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Steven Whalim

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A weapon sight that can see in the dark and provide remote sighting all the while behind cover? You bet. Is this the techno future of fighting weapons? See story on page

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Why Arnett Must Go

It was a red letter day on 2 July at *Soldier Of Fortune* headquarters when CNN retracted its Tailwind story that falsely accused United States troops of using Sarin nerve gas in Laos against enemy troops and our own defectors.

Having hosted a panel of experts in Washington, D.C., one week earlier — a panel that soundly refuted the story — I hoped *SOF* had played at least a small part in bringing a powerful media conglomerate to justice. Not only did CNN retract the story, but the network apologized to the troops it had publicly accused of a serious war crime.

As the Independence Day weekend passed, however, I began to realize justice hadn't been done. We'd been thrown a bone. Peter Arnett — the big-name reporter who gave this story its initial credi-

bility — still had his job. So did CNN/USA President Richard Kaplan, who is ultimately responsible for the story. Only two producers, whom few had heard of, lost their jobs.

Unfortunately, CNN's Tailwind nonsense wasn't the sole responsibility of two expendable, low-profile producers — April Oliver and Jack Smith. Rather, it reflected an institutionalized carelessness and indifference to truth that's all-too-familiar to U.S. war veterans. The troops have been fired, but none of the majors or colonels responsible for this fiasco. It makes one wonder if anti-military activist Jane Fonda doesn't have some serious influence on her husband — CNN founder Ted Turner.

One day after our panel of military and chemical-warfare experts refuted the story on 23 June, at Washington's National Press Club, CNN hired New York media attorney Floyd Abrams to investigate the CNN/*Time* report. Abrams found the story had no foundation.

Fighting for his job, Arnett met with CNN

executives Wednesday, 8 July, and convinced them not to fire him. Arnett was aided by a call from Turner, who expressed his support for the reporter. Arnett — notorious among veterans for flawed reporting during Vietnam and Desert Storm — said he merely lent his name to the story and conducted three interviews using scripted questions. He shared a byline on the *Time* story with Oliver.

Bylines, Mr. Turner, are the very cornerstone of journalistic responsibility. That, in fact, is why your network wanted a famous reporter's name on this thing. Our Constitution gives journalists great freedom precisely because the Founding Fathers knew credibility would be a journalist's only asset in an unregulated, media free-for-all. They knew reporters would stake their reputations and careers on the

truth of what they wrote. Arnett did that with this story. If the Tailwind story won an award, you can be assured Arnett would have proudly taken center stage. As we go to press, Arnett has yet to pay the consequences for giving a bogus report his stamp of approval and the benefit of his famous name.

By simply allowing a reporter to lend his name to a story, Kaplan made a mockery of journalistic credibility, responsibility, and the First Amendment.

So it's up to America's active and former military personnel to save the First Amendment. To do so, call CNN day and night to demand the firing of Arnett and Kaplan. Only then will CNN pay the price for deceiving the public.

Call CNN, in Atlanta and Washington, at: (404) 827-1500 and (202) 898-7900.

See results of the Department of Defense investigation of CNN's Tailwind story on their website at www.defenselink.mil. ✕



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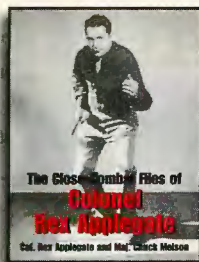
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The Close-Combat Files of Col. Rex Applegate

by Col. Rex Applegate and Maj. Chuck Melson

More than 50 years after his distinguished service with the Office of Strategic Services, the legendary Col. Rex Applegate finally steps from the shadows to tell the story military close-combat buffs have been waiting to hear. Complete with the Colonel's old – and very blunt – lesson plans and filled with rare archival photographs and even a schematic of the original dreaded "House of Horrors" combat shooting training facility, this remarkable book takes the reader for a hair-raising ride through the extreme training and daring missions experienced by men whose heroic deeds are still cloaked in secrecy. As might be expected, Colonel Applegate pulls no punches as he recalls how he trained his men in the dark art of military mayhem: knife fighting, gunfighting, hand-to-hand combat, sentry removal and more. This definitive reference, co-authored by noted military historian Maj. Chuck Melson, is an absolute must for researchers and students of the early history of elite units, combat espionage and military close-quarters battle. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 208 pp. **\$39.95**



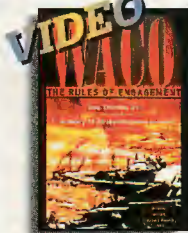
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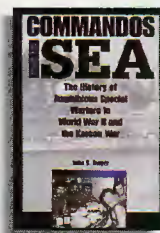


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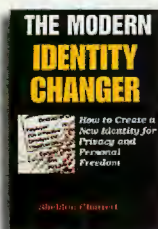
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The History of Amphibious Special Warfare in World War II and the Korean War
by John B. Dwyer

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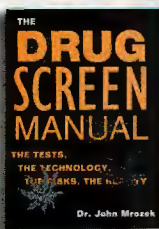
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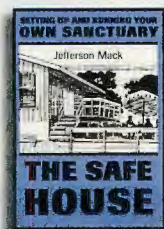
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courtesy Larry Mazur



Hearts and Mines: The real victims of modern war are the non-combatants, such as these children of Sarajevo. Every kid saved because they know of land mines or traffic safety is a success story. Every kid who learns the principles of peace is an ally in ending the next generation's war before it starts. Not all programs in Bosnia are a success, but the U.N. International Police Task Force has had its successes in taking such positive programs to Bosnia's school children — and to their teachers. Here Larry Mazur, of IPTF-Sarajevo (Dyncorp-Bosnia), poses with high school girls in native dress and at far left (inset) in a classroom of kids with police officer Cijicaca Sukic (white coat).



No Canadian GWS

Canadian military officials have announced they can find no evidence of Gulf War Syndrome among Canadian troops who served in Operation Desert Storm. After questioning thousands of soldiers they found many who complained of post-traumatic stress and other symptoms, but no evidence linking those symptoms to the mysterious illness thought to be caused by exposure to chemical weapons, preventive medicines or a possible combination of factors.

Not Our Hero

Rep. Tim Moore sponsored a resolution in the Texas House calling on the House to commend Albert de Salvo for his unselfish service to "his country, his state and his community."

The resolution noted that "this compassionate gentleman's dedication and devotion to his work has enabled the weak and lonely throughout the nation to achieve and maintain a new degree of concern for their future. He has been officially

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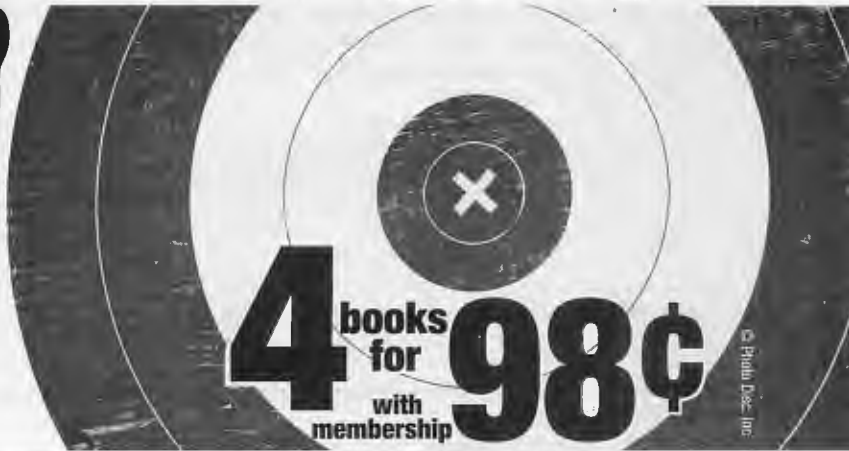
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recognized by the state of Massachusetts for his noted activities and unconventional techniques involving population control and applied psychology.”

After the resolution passed unanimously, Rep. Moore chided his colleagues for voting for things they neither read nor understand.

Albert de Salvo was the Boston Strangler.

Aussies' Dog-Gone Gun Laws

Hungry dingoes, the indigenous Australian wild dog, have taken to stalking residents near the central Queensland coast. Authorities say they are powerless to control the packs of wild dogs. Dingoes from the Mount Archer National Park on Brisbane's eastern border have been stalking nearby suburbs menacing residents, according to Rockhampton Deputy Mayor Jim Rundle.

In a radio interview Rundle commented that there is nothing local authorities can do because of ordinances that prohibit baiting the dogs within a mile of a residential area, additionally “you can't shoot in a residential area, plus with the gun laws, no one's got a gun anyway,” Rundle noted.

Several people were attacked by dingoes on Fraser Island recently and National Parks Officers shot the offending animals.

In 1980, Lindy Chamberlain claimed a dingo carried off her nine-week-old infant, which led to a debate over whether dingoes were aggressive enough to attack. The baby was subsequently found dead, and her parents were convicted on murder and accessory charges in a highly controversial case. They subsequently have been released and their convictions nullified when new evidence showed a dingo could have killed the child.

OKC Website

Check out the interesting postings on this website: <http://www.thewinds.org/arc/features/government/okc/10-97.html>

Missing: Mercenary ID Card

Jean-Claude Paul Wavreille, “special counselor” to the police force of Laurent Kabila's Republique Democratique du Congo, is undoubtedly regretting a taxi ride he recently took in Brussels: Wavreille, 55, is a restaurateur and Belgian businessman involved in “security work” in Africa. When Wavreille exited a taxi in Brussels recently, he left his photo ID card from the police Nationale of Kabila's Congo signed by Celestin Kilwa, Inspector General of the Congolese Police Force.

It was just Wavreille's bad luck that this taxi driver was not only Congolese, but also anti-Kabila. The driver turned the card over to *La Libre Belgique*, a Belgian newspaper. Reporters at the paper were still investigating the authenticity of the card when Belgian police (no doubt tipped off by someone at the paper) raided Wavreille's home in Brussels. They found a machine gun, six rifles, and night vision goggles — all reportedly belonging to the Congolese Army. Wavreille was allegedly in the process of selling them.

— Rob Krott

Russian Kids Tour U.S. ChemWar Sites

Nine high school kids from Saratov, Russia were the first private Russian citizens to visit the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile at Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky. While this group was touring the nerve and blister agent stores at Blue Grass, two other groups of Russian kiddies were visiting chemical weapons depots at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Pine Bluff, Ark. Noted Depot Commander Lieutenant Colonel Mark Weitekamp “this visit opens a new era in information sharing for the Blue Grass Chemical Activity.”

The tour was sponsored by EcoBridge, a radical San Francisco-

Continued on page 12

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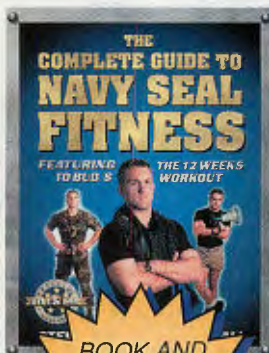
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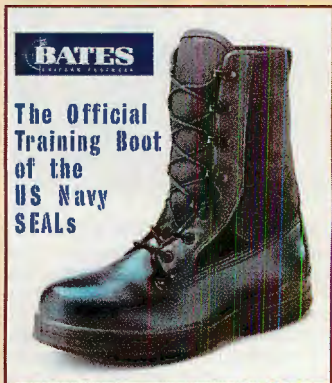
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In this valuable tape, Navy Seal Frank Cucci teaches you numerous street fighting combinations and takedowns against an attacker who is trying to punch your face in or kick your guts out. Mr. Cucci shows how to control your opponent by blocking his strikes and taking him to the ground where you can then apply finishing holds such as joint locks and chokes. This video is a must for learning how to come out on top in a street fight.

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4. SEAL TEAM KNIFE FIGHTING COMBAT TECHNIQUES

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5. SEAL TEAM STICK FIGHTING COMBAT TECHNIQUES

If a Seal Team member loses his weapon in combat he is taught to fight viciously with whatever is available, such as a tree branch (stick). This outstanding tape teaches the deadly Filipino Stick fighting techniques as applied to military as-well-as street combat. Frank Cucci teaches all aspects of combat stickfighting including angles of attack, ranges of combat, fighting combinations, chokes, disarms and more!

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When you master this tape, you are almost certain to never lose a street fight. Shows how to quickly go for the legs to apply excruciating joint locks. Also teaches the secret escapes and counter from these locks.

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4. COMBAT SAMBO VOLUME 4 — ULTIMATE GRAPPLING - ARMBAR AND WRIST LOCKS

Master Lopez shows numerous armbar and wrist lock techniques designed to control and destroy your opponent. You will learn how to easily sucker your attacker into an armbar for quick victory, regardless of his size. Tape also teaches the secret escape and counters to these armbar and wrist techniques.

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5. COMBAT SAMBO VOLUME 5 — ULTIMATE GRAPPLING - LEG LOCK AND ARM LOCK FIGHTING COMBINATIONS

This is it! In this outstanding video, Master Tony Lopez shows how to combine the leg lock techniques on Tape 3 with the arm locks on Tape 4 to create the most destructive grappling combinations ever witnessed. Learn how to completely dominate and control your opponent as you learn to move from leg locks to arm locks and arm locks to leg locks with blinding speed. Video also features many advanced techniques not shown on Tapes 3 & 4. A must for all Martial Artists who seek the winning edge in a street fight or competition!

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6. COMBAT SAMBO VOLUME 6 — ULTIMATE GRAPPLING - CHOKES, HEADLOCKS, AND NECK CRANKS

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9. COMBAT SAMBO VOLUME 9 — ULTIMATE GRAPPLING - STREET FIGHTING DIRTY TRICKS

A nasty tape that shows how to win a life or death street fight. The secret COMBAT SAMBO techniques shown in this video are the deadliest of the deadly when it comes to street survival.

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10. COMBAT SAMBO VOLUME 10 — ULTIMATE GRAPPLING - DEFENSIVE GROUND FIGHTING

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11. COMBAT SAMBO VOLUME 11 — ULTIMATE GRAPPLING - OFFENSIVE GROUND FIGHTING

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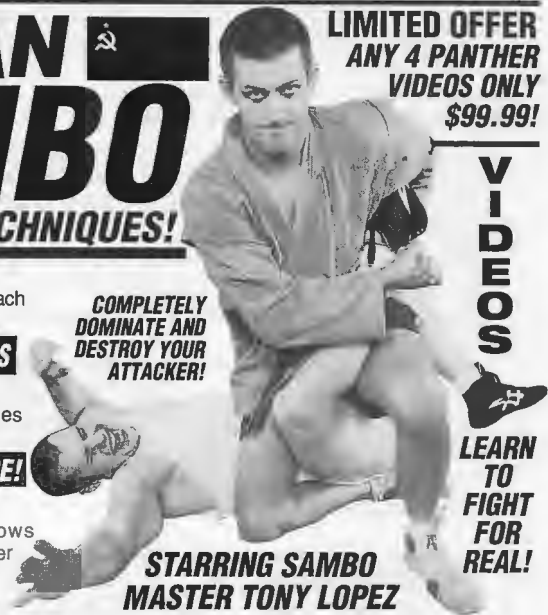
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based eco-wacko group who, when they aren't arranging tours of sensitive U.S. military installations for foreign nationals, are busy organizing boycotts of everything from guns to Sport Utility Vehicles. Not surprisingly, two of EcoBridge's chief flag-wavers are California Democratic congresswomen Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer.

Doin' The Albanian Boogie

Seven Albanian officer cadets participating in the NATO-sponsored Partnership for Peace training exercise Cooperative Osprey at Camp Lejeune MCB, North Carolina have gone AWO-Loose: Some 2,000 GIs from 16 countries are participating in Osprey, and after attending a baseball game and a trip to Wal-Mart three Albanians walked away from a Kinston Indians baseball game. One more left the following day, and three more walked away that night.

According to local police officials, three were last seen, wearing blaze-orange Osprey T-shirts, trying to catch a bus from rural Kinston to Philadelphia. Apparently unsuccessful, they subsequently tried to hire a cab to take them to Philly. Another apparently spent the night at a church homeless shelter, and told workers there he was headed for New York.

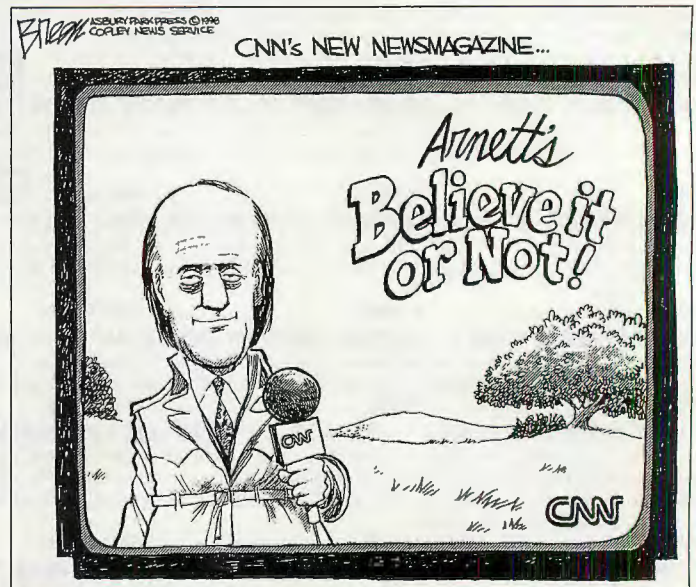
Dumb Gun Quote

On a June 8 edition of *Access Hollywood*, carried by NBC-owned stations and syndicated to other markets, actor Sylvester Stallone made known his personal — not film — thoughts on guns: "I know we use guns in films," he said, but insisted the time has come "to be a little more accountable and realize that this is an escalating problem that's eventually going to lead to, I think, urban warfare." *Access Hollywood* then showed a clip from an earlier interview in London, where he opined, "Until America, door to door, takes every handgun, this is what you're gonna have. It's pathetic. It's sad. We're living in the Dark Ages over there."

Further berating the Second Amendment Stallone continued, "It has to be stopped, and someone really has to go on the line, a certain dauntless political figure, and say, 'It's ending, it's over, all bets are off. It's not 200 years ago, we don't need this anymore, and the rest of the world doesn't have it. Why should we?'"

Dumb Gun Quote Runner-Up

CBS *This Morning* host Mark McEwen to NRA President Charlton Heston on an 8 June interview, "The Bill of Rights was written over 200 years ago. There weren't semi-automatic weapons out there. There weren't AK-47s out there. There were people who had one-shot rifles, one-shot revolvers ..."



