely asked Yarberry and the account representative for permission to meet with Charlie Mack, president of the branch. They said Mack was in conference and would be unable to discuss the issue in person. Before leaving, Glass left his number and asked to have Mack call him later.

Later that day, bank attorney Gary Rosentrater called Glass and said Mack would not be contacting him. He asked Rosentrater for a written explanation as to why his business was refused at the bank. Rosentrater refused. Without an explanation, Glass told Rosentrater, he had no choice but to suspect discrimination based

on the fact he's Jewish. Later that day, Glass told reporters it was:

- (A). He's Jewish, or
- (B). He sells weapons, including controversial semiautomatics.

There it was, black and white and out in public. Barring further explanation, the bank was either:

- (A). Anti-Semitic, or
- (B). Anti-semiautomatic.

Glass said at the time he suspected option "B." The bank would soon learn neither explanation would please the public or the press, including those who don't like guns.

The Jewish thing seemed to get Norwest's attention most. Although Rosen-trater refused to give Glass a written explanation, during their phone conversation he verbally told Glass it had nothing to do with race, religion or ethnicity. Verbally, he conceded to Glass, the bank refused him because he sells assault rifles.

Glass does not sell any fully automatic weapons. His store carries hunting rifles, semiautomatics and military-style weapons.

Callers flooded the airwaves as the story unfolded on talk radio. Most said it's OK to dislike guns, but it's in no way *kosher* for a bank to discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed or the nature of business someone is in. One outspoken radio host, Peter Boyles of Denver's KHOW, routinely rails against guns, the NRA and the Second Amendment. He described himself as a satisfied Norwest customer. Despite all that, he supported Glass, and criticized Norwest for turning him away because of the rifles he sells.

Not long after Glass spent more than an hour talking live on the Boyles show, he received a phone call from someone he described as a "sweet-talking" bank president. He told one newspaper the call, from bank president Mack, was like a "Kafkaesque turn of events."

"Bob, we had a terrible misunderstanding at the bank," Glass told a local newspaper, recalling his conversation with Mack. "It had nothing to do with you selling rifles."

Glass said Mack told him the refusal had to do with his appearance. Seems some bank employees, Mack told him, were frightened by his demeanor and his dogs.

Glass, who stands 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds, told the *Boulder Planet*, "I'm a middle-aged, balding guy with a nice gut on me, and I have two breeds of dogs specifically known for their gentleness."

Still, Glass remained open-minded. Perhaps he looked funny that day, for some reason he didn't understand. He asked to view a tape of the bank's video from that day, so he could discover what about his demeanor may have been intimidating. The bank refused him the tape, and continued to deny a written explanation for refusing his business.



Bob Glass, owner of Paladin Arms gun store, was told he couldn't open an account at Norwest Bank, in Longmont, Colo. His store features legal military-style weapons that someone at the bank considered objectionable.

Mack, and others at the bank, refused to answer questions by the media as to why Glass was turned away. By telling reporters it had nothing to do with the nature of his business, bank officials effectively implied it had something to do with the credibility or character of Bob Glass — known in his community as a financially stable, upstanding businessman who pays his bills on time.

"I do hundreds of thousands of dollars a year with Colorado National Bank," Glass told the Longmont *Daily Times-Call*. "I've never had any shady business practices, my credit is solid and I have nothing to hide."

Two weeks after Glass was turned away by Norwest, Colorado State Banking Commissioner Richard Fulkerson said the bank could be on "shaky legal ground" for turning him away, based on the nature of his business.

Getting nowhere toward obtaining a written explanation, Glass and Hill planned a peaceful demonstration at the bank on Friday, 8 May. Four days before the planned demonstration, Glass was scheduled to appear on the Marty Nalitz radio talk show, to discuss his dilemma.

That morning, Norwest again showed its paranoia and distrust in an episode related to the Glass controversy. Dr. Norm Resnick, a talk show host on KHNC radio, in Johnstown, Colo., walked into a Norwest branch, in Greeley, Colo., and asked to speak to the manager. The manager was unavailable. Resnick told a bank employee they should listen to the Nalitz show because "all hell was going to break loose on the radio."

He left the building and returned later to find police, a bomb squad and a bank evacuation. Later that day, he told his radio audience he'd have been face down wearing handcuffs had he not personally known several Greeley police officers at the scene. Resnick, a psychologist, once worked for the police department and was allowed to leave the Norwest premises after clearing things up.

"Like the incident involving Mr. Glass, this was a misunderstanding," said Cristie Drumm, public relations manager for Norwest Banks of Colorado. "Mr. Resnick went in and said something big was going to happen to Norwest, and the employee didn't hear him qualify that with 'on the radio.' It was unfortunate there was a misunderstanding."

That afternoon, as Resnick told his audience about the Greeley incident, Nelson met with Glass at Paladin Arms. Glass and Hill, his lawyer, agreed to meet with Nelson and other bank officials the next day.

What happened in that meeting has been classified "top secret" by Glass, Hill, Resnick and the others. Nobody's talking, but all seem happy. Glass even canceled the Norwest demonstration.

Publicly, the bank apologized to Mr. Glass and invited him to open an account. Other arrangements will remain a secret, insist Glass, Resnick, Hill and all other parties involved.

"We made some mistakes and it was unfortunate," Drumm said. "It's all been worked out and everyone walked away happy." ❌



BACKUPS: BACKUPS:

The Final Option

North American Arms' .32 ACP Guardian

by Peter G. Kokalis
Photos by Chris Mayer

Backups are just that and almost always nothing more. No backup pistol ever made, if it is truly a minuscule design, can come close to being an acceptable substitute for a Kimber Custom Classic .45 ACP pistol. And anyone who leaves his primary carry piece at home because his back hurts or he's tired and stuffs a marginal-caliber handgun in his pocket, either walks in an environment where no firearm is actually required

or is living in his own personal La-La-Land. It's possible that an operative in deep cover may only be able to carry a small pocket pistol in a groin holster. But, outside of Hollywood that's not a common scenario.

Backups are designed as secondary weapons. Unless the operation implodes, they will be rarely deployed. They are a form of insurance and as such they should be as reliable as possible, as small as possible and chambered for the largest caliber

that will fit into a Lilliputian envelope.

There are four options that more or less fit the above specifications, all of them .32 ACP pistols in a .25 ACP envelope: the new North American Arms, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 2150 South 950 East, Provo, UT 84606-6285; phone: 801-374-9990; fax: 801-374-9998; web site: <http://www.naaminis.com>) Guardian; the Beretta Tomcat; the Seecamp LWS; and the Autauga 32. We'll briefly discuss the latter three later.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent a production series specimen of the North American Arms (NAA) Guardian .32 ACP pistol for test and evaluation. Overall length is 4.36 inches (110.74 mm), with a height of 3.23 inches (82.04 mm) and a width of 0.850-inch (21.59 mm). The weight, empty, is 13.5 ounces (0.385 kg) and fully loaded, 14.8 ounces (0.420 kg). The barrel length is 2.185 inches (55.5 mm) with six-groove rifling and a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches (406.4 mm).

The frame is an investment casting of 17-4 stainless steel. The slide is machined from 17-4 stainless steel bar stock. The hammer, trigger, slide release and magazine catch are made by a process known as metal injection molding (MIM). This results in an exact component with no secondary machining required. The frame and top of the slide have a satin non-glare finish, while each side of the slide features an attractive high polish. The NAA eagle logo and "Guardian .32 ACP" in script are electro-etched on the right side of the slide, while the NAA eagle logo and "NORTH AMERICAN ARMS Provo, Utah" are electro-etched on the left side. There are 10 deep cocking serrations on each side of the slide.

Principally engineered by the highly regarded Israeli designer, Nehemia Sirkis, the pistol operates by means of unlocked blowback. Thus, the energy for the cycle of operations comes from the effect of gas pressure on the empty cartridge case. The

slide is not locked to the barrel. The trigger mechanism is double-action-only (DAO). Pulling the trigger moves the spring-loaded drawbar to the rear, which rotates the hammer. The hammer cannot be manually cocked. In its forward position, the hammer lies flush with the slide and frame. When the hammer has rotated rearward about 3/4-inch, the drawbar releases it to go forward and strike



NAA Guardian represents the latest trend in minuscule pocket pistols: a .32 ACP chambering in a .25 ACP envelope. (below) Right-side view; note slide release button on the frame directly under the cocking serrations and used for disassembly.