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Zimbabwe's Top Banana

According to the copy of *News Planet* we were reading in the boss' office, the first post-colonial president of Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), Mr. Canaan Banana, is on trial as we go to press for 11 counts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault against other men, most of whom were military aides or employees at the State House during his' 1980-1987 tenure as president.

Cold Judgment

According to *Jane's Defence Weekly*, Indian Defence Minister George Fernandes has ordered that three civil servants from the Indian Defence Ministry's financial office spend a week on the disputed Siachen Glacier, in Kashmir, for causing a delay of more than three years in the procurement of snowmobiles. The officials were slated to undergo "familiarization with conditions on the glacier" last June.

24th Military Police Detachment

Augsburg/Munich, Germany circa 1960-63: reunion planned for future date. POC Walt Marchewka; phone: 518-584-5142.

Seal Penis Trade In Danger

According to the Associated Press, the International Fund for Animal Welfare has announced it is suing the Canadian government for its participation in the export of seal penises. The organization has been active for years in a campaign to halt Canada's commercial seal hunt, and is suing Fisheries Minister David Anderson. Seal penises, although a dime a dozen in Coronado, are particularly popular in Hong Kong, China, Korea, and San

Francisco where their testosterone content is thought to act as an aphrodisiac. Said Clayton Ruby, lawyer for the Fund, "it is simply against the law in Canada to sell or import testosterone unless you're a physician."

Karen National Union

According to the *Bangkok Post*, Thai Army officials display little interest in coming to the aid of KNU refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border, which are routinely raided by the Karen Buddhist faction, who now reportedly control the lucrative illegal logging concessions with the help of SLORC. Local scandals abound over payoffs of police and military officials regards the illegal trade in teak. Meanwhile, the displaced KNU continue to suffer.

Museums Make A Difference

The New York Veterans' Museum is on a search-and-rescue mission for military artifacts and equipment. Currently located at the former Fosterdale Motors building in Mongaup Valley, the museum is to be later relocated to the town of Bethel in Sullivan County, New York, where land has been donated for a new facility. The Museum has been chartered by the State Department of Education. Military guard and reserve units in the Northeast are invited to lend a hand to the museum creating exhibits or donating or refurbishing equipment.

Individuals and organizations interested in donating items, or contributing to the museum's development, are encouraged to contact Timothy Conover, museum president, at:

New York Veteran's Museum, Inc.

P.O. Box 540

White Lake, NY 12786

Phone/fax: 914-583-5700; e-mail: nyvm@zelacom.com ✉

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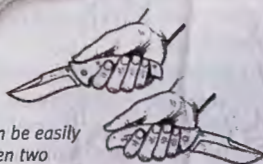
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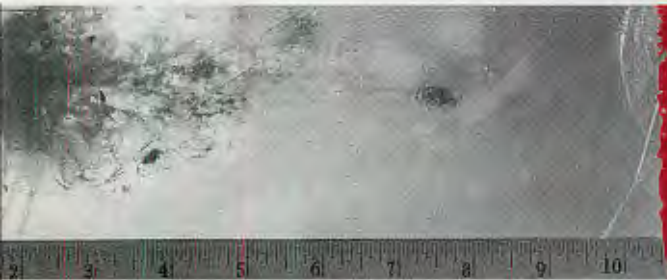
COLT

Helmets and Sights

Since the dawn of recorded history men have fought on battlefields protected by helmets and shields, first of bronze and then of steel. Exclusive of weaponry, no single object symbolizes the terrifying fury of battle more than a helmet. In juxtaposition, helmets can also be objects of great beauty and they have been designed by some of the greatest names in the history of art: Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci, Donatello, Holbein and Michelangelo. Oddly, helmets disappeared from the battlefield during the nineteenth century and did not return in significant quantities until World War I.

Adopted in June 1917, the first United States Army helmet was the British Mk I steel helmet. The US M-1917 helmet was an inverted bowl stamped out of a single piece of manganese alloy. It would stop a caliber .45 pistol bullet traveling 600 fps fired at a distance of 10 feet. A total of 2.7 million of these helmets were produced.

Tim Abell, a star of the *Special Operations Force* television series, and former member of the U.S. Army 7th Ranger Battalion, demonstrates Progressive Technologies SPEC-OPS Spectra helmet with Litton M983 third generation night-vision scope and attaching bracket.



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AMMUNITION.

The United States started World War II with the M-1917A1 helmet which featured a new lining and chin strap. By the end of 1941, the famous M-1 helmet was adopted. It was based upon the M-1917 crown with the brim removed and the sides extended. The helmet body was produced from a single stamping of Hadfield Manganese steel. Approximately 22 million were made during World War II. With various liner and chin strap variations, this helmet continued to soldier on through both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

By 1972, development of a new helmet to replace the M-1 commenced. Production of the PASGT (Personnel Armor System Ground Troops) began in 1978. Constructed from 17 layers of aramid fiber (KEVLAR) material, head coverage was improved by 11% over the M-1 helmet. Because it was reminiscent in appearance to the German *Stahlhelm* ("Steel Helmet"), it immediately became dubbed the "Fritz" helmet by the troops. Approximately 6.8 million of these ballistic-type helmets have been manufactured to date. Although not designed for protection from rifle bullets, there is a specimen in the 82nd Airborne museum at Fort Bragg that stopped a 7.62x39mm round fired from a Kalashnikov.

Several variations of the PASGT-type helmet have been developed specifically for law enforcement special response units and military special operations personnel. One of the very best is the SPEC-OPS Helmet HSO-1-STG designed and distributed by Progressive Technologies of America, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 14221-A



G.G. & G. fold-down front sight system for the M16/AR-15 series. Note Uncle Mike's QD sling swivel and bayonet lug. (right) G.G. & G. fold-down front sight system in the down position. This permits use of optical equipment without an annoying and distracting ghost image of the front sight assembly.

Willard Road, Suite 1100, Chantilly, VA 20151; phone: 1-800-84-ARMOR and 703-502-0700; fax: 703-502-1776), highly regarded for their line of state-of-the-art body armor.

While similar in appearance to the US military PASGT helmet, the SPEC-OPS helmet has been designed with the following features. There is no lip or brim on the front and this permits an easier installation of brackets for night vision devices. The sides are cut so that the helmet does not extend below the ear canal. This both

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The helmet is constructed of Spectra, which allows the ballistic shell to be 100% neutral buoyant. Furthermore, Spectra is, without doubt, the strongest fiber ever made. Pound for pound, it is ten times stronger than steel. Spectra was developed by, and is available exclusively from, the High Performance Fibers Group of Allied Signal, Inc. Spectra has outstanding cut and chemical resistance characteristics, together with excellent flexibility and lightweight strength. A size medium SPEC-OPS helmet weighs only 2.94 pounds, and is the lightest in the world for its level of ballistic performance. A Spectra vest weighs about 25% less than a Kevlar vest of equivalent protection level. Spectra is chemically inert and is not affected by exposure to seawater or other chemicals, such as gasoline. Highly resistant to moisture, Spectra works as well under water as it does in an arid environment.

Exclusive of weaponry, no single object symbolizes the terrifying fury of battle more than a helmet.

The SPEC-OPS helmet's level of ballistic protection is compatible with NIJ level III-A 9mm. Thus, it will defeat 9mm 124-grain FMJ at 1,450 fps; 9mm 123-grain steel jacket GECO at 1,300 fps; and 9mm steel jacket Lapua at 1,050 fps.

For those who tip-toe in the night, Progressive Technologies' SPEC-OPS helmet is, quite simply, the best complement you can provide to your ninja suit, LBE and black rifle. On the battlefield, most head wounds are caused by grenades and artillery fragments. However, in the law-enforcement arena, the vast majority of head wounds are caused by handgun projectiles and blunt objects, such as baseball bats, crowbars, etc.

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Continued on page 88

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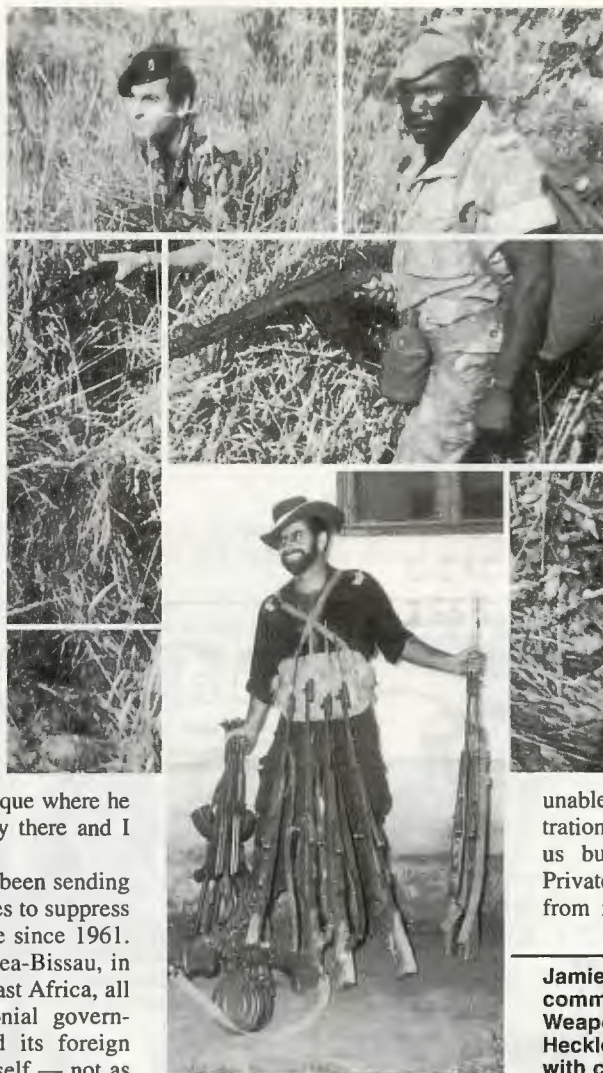
I Was There

by Jamie DeMelo
with Royce DeMelo

Things had been very quiet since my battalion's arrival by ship in Mozambique in August 1970. We had been posted to various sectors in the north for three months, skipping from one post to the other before my platoon was exclusively stationed in Chioco, a village in Tete province near the Malawi border. We knew that FRELIMO (Front for the Liberation of Mozambique) was very active in these areas yet one month into our stay at Chioco we had seen no action.

My unit was from the Azores, the *Cazadores*, *Battalion Independent & Infantaria 17* (Hunter Infantry and Independent Battalion 17). Even the young men of those Portuguese islands in the mid-Atlantic, myself included, were not denied the privilege of having an all-expense-paid trip to Africa courtesy of President Salazar. Earlier in 1970 when I was conscripted, one of my older brothers was already a veteran of Angola and my oldest had long ago settled (in the pre-conflict days) in Mozambique where he was a policeman. He raised a family there and I would often visit when I had leave.

The Portuguese government had been sending troops throughout its African colonies to suppress rebels looking to gain independence since 1961. Angola and the tiny colony of Guinea-Bissau, in West Africa; and Mozambique, in East Africa, all waged wars against Lisbon's colonial government. Portugal's policy interpreted its foreign lands as an extension of Portugal itself — not as



concluded our nightly prayer meeting. Those of us who did not have duty or night watch were lounging about the houses and shacks as we often did; some writing letters or listening to the radio, others playing cards or checkers or, like me, reading a prayer book. I was with others, sitting outside on the lit terrace of an administration building when *popping* and *cracking* sounds erupted nearby. What the hell? Flashes of light darted at us against backdrop shouts of "My God!" We all went down, our bodies thudded on the deck. We were panicked — hell, none of us had been in combat!

To make matters worse, we did not have our weapons (the major fundamental error) — our G3s were a few meters away in our quarters. We laid there being blasted by the recurring screams of one scared young man, Private Adrea, on the terrace, "We're all going to die! We're all going to die!" (in Portuguese, of course).

Lying on a well-lit terrace in the midst of panic and confusion, unable to return fire hardly helped our frustration level. The terrorists could clearly see us but, thankfully, were horrible shots. Private Uther, who was laying not too far from me, undid his boot, ripped it off and

Jamie DeMelo (above, left) and fellow commander, Jale, during the mission. Weapons are Portuguese-manufactured Heckler & Koch G3A2s. (inset) Author with captured weapons from operation.

FIRST CHILL

colonies. This made the Salazar government all the more stubborn in surrendering its foreign lands. With aid and arms from both Russia and China, as well as from newly independent Algeria, the rebel movements in the colonies kept the wars going for years.

Soldiering became a very peaceful lifestyle in Chioco. The locals were friendly and seemed almost indifferent to our presence. Routinely, some of us would while away the time with small hunting trips by night. Game in Africa could not be missed on our free time. Besides, a gazelle often helped to feed us and was a welcome break from some of the crap rations we were getting — canned sardines, beans and cheese.

At 2200 hours, one bleak night in early November, we had just

threw it at the light above us. This only compounded the passions of an already nervous Adrea. Seeing something of a shadow fly over head he yelled, "Grenade!" and up he scurried toward the perimeter — away from the action.

At this point I decided enough was enough and rolled down the steps and crawled to the northern perimeter where the 81mm mortar had been placed. I slid into the pit, got up and quickly dropped a round from the pile down the tube. It fired. I waited to see and listen. Nothing, no explosion and no distant flash. I dropped another and stretched my head to listen over the gunfire and action. Again nothing. I dropped

Continued on page 88

Well Done

As a former Naval Aviation/ Intelligence officer (1959-1968) and Assistant Secretary of Commerce, U.S. Department of Commerce(1981-1984), I want to commend you for your timely, courageous and convincing leadership in organizing and conducting the Press Conference held in the First Amendment Room, National Press Building, Washington, D.C. recently to counter the bogus CNN/Time magazine story about SOG, assassinations and nerve gas.

The men who served in SOG, others who served in South East Asia and all who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, do not deserve to be trashed or lied about by incompetent, morally corrupt, cowardly imbeciles who function under the guise of being a journalist.

The retractions in recent days and related firings, in my opinion, would not have occurred if you and the valiant warriors that you assembled such as General Jack Singlaub had not come forth to protest and get the truth out!

Your efforts honor the fallen heroes, the living wounded, and all who ever wore or currently wear the uniform of the U.S. Armed Forces. Moreover, your efforts serve to protect the integrity of the First Amendment.

Well done.

Sincerely,

Carlos C. Campbell

Grateful Grunt

I am a CCN TF1AE recon vet who served from Sept. '71 till April '72 on RT Indigo. I cannot express to you enough the thanks you deserve for your lead in the process of regaining the respect that SOG deserves. The recon teams at CCS, CCC and CCN never asked any more than the respect of their comrades, and help when we needed it. We need your help now and you have performed as always ... outstanding.

Keith A. Larson

Meals, Ready To Store

In the "FLAK" column, under "Meals,

Ready to Embargo" you responded that "regular 'survival' food such as Nitro-Pak tastes better and lasts longer — and is a better buy for the money." So it may be my stupidity, or perhaps my age that are showing (I'm from an era when "C-Rations" were still being issued), but, what the hell is a Nitro-Pak, where can I get some samples and how much do they cost? You've used the name so a little more free advertising won't hurt, will it? Thanks, and keep up the good work.

Larry Gries
via e-mail

Contact Harry Weyandt at Nitro-Pak Storage Foods, Dept. SOF, 151 N. Main

amounts of clean water to eat, as the foods need to be rehydrated. Water is going to be hard to get in any type of bad situation. The best bet is to have a combo stash of both MRE and Nitro-Pak type food and most important as much water as you can store. You can last about two months or more without food but only three days without water.

Love your mag, keep up the good fight.

Ed O'Neill, U.S. Army,(Ret.)
via e-mail

It goes without saying — or should, at least — that you need water to go with any food. Would you store a rifle and no ammo? Some freeze-dried foods are excellent with-

out rehydration: freeze-dried steak is the best "jerky" I ever ate. The amount of water saved by storing MREs vs. freeze-dried food, however, is insignificant — you will need plenty of water to sustain life in any scenario. You must have really good water where you are, though, if you can live on it without food for two months. I can't make it until quitting time without a snack.



St., Heber, UT 84032; phone: 801-654-0099. As for cost, just like at the grocery store steak costs more than beans and rice, but for what you get Nitro-Pak's prices are reasonable. The name is an allusion to freeze-dried food packed in inert nitrogen for very long-term storage. I've eaten their products that were 15 years old, and everything except the cooking oil tasted like it was put up last week.

The First Of Things Is Water

Ref. you reply in the August issue, I wish to thank you for bringing up the no-sale of surplus MREs. But I must disagree about what you say about Nitro-Pak foods. Yes they taste better than MREs and the cost saving per meal is about 70%, but you forgot to say you need large

Basic Freedom

You state that you support the basic freedom of mankind. How about including freedom from gun violence which plagues our nation. Please also support gun victims rights. Support the right to not be shot.

Farley
Via email

I don't know if we've ever stated that we support the basic freedom of mankind, but it would probably be accurate to say that we do. At least we support the resistance to any tyrant who would rob any person of the basic freedoms delineated in the Declaration of Independence. And we do strongly support victim's rights. Freedom from crime, however, involves the consent of the criminal element, which usually is hard to obtain: so instead of supporting some vague philosophical "right to not be shot," WE SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO CARRY CONCEALED,

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AND THE RIGHT OF VICTIMS TO SHOOT BACK.

Yer Welcome!

On behalf of the Long Beach Area Friends of the NRA Committee and the many grant recipients, thank you for your gift of subscriptions to Soldier Of Fortune magazine. I know the subscriptions will be much sought-after items. Our banquet will be held August 15 at the Rio Hondo Country Club, in Downey, Calif., a Los Angeles suburb.

Recent Friends of the NRA funds raised at events such as our banquet have financed projects such as the establishment of rifle teams in four neighboring southern California schools, who now compete against each other.

Thank you again for your support. We relish your partnership in our efforts to promote lawful ownership and use of firearms, and to preserve our Second Amendment heritage.

Jane Bartlett
Chair, Friends of the NRA Committee

Mea Culpa

You ignorant grunts don't know nothing about fixed-wing aviation! In your July 1998 issue on page 62, in the middle of your otherwise excellent article about

the Colombian Police Air Service, as part of the fixed-wing fleet you list one single-engine C-99 Beechcraft and one single-engine King-300.

As the enclosed photos from pages 128 and 129 of *Jane's Encyclopedia of Aircraft* show, Beechcraft makes a C-90 and a Model 99 (no C). I don't know which aircraft the article refers to.