(below) Small backup pistols, such as the NAA Guardian, complement, but are no substitute for primary carry pieces such as this Colt Series 70 factory nickel Government Model.



Pocket Holsters For Pocket Pistols

Each NAA Guardian pistol is equipped with a black nylon DeSantis zip-open pouch and brass padlock. An elastic band on the inside secures both the pistol and a spare magazine. A steel clip on the outside permits belt carry. While this is a great storage pouch, I cannot endorse its use for presentation of the pistol, as it takes entirely too long to open the zipper. Throwing the NAA Guardian loose into your pocket is not an acceptable alternative, since every time you reach for the pistol it will be either upside down or backwards. Armed professionals do not carry pocket pistols in their pockets without first stuffing them into a properly designed holster. Remember, holsters of this type are not built for speed draws. They're designed to modify a pistol's configuration and inhibit it from "printing" through the clothing; and prevent it from rotating about in your pocket so that you can always reach the grip frame.



Andrews Pocket Holster.

Sam Andrews (Andrews Custom Leather, Dept. SOF, Rt. 4, Box 48, Alachua, FL 32615; phone: 904-462-0576 — send \$2 for catalog) provides several holsters that are ideal for deep concealment of the NAA Guardian .32 ACP pistol. Andrews has been crafting custom combat holsters for 22 years. Located in north central Florida, near Gainesville and just one hour south of the Georgia border, his customer base circles the globe, with a significant percentage of law enforcement personnel and now an even larger clientele of civilians, as a consequence of the spate of concealed carry legislation passed throughout the United States in the last several years.

Sam uses only number one grades of oak-tanned cowhide. All of his holsters are hand-molded and stitched with heavy bonded nylon thread, which is sealed to protect against the environment. Many of his holsters and belts feature a suede lining. His two models of pocket-type holsters do not.

Sam's standard Pocket Holster is shaped to fill the pocket and keep the pistol upright while also breaking up the outline to prevent "printing." This holster is constructed with the rough-side out so that it will stay in the pocket when the pistol is drawn. The skirts are molded on a curve to lay flat against the leg. For a pistol the size of the NAA Guardian, the Pocket Holster costs only \$25. For larger pistols, such as the AMT .45 ACP BACK UP DAO, the price is \$35.

This holster is ideal for carrying the NAA Guardian in a front pants pocket. I usually carry small backup pocket pistols in the front strong-side pocket as I carry my primary piece on the weak-side in a crossdraw holster. However some authorities, such as Ken Hackathorn, recommend carrying pistols of this type in the front weak-side pocket, in case you need the pistol while you're shaking hands. Whatever you decide, be sure to stipulate on what side you'll be carrying the pistol when you order a Pocket Holster from Andrews.



Andrews Wallet Holster.

Another alternative is the Andrews Wallet Holster. Unlike those you keep on the handgun while you shoot (possession of which together with the pistol constitutes an unregistered AOW — Any Other Weapon — according to the BATF), you must draw the weapon from this rig, which was designed mainly for hip-pocket carry. Another rough-side-out holster, its full-length shield faces the outside and it is welted below the pistol. Both features are intended to prevent "printing." This holster sells for \$45.

All of Sam Andrews' holsters are of the highest quality and meet the strictest professional standards. I can endorse these pocket holsters without qualifications.

— P.G.K.

the spring-loaded firing pin. There is no external safety. The trigger pull weight on our test specimen was exactly 10 pounds. The trigger is smooth, with no sharp edges. Two nested recoil springs have been utilized with a very short recoil-spring guide rod. A serious amount of muscle is required to retract the slide. There are no external, manual safeties.

As the magazine follower spring generates a considerable amount of stripping pressure, it's best to first load only two or three rounds in the magazine to prevent a feed jam during the manual loading process. Insert the magazine into the magazine well until you audibly confirm that the magazine catch has engaged and that the magazine has locked in place. Retract the slide fully, and let it fly forward to strip a round from the magazine and chamber it. Remove the magazine and load a full six rounds. There is a slight gap between the slide and the barrel and when a round has been chambered; you will be able to see the rim of the .32 ACP's semi-rimmed case.

The smooth, black nylon grip panels are furnished by Pearce Grip, Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 187, Bothell, WA 98041; phone: 425-485-5488; fax: 425-488-7102; web site: <http://www.pearcegrip.com>) Each grip panel, which carries the NAA logo, is attached to the frame by a single screw with a threaded hole on each side of the frame.

Each pistol is provided with two magazines manufactured by Promag Industries (Dept. SOF, 10654 South Garfield Avenue, South Gate, CA 90280; phone: 562-861-9554; fax: 562-861-6377; web site: <http://www.promagindustries.com>). These six-round, single-line, detachable, box-type magazines feature magazine bodies, followers and floorplates made of 17-7 stainless steel. There are four indicator holes on the right side of the magazine body. The floorplate can be removed in the conventional manner for complete disassembly of the magazine.

The magazine catch/release button is located on the left side of the frame, directly to the rear of the trigger guard. This is exactly where it belongs. When the button is depressed, empty magazines fall freely away.

The sights are small and fixed, but adequate. The blade-type front sight is integral with the barrel, which in turn, is part of the frame casting. The open square-notch rear sight is integral with the machined slide. It has become popular to scoff at sights on small pistols of this type. That is a potentially fatal error. While sights are certainly not required at contact distances, the average engagement range in a gunfight with handguns is 7 yards and under. Precisely how do these self-styled cognoscenti perform at 21 feet without sights? They invariably miss.

It cannot be stressed too much that small, unlocked, blowback-operated pocket pistols must be fired with as firm a grip as possible, preferably a two-handed Weaver hold. If you "limp wrist" a handgun of this type, the frame will invariably move rear-

Disassembly/Reassembly Procedures

Disassembly procedures are fairly clear cut. Remove the magazine and remove any round in the chamber by retracting the slide sharply and fully to the rear. Depress the slide release button, located on the right side of the frame directly below the slide's cocking serrations. While continuing to hold down on the slide release button, retract the slide ½-inch to clear the extractor from the chamber. Then lift the slide up 1 inch at the rear to clear the barrel. Move the slide forward along the length of the barrel and remove it from the frame assembly. Remove the recoil spring assembly from the frame and separate the components. Remove the grip panels. Disassemble the magazine. No further disassembly is advised.

After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble the recoil springs and insert the guide rod into the small end of the outer recoil spring. Then install the complete recoil spring assembly into the grooved, recessed chamber beneath the barrel with the guide rod forward. Re-install the grip panels and reassemble the magazine. Position the slide assembly on to of the frame, with the forward bridge of the slide positioned in the channel beneath the barrel, capturing the recoil slide assembly behind it. Move the slide ½-inch to the rear and pull the trigger slight-



NAA Guardian, fieldstripped.

ly, which will clear the top of the hammer from beneath the firing pin retainer. Depress the slide release button and simultaneously apply downward pressure on the slide, releasing the button after the slide has seated itself. Retract the slide with vigor to ensure positive seating lockup.
— P.G.K.

ward with the slide a short distance. Since the total rearward travel of the slide is very short in this type of envelope, if the frame also moves rearward to even a slight extent, the slide's rearward travel in relation to the frame will be incomplete and a "stove-pipe" malfunction (the empty case only partially ejected and thus stuck in the ejection port) will occur with unacceptable frequency.

The NAA Guardian stands out in comparison with its competitors, especially the Seecamp LWS, of which it is somewhat reminiscent. As the Seecamp is, more or less, a handmade handgun, you can either wait several years to pay \$375, or \$900 to \$1,200 to obtain one immediately from a *Shotgun News* scalper. Some Seecamp LWS pistols are reliable, however, a substantial

number that I have encountered are not. The Seecamp's magazine catch/release is located on the heel of the frame in the so-called "European" manner. This is an undesirable location. The Seecamp LWS has no sights. This is a serious deficiency. Even worse, it has been designed to fire only one cartridge, the Winchester Silvertip. There is now significantly more effective ammunition avail-

Probably designed exactly 100 years ago, when John Browning patented his first successful semiautomatic pistol, the .32 ACP (Automatic Colt Pistol) cartridge was introduced in Belgium in 1900 by *Fabrique Nationale*. In Europe it is more commonly known as the 7.65mm Browning round. It first appeared in the United States in 1903 when the Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company inaugurated the Colt Pocket Model Automatic Pistol, also based on Browning's patents.