Also enclosed is an enlargement from an ad in a current aviation trade publication, showing the King Air 300 (not King 300). As you can plainly see, all of these aircraft are twin-engined, so if the Colombians' Beech airplanes are in fact running on only one motor, they are in sad shape indeed.

Gary Covington, USAFA '70
Midland, Texas

Aha! We fooled you. It's actually a very clever VisMod kit that makes them appear to be twin-engine prop craft, when in reality they are souped-up machines built on a stealth version of the Bell X-1.

Etrangerescam

As a serving member of the *Legion Etrangere* (French Foreign Legion). I recently viewed with astonishment the cover of February's edition of *Soldier Of Fortune*.

Legionnaires currently serving in 2nd REP were clearly visible in the photo, con-

trary to the protective rights of anonymity shared by all legionnaires.

This is clearly unethical behavior, I do not wish to proceed with further action but would like to provide your publication with contributions if needed, moreover, a gratuity subscription to your publication would go some way to off-set damage already caused to members of the Legion Etrangere.

I trust you will act accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

Legionnaire 1st Class Arnaud Hervouet
2nd REP
Corsica, France

We always welcome submissions from those who are in the thick of the action. However, for redress of any perceived damage from our "clearly unethical behavior," I suppose you'll have to try RAIDS magazine, the French publication that originated the story—and the photos—for a free subscription. In the meantime, however, we will gladly forward any movie offers or marriage proposals the photo generates.

P.S. You may also receive some marriage proposals from Russia, as the same cover photo appeared in Soldat Udachi magazine.

Civilian Disarmament

The following is, in my opinion, the explanation for the apparently irrational

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The P-11 is a semi-automatic, locked breech pistol in 9 mm Luger. Double Action Only, it is still the smallest and lightest full capacity 9 mm ever made.

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civilian disarmament schemes:

Corrupt government is not endangered by the armed criminal mobs or by their acts, but it does loathe the judgment and reactions of the good citizens: hence, gun control.

Antonio Randaccio-Lodi
 Montreal, Quebec

Kudos From Canada

Just to let you know, all your efforts in spiking the bullshit Arnett/CNN/Time falsification on Op Tailwind has done good, and the effects have reached as far as Canada. I was in Halifax last Sunday, and both the news and editorial pages, although they did not mention you guys by name, gave *beau-coup* coverage that Arnett/CNN/Time had committed a gross falsification; the editorial page used it to launch a piece about how prevalent dishonesty is in journalism. They said "even when all else fails, *you still don't lie!*" Well done, and please pass this on to the rest of the troops.

Also, in case I forgot to say so before, thanks for publishing the notice about Cross Border Run 3/Rolling Thunder Quebec 2 in the July *SOF*. It's scheduled for this weekend, and I'll try and send you guys some photos.

Joe Fernandez, Canada
 via e-mail

229th Got 'Em There

Like *Hamburger Hill*, Zaffiri has done a very accurate job, up to a point. He has chosen the same path that Dale Andrade did in *Trial By Fire* in that he completely ignores the aviators of the 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion that moved all those ARVN into An Loc, put the counter-attacking force on top of Nui Ba Den at Tay Nihn, and resupplied the city with logistics and medicine.

The 229th was awarded its second Presidential Unit Citation in Vietnam for that period, yet both Zaffiri and Andrade completely gloss over that fact and imply the ARVN just showed up.

It is time for both authors to get all the facts concerning that fight.

If they want a copy of the PUC paperwork, contact me via e-mail.

Mike Sloniker (former Operations Officer A/229 AHB)
 An Loc for Lunch Bunch

Mike, one reality of journalism is, there are physical, dimensional limitations we must live within. There is enough material on hand regarding An Loc for several books: in magazine article space, we can only cover one aspect of the activity, which this time was the ground pounders. This is in no way a slight on the competence and heroism of the chopper jocks — generally regarded as deity by the ground-pounders they served and saved, we might add — it's just that that's a separate story. A worthy, but separate, story that needs to be told on its own. ✂

BORN FOR BATTLE

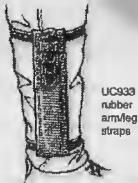
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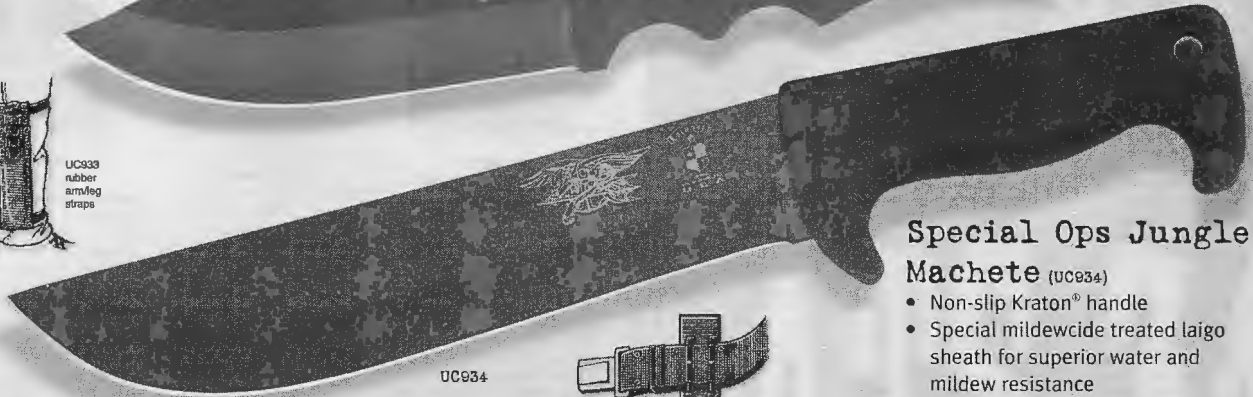
UC933



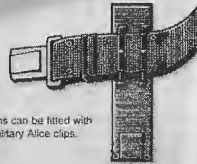
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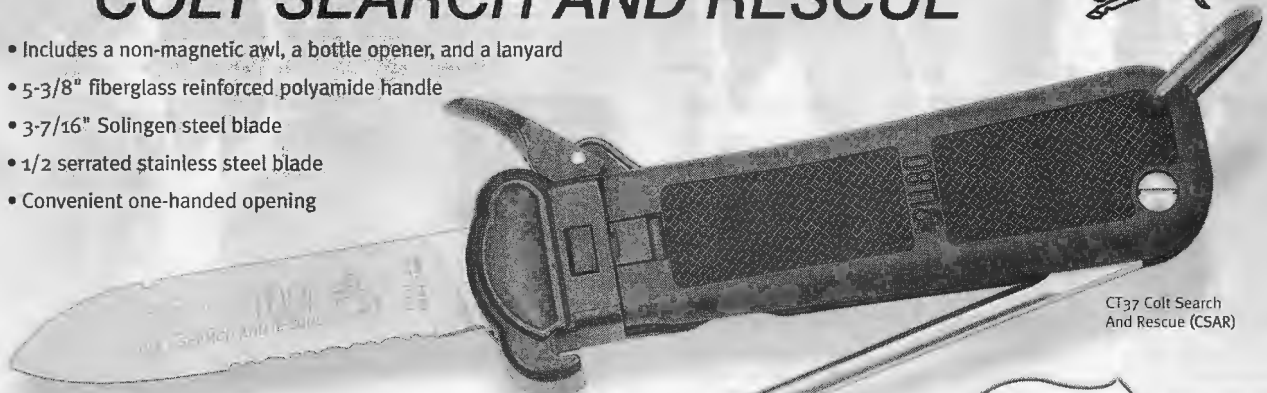
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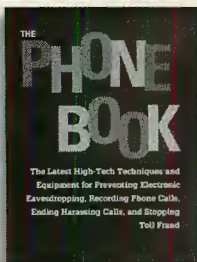
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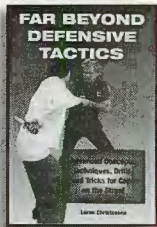


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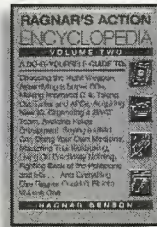
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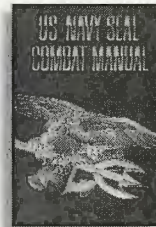
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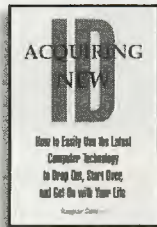
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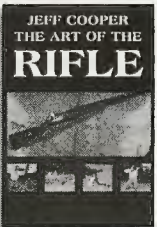
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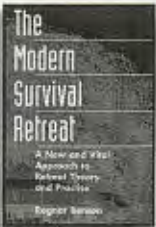
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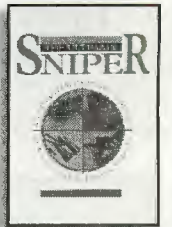
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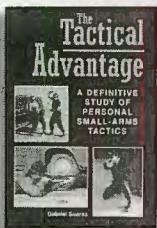
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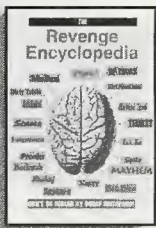
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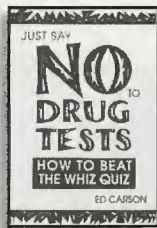


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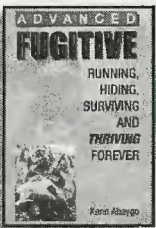
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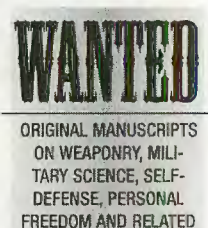
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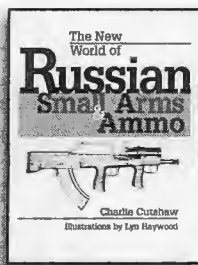


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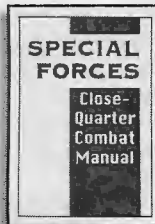
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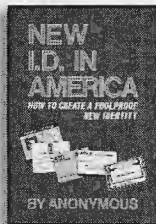
THE NEW WORLD OF RUSSIAN SMALL ARMS AND AMMO

by Charles Cutshaw

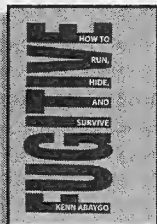
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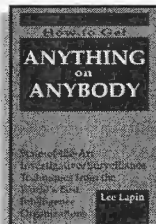
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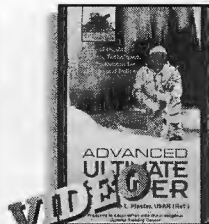
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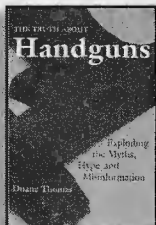
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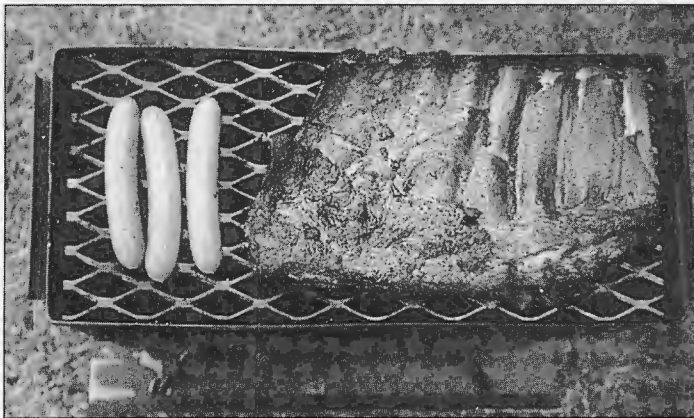
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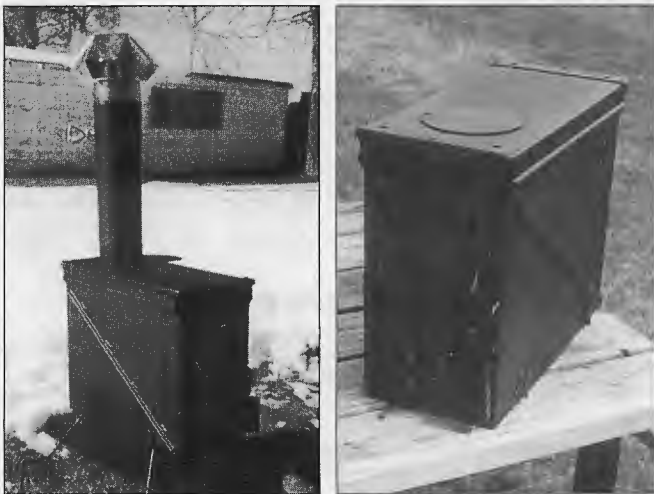
ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

The 20mm Hotbox

It's a heater, smoker, barbecue, cookstove and oven. It's self-contained and weighs only about 30 pounds. It all fits neatly into a regular GI 20mm ammo can. In fact it *is* a GI 20mm ammo can, specially made up to 20mm Hot Box Inc. specs, that contains two legs, two grills, stove pipe, damper, spark arrestor, rain cap, door, draft assembly and lid. It goes together without nuts, bolts, washers or screws in about 60 seconds. All the parts store in the can, which has a clean, attractive, high-temperature finish. The movable grills allow for efficient barbecuing or smoking, in addition to its efficient role as a cook or heating stove. Bear in mind two important things: It all stores in one efficient box, *and it really works!*



Cooking ribs and franks for voracious *SOF* staff.



(left) 20mm Hot Box sets up as a stove or a smoker. Went back together in minutes (right) for clean and tidy storage.

We tried it out at the first *SOF* barbecue of the season (note the snow on the ground) and it worked just fine in that role. Since then it's been used on various forays in other functions, and it performs flawlessly. It gets borrowed a lot. We recommend you get one (they're very reasonable) and not tell anybody you have it or yours will get borrowed a lot, too. Keep one behind the wheel well of your pickup (it's only 18x14x8"): you never know when you may have to barbecue some roadkill.

20mm Hot Box Inc., Dept. *SOF*, 16399 S. Golden Rd. Unit A, Golden CO 80401; phone 888-226-7866; or check out their website at www.20mmhotbox.com.

Not Just For Light Bulbs Anymore

Lead has been used for bullets since the earliest days of hand-held firearms, as its density makes it a good medium for carrying kinetic energy from the gun to the target, and it is readily formed into appropriate shapes. Unfortunately, it is poisonous. Various other media have found limited use in this field, such as bismuth or iron for shot, depleted uranium for military applications, etc.

Tungsten, the hard, refractory and *dense* metal used in tungsten penetrators for GI tank rounds, is now available in powdered form from Corbin Manufacturing (the folks who have been at the leading edge of bullet swaging for decades). Tungsten is a premier bullet material because it is essentially non-toxic, and it is 1.7 times denser than lead. The higher density of tungsten means one can make a heavier bullet in a smaller envelope — such as a 150-grain .243, or a shorter pistol bullet that allows more room for powder in the case.

Since you won't be melting tungsten in a benchtop scenario (it is the metal in light-bulb filaments, after all), Corbin supplies it 99.9% pure in 30-micron powder, suitable for swaging purposes. As it happens, Corbin also supplies the leading line of swaging presses, tools, dies and supplies, and they have issued a technical paper discussing the use of tungsten in swaged bullets which they will send you for \$1 postage and handling. Contact Dave Corbin, Corbin Manufacturing, Dept. *SOF*, Box 2659, White City, OR 97503; phone: 541-826-5211; fax: 541-826-8669; e-mail: corbin@corbins.com and info may be viewed or downloaded from their web site at <http://www.corbins.com>.

Boots Made For Walking

Danner Boot Company — which needs no introduction to *SOF* readers — is one of the few companies who take into account the differing lasts required for a proper fit in women's duty footwear. No longer do women in uniform have to make do with ill-fitting smaller men's sizes. Shown here is the 6-inch tall Patrol that features a leather and Cordura upper, a midsole of 3.3mm soft rubber and 6.4mm EVA for comfort — and an outsole of rugged, non-marking Vibram. A Gore-Tex bootie makes the Patrol 100% waterproof. It's available in women's medium width in sizes 5-10 (also in men's sizes D 7-15, EE 6-13). Women's sizes are also available in these



styles: Fort Lewis 600 Gram Insulated safety Toe, Fort Lewis Uninsulated, Fort Lewis 200 Gram Insulated and their Olympic 200 Gram Insulated. *Duty* is the operative word here, and, of course, Danner is the name.

Contact Danner Boot Co., Dept. SOF, 700 S.W. Taylor #400, Portland, OR 97205; phone: 503-279-4000; fax: 503-279-4066; and check out their web site at www.danner.com.

Titanium Nitride AR Parts

DPMS, known for a very complete and ever-expanding line of parts and accessories for the GI-style AR rifles is now making titanium nitride-coated AR parts. The TiN coating is very hard and tends to be self-lubricating, making it an excellent treatment for parts that move against each other, such as hammer/trigger, trigger/disconnector, bolt/barrel extension. Not only are parts subject to less wear, they are less attractive to fouling and debris, therefore,




easier to clean.

You may be familiar with the TiN coating on machine tools, or for other gun assemblies under various proprietary names. Adding it to internal parts subject to wear and abrasion is a smart move.

Contact Defense Procurement Manufacturing Services Inc., Dept. SOF, 13983 Industry Ave., Becker, MN 55308; phone: 612-261-5600; fax: 612-261-5599; e-mail: dpmsinc@aol.com; or check out their web site at www.dpmsinc.com.

Vietnam: The Soldier's Story

Premiering on Sunday, 11 October, is a six-part mini-series on The Learning Channel that covers the war in Southeast Asia from a soldier's perspective. Vietnam vets will not want to miss this one. *Vietnam: The Soldier's Story* covers — through a GI's eyes and through interviews with veterans — six facets of the war, such as the battle of Ia Drang and Khe Sanh, secret wars in Cambodia and Laos, the air war, and so on. Archival footage from the Pentagon and recently released North-Vietnamese film are skillfully woven with interviews of vets who are now may be street sweepers or senators, but who all share a bond of Vietnam War experience. Recommended. 