Much ridiculed in the United States in recent decades, the .32 ACP cartridge has nonetheless accounted for its fair share of corpses in the last one hundred years. More pocket pistols have been chambered for this

The .32 ACP Cartridge

round than any other. It was always more popular in Europe and Latin America than the supposedly superior .380 ACP (9mm Kurz) round, merely by virtue of the fact that given the same envelope, pistols chambered for the .32 ACP invariably accept one more cartridge.

Because its case is semi-rimmed, several European revolvers were also chambered for the 7.65mm Browning. Over the years the case length has varied from about 17.2 mm to 17.4 mm (0.677-inch to 0.685-inch). The projectile weights vary from 55 to 76 grains. Round nose Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) bullets were the most prevalent type. Bullet diameters have also varied considerably, with 0.311-inch to 0.312-inch now the accepted standard. Muzzle velocities vary from approximately 900 to 980 fps for factory ammunition and from about 750 to 1,000 fps for reloads.

Certainly the .32 ACP round's performance is marginal. Of that there can be no dispute. However, in the last several years some fairly effective ammunition has been developed, as manufacturers have finally acknowledged the importance of bullet design. FMJ bullets should be avoided, as we need to maximize the size of the wound track to the greatest extent possible, without excessively compromising the depth of penetration.

SOF's tests indicate that Winchester's .32 ACP Silvertip ammunition (for which the Seecamp LWS was expressly designed) will penetrate 14.6 inches of soft tissue. That's good, but the Winchester bullet exhibits no more than incipient expansion. A much better choice is the Hornady Custom (Hornady Manufacturing Co., Dept. *SOF*, P.O. Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68802; phone: 308-382-13909; fax: 308-382-5761) .32 ACP load which features their 60-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) XTP projectile. Muzzle velocity is about 970 fps. This bullet will penetrate about 10.5 inches of soft tissue, somewhat less than the 12 inches desired by most wound ballistics authorities. It will expand to .40 caliber with the jacket petals forming a stellate pattern around the expanded lead core. While the jacket petals' sharp edges



NAA Guardian with Hornady Custom .32 ACP ammunition with 60-grain Jacketed Hollow Point XTP bullet.

will significantly increase the amount of damage, shot placement remains absolutely critical with this caliber. This is the best .32 ACP ammunition available at this time. Even so, neither over-estimate nor under-estimate this cartridge's potential and attempt nothing but upper torso or head shots, and at close ranges only. Remember, this is a backup (and, thus, a weapon of last resort) to your .45 ACP boomer.
— P.G.K.

NAA Guardian

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .32 ACP (7.65mm Browning).

Operation: Unlocked blowback. Double-action-only (DAO) trigger mechanism. No external safeties.

Weight, empty: 13.5 ounces (0.385 kg); loaded: 14.8 ounces (0.420 kg).

Length, overall: 4.36 inches (110.74 mm).

Height: (with the magazine inserted) 3.23 inches (82.04 mm).

Width: 0.850-inch (21.59 mm).

Barrel: Six-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches (406.4 mm).

Barrel length: 2.185 inches (55.5 mm).

Magazine: Six-round, single-column, detachable, box-type.

Sights: Fixed-front and rear; front sight is integral with the barrel, which, in turn, is part of the frame casting. The open square-notch rear sight is integral with the machined slide.

Finish: Stainless steel.

Price: \$425.

Manufacturer: North American Arms, Inc., Dept. SOF, 2150 South 950 East, Provo, UT 84606-6285; phone: 801-374-9990; fax: 801-374-9998; web site: <http://www.naaminis.com>.

T&E summary: The very best of the super compact .32 ACP backup pistols. Extremely compact. Reliable with a large variety of ammunition. Low-recoil impulse. Reasonably priced. Caliber adequate for backup use only. No external manual safeties.

ammunition. Recoil is not a consideration with this cartridge, no matter what the envelope of the pistol. At 7 yards, you can expect to fire 2- to 3-inch groups with a firm off-hand grip. That's perfectly acceptable for the work intended. During the counter-recoil stroke, when the trigger rebounds, those with large hands may get pinched.

This is a slick little backup pistol manufactured by a company justifiably well-known for their superb line of rimfire mini-revolvers, also frequently used as backup pieces. NAA's Guardian will soon become the most popular of the super small handguns. While its mission will remain clear to armed professionals, I fear that many may become beguiled and begin to carry it as a primary piece simply as a matter of convenience. That would be a mistake. My NAA Guardian rests in an Andrews Wallet Holster in my right hip pocket every day. However, in a cross-draw belt holster also rides one of the many M1911-type .45 ACP pistols in my battery. Suggested retail price of the North American Arms Guardian .32 ACP pistol is \$425. ❌

able in the .32 ACP chambering. The Seecamp LWS is difficult to disassemble. In spite of all that, it has a considerable cult following, which will probably evaporate as soon as the NAA Guardian becomes more available.

The Beretta Model 3032 Tomcat fares somewhat better in comparison to the NAA Guardian, although it's slightly larger. The Tomcat is not ammunition sensitive. It is reasonably priced and readily available. However, subsequent to my review of the Beretta ("Fistful of Fury," November '97) I have learned that a substantial number have been returned to the factory. Although our test specimen functioned perfectly, retailers have reported a high rate of returns to the factory for correction of unspecified problems.

We were unable to obtain an Autauga 32 for test and evaluation. However, it's designed for use exclusively with the Winchester Silvertip round. That precludes it from serious consideration, in my opinion.

We fired the NAA Guardian with several different brands of ball and hollowpoint .32 ACP ammunition. There was only one stoppage, a last-round-in-the-magazine stovepipe with Winchester Silvertip



The NAA Guardian's sights (above) are small, fixed, but entirely adequate for the envelope. (right) Each NAA Guardian pistol is equipped with a black nylon DeSantis zip-open pouch and brass padlock.



A bevy of backups: (top to bottom) NAA Guardian, NAA mini-revolver chambered for the .22 rimfire magnum cartridge and Beretta Tomcat.

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After five of their members had been shot, bludgeoned and stabbed to death in a series of "warning messages" issued during the summer of 1996, the Russian paramilitary group known as the National Patriotic Front (*Pamiat*) decided to seek professional counseling when later that year a sixth member turned up dead just outside his Moscow home.

As *Pamiat*'s nominal second-in-command Aleksander Potkin recalled to *SOF*, "We knew that the killer, a cowardly Zionist, had gone into hiding somewhere in Israel. So we hired a Palestinian hit man to have him killed. We thought either a simple car bomb or a bullet to the neck would work."

The hit, according to Potkin, was botched, and when word filtered back to Moscow the contract was terminated. "The man we asked to do the job betrayed us. We will have time to deal with these matters later," Potkin said. "Now, however, our financial and security situation doesn't allow us to make a second attempt."

After years of covering the American militia and paramilitary

al security service, the FSB, which has a special department to keep tabs on these "militias" or any group which they deem poses a threat to national security.

Russia's 100 or so known paramilitary groups draw their members from a growing percentage of disaffected young men and women who, with the collapse of communism and the explosion of crime and minority-fueled nationalism in many former Soviet states bordering Russia's southern flank, have come together for collective security, religious beliefs and to fight, if necessary, to get their political voices heard.

The vast majority of Russia's paramilitary groups live a cellular existence, with little or no contact with other similar groups. Most, according to the FSB, spring up and attract a small core of members before disintegrating within months, from a lack of money and internal bickering. Few ever develop enough to attract a national following.

Some of Russia's paramilitary groups have also involved themselves in criminal activities, like robbery and the looting of state



Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

arena, *SOF* recently spent months researching and building contacts with members of three Moscow-based "militias," including *Pamiat* — which means "memory" in Russian — before heading off to the Wild East to see for ourselves what made them tick.

Brought together by collective philosophies, political aims and fears, dozens of paramilitary groups have sprung up across Russia in recent years since the breakup of the former Soviet Union and subsequent liberalization of government attitudes toward political dichotomy.

Like their American counterparts, Russia's paramilitary groups are seriously concerned with their personal and group security. Many have had run-ins with the police and the Russian state nation-



"You can't buy the uniforms ... you have got to make it yourself," noted Aleksander Potkin, second in command of *Pamiat*. Heraldry assumes an important role in *Pamiat*: Here Potkin shows symbol of Czarist Russia, compares it to that of the Russian Federation, who, he says, stole it.

industries and armories, to raise funds. Still others have outsourced themselves as mercenaries to keep money flowing into their coffers.

All of the groups *SOF* spoke with had access to weapons, but, unlike their American counterparts, none made the possession of those weapons a major tenet of their existence. There is no Second Amendment in the Russian constitution guaranteeing the right to bear arms. In fact, there are few words in the Russian constitution guaranteeing anything to anyone.

"The only thing I ever felt was guaranteed me by the state was misery," said Tamara, *SOF*'s rather beefy translator, in response to my comment that most American militia and paramilitary groups regard themselves as strong defenders of the U.S. Constitution.

The Men In Black

After being cleared for entry into the two story, nondescript rose-colored office building on Moscow's Volovayo street, about two miles south of the Kremlin, we walked up to the first landing where

we were met by a rather young blond-haired boy wearing Pamiat's trademark black uniform and black riding boots.

At the door I was given a quick pat-down for weapons and then asked to remove my shoes before being permitted to enter Pamiat's offices. Another Pamiat member, also in uniform, came out in the hallway to ID Tamara and myself. We were told to sit down and wait.

While one of the men went to tell our contact we had arrived, the other stood in the corner, one hand on a leather pouch above his hip and both eyes on my camera bag. The air was thick with paranoia. Pamiat, it seemed, didn't get many outside visitors.

We were then led into the office of Aleksander Potkin, 22, who stood up and shook hands by gripping my forearm with his outstretched hand and pumping it a few times before offering me a seat. Two other men stared busily at computer monitors at desks opposite us, putting together what looked like a newsletter. Neither reacted to our arrival.

Potkin said he's been a member of Pamiat since 1990, when at the age of 14 he walked off the streets into Vasiliev's office and



Inside Russia's Renaissance Militias



vowed to fight for Pamiat until his "last days."

"Russian people should stop saying that it's impossible to restore Russian hegemony and power, that there is not any way to restore our economic greatness," Potkin said. "We have the way ... it is the Russian liberalization movement represented by Pamiat led by Dimitri Vasiliev."

"Zionism and Freemasonry are the permanent enemies of the Russian nation," Potkin went on. "These forces of world evil managed to make the Russian revolution of 1917. For 80 years it was Judeo-Bolshevism that destroyed a Great Russia. The only answer is a return to Czarist rule."

Pamiat founder Dimitri Vasiliev, center, attends Russian Orthodox Easter services in Moscow with some of his core cadre. In a return to "Czarist rule," it would be interesting to observe how the new Czar is selected.

Potkin said that Russia's woes could all be traced back to a Zionist plot. "Look at *Gazprom's* [one of Russia's largest oil producers] president, the president of TV-1 in Moscow, Agro-Bank, etc., they're all headed by Jews."

"The Second World War was on the surface a fight between Hitler and Stalin," Potkin said. "Germany was destroyed, and Russia was left a cripple with no legs and no arms. The only winners were the Jews. They got Israel, and the German government gave them money. No Russians got money from Germany."

"Now," he added, "the Zionists are in a plot to destroy the Swiss with the gold."

Potkin said Pamiat's leader, Dimitri Vasiliev, a portly, 52-year-old Russian version of David Koresh, could not meet with us, and instead offered to "educate" us himself about Pamiat and its history.

"Why can't Vasiliev meet with us?" I asked.

A cold, blank stare was my answer, followed by a comment about the last journalist Pamiat had tolerated, a German, who made rather unflattering photographs of Vasiliev and had to be removed from their office.

Well, Uh, Nice Uniform

Trying to lighten things up a bit, I asked about Pamiat's distinctive black uniforms. Potkin said that they were based on the uniforms of the Czarist guard, and that they were made from the material generally used for Russian navy admirals.

"You can't buy the uniforms as is," Potkin said, "you have got to make it yourself."

And what about becoming a member of Pamiat?

According to Potkin, there is a one-year probation period followed by more time where the "warriors," as he called all Pamiat members, proves their devotion. When asked what that meant, Potkin smiled like a Cheshire cat and said "you wouldn't understand."

"Any women in Pamiat?" *SOF* asked. Like many of Potkin's



Potkin shows *SOF* secret documents compiled by police against Pamiat. Paranoia runs deep and swift through Russian paramilitaries, often with good reason: five Pamiat members were shot, bludgeoned or stabbed to death in a series of "warning messages" issued during the summer of 1996. If worrying about competing groups and the government were not burdensome enough, "Zionism and Freemasonry are the permanent enemies of the Russian nation," Potkin said.

front of men, who will be reclining on couches."

Potkin said Pamiat members were like monks, not in the religious sense, but in the meaning that they were "vehicles for God's work and words. ... Members must behave with the piety of a monk and with the conviction of a monk," Potkin went on.

"We get members from many sources," Potkin said. "I, for example, had a calling. As the Bible said, many have a calling, but few are chosen."

After one year a pledge may become a full Pamiat member. Potkin wouldn't tell *SOF* how many core and peripheral members Pamiat had, but said they had chapters in many cities across Russia.

Potkin said that many Pamiat members had either served in, or were presently serving in, the Russian armed forces.

"What unit did he serve in?" *SOF* asked Potkin.

"I didn't serve," came the answer. He then admitted that part of the reason he didn't serve was because his older brother had been killed by a fellow soldier during his stint in the army three years before. When pressed for details, Potkin said he would rather not talk about it.

Potkin said that today's army is not a real Russian army because it does not respect the constitution and has gone against the people.

For example, he said, a group of Pamiat warriors, as Potkin referred to all Pamiat members, had just returned from a trip to the region of Russia bordering Chechnya, where they helped induct new Pamiat members and hand out humanitarian aid to Russians living in poverty.

"We met with soldiers from the Russian army's 205th Corps," Potkin said. "I use them as an example, because the way Russians say 205 can also sound like the word drunk in a Caucasus dialect. There is a double meaning here. This unit is a disgrace, and is representative of the entire Russian army. Their soldiers were selling their Kalashnikovs for 300 rubles (\$50) to local hoodlums."

Just Can't Trust Anybody

Potkin recalled an incident three years before when a group of Pamiat warriors had fought in Chechnya under contract to the



Another of Russia's 100 or so known paramilitary groups, tucked away in the sub-basement of a dust-caked tenement just behind Moscow's Park Kultury metro station is Renaissance, one of the more radical groups. Valery Ivanovich Skurlatov (above) is its 56-year-old leader and spokesman, who told *SOF* Renaissance is a small group of "real Russians." "I'm no religious crazy," Skurlatov told *SOF*. "I'm a political realist. I want to see Yeltsin and his gang of criminals court-martialed ... We are not afraid of spilling blood ... We are ready to resist. We are radicals, not conformists ... We are not nationalists ... Nationalism is evil." Photo of Renaissance founder, who died in Russian army in Moldova in 1992, hangs above *SOF*'s Rubenesque translator (right).



Russian army and came very close to being stranded and captured.

"Our team was told to be at a certain place at a certain time for a pick-up by a helicopter," Potkin said. "All of the warriors could get there except one. He was late, and the only way he could get back to Moscow was to sell part of his equipment to some locals. It was a mistake. When he returned to Moscow, and was asked by the army to return his gun and equipment, they arrested him because some of it was missing."

Potkin said it took thousands of dollars to pay for his freedom, but added that when "one wants to play with the devil, you can expect to be hurt."

Potkin acknowledged that although he avoids anything to do with the military, many Pamiat warriors had served as volunteers and paid mercenaries in Bosnia, Chechnya and Ngorno Karabach.

"They have to support themselves somehow," he added.

When *SOF* asked if we could photograph Pamiat's office and some of the warriors working there, Potkin said no, but suggested we meet him on Saturday night at midnight to celebrate Orthodox Easter mass with Pamiat's senior staff.

"You can make photographs there," Potkin said.

No Non-Russians Allowed

It was time to go and meet up with Aleksander Barkashov, nominal leader of one of Russia's most extreme paramilitary groups, the Russian National Unity Party (RNE), and his second in command, Aleksander Rashitsky.

"Mr. Rashitsky does not want to meet with you," the female voice said through the door intercom at the militia's offices. "Sorry. Good-bye."

That was our welcome. A voice on the intercom and then silence. Pamiat's Potkin had been right, Rashitsky was a "ruffian."

Tamara decided to call Rashitsky on our cellular phone, but was told that no one from the National Unity Party wanted to meet with us. We were not Russians, we were told, and, therefore, didn't possess the right perspective.