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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Busy military times: Peacekeeping mission, humanitarian missions, military emergencies and natural disasters have military three times busier in 1998 than in 1989, reports Associated Press. • **Shrinking military force:** Pentagon reports military strength declined 4,173 from April to May 1998, and by 33,472 from May '97 to May '98. Decline due to downsizing force and to skilled service members leaving military for higher paying civilian jobs. • **Carrier retires:** Carrier *Independence* leaves Japan in July for last time. Carrier to be decommissioned. • U.S. Army re-opens criminal investigation into case of Major General David Hale, accused of pressuring wives of four subordinate officers to have sex with him. (Hale arranged to retire honorably when charges first appeared. Original investigation found affair to be consensual.) • Anti-war activist Page Penk arrested for setting fire to B-52 stored in Colorado aviation museum. Fire causes \$1/2 million in damage. • Clinton vetoes Iran Missile Proliferation Act, saying congress did not provide enough flexibility for him to negotiate new relationship with Tehran. Law would impose new sanctions on Russian companies, which had been selling technology to Iran.

2

CHINA

High tech communists: Government acquires at least 46, and possibly 100, U.S.-built supercomputers — many for military use — after Clinton signs order to end controls of export of such machines. China now has more U.S.-built supercomputers than entire U.S. Department of Defense. Such computers are known to break codes and design weapons. Clinton administration says sales pose no security problem, since China obtains similar computers from France. • **Unidentified signal:** U.S. and allies try to identify mysterious signal coming from Mainland China, says Journal of Electronic Defense. Signal is in J Band, is thought to be a fire control radar, and has 32 levels of Stagger (compared to 4 levels of stagger in current fire controls. Signal difficult for intelligence aircraft to capture. • Clinton hints China might get permanent Most Favored Nation trade status if it accepts U.S. demand that China enter World Trade Organization as major economy, rather than a "developing" economy. • Chinese Pres. Jiang says he wants global nuclear disarmament; promises no more nuclear tests.

6

ANGOLA

Fighting continues: United Nations sanctions against UNITA rebels take effect. In startling reversal, U.N. warns refugees in Namibia not to return to Angola because of the fighting there. Attacks and ambushes on highways, by former rebels, continue. UNITA troops seize Kamachilo in heavy fighting with government troops. UNITA troops seize control of Malengue District. Government and UNITA troops fought for control of Kikulunga and Banga.

7

CUBA

Clinton Administration "reluctantly" allows Cuban airliners to fly over most of U.S. en route to Canada. • Cuba becomes observer to Lome Convention (which links 71 African, Caribbean and Asian nations to the EU for trade), but was warned it would not attain full membership without progress toward human rights and economic reform.

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SUDAN

Counter-attack on SPLA: Government counter-attack recaptures Shelouab and Yarmouk (in Kassala State, near Ethiopian border) from SPLA. Counter-attack was part of drive on Karmuk, which SPLA has held for two years. Sudan says Eritrean troops (rebels based in Eritrea) had attacked seven border positions. Missairiyah tribe rejected offer of ceasefire with SPLA. In Kordofan, SPLA rebels raid town of Kadogle, stealing 365 cattle from Al Rawawgah tribe. • Sudan says new constitution (which allows political parties) was approved by 96.7% of voters.

11

SIERRA LEONE

Region in ruin: Heavy fighting in east leaves diamond mining region in ruins. Nigerian officers of ECOMOG peacekeeping force select 5,000 Sierra Leoneans to form core of new Army. Nigeria and Gambia send more troops to Sierra Leone. U.N. warns of impending food shortage; prepares to send home 5,000 Leonean refugees from Guinea.

14

SRI LANKA

Hundreds killed: Government says 115 security personnel and 263 rebels killed in June. Troops destroy rebel bases at Kokkadicholai, Thikodai, and Santhimalai. Government orders local politicians to turn in weapons issued for self-defense. Rebels say they repulsed government attacks on Mankulam.

15

IRELAND

Catholic Church Fires: New Northern Ireland Assembly opens in July. • Ten Catholic churches set on fire by extremist Protestant groups; three burn to ground. Two Protestant churches set on fire next day. • Orange Order protests when blocked by Parades Commission from marching through Portadown. Confrontation continues for week as troops fire rubber bullets into Protestant crowds and rioters set cars on fire.

3

RUSSIA

Dog days in Moscow: Military inspectors find 2 million pounds of canned dog food at warehouse near Moscow, which was being fed to troops to save money. Head of military food service resigns abruptly upon further inspection.

4

UGANDA

Heavy fighting: Army troops report heavy fighting in west, with the ADF rebels based in Democratic Congo. In response, Ugandan Army sets up tactical headquarters inside Democratic Congo and operates counter-guerrilla troops there. Seventy-four Ugandans killed when Kenyan tribesmen raid cattle herds in Uganda. ADF rebels set off two bombs in Kampala, killing one man, injuring two. • Rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army demand northern Uganda become independent country under LRA control. LRA leader Kony pulls back into Sudan to organize forces.

5

ALGERIA

Massacre investigation: Islamist insurgency continues. UNSG Annan sends special panel to Algeria to look into massacres. Algeria says team could visit scenes of massacres, but not meet with outlaw groups. • Riots break out in Berber-speaking eastern regions over new law declaring Arabic the only official language.

8

COLOMBIA

Buses burn: Rebels continue campaign to disrupt elections, burning 38 buses on day of polls. Conservative Party challenger Andres Pastrana wins election as president. U.S. says its ready to "turn over a new page" when Pastrana takes office in August. Pastrana plans to negotiate with rebels. Right-wing paramilitary groups promise not to obstruct peace talks. • Government bows to U.S. pressure and agrees to employ herbicide Tebuthiuron against drug crops, although even its U.S. manufacturer has advised it is too dangerous to use.

9

AFGHANISTAN

Troops loyal to *Taliban* and Massoud clashed in the Tagab Valley, north of Kabul. Taliban said the Alliance was accepting arms and supplies from Israel. Taliban said West is manipulating "women's issues" in effort to overthrow government. • United Nations says weapons still flowing into Afghanistan despite embargo. Three rockets hit Kabul Airport.

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LEBANON

Guerrilla wars: Skirmishes between Lebanese guerrillas (*Amal* and *Hezbollah*) and the Israelis (and their SLA allies) continues. Israeli planes bombed targets in Lebanon. Lebanon says it could reach peace and withdrawal agreement with Israel in three months if it resumes talks with Syria and Lebanon at point they left off. • U.S. drops travel restrictions to Lebanon. • Israel trades 60 captured Lebanese guerrillas and bodies of 40 others killed in action for the body of Israeli naval commando Sergeant Itamar Ilya, killed in the beach raid last September. Arab league demands Israel pay cash to each prisoner; Israel refuses.

12

MEXICO

Government condemned: Amnesty International's annual report condemns government human rights violations. Human rights workers accuse Mexican Army of summarily executing rebel prisoners at El Charco. • U.S. infuriates Mexican lawmakers by saying it was closely monitoring events in Chiapas and pressing them to find solution. • U.S. border control campaign forces illegal immigrants into less hospitable terrain where many are dying, forcing U.S. to institute search and rescue operation. • U.S. Drug Czar McCaffrey says less cocaine coming through Mexico as better law enforcement forces it through Caribbean.

16

NORTH KOREA

Food shortage and nukes: U.N. calls for world to accelerate food deliveries to North Korea, which admits suffering from food shortages. South Korean firm Hyundai agrees to build free export zone in North Korea with surplus equipment. • Clinton administration vows to end North Korea's nuclear program as U.S. scrambles to find money to pay for more than half of this year's heavy fuel oil "donations."

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.

SLICK-WILLIE-WATCH

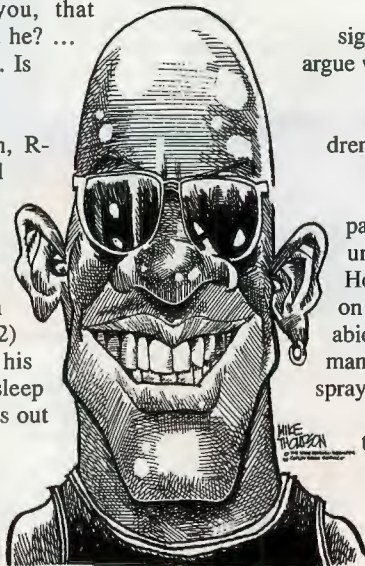
Algere, The Individualist

Algere, on basketball: "I tell you, that Michael Jackson is unbelievable, isn't he? ... Three plays in 20 seconds." Hmmm ... Is it just that they share the same first name?

In the words of Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah: "Anyone who calls Michael Jordan 'Michael Jackson,' is doing a lot worse than misspelling potato."

We disagree. It's really not much of a stretch. Think about it. To be more like Michael Jackson, Jordan need only: (1) change his career, (2) mysteriously lose half his nose while his skin fades (3) babysit young boys, (4) sleep in an oxygen tent, and (5) keep giraffes out back.

Yes, indeed, it makes sense how Algere could confuse these two icons of American pop culture. With folks like Algere out there — so sensitive and appreciative of individual nuances — it's little wonder Dennis Rodman paints his hair.



MICHAEL JORDAN

Clinton Vs. Children

Remember that Gun Free Zones Act Clinton proudly signed in 1996? Remember how popular it was? Who could argue with a law that makes it a felony to pass within 1,000 feet of any school in the country while carrying a firearm?

Clinton and his army of gun reformers must love children, right?

Let's think about that.

School-yard shootings have become common only since passage of that law. No evidence suggests this law created the unfortunate phenomenon of playground mass murder. However, due to passage of the Gun Free Zones Act, children on a playground can be almost assured no responsible, law-abiding citizens with guns are nearby to help them should some maniacal schoolmate show up with a machine gun and start spraying bullets.

So the Gun Free Zones Act, like all other anti-gun legislation, takes its greatest toll on one of the weakest, more defenseless factions of society — children. Teachers, principals and bus drivers will abide by the law; possessed psycho-killers won't.

And now, a recent letter from John Magaw, director of the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, points out another serious flaw in the Gun Free Zones Act. Magaw wrote to a U.S. Senator, telling him if a home school is considered a school by

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- Oval shaped Kraton G⁺ thermoplastic elastomer handles
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Black Tanto #1245

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

Warthog #1247

- Blade length 5 3/8", hollow ground, overall length 10 1/4"

Black Ka-Bar #1214

- Blade length 7", with 2" triple peaked serration, overall length 11 3/4"

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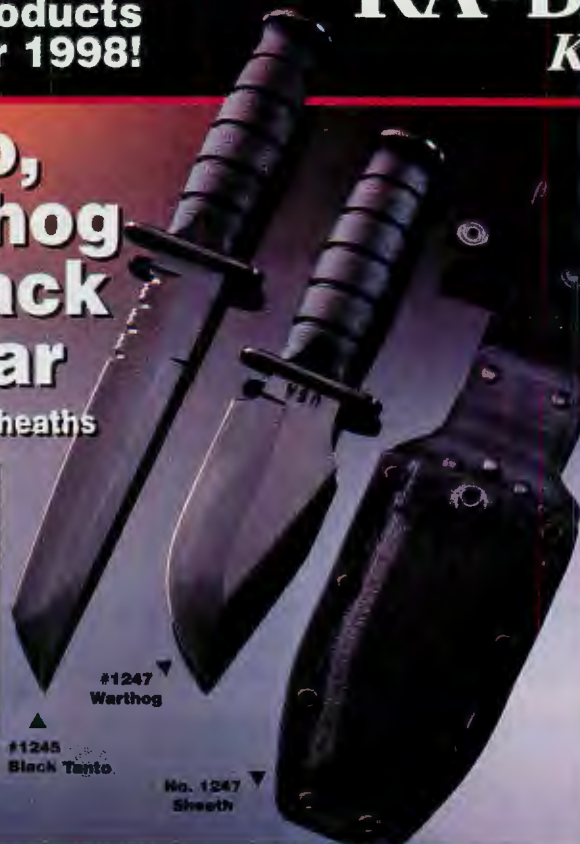
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#1245 Black Tanto

#1247 Warthog

No. 1245 Sheath

No. 1245 Sheath

Do not let this happen to **YOU!!!**

You mustn't get caught—

NEW FOR 98

“Naked, Stripped Of All That I Had! Totally Vulnerable Everything Was Hanging Out

I had over 300 street-fights in 20 years. After seeing 15 minutes of his Lethal System I realized how stupid I was in the past and how close I came to death. I felt naked!

You feel that naked, when after 20 years of street-fighting plus Judo, Karate and Kung-Fu have failed to show you the truth. Let me tell you buddy, when you have a little age on your butt and there are four Gang-Bangers shoving you around and making rude gestures at your wife, you want to act. Look, I didn't care about getting pushed but if they touched my wife I was in the game. Only this is no game. There's four scumbags with weapons moving all around me. I can take one out with a kick. But by the time my foot comes down, two of them will stab me in the back. If I body-tackle the biggest and grapple him down to choke him out, the other 3 will just kick my head off. Or the guy with the gun will shoot my knee-cap off and I will be helpless as they rape my wife.

Wake Up! Street-Fighting Skills Aren't Enough!!!

You better wake up out there, this is the real world. Not even my street-fighting told me how to handle this. I was lucky they weren't out for blood. They just wanted to intimidate me. I was damn angry. Not at what happened. Hell, my ego wasn't the deal. Staying alive was! I just realized that I spent \$5,000-7,000 hard-earned dollars (not to mention the years) to learn what only works in a ring or a cage with referees and men that think they can street-fight. Yeah, they pick up a chair or use a broken bottle or knife but they never really know what they're doing. Look, let's just stop here, if you've read this far you're probably one **Tough SOB** like me, if you're not, **stop** reading this information. It's not for the weak-willed who have to get drunk to get up the guts to have a slap fight. It's for **you** real men that want to know the **TRUTH** about **lethal fighting skills**. I knew that after 5 minutes of watching Jerry Peterson's lethal SCARS® system he was nothing short of revolutionary. He'll change your mind about power and fear. I don't know if you believe in a God but Jerry must be talking to him. There's just no other answer to how he solves complex fighting problems. Jerry says, "It's in the math but it doesn't hurt to have **God** on your side." Don't make the mistake I did in '93, the first time I read about this system, "Thinking how could it be true?"

This Guy Is "Nothing But Hype"

Wrong, the documentation is there. The government backs it up. He's taught, developed and standardized combat schools for the SEALs and other Special Operations Forces not just in the US but also with NATO groups.

Ask Yourself, "Can I Handle The Truth?"

If You Can, Then Here Is Real Credibility.

Jerry Peterson's SCARS was demonstrated on a secure military base, in true combat fashion, to no less than the *US Secretary of Defense*, the leading *4 Star General*, plus the *Secretary of the Navy* and powerful *Congressional Leaders*. They all watched in total amazement as the SEAL's executed fighting skills never before seen, absolutely flawless on every combat action they took using guns, knives, full gear, single and multi-fighting and most impressively their bare hands. **SCARS**

never failed them and it will never fail YOU!!!

If That Doesn't

Blow Your Mind This Will

You can bet your life on this man's credibility, 30,000 other professional men have. You can't waste one more day learning a sport system that has counters to every move. **With SCARS you're undefeatable!** Look, do you think Jerry could have achieved his renown credibility if the secret SCARS science of lethal combat could be countered. Absolutely not! The fact is, Jerry Peterson is the one civilian in the history of the USA to have accomplished such professional credibility. I challenge you to find one individual that has ever gotten their fighting system to be reviewed by such powerful leaders at the same time. Of course, to make it more unfair, also get the official stamp of approval for implementing their system as required training for the US military. Want to check this out? Here is just one of the official course numbers K-431-0096, check it out with the Navy. I did, boy was I impressed when they gave me the list of what this guy has done. It only took me six months. Damned bureaucratic red tape!

Want More Credibility?

Jerry Peterson's SCARS project is the only system ever to pass all the combat requirements of the United States Defense Department. Then to go one better he raised that standard and personally trained the elite Navy SEALs, some made it, some didn't. But those that did today hold the coveted SCARS/CFC qualification of subject matter experts in the field of hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat. By the way, this qualification becomes part of their official military records. In fact, there would be no experts if Jerry Peterson did not license the **SCARS-Combat Fighting Course** to the Navy. Are you getting the picture? Don't wait as I did. Don't be fooled by the follower's...

You Know The 'Little Men'

Ever since 1993, self-proclaimed military 'gurus' and some street-fighters have been **following Jerry** making clever claims, *if you read between the lines there's nothing but ambiguous claims and self-given titles*. Have you noticed nobody produces any official paperwork? Hey, just ask those 'little men' that talk big about what they've actually done. Yep, he can talk the talk. Hell, he should, he's listened to **real** combat soldiers stories for years, but he just never quite got there himself. Hey Lew? **Truth is a bitch!** Frank how was that war in Panama, waiting at the air strip is really scary. Oh! Glad to see TRS is back with the fighter-of-the-month club. Hey, what happened to the other 5 or so "one-of-a-kind" "never can be beaten" fighters who all had similar stories? **OOPS!**

Jerry Peterson Is Absolutely For Real

This is what you'll find out. Don't wait. Let go of the past and learn the science of Lethal Combat. This is the first and only original Navy SEAL System. **YOUR LIFE WILL DEPEND ON IT!** Sorry, I'm jumping ahead let me explain why the martial arts can't and won't get the official documentation. First the system has to be universal to all men. This means that 100 men go in. One-hundred men come out 100% efficient in all aspects of CQB (close quarters battle). To prove that the government must

test, and test SCARS they did, for over five years in real field conditions, on all terrains, including water with real weapons and in real conflicts. I'm not going to get into all the government testing, that will take forever. Plus there are some we can't talk about. But in all those years SCARS never failed **EVER!!** And that's why it's still the standard.

In Fact SCARS Set "New Standards"...

for hand to hand, knife fighting, rifle combat, and much more. SCARS is also taking the Law Enforcement community by storm. The summer Olympics Special Security team was required to take our IQS-1 Series just to qualify to get on the team and **YOU** can have that same knowledge and training. This is your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become **undefeatable** (with or without a weapon) with the **SCARS Professional Fighting System**. Why?

Because Your Life Is Worth Saving

SCARS will not fail **you**. That's why the US Navy SEAL's, government agents and law enforcement agencies throughout the world are using this easily learned, but lethal, system to save lives. You will know it works after seeing Jerry's powerful unbelievably easy to learn video tapes. Look, you'll receive more knowledge in one hour from Jerry Peterson's videos on fighting than two decades of so-called 'Secret' Martial Arts. Thanks to Jerry's revolutionary training method of Gestalt, it won't take you years, months, weeks, or days, in just a few short hours of watching you will easily handle any bad guy that comes your way!!! I can't tell you the 'god-like' power you get from the truth of this system!