"Would that decision change in the next few hours or the next few days?" Tamara asked Rashitsky.

"No," came the answer. "You want to make a mockery of us. We don't want anything to do with non-Russians. That's all."

We called Sergei Panasenko, the editor of the Russian-language edition of *SOF*, for some advice.

"Sorry, I don't know what to do," Panasenko told us. "The RNE doesn't trust us either. We're seen as too mainstream for them."

SOF had been turned down. But with the aid of the group's quarterly newspaper, *Russian Order*, and interviews with several Russians on the fringe of the paramilitary movement, we were able to put together a small picture of the group and its philosophy.

Like Pamiat, The National Unity Party bases its existence on a strong belief in Russian nationalism and the Orthodox Church, coupled with strong doses of anti-Semitism and the idea that might makes right.

Their supporters and core members, which number around 170,000 throughout Russia, like to parade around in distinctive cammo-pattern uniforms with black berets. In 1997 RNE members in Minsk, Belarus, were arrested for trying to rob an armored car, and a year earlier RNE members in Ukraine had been linked to the looting of an Ukrainian army armory, according to a correspondent at Russia's InterFax news agency. RNE's flag — the black bordered outline of a swastika covered by the black bordered outline of a cross on a bright red field — has even prompted a number of lawsuits against the paramilitary group.

Over the period of a week, *SOF* tried to contact the RNE and arrange for a meeting, and even said we would settle for a photo op at a public demonstration, but we were consistently told no.

Renaissance Men

Time and money were getting low, and while we weren't tiring of vodka and Guinness every day at Moscow's John Bull Pub, Tamara had lucked out and arranged for a face-to-face meeting with the leadership of the paramilitary group Renaissance.

Tucked away in the sub-basement of a dust-caked tenement just behind Moscow's Park Kultury metro station, Renaissance's HQ more resembles the untidy basement of an aged bachelor stricken by Alzheimer's than the home base for one of Russia's more radical paramilitary groups.

There was no number or sign on the black metal door that led down three flights of stairs into a rat-warren of pipes, piles of old newspapers and the never-ending cranking of an old printing press.

"Go through that door," a middle-aged man acting as security said to us when we finally came to what appeared to be Renaissance's offices. "Mr. Skurlatov will see you now."

Valery Ivanovich Skurlatov is Renaissance's 56-year-old leader and spokesman. "I'm no religious crazy," Skurlatov said, flanked by two unidentified senior Renaissance members, one of whom could have been a twin to Julius Rosenberg. "I'm a political realist. I want to see Yeltsin and his gang of criminals court-martialed for their crimes against Russia."

Skurlatov told *SOF* that Renaissance is a small group of "real Russians" whose founder died while serving the Russian army in Moldova in 1992.

"We didn't know what it meant to be Russian until the 1993 coup against Yeltsin," Skurlatov went on. "We thought we were fighting for the same things as everyone else. We were wrong. We were betrayed. There was a Judas among us, and his name was Boris Yeltsin."

Skurlatov said that he had an agreement with Yeltsin to share power with Renaissance after the coup, but that Yeltsin had become "drunk with power" and infected by "outside elements."

"We lost three of our members defending him at the White House [siege] in 1993," Skurlatov said. "He fucked us, and he will pay with his life."

"We Are Radicals"

After arresting and executing Yeltsin, Skurlatov explained, Renaissance members would take over all of Russia's strategic ministries and the armed forces.

When asked if Renaissance had the kind of weaponry it would take to overthrow the Russian government, Skurlatov answered that "yes," his men had access to plenty of guns and weapons.

When he was pressed to show us some of the guns he would use, Skurlatov leaned over to confer with the Julius Rosenberg look-a-like.

"That will not be possible," came back the answer. "We have enemies, and although they are weaker than us, we cannot show them our strength until it is necessary."

Skurlatov said Renaissance doesn't have a time-table or a master plan for overthrowing the present Russian government, but said that he would know when the time was right by "sniffing the wind."

He then added that one of Renaissance's biggest problems is the FSB. "They have infiltrated us with enemies," the group's leader explained. "They listen to our telephone calls. They video us and they follow us."

"God help them when we find them," Skurlatov said. "We will deal with them quickly and painfully. We are not afraid of spilling blood."

"We are ready to resist. We are radicals, not conformists," Renaissance's leader went on. "We are not nationalists, but we do believe in a strong Russia. Nationalism is evil."

SOF's Budapest-based Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark Milstein covers events in Europe and the Middle East. ✕



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Mindanao Meltdown

Continued from page 39

hardware is coming into the Front's arsenal is mostly bought from corrupt AFP elements, and that doesn't come cheap: a black-market M16A1 on Mindanao these days sells for around \$675.

But against the odds, the MILF has developed its own indigenous arms production capability.

Trekking up into jungle-covered hills behind the military academy, I was taken to a complex of carefully separated huts and bunkers where young guerrillas were busy over hand-lathes and blow torches manufacturing parts of locally made RPG-2 grenade launchers. The MILF also produces the warheads. In charge of production was an officer, in his late thirties, with seven years' training and combat experience in Afghanistan behind him. As he told it, MILF-manufactured RPGs had already been used to good effect in the defense of Abu Bakr and in 1997 had knocked out AFP armored vehicles on Basilan Island, where clashes have flared regularly.

Predictably, the steady MILF buildup has fueled tensions with the AFP that have several times threatened to spill over into generalized hostilities. Despite the July 1997 "cessation of hostilities" agreement and the revival of negotiations, tension rose again in October over a bizarre incident in which two foreigners, an Egyptian and a Pakistani, were killed in a shootout with army troops inside the AFP's 6th Division base at Camp Siongeo, near Cotabato. Three soldiers died, too. In the aftermath of the incident, 2,000 troops closed in on Abu Bakr and threatened to overrun the enclave on the grounds it was serving as a base for "foreign terrorists." The standoff was eventually defused. But it underscored the fact that both the MILF and the renegade terrorist "Abu Sayyaf" faction (see box) both have links to foreign Islamist networks that keep military intel lights in Manila burning late.

Fighting flared again in January with tension aggravated by the operations of a local logging company — with powerful Manila connections — felling trees on a government concession near the perimeter of Abu Bakr. Then, after an agreement at the February round of negotiations, mortar exchanges and firefights were finally terminated by an AFP pullback of 5 kilometers.

But frustration in army ranks is mounting. After a two-day visit to Abu Bakr I called in at Camp Siongeo to meet the 6th Division commander, Brigadier General Rolando Bautista. He was less than amused by the ongoing standoff and has his own take on MILF strategy. "They're consolidating and training and they're trying to drag out these talks to gain more time and space," he fumed.

"This whole strategy of negotiating is just delaying us."

Club Med Not Ahead

You can see his point. But the perceptions of bad faith are mutual. BIAF commanders are equally convinced government forces are probing their defenses in preparation for an assault. "If the government attacks any of our camps," Salamat Hashim told me when I met him at Abu Bakr, "there'll be an all-out war all over Mindanao."

Maybe. And then again, maybe not. Behind the jabbing and feinting that both the BIAF and the AFP are engaged in, another dynamic is at work. Neither side can yet afford war and both know it. As Bautista conceded, the army could overrun Abu Bakr and other MILF strongholds. But an operation on that scale and a return to guerrilla war would be both costly in terms of lives and impose a huge financial burden on a government currently trying to down-size its military. It would also risk collapsing the 1996 deal with the MNLF, one of the major achievements of the Ramos administration. For Manila, the MNLF route — a protracted negotiation that gains time while chipping away at contentious issues — is viewed as a far more attractive means of handling the MILF.

At the top of the MILF leadership, meanwhile, it's political pragmatism, not religious fanaticism, that defines the agenda. And for the moment the agenda is a high-risk strategy of maintaining political and military pressure on Manila that avoids pushing both parties over the precipice. The front's maximum program maintains a drum beat of demands for a referendum among "native Mindanaons" (specifically excluding post-1935 Christian settlers) on the desirability of a separate Islamic state: something that no Manila government could ever contemplate. But, at the same time, beyond the hardline sloganeering there's interest in exploring lesser, more realistic options.

MILF chairman Salamat Hashim put it this way: "The so-called Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao does not represent real autonomy, so we are sticking with our idea that we cannot accept anything less than independence. But if some real, practical, attractive alternative were to come up (in negotiations) then it's possible we could change our minds."

But finding that "practical alternative" is going to be no easy task for either Manila or the MILF.

Slow, patient negotiations aimed at establishing some form of far-reaching self-rule for a Muslim region in Mindanao, where Islamic law holds sway, may yet satisfy both sides.

But for the mid-term future, Mindanao remains a dangerously unstable time bomb. Defusing it will be a risky, time-consuming process in which the potential for miscalculation and a nationally destabilizing explosion is real.

Investments from Club Med will be a while yet.

Mike Winchester's reports have appeared in SOF for more than a decade. ✕

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Seeds Of Discontent

Continued from page 53

for environmental agencies and private groups, he has mostly contempt for the leadership and their agendas.

"They haven't done this kind of work themselves," he said. "They're losing the endangered species everywhere else. So eventually, these endangered species may only exist here. So anyone who inherits this [preserve] is going to inherit big trouble.

Avoiding An Eventuality?

"This is something that's never been properly understood by the public," he told *SOF*. "Hawaii's entire environmental movement depends on systematically deceiving the public. ... They depend on their power and their fund-raising ability on keeping the public totally deceived on one supremely important point: Hawaii's endangered species are no longer capable of maintaining naturally self-sustaining populations in the wild.

"That seems logical," Robinson said. "If they were, these plants would not be endangered. But environmentalists promote "the false perception that if they spend a lot of money — preferably someone else's money — and if they take away rights — preferably someone else's property rights — and if they are allowed to bully people, then they can save these plant species for the greater common good."

"It just won't work," he added. "As you can see in my preserve, these species have to be constantly tended; coddled. And the second you relax, they go into decline.

"This is the great lie, the big lie, that sustains the environmental movement and their programs and their agenda in Hawaii. Without that, they would have no excuse to destroy people's freedoms and private property rights. They want to sacrifice individual freedom on the altar of political correctness for the greater good, which for them means more money and more power, but not more good.

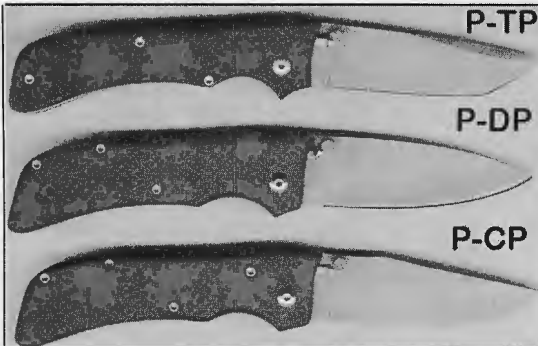
"So they have never admitted that Hawaii's endangered species are no longer capable of maintaining themselves in the wild. But ... they get trapped by their own rhetoric. So they go around trying to preserve two plants on a mountain over here, and two more on a mountain 50 miles away. There are roughly 13,000 separate locations in the islands of Hawaii where endangered plant species are recorded to exist.

"There is no way," he said, "it would be logistically and economically possible to go out to every one of those 13,000 sites every week or two and tend these plants. It can't be done. So the only logical thing now is to take those plants ... and bring them under cultivation in areas where they can be grown together in concentration and be protected ... That's where I have the big advantage over everybody else."

"The other reason is, in most cases, the last few survivors of a particular type of

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plant ... are the last remnants of destroyed ecosystems. ... And those ecosystems are ... not coming back. It's very unrealistic to expect that you can preserve two little violets in the middle of what is now a hot smoking plain where once there was a cool, damp shaded forest. It's better to take those two little violets and carefully and lovingly transplant them to somewhere" more conducive to their survival, such as a preserve.

"Actually, extinction is part of the natural process and evolution of life on this planet," Robinson said. "Looking at it very cynically, all I'm doing is preserving biological incompetence. Sometimes I get very cynical when I'm sitting out there at 12 o'clock at night in the cold and the rain and wondering why I'm there, when everyone else is nice and snug and warm in bed with their wives and girlfriends.

False, But Profitable, Doctrine

"But the eco-Nazis and tree-huggers perpetrate this lie that if you spend enough and bully people enough and take away enough freedom — and with these type of people, it's never enough — that you'll be able to restore and maintain what nature has left behind."

Well, I said, playing devil's advocate, what about the success in saving such animals as the bald eagle?

"That's different," Robinson explained. "The bald eagle is part of a continental ecosystem. It's not part of an island ecosystem. The

eagle never reached biological incompetence. All we had to do was relieve the pressure of man's civilization and it would come back naturally, on its own. And it did.

"But man's pressure can be relieved all through the islands and non-native organisms will continue to overwhelm Hawaii's delicate plant ecosystems. It's totally different. But the environmental groups and botanical gardens refuse to allow that to become public doctrine, because if it did, they would lose their power base and their ability to raise funds, their justification to exercise power over people and their justification to spend all this money on themselves," he said. "So in my opinion, Hawaii's environmental movement has become almost totally corrupt."

When I mentioned my astonishment at how much tax money the environmentalists ask for, Robinson smiled broadly.

"The environmental groups and botanical gardens ... started to drool over the possibility of all that available government money," he said. "Basically they ... found ways to make my work illegal. I became a threat to their monopoly, to their bureaucratic turf."

The environmental bureaucrats, Robinson said, "wallow around in air-conditioned theory ... with their cost estimates and wish lists, while I'm out there with a pick and shovel, quietly planting ... pulling steadily ahead of them. There's no preserve

like mine anywhere else in Hawaii. And Hawaii is, far and away, the endangered species capital of the United States."

Robinson is, he acknowledges with a chuckle, a sort of anti-environmentalist environmentalist. "I prefer to think of myself, though, as a conservation worker. That's all. I think most of these environmentalists stink, because they're allergic to doing hard work, unless there's a big pot of government money waiting for them at the end of their rainbow of lies."

He believes that, eventually, the government "will try to get control of my preserve some way. I know how those people operate. They have nothing but contempt for private property rights. ... So they'll invent some kind of theory to take over.

"The most menacing aspect of the U.S. government is its utter lack of accountability," said Robinson. "Our judges and politicians and bureaucrats are experts at dodging blame for their evil actions. ... The government has now become the ally of the worst and most irresponsible elements of society. Honest people all over the United States are learning to fear it.

"Wherever the forces of good and evil clash," he said, "there you will find our government, undermining morality, abolishing private property rights, destroying personal freedom and systematically subverting the principles on which the United States was founded." ✕

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countries. They've sacrificed a good deal of financial and personal benefits, have spent time away from their families, with a lot of things going on in their lives, and yet they were willing to make this kind of sacrifice to defend their respective countries," said Maxey, captain of Team U.S.A. "And that's what makes this different than any event you'll ever see. We're warriors, each one of us. We're not fighters, or boxers, and we're not out there to be very pretty. But for four-and-a-half minutes of fighting you're going to see one of the most intense events you've ever seen in your life." Those attending the press conference whooped and applauded.

The Showdown

The Pentagon-shaped ring, specially designed for the event, sat waiting in the new Fayetteville Crown Coliseum. At 2100 hours, on 31 January, it came to life. The 6,000 seats filled quickly; which, for a first show, was better than expected. The Fort Bragg big-wigs, however, were nowhere to be seen. Bonecrusher Smith, the former heavyweight boxing champ, milled about ringside.

The rules were simple. Three one-and-a-half minute rounds with one-minute rests in between. The ways to win: by knockout, TKO or points. One point would be gained for each knockdown. Three knockdowns make a TKO. It was designed to be fast and furious, with no grappling to slow things down.

It wasn't supposed to be a boxing match, or a no-holds-barred fight. It was supposed to be warriors in hand-to-hand combat. A tough-man contest between trained killers.

"It's a different mentality," Maxey said. "When you get in the ring you have the mentality of fighting, but in combat you're there to kill. You kind of have to tune that out in something like this."

How could an event fail based on such a theme?

The first bout ended in a draw between Jose Garcia of Mexican special operations, and Luis Rodriguez of American Army Intelligence. The U.S. scored its first win in the second bout when Marine Recon

Jose Quesada brought Spanish counterterrorist Jesus Dominguez down twice in the first round.

The third, fourth and fifth bouts brought three consecutive victories for Team World. Russian Spetsnaz Sergei Beechkov prevailed over Air Force PJ Joseph Epperson by TKO as a result of cuts. And British SAS instructor Carl Richardson hammered out a TKO over Marine Recon Matthew Ortiz. Then Japanese Boat Squadron Shoji Ito knocked out Marine Corps veteran William Greene with a devastating shot to his solar plexus. Marine fans ringside called out increasingly derogatory remarks to the non-English speaking Ito, who only smiled and bowed at them politely.