I'm Telling You SCARS Is So Easy And So Devastating, It's 'Embarrassing'.

You will resist at first. You will say **bullsh!** Then you start recalling your real fights on the street. Punches and kicks you have done. You try what-if-ing everything he says. Why? Because he is stripping you of the lies you based your manhood on, he is telling you and showing the cold logic of the fight, ripping apart the lie of defensive action and replacing it with brutal science of combat. Be prepared, it's brutal. The foundation of SCARS is solely mathematical, it follows that the results are absolute, and not emotionally motivated. To a layman it will seem to be quite brutal. However this is pure science of human movement for the purpose of protecting your life. Since it is science, every move in every lesson seamlessly adapts to all modern and ancient weapons. You never waste time learning useless punching and kicking or grappling moves that **DON'T** work with weapons. With Jerry's system you can take the weapon out and you're still a lethal fighter. SEALs using SCARS have never been beaten. Now is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get Jerry's—

Free Special Report To Receive The Same Knowledge As The Most Feared Men On Earth Navy SEALs! Just Call

1-800-827-1239

24-hours for a Free recorded message to get your Free report. International, call 602-437-3143
Check our **New Website** out at www.scars.com and find out how to become a **Member** to get free weekly lessons.

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state law, "the possession of a firearm on the grounds of such schools or within 1,000 feet of school grounds would violate the law."

So, in essence, the law turns out to be yet another Clinton attack on homes of parents who choose to educate their own children. Like most Clinton legislation, it's anti-family, anti-child, anti-individual and pro-state.

And, says Gun Owners of California, the law is not only a concern to home schoolers and public school children who fear for their safety. Based on the ATF interpretation of the law, the group says, gun owners traveling in automobiles not only have to know where every public and private school is located, but also every home school, as well.

"The Gun Free Zones law is yet another square in the patchwork quilt of gun laws, forcing gun owners who want to lawfully carry a self-defense firearm to pass through a maze just to drive across town," states a policy paper by Gun Owners of California.

The Military's Greatest Threat

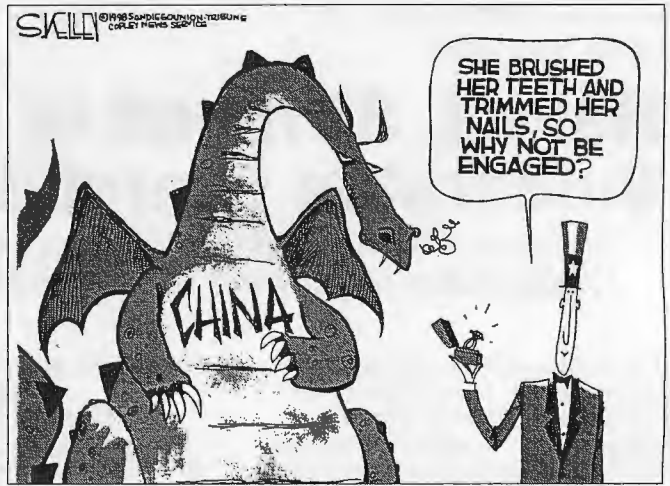
When the years of Bill Clinton and Co. finally make our military a third-rate power, it won't be for lack of funding — and it won't be the result of too many "peacekeeping missions" that spread our forces thin.

Rather, it will be the slow, unnoticed fermentation of subtle changes — policy shifts that reflect a lowering of standards.

As commander-in-chief, Clinton has eroded military morale and justice with every adulterous affair he's committed against his wife, first lady Hillary Clinton.

Predictably, sexual affairs of the commander-in-chief have placed military justice in such a precarious dilemma that Secretary of Defense William Cohen will soon decide whether to throw the baby out with the bath water.

A committee appointed by Cohen released drafted changes in July to the Manual for Courts Martial that would downgrade the crime of adultery in the military's justice system. A delighted *New York Times*



called the recommendations "a recognition that, in at least some ways, the military world should not really be so different from the civilian."

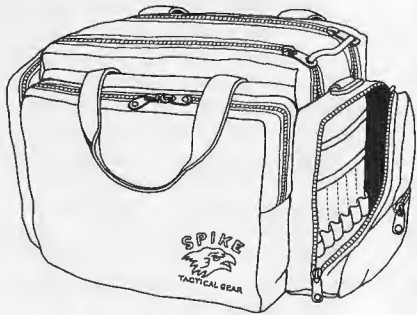
Officers could still face dismissal if convicted by a court-martial, but new rules would urge commanders to file charges only when the adultery has disrupted the morale or smooth functioning of a military unit. Never mind any harm to innocent wives and children, who's everyday lives revolve entirely around what decisions the military makes for husbands and fathers.

For enlisted personnel, the maximum punishment for a conviction of adultery would be reduced to a bad conduct discharge, instead of the more serious dishonorable discharge, which revokes all benefits.

In effect, the proposed changes would be more or less like reducing adultery from a felony to a misdemeanor in the military's docket of misconduct.

To take effect, the proposed changes must first undergo the rigorous scrutiny of Bill Clinton — the world's most renowned adul-

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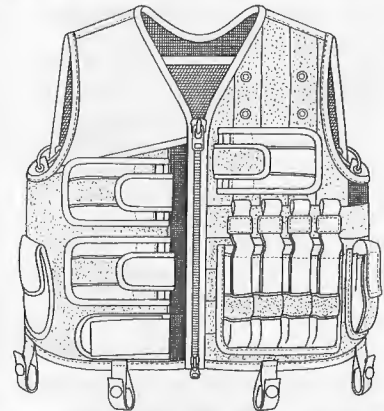


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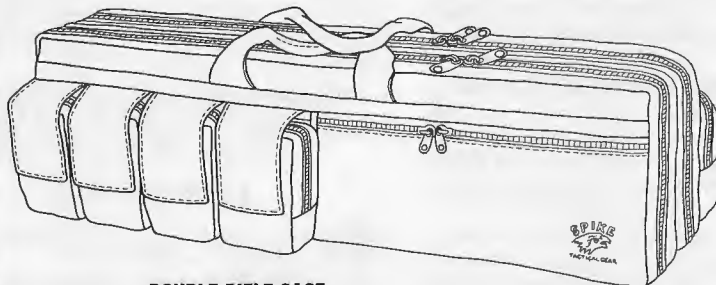
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TACTICAL GEAR

terer. How can he possibly say no? How can he possibly protect this age-old military standard when faced with the opportunity to reduce it to his level?

Our military is not a democracy. Military laws about adultery are in place for good reason: They demand the military, as an institution, be better than the public it defends. Furthermore, laws against adultery protect the wives and children of soldiers who are often required to spend months, even years, far away from home. Adultery laws reflect the fact a soldier's intact family is essential to a healthy, functioning war machine.

When Cohen formally proposes this lowering of standards to the president, it should come as no surprise. Cohen's entire tenure as secretary of defense has been aimed at lowering the standards of the military, to bring it more in line with civilian corporate America.

Let's not forget this is the same guy who pronounced "nothing ethically egregious happened at CNN," after the network falsely accused American special forces of murderous war crimes in Laos — against fellow Americans, no less. God help us if Cohen ever lands work as a publisher or broadcast executive, setting even lower standards for the media.

It's bad enough Clinton wants to make mockery of the presidency and host lurid affairs in the White House. But presidents come and go.

The military, by contrast, is the rock to which Americans tether their freedom. Lowering military standards, to reflect trends of the general public, will ultimately turn the rock to shale.

Al Gore, Mr. Sensitive

Future victims of natural disasters should hope and pray Vice President Gore doesn't show up to console them, and offer the federal government's support.

Just ask folks in Florida what it's like. As fires terrorized the state this summer, Clinton sent Gore to offer the hugs, assurances and promises people expect from Washington after tragedy.

Only problem was it quickly became apparent Gore was more concerned with himself and his own propagandist agenda, than he was with the fires and piles of ash that once were family homes. In the midst of disaster, he took center stage and lectured disaster victims about his theories on global warming.

Gore just doesn't get it. When fires have devastated lives — and are immediately threatening homes — nobody cares about his self-serving, socialist fund-raising poppycock. Have a bake sale, Al, but not in a disaster zone.

Next big flood, expect Gore to warn victims about the hazardous emissions of boat motors — telling them to swim to safety. Next big tornado, plan to see Gore in the midst of carnage, telling the locals to carefully recycle the debris from their homes and extend the life of a landfill.

Go home to your air-conditioned life, Al. You've been in the heat too long. ☒

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Iran's

Terror Exports

Khameini's Death-Dealing Balance Of Payments

by Al J. Venter

Photos by Chris Kutschera

An unusual document has been published in Washington, D.C. Written by Mehdi Haeri Khorshidi, one of the leaders of the Iranian National Conference, an opposition group-in-exile and, thus, a Pasdaran (Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps) target. It expounds the theory that the Tehran regime will never be ousted unless force is used.

"Those who believe that they can moderate these people with either technology or dialogue, are fooling themselves. They are risking the nation's security."

He believed implicitly that the Iranian revolution would save the world. As a student and disciple of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Mehdi Korshidi ("the rebel," as he is today described by Tehran media) thought that his mentor would one day become a new Gandhi. "Instead, he turned out to be a Nero."

While there have been numerous positive gestures from the government of new President Sayed Mohammed Khatami, a recent U.S. state department report on Iran indicates that Tehran has been behind at least a thousand deaths of "enemies of the state" since 1979. And, unfortunately, the presidency is a figurehead job — the power

remains with "Divine Guide" Sayyid Ali Khameini, the present religious leader. (Note: Do not confuse with "Khomeini," the previous Ayatollah.)

Countries where Iranian agents have been active include almost all of Europe, much of North Africa, as well as several Asian states. The number of Iranian dissidents liquidated in Europe is reckoned to be about 80. Some of those responsible for these crimes have recently been brought to trial in Germany. Sources within other American government departments have warned that there are groups — both men and women — being trained for subversive work abroad by Pasdaran. There is also a powerful Pasdaran element ensconced in

the Sudan, at the head of the Red Sea. Iranian Revolutionary Guards are known to be training a variety of subversives, including fundamentalist dissidents from Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Eritrea, Uganda, and elsewhere. This sort of activity cannot take place if it has not been sanctioned by the governments responsible.

The newsletter *Iran Brief* reported last June that this activity has been expanded. It stated: "Senior Iranian intelligence operatives have been entering the U.S. clandestinely." One of its agents had conducted its first — and only — assassination on American soil. The victim was Mr. Ali Tabatabai, a former diplomat at the Iranian embassy in Washington, D.C., who had become an outspoken critic of the revolutionary regime. He was killed by an American Black Muslim recruit, David Belfield, who subsequently fled to Iran.

Although it is now accepted in Western intelligence circles that there has been Iranian input in recent bomb attacks against American and Saudi interests in the Arabian Peninsula, U.S. nationals in some Gulf States had been warned since the early '90s that they were being targeted by terrorists who had infiltrated from training bases in Iran. However, in keeping with Iranian policy that goes to extraordinary lengths to avoid directly implicating the country, very few of the operators are Iranian. Some are Palestinian, or of Saudi origin. Still more are Lebanese, Egyptian, Algerian,

Sudanese, and other nationalities.

For this, and other reasons, it has become difficult to pinpoint the full extent of Iranian participation in these matters since Tehran has become remarkably adept at covering its tracks. The idea — according to one defector — is that it would make retaliation that much more difficult in the event of a major international terrorist strike, such as the one on the New York World Trade Center — especially if some kind of low-key capability involving biological pathogens or chemical agents were involved.

A case in point during the Lebanese civil war period was Beirut's Islamic *Jihad*, then (and still) controlled directly from Tehran through a multiplicity of contacts. For a long time Islamic Jihad had no visible leader. There was nobody connectable to the media or to the diplomatic community. If its leaders made contact at all, it was usually by way of a runner pulled off the street who was handed a document and some cash and pointed in the right direction.

Eventually, through the duplicitous Arab



Despots revered. Despite some positive moves by Iran, it doesn't require much intellect to spot where genuine sympathies lie — in the bloody past. The late Ayatollah Khomeini still is the measuring rod by which present and future rulers are, and will be, judged.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards are known to be training a variety of subversives, including fundamentalist dissidents from Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Eritrea, Uganda, and elsewhere.

grapevine, it was established that the man responsible was the notorious Imad Mughniyeh, who, author Hala Jaber tells us, had been a member of the PLO's "elite" Force 17 that was run by one of Arafat's trusted lieutenants, Ali Hassan Salameh (also known as Abu Hassan). Mughniyeh and his cronies were referred to as "Khomeini's *Fatah* Islamites." All these people, we now know, had Pasdaran connections.

Former Iranian president Abol Hassan Bani Sadr — in exile in Europe for 15 years — said as much when he addressed the media in Berlin last year. That followed the issue of a warrant for the arrest of the former Iranian Intelligence Minister, Ali Fallahian-Khuze, after he had been identified as the man responsible for the killings. Bani Sadr told the court that the murders had been sanctioned jointly by Khomeini, Iran's chief religious leader, and the then-president Hashemi Rafsanjani.

He disclosed that there are at present 17 organisations in Tehran, all of them located in different ministries, that are involved in terrorism, most of which take place abroad. He gave the German prosecutor in Berlin details about the networks, their functions, and



An AK gets the white-glove treatment. Glad to be here? Probably not. But the Iranian militias are gearing up for something major as old scars are forever sensitive to anti-Western proselytizing.

many of the names of those involved and told the court that within the framework of Iranian constitutional law, or *Vilayat Fakh*, that only the "Guide," Ayatollah Khomeini, can sentence someone to death.

"It cannot be a political decision," Bani Sadr said. "And what they are doing right now is acknowledging that these murders are justified from a religious point of view," he added.

"In 1987, former President Rafsanjani issued the order to create a special council for affairs which should remain absolutely secret and not subject to decisions or discussion by the *Majlis* (the Iranian parliament). These secret affairs included confidential contracts with foreign countries, arms purchases, details about the country's nuclear-, biological- and chemical-warfare programmes, as well as the man-hunts of opponents, both domestic and foreign.

Bani Sadr Atop The Hit Parade Charts

He went on: "The members of this council include Khomeini, Rafsanjani, Ali Akbar Velayati (former Minister of Foreign Affairs), Ali Mohammed Besharati-Jahromi (former Interior Minister), Ali Fallahian (erstwhile Intelligence Minister), Mohsen Rezaei (Commander of the Revolutionary Guards), Reyshari (former secret services chief and now head of Khomeini's Special Bureau) and Hijazi (Director of Intelligence in Khomeini's Bureau)." Many of these people were replaced by Khatami and still hold powerful sway.

Bani Sadr said that even after all these years he is still able to keep close tabs on developments there. His contacts extended to sources within government. There were many people, he said, who were disillusioned with Khomeini's hard-line, fundamentalist approach to social and political issues. They were eager for change, which brought Khatami to power, but his hands are tied.

It is important to understand how all this has evolved. Largely, it followed the success of the revolution when the ultra-sectarian Ayatollah Khomeini embarked on an agenda known as *Mashru al-Thawra al-Iranillah*, the Project of the Iranian Revolution. In simple terms, his programme was aimed at furthering Islam by reviving the Islamic *Ummah*, the worldwide Islamic nation, which he envisioned would be based in Iran (and led by himself as the *Amir al-Muminum*, Commander of the Faithful). Already, it would seem, Iran had imperial interests in mind. The Guards Corps, Pasdaran, it was decided then, according to Bani Sadr, would be the instrument.

While it is impossible in a country almost as vast as Alaska and as xenophobic as Iran to keep track of all known terrorist training bases in the country, some have been pinpointed.

The first Iranian terrorist training camp at Manzarieh Park (on the northern outskirts of Tehran), now serves as a distribution and coordinating unit for foreigners recruited for the cause — including some Americans (mostly black) and Irish (IRA) nationals. Manzarieh is estimated to have trained upwards of 3,000 terrorists between 1981 and the early '90s.

Other camps have been identified at Hamadan, southwest of the capital; Qazvin, in the northeast; and the biggest of them all, Imam Ali, is east of Tehran where most foreign nationals are hosted.

The Iranian-trained hit-team captured by the Turks in October 1994, came from Imam Ali. Turkish Intelligence was able — with persuasion — to extract a remarkably

accurate profile of current Iranian intelligence work.

"Graduate" work (as well as preparations for suicide bombings) are handled at Marvdasht, on the Persopolis plateau off the Esfahan road to the south of the capital. A defector to the West, Colonel Ali Vesseghi, reckoned that some of this training included condemned prisoners driving trucks filled with explosives at each other in an attempt to gauge the effect on specific targets. It was a prelude, he said, to more suicide bombings aimed at Western targets.

Bushehr, on the Gulf coast, and one of the sites of Iran's clandestine nuclear programme is another major installation involved in insurgency. At the city's air base, trainees are taught to fly single-engine Pilatus Porters as a prelude to what some describe as "suicide missions." There are reports that this activity has been the subject of an American intelligence report and that it has since been shifted to Won Son in North Korea, although this has not been confirmed.



"Down With Israel." What else is new? To rouse the rabble into a bloodsport frenzy, enemies are needed; Israel and the U.S. being two of the stalwart whipping boys for Iranian radicals. (below) Railing and wailing against the Great Satan, throngs emit their ire against their enemies — real and imagined.

Other aircraft bought by the Iranians for this purpose (said to be intended for destroying the homes of leaders in the Gulf and Near East regions) include Cessna Citations and Falcon fan jets.

Underwater demolition, mining and seaborne activity is taught by Pasdaran at Bandar Abbas, as are Lebanese *Hezbollah* recruits in miniature two-man submarines (which are detailed in threat-identification posters at all Israeli operational bases in south Lebanon/north Galilee). The intricacies of "high-end" explosives and booby traps are among subjects on the agenda at several camps around Isfahan.

Recent reports out of Iran have indicated that aviation and airport terrorism training is now handled in the remote northeast of the country. The entire Western-built airport on the outskirts of the religious city of Mashad (not far from the Afghan border) is devoted to this purpose. After the downing of an Iran Air A300 by an American warship in the Gulf, a similar facility was established at Shiraz.

Thousands of Iranians and numerous foreigners have graduated from these establishments. While many were killed in the war with Iraq, some are known to have been sent to the West, posing as bona fide refugees. These "sleepers" have been inactive for a decade — a distinct Cold War pattern — and can be activated at any time.