Team U.S.A. made a comeback in the sixth bout as ex-Airborne Tim Tillman defeated Ukraine MIA Aleksandr Maksimov.

In perhaps the most electrifying bout of the evening, former Marine Jacob Sellars took a victory over Canadian SarTech Emilio de Chantal. The pair exchanged blow after bone-shattering blow as the crowd thundered from the stands.

"I hit him (de Chantal) with at least five or six shots that I knew would have put anyone else down on the canvas. But he just shook them off and kept on coming," Sellars said following the fight. "I have nothing but respect for that man. He is the toughest guy I have ever fought and I'm fortunate to have won."

The second draw of the evening came in the eighth bout between Lebanese Special Commando Force member Saade Ibrahim El-Maalouf and ex-Army Ranger Moses Smalls. But Team U.S.A. gained another lead in the ninth bout when 42-year-old (oldest competitor) ex-Army Airborne Steve Munns defeated Cuban Special Navy Ops Reinaldo Hernandez Cabrera.

Neck and neck, Team World and Team U.S.A. were showing they both had what it takes to be the champion. It was a fervent and hell-bent charge toward victory for both teams as the first, and only, female competitors entered the ring. Natasha Larionova, of the former Russian KGB, had ample ring experience while her competitor, Air Force Combat Squadron member Christine Waicukauski, had very little. Although near-

ly identical in size, it was Larionova who won by a TKO, and brought Team U.S.A. and Team World once more to a tie.

The fight that garnered the most vehement outrage and ecstasy from the front-row Marines (who slung spittle and sweat and fists within inches of my ears) was the all-out brawl between former Marine Recon John Bates and Belarus Spetsnaz Dmitrei Stepanov. Bates decimated the larger Stepanov, racking up four knockdowns before the fight was stopped. Stepanov, slumped on the canvas, was counted out.

However, it still wouldn't be an easy lead for Team U.S.A. Team World drew ahead once more as former Cuban special ops Raul Garcia Pena put former Marine Travis Barnes down flat on the canvas, with a right hook, where he remained for several crucial moments.

With all the excitement coming from the crowd, after nearly three hours of non-stop action, Arnott and the rest of his production crew were affixed with pleased grins.

As for dominance, it was a close call. Eventually, both teams held five wins each, plus three draws as the final three bouts remained. Former Marine Rob Willems stepped into the ring, opposing Estonian ministry of internal affairs (ex-KGB) Lieutenant Aliynd Uusmees. In a mere 47 seconds, Willems levelled Uusmees, winning the match by knockout and taking Team U.S.A. back to the front.

It was a lead they would hold. The last two bouts — between Lebanese Special Commando Force member Nabil Kassem Hachim and former Marine Richard Miranda, and the final bout between Belarus GRU Spetsnaz Igor Dorojinki and Team U.S.A. Captain Maxey — ended in a draw.

Team U.S.A. had won. Mission accomplished. It was time for those beers now.

Two more pay-per-view windows have been reserved for more U.S.A. vs. The World events; however, locales and dates have not been set.

Robin Postell resides in Georgia, and is Soldier Of Fortune's contributing editor for adventure sports. For more information about USA vs. The World, check out the website at www.USAvsWORLD.com; or contact Don Arnott at 250-751-2342. ✕

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Continued from page 35

gas. As one young German corporal would later write, "... my eyes had turned into glowing coals; it had grown dark around me." That corporal was Adolf Hitler.

By war's end, a total of 124,000 tons of toxic agents were used by all sides. Approximately 95,000 personnel were killed (1.4% of total deaths) and 1,250,000 injured (5.4% of total wounded) by poison gas ... or about 2,610 pounds of agent-per-kill, or 198 pounds-per-wounded.

Prelude To War

To the relief of all the warring parties, the Second World War saw chemical weapons held in reserve. The fact that they weren't used came as somewhat of a surprise, considering developments during the pre-war years.

In North Africa during January 1936, Italian Fascist troops used both phosgene and mustard gases on the Ethiopians. At the same time, a continent away, Imperial Japanese troops were laying waste to parts of China with both chemical and biological weapons.

Perhaps the most important development came in late 1936 when German chemist Gerhard Schrader, while working on a new organo-phosphate insecticide, opened the door to a whole new world of chemical warfare agents with the discovery of what would come to be known as nerve agents. The first of these rapid-acting poisons was Tabun (GA) and by 1938 the Germans synthesized the even more powerful Sarin (GB).

Exactly why the Nazis didn't employ chemical weapons has been a subject of many debates. Their factories had the capacity to produce some 12,000 tons of agent per month and it was estimated that they may have had as much as 200,000 tons in stockpile. Two of the most compelling reasons were, firstly that, due to faulty intelligence, they believed the Allies had developed their own nerve agents and could retaliate ton-for-ton. And, secondly, Hitler held a morbid dread of CW from his own WWI experience.

This is not to say that there weren't incidents. One of the most notorious occurred on the night of 2 December 1943 when *Luftwaffe* bombers attacked the Italian port of Bari. Within minutes of the air raid, sailors were diving into the sea to escape the blazing ships. Within hours, men began dying. Soon, at least 20 were dead and hundreds were suffering from eye damage and blisters on their bodies consistent with mustard-gas poisoning.

Had the Germans unleashed a chemical attack on Bari? In fact, chemical bombs were responsible for the carnage that night, but they weren't German ... they were American. Some 2,000 mustard bombs were on board the American merchant ship *S.S. John Harvey*, moored in the port. Although U.S. chemical agents were being stockpiled in the ETO during WW II, it was denied by the Pentagon until 1959, when documents relat-

ing to the Bari incident were declassified.

During the Korean War, China and North Korea, as a matter of course, accused the United States of using CBW, but no proof was ever provided.

During the Vietnam War, the United States used riot-control agent CS against enemy tunnel complexes and, in turn, the VC and NVA used captured CS against our side. By far, the largest use of chemicals involved defoliants. These agents included:

- Agent Blue: Used for grass control and rice-crop destruction;
- Agent Purple: A general defoliant;
- Agent White: A woody-plant killer; and the infamous
- Agent Orange: Designed to control broad-leaf weeds, trees and brush, Agent

Orange killed plants by sending them into a very rapid and self-destructive growing binge. Containing the cancer-causing chemical dioxin as a by-product impurity, Agent Orange has been linked to cancer and other ailments in thousands of Vietnam veterans.

In the years following the Vietnam war, the former Soviet Union and other powers had a field day with the use of chemical and biological weapons against Third World countries, as we will see in Part Two of this story.

During his Army career, Rick Sherrow, SOF's contributing editor for forensic sciences, served as a staff instructor at the Seventh Army CBR School, Vilseck, Germany, and the CB-EOD School, Fort McClellan, Ala. ☒



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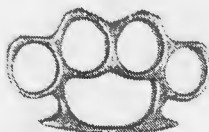
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Combat Weaponcraft

Continued from page 31

enemy soldiers using a tree for cover and simply firing at them through the tree.

Many objects that provide cover from 5.56mm rifle or SAW fire are not cover from 7.62 NATO rifle or machine-gun fire.

In my AO in Vietnam these were generally trees or bunker-type fighting positions constructed from logs; in other places, likely building walls, fences, car or truck bodies, sand bags, and various makeshift barricades.

I fully realize that the newer 5.56mm round, with its slightly heavier bullet and steel core, has superior penetration to the old 5.56mm ball of the Vietnam era. However, it is still not up to getting through such things as moderately thick trees that the 7.62mm round can defeat with relative ease.

It is interesting to survey an area for cover that would stop a 7.62mm NATO FMJ bullet. I live in a rural area on a small farm. Surveying the area within 100 yards of my house, there is nothing that would supply cover from a 7.62mm NATO weapon except three boulders and the engine block of any motor vehicles within the area.

I am not one of those dinosaurs that calls the 5.56mm M16 a "carbine," as if that were some kind of disparaging word, or a "mouse gun." The M16, easily, is one of the best combat rifles ever fielded. Its 5.56mm cartridge, particularly in its NATO version, is a superb general-issue rifle round extremely effective at normal combat rifle ranges. Having been there and done that, I know that the stories of VC and NVA soldiers taking 18 rounds from an M16 in the chest without going down are either just BS or born from bad shooting.

Consequently, I am not advocating that the 5.56mm round should be replaced with the 7.62mm NATO cartridge for general rifle issue. What I do advocate is that 7.62mm rifles be permanently retained in the weapons mix of infantry units because they deny cover to the enemy. And, should such weapons be fitted with low-powered telescopic sights, they could double as sniper weapons.

Anyone operating independently, or nearly so, such as recon personnel, may be well-advised to pack along a 7.62mm rifle for the same reasons. Similarly, police agencies should not put all their long-gun eggs in the 5.56mm or 9mm sub-gun basket. It would be a good idea to keep a few semiautomatic 7.62mm rifles like the M14, M1A, FAL, or G3 on hand for road blocks, barricaded shooters, and other situations where they could deny cover to the bad guys.

Most snipers, whether police or military, use 7.62mm NATO-chambered weapons. It is important for them to realize that you may not need to get your target to expose himself to any significant degree because, very likely, you can take him out right through what he thinks is cover.

Chances are, to a 7.62mm NATO round, cover is merely concealment. ☒

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Continued from page 21

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cessful Combat Folder. The Covert was developed for Applegate by the talented team of Bill Harsey and Butch Valloton. Harsey and Valloton in turn utilized the patented Interlock manual safety-lock designed by Ron Lake and Michael Walker. Sometimes a five-man design team creates a mess and sometimes it benefits from an eclectic synergism whereby all the best design ideas are engineered into a superb final form — as in the case at hand.

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suitable underwater tool, as well.

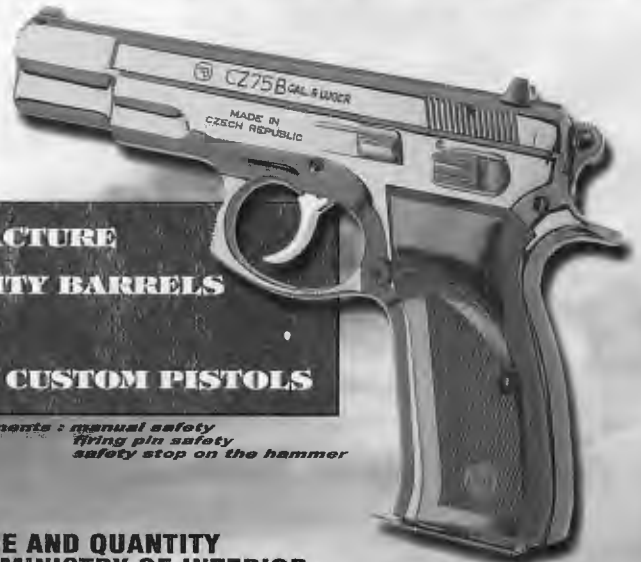
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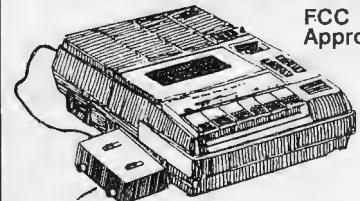
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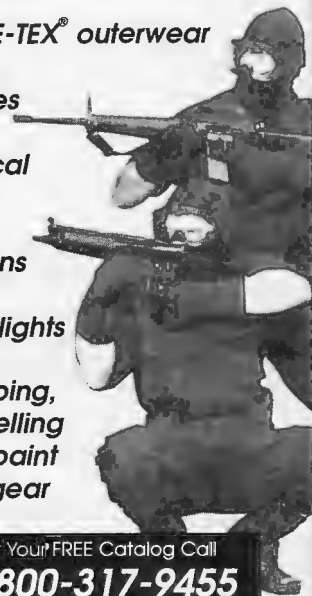
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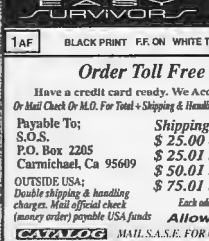
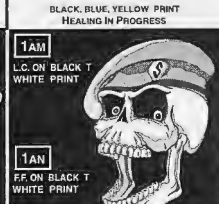
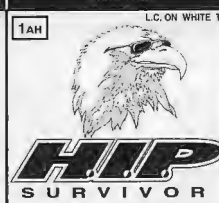
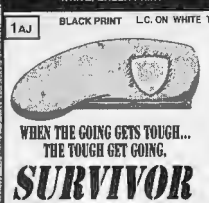
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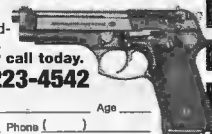
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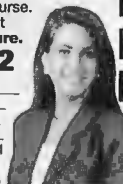
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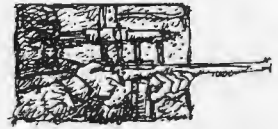
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PRODUCT INDEX

The War Racket Has Become Too Dangerous

The freighter sat low in the water as it steamed out of Long Beach Harbor. My uncle, a shot-up World War I vet, who drank a lot of cheap California wine to drive away the demons of war, told me, "There goes another boatload of scrap iron to feed the Japanese war machine."

He took a long pull from his brown-paper-bag-wrapped bottle and said, "The varmints did the same thing in my war."

His war was the "War to End All Wars," fought 20 years before in France and Germany.

He lamented on how in the Civil War his blue-uniformed father was shot at by Yankee cannon balls sold to the Rebels by Northern manufacturers more into making a buck than doing the right thing for the United States of America.

"Cuz money is what war's really all about," Uncle Roy said. "30,000 Americans died in my war. For what, to make big companies richer?"

At age 15, on Guam, I got to see firsthand what that scrap metal had done. Though the fighting had stopped, there were knocked-out Japanese tanks, artillery pieces and ugly chunks of shrapnel littering the island. And most were made from the junk that came from ships that sailed out of our harbors in the 1930s.

A lot of the Marines and soldiers I spoke to on that blood-soaked island said they were permanently wearing shards of steel that enterprising American businessmen had sold to Japan to sharpen their bottom-lines, and a lot of their buddies had been stuffed in mattress covers and buried under neat white rows of crosses and stars because U.S. entrepreneurs put profit over country.

Many of these battle-hardened vets wore that thousand-yard stare, the same one Uncle Roy toted around, and they all seemed just as bitter.

During the last half of the 20th Century, U.S. arms merchants have brokered deals with most of the world's top rats. They've outfitted death squads in Latin America, provided Saddam Hussein and Company with the best killing machines money could buy and are now busily supplying Bosnian fanatics not only with top weaponry, but also with American mercenaries to train their pet killers.

Almost 60 years after I watched those ships sail to Japan, Bill Clinton and close aides are accused of helping China become the next Evil Empire.

This is the same China that gave the world the rape of Tibet and



Col. David Hackworth, (Ret.) also writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

the bloodbath of Tiananmen Square; the same China that the CIA says has nuclear-tipped missiles aimed at our cities.

Experts say Loral space engineers provided missile-guidance technology that will allow those missiles to strike with pinpoint accuracy anywhere in the United States.

The boss man of Loral Space and Communications, Bernard Schwartz, has slipped \$2 million into democrat coffers since Clinton entered the Oval Office. Donations that greased the skids for Schwartz, one of America's highest-paid CEOs, to travel aboard a U.S. Air Force aircraft to China with the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Clinton's "Mr. Fix It."

Brown — who was close to being indicted for wheeling and dealing just before he met his death on a hillside in Croatia — saw to it that Schwartz ended up with a \$250-million deal with China, a future Super Power who will soon challenge America militarily.

When you look at the business Schwartz sleazed in as a result of his \$2-million plane trip, his first-class ticket to sell America down the drain starts looking more and more like mere petty cash.

When the Pentagon protested that if Loral provided China with an improved missile system it would threaten America, their warnings were dismissed by Clinton. Re-election, it seems, was more important to the president and his top economic advisors than missiles aimed at Main Street, U.S.A.

It's become the American way — both for Democrats and Republicans — to make huge profits out of war and the threat of war. But today the risks are bigger than ever.

We're no longer talking shells made from American scrap iron raining down on our soldiers far far away on other countries' battlefields.

We're talking Chinese nuclear missiles — equipped with Loral guidance systems — taking out your hometown before you can say, "Show me the money."

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

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

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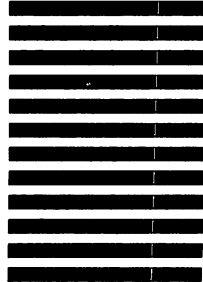
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