Almost 20 years after the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned in triumph to Iran to complete the revolution that would create the Islamic

Republic, the country is, if anything, more isolationist than ever, except in matters of international murder.

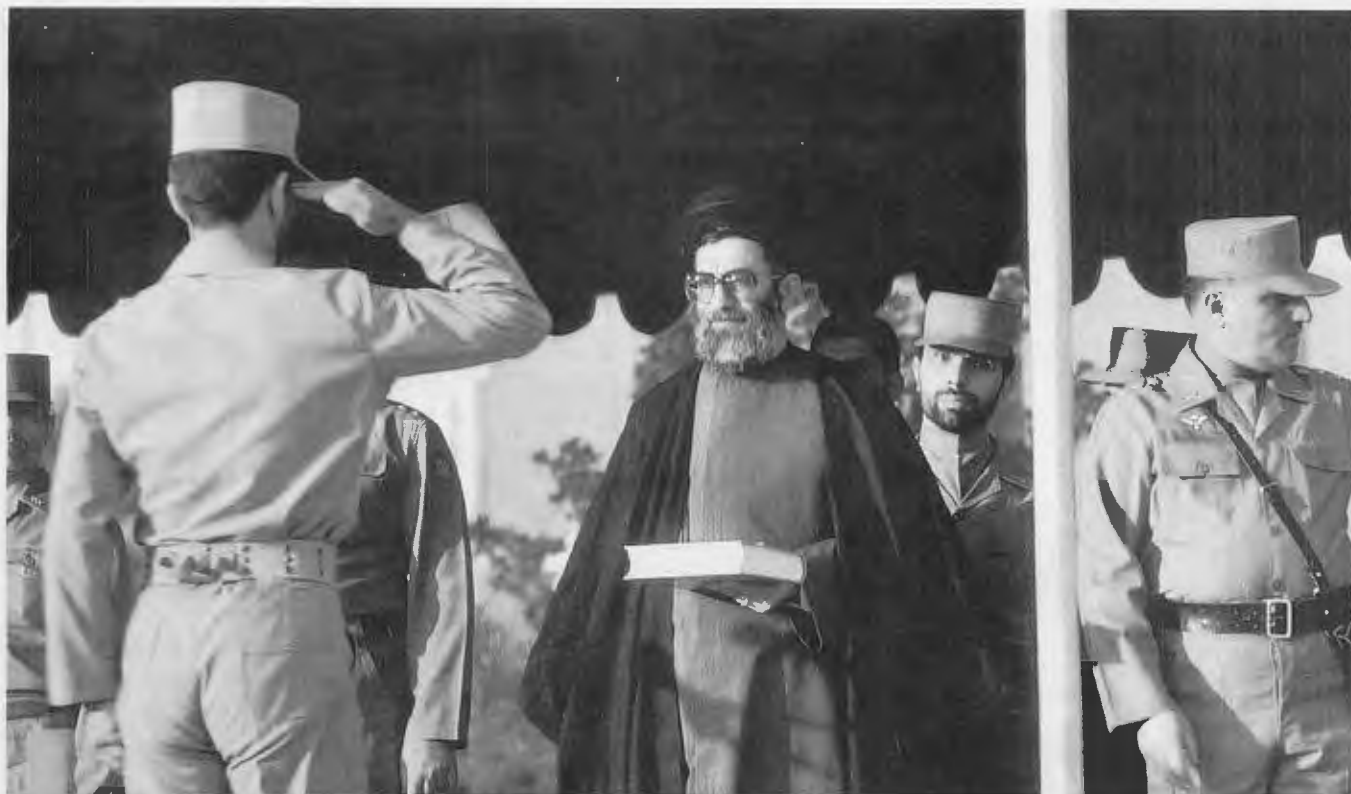
Recent evidence indicates that Iranian *mullahs* have entered a more aggressive "international" phase of assassinations. The government appears to be prepared to back words with action, which is why, in Washington's view, Iran remains "the world's principal state sponsor of terrorism."

Killing For Allah

Among acts laid at Tehran's door have been the attempted assassination of Egypt's President Mubarak (utilizing Sudanese agents); the downing of a Panamanian airliner on a known route used mostly by Jewish businessmen; the destruction of a Jewish cultural center in the Argentine; a machine-gun attack on worshipers at a Turkish synagogue; as well as the sponsoring of suicide bombers in Israeli cities.

Hezbollah — I was told by Major General Yoram Yair, the recently departed Israeli military attaché in Washington — receives at least \$100 million a year for its efforts in South Lebanon. Some say the figure is double that with the intensification of the "liberation struggle" in South Lebanon.





According to James Woolsey, erstwhile CIA director who spoke to *The Middle East*, the Party of God has killed more Americans than any other terrorist group since the end of World War II. That tally, he told me, did not include the 19 "U.N." airmen (Americans all, serving under the "white 'n blue") who died in the Khobar Towers bombing in Dhahran.

Also, FBI Director Louis Freeh recently testified on Capitol Hill that both Lebanese Hezbollah and the Palestinian group *Hamas* "have placed people inside the U.S. who could be used to support an act of terrorism here."

Nor are conditions likely to change with the broad appeal of Mohammed Khatami among the masses. His is a liberal agenda; it is also an agenda opposed by the mullahs. It says a lot that Khatami, one of only four candidates (out of a pool of 238 hopefuls), survived vetting by the extremely conservative Iranian Council of Guardians.

In any event, under the constitution, the Iranian president remains subordinate to Khomeini. In certain critical respects, this man is now more potent politically than was his mentor, the Ayatollah Khomeini, highly significant in a country with the third-largest oil and second-largest natural gas reserves in the world.

To understand the machinations of Iranian-sponsored terrorism, it is essential to grasp the nature and extent of the power wielded by Pasdaran, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Its original role was to have been strictly cultural. It was described at the time as "safeguarding the achievements of the Islamic revolution." Militarily, the force is designated to support the regular army when required, which it did with success

during the Iran-Iraq war when its strength peaked at about 750,000. The current manpower of Pasdaran is roughly 175,000. Pasdaran has its own independent chain of command, answerable — through its com-

More recently, Tehran has been buying North Korea's Nodong-1 missiles and Chinese cruise missiles, all of which have the range to hit Israel or targets in the Persian Gulf.

mander-in-chief — directly to Khomeini. A minister in the Iranian cabinet deals with nothing else.

The organization has recently been divided into four categories: soldiers, fighters, officers and commandants. By the mid-'90s, after restructuring, Pasdaran formations were as follows: Regional HQ — 11 (fully manned); Armoured Division — 2 (on mobilisation); and Infantry Division — 24 (cadre strength). These are all "official" activities.

Pasdaran, according to Arab writer Hala Jaber, was created "to spread the word of the revolution and rescue the deprived of the world from the domination of the superpowers." Their task, Khomeini is quoted as

Homage to the true power, Ayatollah Ali Khomeini. Iran's figurehead president Khatami is a virtual non-player insofar as terrorist-mission authorizations are concerned.

saying before he died, was to be carried out through flagrant military intervention (Lebanon), and through subtle political interference elsewhere.

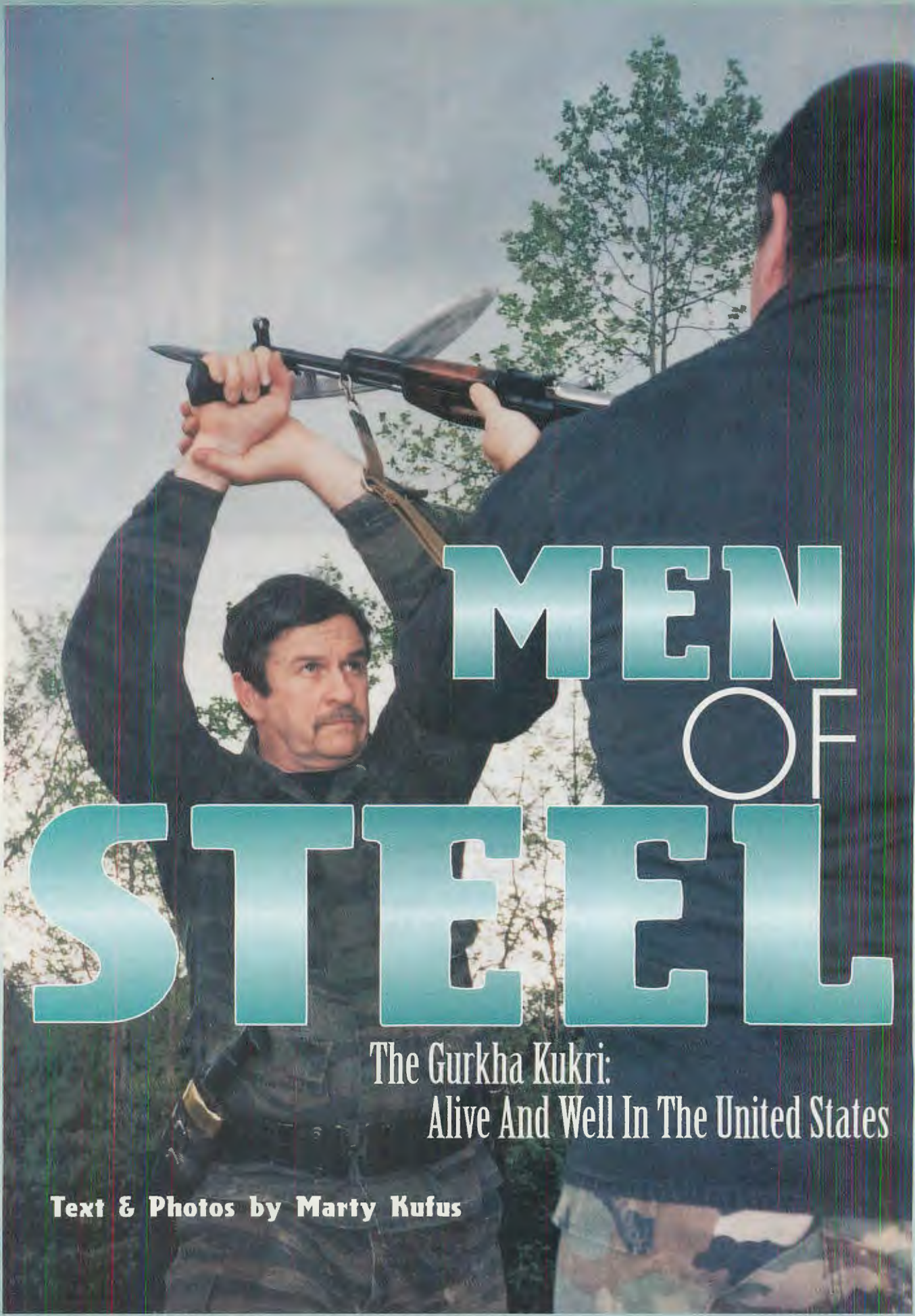
Pasdaran, today, is particularly active throughout the Gulf region and in countries which allied themselves with Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war. In Saudi Arabia, they have been involved in planning and instigating riots during the annual *Hajj*. In Turkey, much effort and cash goes towards trying to disrupt Ankara's new-found alliance with Jerusalem. Guards also agents occupy positions at all Iranian embassies. They are prominent in small countries, such as Cyprus, for some time now regarded by Washington and London as a major conduit for Iranian operatives and assassins into Europe.

Under diplomatic cover, Pasdaran agents have recruited proxies and cells for operations worldwide. Much of the money used by cash-strapped Sudan to train and equip foreign insurgents, for example, has come from Pasdaran. In turn, Khartoum has granted the Iranian Navy a 20-year tenure over the two principle Sudanese naval bases at Port Sudan and Suakin.

What is significant is that Pasdaran fulfills various clandestine security roles, including intelligence and the Iranian secret police. All subversive activities — whether domestic or foreign — fall within this brief.

Judith Miller, former head of the *New*

Continued on page 80



MEN OF STEEL

The Gurkha Kukri:
Alive And Well In The United States

Text & Photos by Marty Kufus

Mosquitoes and leeches bit at the Gurkha soldiers. None dared move. Just ahead in the jungle lay a forward position of a few Japanese infantrymen. Twilight was descending on Burma on this day in 1944. The *havildar* (Gurkha NCO) signaled. Members of his infiltration team quietly put aside their Lee-Enfield rifles and drew kukris.

Only the day before, they perhaps had used these wickedly shaped blades to cut firewood, sharpen booby-trap stakes, or butcher a python for the platoon's cooking pot. Soon, though, they silently would strike as vengeful instruments of the Hindu deities Shiva and Kali. Blood would flow, coating the kukris like warm motor oil.

As recruits to Gurkha regiments in World War II, the men had learned basic kukri techniques under the stern supervision of a *havildar* or *jemadar* (lieutenant). Armed at first with wooden batons, the young soldiers practiced basic techniques, proper stepping and body movements. Then they were graduated to train with blades issued by the British army.

Impact training against hard objects was important. A kukri man who only cut air might look good, but in reality he would be as ill-trained as a Burmese or Thai kickboxer who shadowboxed but never punched, kicked, kneed, and elbowed a sand-filled heavy bag.

The young Gurkha soldiers, in training, chopped acres of bamboo in squad and platoon movements — as if to charge through trenches and bunker complexes to decapitate, disembowel, or dismember enemy soldiers. This toughened the hands, wrists, and arms of recruits. It also developed “body lock”: the simultaneous tightening of joints and muscles to support a technique and drive the blade through its target. The use of

hard targets in training also taught the Gurkha to maintain his personal safety zone in case his blade was deflected — a characteristic hazard. As this course of training progressed, the recruit learned blocks and parries to defend against Japanese infantrymen's bayonets and their officers' samurai swords.

The Gurkhas' combat use of kukris likely reached its zenith in WWII, when several blade-carrying Asian cultures clashed in desperate hand-to-hand engagements in the China-Burma-India Theater.

Not A 'Knife'

The Gurkhas historically have been closemouthed about the actual employment of this weapon that is their cultural symbol.

This allowed a common Western misconception: that there were no systematic techniques of the kukri — just the Gurkha's burning desire to chop up enemy soldiers with a skill acquired through a lifetime of cutting grass and firewood and butchering animals. This is a simplistic half-truth at best. Every battle blade in history — and the kukri is no exception — has been supported by its own “school.”

For example, the *katana*, the long sword of the Japanese samurai, has its ancient system of ritual and battle-tested techniques. In 19th-century America, New Orleans was home to several European-influenced schools of the Bowie knife (“This Is A Knife” by Bill Bagwell, June '97). That

legendary blade would influence the design of another American fighter: the WWII “Ka-Bar U.S.M.C.” knife. At the same time, British commandos diligently practiced their repertoire of Fairbairn-Sykes dagger techniques, which included throat-cutting for sentry removal.

Another misconception: that the kukri is a knife. It correctly is called a short sword. And there is some diversity in design. Through the centuries, each of the Gurkha tribes developed its own preference. The Rai tribe, for example, favored slender forward-angled blades, while the Gurung tribe developed wide, cleaver-like blades with a forward curve.

Whether forward-angled or curved, the blade's boomerang-like shape imparts a



As stated on this T-shirt, the American Bando Association is “keeping alive the skills, prowess and fighting spirit of the Gurkha and Kachin warriors.”



(left) Instructor Steve Minnix demonstrates a defense against a simulated bayonet attack by his brother, Ron, who is armed with an SKS rifle. (above and right) Anybody can wave a blade in the air, but full-power impact training is a real test of skill and safety. Steve Minnix (foreground), Ron (at far end), and students attack stacks of logs with multiple techniques.





Sequence (from left) showing head- and throat-height slashes. Points of interest: Swordsman's arm never fully straightens after slash — wasted motion inviting elbow hyperextension — and the sword always stays in his sight, even if only in peripheral vision.

devastating ballistic effect. It also makes the sword dangerous to a careless owner. Many Western aficionados of cutlery do not know — perhaps until it's too late — that a kukri user never should wrap his fingers around the front (sharp-side) edge of a snugly fitting scabbard while removing the blade. The curved steel might hang up inside its container and, when tugged, cut down and through the leather and wood — and into tender flesh.

The kukri can deliver six distinct strikes, not just the hatchet-like “chop.” There also is the hammer strike with the dull back of the blade (perhaps for taking a prisoner); the slash, using only the top third of the edge; a point-on thrust (which some Western “experts” have claimed cannot be done); a flat-blade slap, a stunning blow; and, a butt strike with the bottom of the handle. In the Gurkha sword system, techniques are practiced not as single strikes, but in combinations — usually three.

In America

In post-Soviet years the British army, like other NATO forces, has been downsized. As a result, fewer young Gurkhas are recruited from Nepal. The training schedule for those who make the cut reportedly allows little time for the old-fashioned kukri. The close-combat sword system of their fathers and grandfathers is being de-emphasized in favor of modern weapons and high-tech infantry equipment. This is

not a unique phenomenon: In the U.S. Army since the Vietnam War, bayonet and hand-to-hand combat training have seen their ups and downs, too.

Nowadays the kukri system seldom is seen outside the far-flung enclaves of present and former Gurkha soldiers and the thousands of retirees residing in Nepal and India. Here in the States, the only known civilian group that maintains the authentic short-sword system is the American Bando Association, Inc. (P.O. Box 2763, Atlanta, GA 30301).

Formally organized in 1968 in Ohio, the ABA was until recent years somewhat secretive. Lacking a commercial impetus — it's nonprofit — the organization has a modest membership of fewer than a thousand nationwide. It has a twofold mission: to preserve the Gurkha sword system and the multifaceted bando (“bon-doe”) martial-arts system of Burma, and to pay tribute to the Allied veterans of Asian wars. Some of the ABA's early members were East Coast veterans of the Vietnam War.

The association's founder and chief instructor is Dr. Maung Gyi, a retired Ohio University professor of interpersonal communication. A former Gurkha soldier and an internationally known combatives instructor, Gyi was born “Manbahadur Rai” in Maymyo, a garrison town of the 10th Burma Gurkha Regiment, near Mandalay.

At the 1995 Soldier Of Fortune Convention and Expo, Gyi and a squad of his black-suited senior students — including an Army Reserve medical officer, a Columbus, Ohio, deputy sheriff, and a University of Kentucky professor — thrilled spectators with well-rehearsed kukri

demonstrations (“Fear and Loading in Las Vegas,” March 1996 *SOF*).

In addition to performing noncontact “forms” and drills — stepping patterns with flurries of precise, multiple techniques — using highly polished kukris, the ABA members attacked blocks of wood, coconuts, and sand-filled containers. The military precision of this performance was the result of many hours of sweaty, no-frills training.

In this martial organization, some of the best training occurs outdoors.

Safety

On a damp, green hill above the Knauff Logging Company in rural southern Ohio, locals Ron and Steve Minnix are working their class of basic-kukri students. An afternoon shower doesn't halt training. It does increase the risk of “friendly fire.” A wet handle is harder to grip, and nobody wants to see a kukri flying through the air. The Minnix brothers caution the students to maintain control.

The two ABA instructors are proud of their safety record. But that didn't just happen. Safety always came first, and they practiced it until it became instinctive.

The afternoon session began with a specialized warm-up. Stretches of the arms, shoulders, and torsos incorporated the students' wooden batons, the initial training weapon.

Under Ron and Steve's commands, the small formation next practiced basic "air" strikes with the sticks. An hour later the group put its trainers aside. On command, kukris were drawn in a ritual salutation. This was repeated a dozen times or more. The students stood three paces apart — the minimum safety interval — in two lines. Everybody was stone-faced serious. The tension was palpable.

The next hour is spent on noncontact drills. The relatively simple routine combines a cross-body draw (right hand to kukri in left-hip scabbard) with a diagonal, rising slash and a right-foot step at a slight outward angle. The distance covered is not long like a tae-kwon-do front stance, but more of a soldier-carrying-heavy-rucksack step. The drill concludes: recovery, a symbolic flicking of blood off the blade, a Gurkha salute, and a return of the sword to its scabbard. The class practices it repeatedly.

One of the students has to be reminded to keep his non-sword hand immediately in front of his breast bone. This is the center-line safety position guarding face, throat, and heart. The only time the safety hand



From the Minnix brothers' collections of kukris (left to right): #1 made in Nepal, circa 1850; #2 and #3 made in India, 1900-1910; #4 made in India, 1935-1944; #5 made in Nepal, 1945-1949; #6 made in India during World War II and believed to have been carried by a member of U.S. Army Ranger unit, "Merrill's Marauders"; #7 made in India in 1945 and carried in survival kit of a U.S. pilot in the China-Burma-India Theater; #8 made in India after WWII but before 1980, as issued weapon to Gurkha; and, #9 made in India since 1980 as issued weapon to Gurkha. The average length of a kukri is 17 to 18 inches; weight: 1-1/2 to 2 pounds.

leaves its guard position is to reinforce the wrist of the sword hand.

Steve eventually orders a halt. Following the break, under a cloudy sky, there's another short lecture. Topic: safety.

"It's not macho to have scars," Steve says. The students are standing at the civilian equivalent of parade rest. Kukris are sheathed. A "new" guy, a skinny kickboxer who cannot yet be trusted with a live blade, has a plywood replica stuck in his belt.

"Scars show what?" Steve continues, in drill-sergeant voice. "That you made a mistake."

A few ABA members around the United States, though, have made mistakes — painful ones. The split-second violation of a

safety principle can result in a trip to the nearest emergency room. Even a dull kukri can spill blood if mishandled. But the risk is worth it.

To skillfully — and above all, safely — perform with this dangerous cobra-shaped blade brings a real sense of achievement. And there's an additional benefit. Some of the principles of safety (and control) of the kukri, as taught in the American Bando Association, can apply to the use of a Bowie knife, machete, or even gasoline-powered chain saw.

The Good Guys

Ron and Steve began studying the kukri under Dr. Gyi in 1980, nine years after they embarked on Burmese-bando training in Columbus. Each now holds a third-level black belt in the association. (The chief instructor alone is at the ninth level.)

The two belie the mainstream stereotype of martial artists as being obsessed with Asian esoterica and disconnected from the real world. Rather, like many of the ABA's members, the Minnix brothers live normal middle-class lives distinguished by community service.

Ron, 47, is a forklift operator at a local paper mill. He also is a volunteer emergency medical technician with nearby Springfield Township's fire and rescue force. Steve, 50, is a full-time student at OU's Chillicothe campus, pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. It fits: He is a reserve deputy and sniper with the Pike County Sheriff's Department.

For five years the two taught police-baton and Mag-Lite (flashlight) combatives at the Pike County Sheriff's training academy. Nowadays they run a small bando club

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Anatomy of a basic cut: (below, from left) Wearing kukris in six of the many possible carrying positions, Steve Minnix stands at attention. He reaches for sword in a cross-body draw. Kukri travels in a diagonal, rising slash (targets: belly and chest) as his right foot moves, knee slightly bent; left hand remains at center-line guard. At completion of slash, Steve halts kukri in a transitional "zone" from which next technique would be launched.



GENOCIDAL JIHAD

by Rob Krott

PHOTOS COURTESY AUTHOR

SOF's Sudanese Summer Vacation

POM POM POM. The sudden report of the anti-aircraft gun made me flinch. Okay, maybe I did a bit more than flinch. I found myself squatting in a hole with a 12.7mm Degtyarev (DShK) machine gun and its crew.

The gunners on the 37mm *ack-ack* gun were banging away at a passing Antonov

bomber. The plane had enough altitude for the pilot not to worry, but the anti-aircraft gunners no doubt felt better. This was my first visit to the front lines in the southern Sudan since 1994 (*SOF*, August and September 1994). With me was Robert Young Pelton, publisher and author of *The World's Most Dangerous Places*. I'd made

arrangements in Nairobi with the Sudanese Rehabilitation and Relief Association (SRRA) for us to tour the front south of Juba along the Nile River. It had been an interesting journey so far. In Kampala our hotel's terrace restaurant was bombed by terrorists, we'd traveled nine hours through northern Uganda squatting on the interior



SPLA guerrillas pose at Mile Forty in southern Sudan. It's known as Mile Forty as it is exactly 40 miles from Juba on the road from Juba to Yei. The SPLA consolidated their gains and have been in the defense here for a complete year. This is the closest the SPLA has come to taking Juba since 1992, when they entered the outskirts of the regional capital.



engine cover of a bus, and spent two days being jostled around inside a decrepit Nissan pickup.

Just as it had been four years ago, the journey up to the border also had its risks. Northern Uganda is the scene of two festering indigenous insurgencies — the Western Nile Bank Front (WNBF) and Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army. Both are fighting Museveni's Uganda People's Defence Force. As Khartoum-government-sponsored Ugandan militia, they are also fighting against the Sudanese People's Liberation Army across the border in Sudan.

Back In New Sudan

Kony's bandits have the bad habit of cutting off people's hands and feet, and doing worse to white men. Having survived one convoy attack by his thugs in 1994, I wasn't counting on being so lucky in a second encounter. When we crossed the actual border from Uganda, at Kaya, I actually breathed a sigh of relief. At least here I would have some armed "friendlies" in the back of the truck.

As we passed several minefield warning signs along the roadway, I knew I was in the SPLA-controlled territory of "New Sudan." Despite my travel pass from the SRRA office in Nairobi, processing through SPLA "customs" was almost a day-long affair. After loading three women passengers that the local SRRA representative had requested we take along — and engaging in a little drama when I threw two SPLA lieutenants, their gunbearers, and camp followers off our truck with broken springs — we were on our way. Our gunman or escort from the SPLA security service was Kennedy Salah James. He would stay with our truck for the next several days.

We arrived in Yei late that afternoon. While Robert amused himself videotaping a pet baboon, I answered the questions of onlookers until we were passed along the bureaucratic chain. Yei is like most of the towns in the southern Sudan; a basic administrative center with a church, a hospital, and a collection of cement-block buildings serving as government offices. Like Yambio, Maridi, Tambura, and other garrison towns in the south held by the SPLA, Yei is now governed by local officials rather than SPLA commanders. The political wing of the SPLA, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the SRRA are busy establishing an infrastructure — setting up an administration which will collect taxes, organize a police force, open schools, and restore the judicial system. In essence, it will attempt to do all those things which a nation state needs to function. And make no mistake about it, to the locals this is "New Sudan."

We spent our first night in Yei as guests of Chief Charles Y. Barraba, commissioner of Yei River County of New Sudan. Dinner was "greens," some sandy bread, and a mush made from cassava and sorghum. This is actually eating pretty "high on the hog" in the famine-ridden southern Sudan. Our

meal was interrupted by the warbling of an enemy Antonov, its flashing navigational lights visible to the naked eye as it flew overhead. Antonov bombers from the Government of Sudan (GoS) air force had recently bombed Yei's hospital, killing 22 people. Previous bombing raids had destroyed many houses, including

Commissioner Barraba's. This is all part of a deliberate terror-bombing campaign by the Khartoum government aimed at depopulating the south, thus robbing the SPLA of its support base. After the plane disappeared, we turned in for the night. With my G.I. mosquito net draped over a foam mattress on the floor, I was more than comfortable.



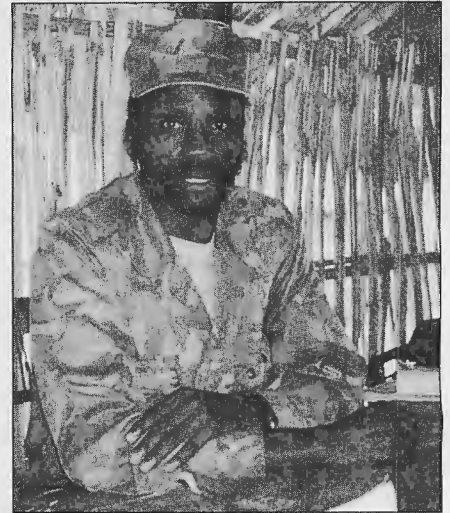
SPLA guerrillas admire sign at "Jebel Iraq Outpost," the site of a battle in which scores of Iraqi troops were killed — although not as many as the sign proclaims.



SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott and two of his SPLA friends at Mile Forty, with a DShK heavy machine gun.



Two 14.5mm KPV heavy machine guns in the ZPU-II towed configuration, track the sound of an approaching GoS Antonov bomber.



Commander Abraham Wana Yoane (above) is commanding officer of the defenders of Mile Forty. Here, he describes the scene of the battle against Iraqi soldiers. (left) SPLA Sappers practice laying a hasty defensive minefield.

In the morning, as several government officials wandered into the compound past the listless guards, I jumped into our Nissan pickup. The commissioner, smartly turned out in ironed khakis, Beta boots, and ivory swagger stick, sat up front. His office in Yei was bare-bones furnishing — a table and two wooden chairs, while two blown safes rested in the corner. A sign in the outer office read: “When our people go hungry, it is not food that is in short supply — it is justice.”

The morning was spent working through the bureaucracy which tends to eventually overwhelm every bush insurgency. It seemed that every clerk in town had to transcribe the same information from my passport into their ledgers. I’ll never denigrate copy machines again — at least they’re quick. After loading up an escort armed with Kalashnikovs and one well-maintained Sterling MK III 9mm submachine gun, we proceeded to the SPLA compound outside of Yei.

There I was greeted by “David.” He had caused me all kinds of grief in 1994, including arranging my “detention” in Natinga (near the Kenyan border) for three days (just because he didn’t like me). I was not happy to see him, but put on my party smile anyway. I was informed that my old friend Commander Oyay Deng Ajak, from the Sendiru Hills battles (“We Kill Them Like Sheep,” Sept. ’94), was currently coordinating the fighting north of Juba. Well known for his success in stalling a GoS offensive south of Juba in 1994, Oyay led the SPLA’s October 1995 offensive (now seen as a turning point in the war) and was recently appointed SPLA Assistant Chief of Staff. He also commands the 2nd Region where we were. It’s nice to have friends in high places.

Unfortunately, his location was 250 kilometers away over nearly impassable roads. The Nissan couldn’t make it that far, we didn’t have enough gas, and it would add several more days to my schedule. I was not a happy camper. I was looking forward to

seeing Oyay again and getting his opinion on the conduct of the war. Despite my disappointment at not seeing him, meeting the local commander was old home week. We had met in 1994 while en route to an SPLA conference. Peter Otim, Oyay’s adjutant, also remembered me, saying “You’re the one with all the things hanging like a jacket (describing my G.I. load-bearing equipment) who was firing the 12.7mm ...” Ahem, yes, I remember. I also remember being showered with rock splinters and shrapnel before running for my life. I then spent the next four hours hunkered down in a rock crevice whilst being rocketed — an experience that will not make my lifetime-happiest-moments reel.

Despite the friendly reception from the SPLA hierarchy in Yei, we weren’t going to go any farther toward the fighting until our change in plans was confirmed and approved. Because I had said we wanted to see Oyay, it was assumed that we would spend the next week traveling a long circuitous route to the north of Juba. The next day was spent cooling our heels. I amused myself by handing out Soldier Of Fortune Convention T-shirts and back issues of the magazine to SPLA troopers. I also squared some of the troops away with some quality combat folding knives, courtesy of Emerson Knives and Benchmade Knives. While using the down-time to catch up on the latest developments in the war, I interviewed the commissioner and various other New Sudan Officials.

Since October 1996, when it began cooperating with the NDA, the SPLA has been on a roll. Garang was helped strategically by the civil war in Zaire last year. When the Zairean airstrip at Bunia fell to Kabila it cut off a supply route for the Ugandan rebels of Joseph Kony’s Lord’s Resistance Army. That route can now be used to supply Garang’s SPLA while Uganda continues to mop up the LRA. With

the tacit support of the U.S. (which has increased military assistance to the SPLA’s friendly neighbors, Uganda and Eritrea, the SPLA was ready to bounce back from its losses in the early 1990s.

Garang’s offensive kicked off in mid-January 1997 when his forces trounced GoS units in the Blue Nile region accounting for 6,000 enemy casualties and “Recruiting” another 1,000 defectors. Most importantly, the SPLA pushed on, taking Damazine, less than 500 kilometers south of Khartoum and site of the strategic El-Rosieres dam. The dam, together with the other hydroelectric dams at Sennar on the Blue Nile and Atabarah rivers, provides at least 50% of Sudan’s electricity and about 80% of Khartoum’s power. This dramatic victory was quickly followed by a second offensive aimed at Khartoum’s supply line to Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

On the local scene it’s been nothing but good news. Last year (9 March 1997) the SPLA unleashed “Operation Thunderbolt,” its big southern offensive, capturing several key towns, including Yei, and driving on to Juba. It was a tremendous defeat for Khartoum despite concerted GoS air force attacks using Antonov-24 aircraft, Chinese MiG-19s, and Mi-24 Hind helicopters. SPLA troops under the command of 6th Division Commander Thomas Cirillo, a well-known and highly respected SPLA commander, decimated the better part of a Sudanese infantry battalion. The enemy had attempted to outflank the SPLA positions with a two-battalion infantry attack supported by armor. For good measure the SPLA “ambushed” a large column of retreating GoS and WNUF, killing nearly 2,000 and capturing approximately 1,000 POWs. One of the POWs, Sudanese Army engineer Colonel El Tayeb El Hussain, was later interviewed by *SOF* contributor Jim Hooper. POWs and many corpses also provided proof that other Islamic countries are

sending troops and volunteers to Sudan — providing them ample opportunities to become martyrs by dying in Khartoum's failing *jihād*.

Besides POWs, the SPLA also captured thousands of small arms including a hundred or more light and medium machine guns from GoS forces and their WNUF allies. More importantly, large quantities of equipment — several T-55 tanks, anti-aircraft guns, artillery — and large stocks of North Korean, Chinese, and Iraqi ammunition for 12.7mm DShK machine guns, 14.5mm KPV heavy machine guns in the ZPU-II towed configuration, 107mm multiple rocket launchers (MRL), PKM machine guns, and RPD machine guns fell in the bag.

The Turncoat

I also got caught up on one of the war's many enigmas — Kerabino Kuanyin Bol, who stands out among the more formidable commanders of the war. Kerabino Bol has flip-flopped from side to side, but has recently returned to the SPLA. Considered a renegade by many on both sides, Kerabino is said to have fired the opening shots in the conflict. In 1983, it was Kerabino Bol who led an army mutiny and persuaded Garang to join the struggle. He was Garang's deputy, but in 1987 the two had a falling out and Bol spent the next six years imprisoned in a hole in the ground. He escaped, fleeing to Uganda before settling in Nairobi where he involved himself in negotiations with Khartoum. In April 1997, he re-joined the Sudanese Army (some say at Garang's instigation) as a major general. But Bol soon became dissatisfied with Khartoum's patronage of his rival fellow defector, Riek Machar. (note: Machar's SPLA-United is defunct and the erstwhile collaborator has since fled to Khartoum where he "commands" a militia loyal to the NIF junta known as the Southern Sudan Defence

Force). Karabino Bol left Khartoum for Wau and in true Benedict Arnold-fashion demanded promotion (deputy chairman of the Council for the South) and other perks. He threatened to defect back to the SPLA and Khartoum offered him the plum of vice presidency of the Council for Coordination in Southern Sudan.

But Bol already had other plans and in January 1998 convinced the SPLA to "loan" him about 2,000 troops to take Wau. A day after changing sides back to the SPLA his troops captured his home town of Wau and held it for a day before being bombed into submission by the Sudanese Air Force. With Bol's force aided by additional SPLA units, Wau fell. According to the SPLA officials I spoke with, his current status is up in the air — Khartoum won't trust him and many of the SPLA hierarchy won't either. It is doubtful whether he'll work for Garang, but as a charismatic leader with a large following in his home territory he is a valuable player. He may very well be allowed an autonomous command under SPLA guidance and control.

No Spaghetti-Os

At dinner that night I was happily munching on a bowl of vegetables and some tasty fried morsels. Robert peered into the bowl, looked up and said "Hey champ, those ain't Spaghetti-Os!" He was right — they were knotted portions of goat's intestine, but still chewy, and rather tasty. I still wished I had brought along some MREs, though. The

next day we hoped we would get permission to travel up to the front lines. Back in downtown Yei we once again went through the documents drill and picked up an escort before finally receiving permission to move on to the SPLA defenses at Mile Forty. It's known as Mile Forty as it is exactly 40 miles from Juba on the road from Juba to Yei. The SPLA consolidated their gains and have been in the defense here for a complete year. This is the closest the SPLA has come to taking Juba since 1992 when they entered the outskirts of the regional capital. The beleaguered defenders, reduced to eating rats and scavenging lily pads from the Nile River, were saved when Riek Machar, one of Garang's chief commanders, broke away from the SPLA, started his own faction (SPLA-United), and began fighting the SPLA.

The road to Mile Forty was badly rutted and muddy. Several times our Nissan with its bald tires and incompetent driver became bogged down, forcing us to dismount and push. We couldn't bypass the bad parts by driving through the bush because of the landmines — attested to by the score or so of burnt out trucks abandoned along the way. After about two hours and a half-dozen village checkpoints we arrived at Mile Forty. As we rolled into the camp we passed a squad of SPLA troopers on mine-clearance detail. Equipped with long metal probes and bayo-

Continued on page 84



(far left) Remains of one of Khartoum's *mujahideen* who found paradise — courtesy of an SPLA 7.62x39mm bullet. (above) Krott and Commander Abraham Wana Yoane, with bodyguards, stand in front of this Sudanese Army tank destroyed in an SPLA anti-armor ambush. (left) A youthful RPD gunner — young, but willing to fight and die for a chance to live free rather than be a second-class citizen under the Islamic boot of Khartoum.

Sight UNSEEN



The Future Of
Weapon-Sighting
Systems?

by N.E. MacDougald
Photos by Stephen Whalen

In June 1995, a SWAT team attempted a hostage rescue on the 13th floor of an office high-rise in downtown Houston. The perpetrator had his terrified and unlucky female hostage holed up in an executive suite while the team stealthily penetrated from above, hardly the dynamic-entry assault they'd envisioned (but permission for which had been denied). They lifted a ceiling tile and inserted a camera. Then, the sharp cracks of gunfire!

The hostage was dead.

As Matthew Hagerty, owner of LandTec, Inc., Sonora, Calif., takes an exotic-looking weapon-sighting system out of its case he states simply, "Sight Unseen's SU-4 is the future of tactical equipment." As he explains the system's functions and benefits, I'm becoming increasingly eager to test-shoot this new way of viewing criminals. As the only U.S. source for Sight Unseen, Inc., Hagerty explains how the remote infrared video weapon sighting system could have saved the hostage's life.

"When I showed these officers Sight Unseen, they said the hostage situation might have ended differently if they'd had this. Instead of using the fiberoptic camera, they could have used our video sighting system on their duty weapon and inserted it through the ceiling tile."

Hagerty knows what he's talking about. A shooter for more than 30 years, he's been through seven courses with Scott Reitz, L.A.P.D. Metro SWAT and SIS firearms instructor; and is a veteran of additional training from Brett McQueen, California Pistolcraft, an accomplished firearms authority/instructor in her own right.

Hagerty, an experienced sales representative of hardware and software for law enforcement and the U.S. military, has sent some 230,000 rounds down range during the past four years, shooting professionally for Hughes Aircraft for their El Segundo, Calif., facility. He also currently tests and markets their \$45,000 thermal weapon sight, a second-generation passive infrared device for military and law-enforcement deployment. *(Be on alert for a forthcoming article on the thermal sight.)*

Sight Unseen's Versatile SU-4

Sight Unseen boasts active infrared capability that enables it to function day or night. And the infrared light isn't visible to the naked eye. The nonmoving, light-weight system mounts a miniaturized black-and-white video camera on a handgun or rifle (the camera is the size of a 3x9 scope and fits in standard

SU-4 Specifications

- Battery: 32 oz.**
- Belt and pouch: 7.5 oz.**
- Camera (with scope rings) weight: 7 oz.**
- Lens: 30-degree aperture, 1X magnification**
- Housing: 7075 T6 aircraft alloy**
- Electronics module: 8.75 oz.**
- Headset monitor, weight: 8.75 oz.**
- Infrared unit: 4.75 oz.**
- Total weight: 3.75 lb.**
- Cost: less than \$10,000.00**

(left) "The All-Seeing Eye" of the Sight Unseen unit is a rave of the future. For obvious reasons, it is available only to military and law-enforcement organizations.

(below) Minimal exposure equals minimum damage. The SU-4 is a dynamic target-acquisition unit to preview dynamic entries. Thanks to Matt Hagerty and LandTec, Inc., numerous military and police personnel will survive to fight another day.



(left) Matthew Hagerty, LandTec, Inc.'s owner, and sole American distributor for the Sight Unseen SU-4, has a true gem of a product. A dependable and durable video sighting system with active infrared capability (invisible to the naked eye). Sophisticated target-acquisition equipment will save lives — guaranteed.

(below) What can be bought for less than \$10k? Your life. Here, Sight Unseen mounted on H&K MP5 keeps defender out of the line of fire. Your exposure is minimal — yet your sight-picture of an adversary is sufficient for a shot.



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1-inch scope rings). A lightweight headset blocks one eye with a video screen; the other sees normally. The user sees a 1X image with superimposed crosshairs. These crosshairs are reverse video, which means they maintain contrast as the background changes. Because it's a standard (NTSC) video format, it can be recorded.

As with conventional sights, the user points the weapon toward a target. Unlike conventional sights, the user can remain fully behind cover — only the user's gun hand can be seen by a hostile. A belt pack, roughly the size of an M-16 magazine pouch, contains the battery and electronics module. Although straightforward, the system takes some getting used to.

On Colorado's rugged western slope, Hagerty propped a center-of-mass pistol target against a tree. As I fired the Sight Unseen system mounted on a Glock pistol — at a right angle to the target to simulate using the sight from behind a building — I noticed that wherever I turned my head, the onscreen image stayed with me. I popped off three rounds and all hit 6 inches left of center. Hagerty moved the crosshairs a few "clicks" by adjusting the windage control in my belt pack. Seconds later I hit dead-center from 8 yards away. Although viewing a different image with each eye was unusual, I was surprised at how quickly I adapted to this new mode of target acquisition.

Cost, Availability And History

Hagerty informed me that the SU-4 is "under \$10,000 and for sale only to police or military."

Sight Unseen's inventor, Larry Elliott, was born in New York City, after WWII. After working in the recording industry for about eight years, Elliott relocated to Southern California where he discovered the need for a target-acquisition system that could save family members' and officers' lives by enabling them to remain behind cover while firing. A shooter for 25 years, and experienced in electronics for 30, Elliott developed the system with the help of mentor John Davies, who financially supported the system's refinement. Elliott produced the first working model in 1995 and has a patent pending.

Because the system must withstand significant recoil, it's built robustly, which makes manufacturing difficult. After astutely hiring several consultants in various fields to solve technical and general problems, Elliott's understandably careful with his product: "My worst nightmare is that it gets into the wrong hands."

Hagerty provided me with the names of

law-enforcement personnel who have test fired the system. Most had their tickets punched in the military, and had gone on to SpecOps units or law enforcement.

Retired SEAL Rick Wood said, "It's very impressive." Born and raised in Mesquite, Texas, he spent 25 years in the U.S. Navy, serving on SEAL Teams 1, 3, and 5. Wood did a stint as instructor at the SEAL training facility in Coronado, Calif., and was a rated EOD technician. He first saw Sight Unseen in the fall of 1996.

"The unit has unlimited potential in CQB [close-quarters battle] because of the IR source and video. It'll be great for training in shoot-no-shoot situations. It'll also work great in hostage rescue



Sight Unseen's SU-4, a definite keeper for law enforcement and the military.

or any close-in environment in darkness. I put 60 to 100 rounds through it in unlikely shooting positions and was amazed and surprised at what power it gave me."

When asked if Sight Unseen has potential, Gulf War veteran Dr. Kelly Jones said, "Hell, yes." Jones earned a Ph.D. from Texas A & M and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1988 to 1993. Currently a consultant and SWAT instructor, he first encountered Sight Unseen in 1994, in Washington, D.C., where he spotted a mock up mounted on a futuristic weapons system.

In November 1997, Jones finally shot the system. "I don't think Sight Unseen's a panacea that should be fitted to all

weapons, but I think one person in each team should have one. I thought it might be a gee-whiz gizmo at first. It takes some getting used to. If you're going to be good with it, you have to use it all the time. I'd recommend it to any SpecOps unit with a need to conduct close-range stealth reconnaissance, especially, units that need to clear or defend areas that provide no natural cover. I'd probably deploy one SU-4 per team. Using it while wearing a gas mask might be a problem. In the future, I'd like to see a built-in digital compass; and get rid of the [video] wires, and make the next generation digital."

A former MP and a shooter for 35 years, Steve Abbott has participated in *SOF's* 3-gun shoots. His first impression of the sight was, "total amazement."

Born and raised in Mt. Ida, Ark., Abbott served in the U.S. Army from 1960-1963. He joined the Visalia, Calif., Police Department in 1965, where he was an eight-year SWAT veteran. Presently, he's sergeant-in-charge of the narcotics and property crimes unit, as well as rangemaster.

"We put about 250 rounds through the system at the department's tactical house. There were three other officers there — all SWAT or ex-SWAT.

Matt had to fight to get the sight system back. I see it playing a major role in law enforcement. You can see in the dark without being seen and without clumsy goggles or other gear. It could be built into a helmet and used on the street as part of duty equipment."

Shooter and SWAT team member Dave Sundy was asked if he'd recommend Sight Unseen: "Absolutely." Sundy joined a 260-member police force in 1986 and is now SWAT-team armorer. He spent four years as a sniper and is a grad of the FBI sniper school at Camp Pendleton. In addition, he served as an instructor for five years at California's Regional Criminal Justice Training Center.

"I saw the system in December of '96 at Chocolate Mountain [a U.S. Navy facility in Niland]. I showed it to 25 guys at the range — it was mounted on a Beretta 92F. We shot about 400 rounds through it. I was immediately impressed by its versatility — and its compactness and accuracy.

"It's a valuable tool for entry-team members — better than a pole camera. Unlike a pole camera, it lets the guy using it shoot if he needs to."

Even Hollywood likes the robosight.

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Omega Proving Ground

With this issue, we inaugurate “Omega Proving Ground,” a monthly feature that will test and evaluate hard-use gear for those who go and do: guns, cutlery, commo and equipment – plus gear that supports the use of the former including tools, books and videos. In this space you will find only the top-rated gear that met our specs.

by Don McLean



Gerber Axes

Say “Gerber” and people think *blades*; blades to work hard in the kitchen, the shop, the woods, and in the streets and jungle performing police and military tasks. Gerber pretty much started the increasingly celebrated Oregon cutlery industry, of whose luminaries most at one time or another have been associated with Gerber.

Gerber’s excellent and expanding line of blades and other tools encompasses all manner of useful implements, including some featherweight, but serious, hand axes and saws designed to be carried with you and capable of honest work when you get there.

Gerber’s Camp Axe and Back Axe are the best hand axes for their weight this writer has ever swung (and we were raised in the same woods Gerber calls home, with more time on the handle of an axe than on a computer). There are several ergonomic considerations in the design of any tool one will use arduously, and features on tools in general-use in the woods usually evolve over a long period of time, eventually taking the form of *what works*. A new design

or material, therefore, may be greeted with interest, but is suspect.

But with their new hand axes, Gerber got it right the first time.

The handles, for instance, are labeled "unbreakable." Not "unbreakable" as in something from pliable plastic that will squish and change shape; here Gerber means the handles will not break on you as wood can, and although they are designed to flex instead of break they have a memory and will return to the original shape. The glass-filled polyamid handles are molded directly to and around the head. We were unable to hurt the handles in any way. We wish such handles were available on falling axes and splitting mauls. They have an optimal texture that balances gripability vs. blister-workingability (these are highly technical terms used in the woods by my circle of axed professionals).

The heft of a hand axe is a function of shape and weight, and again, Gerber got it right with a balance that gets the most work out of a light-to-carry head. The face on both axes is proportionally narrower than full-size axes, so the force is not spread over so wide an area it will not penetrate the workpiece. The heads are made from Swedish steel, and the overall tools come with a limited lifetime warranty. Lifetime warranty on an *axe*? Yep, from Gerber, that is. Alas, your son will have to use these axes sans warranty when you pass on, but he'll probably pass it on to his kids, too.

Both the ultra-compact 9-inch Back Paxe and the 17-1/2 inch Camp Axe come with handy nylon belt sheaths. Both deliver the most chop for the weight we've yet seen. Recommended.

Gerber Legendary Blades, Dept. SOF,
14200 S.W. 72nd Ave., Portland, OR 97281
phone: 503-639-6161; fax: 503-684-7008

The Really Hard Case

This writer has always liked GI gear. Not because we're into green things, but because equipment issued for Snuffies to carry out their mission is built to a high standard of service. It's not meant to photograph well so it will sell from a catalog, but rather to deliver absolute reliability. By extension, we are drawn to any arms, tools and gear that are also designed and built to survive decades of use, abuse and neglect. We're not the worrying type who wears belt and suspenders, but we do select a particular piece of gear over its competitors because we think it will do what we got it for, without our having to worry about it or fuss with it.

Some gear, fine arms and instruments for example, will give better and longer service if they are protected from abuse. It naturally follows that whatever you put them in for protection will take that abuse in their stead: Pliable plastic, flimsy fiberglass, thin tin or weak wood need not apply. Now, thanks to Bear Track Cases, you don't have to settle for any "iffy" protective cases for guns, cameras, instruments or your private stash of 25-year-old Scotch. Their protective carrying cases are built like a Sherman tank.

Bob and Babette Robertson up at Bear Track Cases in Wyoming start right, by forming the case body from 0.080 aluminum, then fit-



ting it with 950-pound-rated lockable compression latches, stainless steel hinges and sturdy synthetic handles. Exceeding industry standards, the Bear Track cases are not something a luggage-belt monkey is going to rip open as it goes by, nor will it deform when someone else's iron-bound trunk gets thrown on it.

Stock items include a 22 x 13 x 6.5" two-tier handgun case that will handle half a dozen large-frame handguns, and a 52 x 14.5 x 4.5" double rifle case that will hold two scoped rifles, a 50 x 12 x 10" safari case, a 42 x 10 x 4.5" carbine case and a 36 x 14.5 x 4.5" folding shotgun case. These, as all their products, are available in natural aluminum or textured powder-coatings.

In addition, the Robertsons actively seek custom business. They build custom cases for everything from fancy fly rods that cost a month of my wages, to delicate medical gear. Need a custom case to haul a computer or your 1919 watercooled on the plane? See Bear Track. If you need ideas for your custom case, Bob is a font of knowledge and helpful suggestions. Bear Claw Cases can do it — and at prices less than you are used to paying for serial-production cases of considerably less quality that probably won't fit. Speaking of price, the two-tier handgun case costs only \$175, and the double rifle case only \$225 (plus \$15 USA shipping). Odds are against our getting such a mission, but if we ever have to carry the Crown Jewels, this is what we'd use.

Order direct or contact them for a quote on your custom specifications:

Bear Track Cases, Dept. SOF,
43 Dunham Rd., Rolling Hills, WY 82637
phone: 307-436-2814; fax: 307-436-8081
e-mail: beartrak@coffey.com

Knives of Alaska

"Good as it gets" is the impression one gets examining any of the Knives of Alaska working knives — and that impression grows when you put them to hard use. A good example is their Military Brown Bear Combination Set *SOF's* Dwight Swift tested on a caribou hunt in Alaska, voted knife of the year in 1994. The 1/4-inch thick Brown Bear Skinner-Cleaver is made from D-2 high-chromium tool steel, hardened to RC 56-58, and has a perfect Ulu-style radius for skinning and chopping without changing tools.

Just forward of the hilt the blade has an ample hole for your forefinger and precise serrations on the back for your thumb, which guarantee the knife will not stray and helps in maintaining the right angle of attack where the hide is skinning from the flesh.

Control is further enhanced by checkered rubber grips riveted to the full tang, and four ample finger grooves therein. There is a generous lanyard hole in the butt for when you are working in water or other situations conducive to dropping your tool. Swift found that caping out his caribou was no problem with the Brown Bear combination set along.

The combination set comes in a black, heavy leather sheath, and





two outside pockets on the sheath hold a sharpening steel with a titanium diboron surface, and a Cub Bear caping knife. The Cub Bear features the same materials as the Brown Bear Skinner-Cleaver, hardened to RC 56-57, and is partly serrated. It also has a generous lanyard hole: It is perfectly shaped for control on the fine cuts when caping or boning.

Shaving sharp right out of the box, this is no-nonsense gear that's good for a lifetime of hard use.

Knives of Alaska, Dept. SOF
123 Main, Denison, TX 75020
phone: 903-463-7112; fax: 903-463-7165

Spec Plus Survival Machete

As the name implies, this offering from Ontario Knife Company is designed to help ensure you make it back alive. In other words, it's a tool you'd stake your life on, and in our opinion your trust would not be misplaced.

The SP8 is rock solid and well-designed, built of 1095 steel and black polymer coated for further corrosion resistance and ease of cleaning. Its 1/4-inch thick blade is 10 inches long and nearly 2 inches deep. The square nose tapers to a knife edge suitable for digging, and is more easily inserted into a crevasse or between anything you



need to pry apart. The center 6-1/2 inches of the spine is milled in a push-cut diamond-tip saw pattern not unlike the old Swiss engineer's bayonet, and it saws very well through wood or aluminum sheet. The blade is hefty enough to use its flat as a hammer.

The comfortably ribbed rubber handle is soft enough to give a good grip and be comfortable, but not so sticky as to work quick blisters; there is a brass-grommeted lanyard hole at the rear of the grip, through the full-tang handle.

The blade is hollow-ground down to the edge, which is finished to a fairly obtuse, but sharp, edge after polymer coating. Except for the points of the saw portion, the black polymer coating was intact after the tests of sawing, cutting, whacking, chopping, digging.

The Spec Plus Survival Machete comes in a rugged leather-and-synthetic snap-open scabbard that has a loop generous enough to fit over a GI web belt. As with all of Ontario's Spec Plus line, the SP8 is a tool we can recommend without hesitation — a tool you can indeed count on in a survival situation.

Available at Ontario Knife dealers: For the one nearest you contact:

Ontario Knife Company, Dept SOF
Box 145, Franklin, NY 14737
Phone: 716-676-5527; fax: 716-676-5535

Colt Pathfinder Tactical



Like manufacturers and merchants everywhere, the able cutlers in Taiwan will produce what the market demands. Unfortunately for the many quality manufacturers in Taiwan, grist for the junk merchants who fill the "homeowner" tool bins at Safeway cast a stigma on all the island's manufacturers for many years. Now, most American tool companies — the names you recognize — have at least part of their product line made in Taiwan, including many top-end products, such as Colt's new Tactical Pathfinder. The design, materials and workmanship of this instrument would be a credit to any knifemaker, anywhere.



With an overall length of 12-7/8 inches and a blade of 8 inches, Colt's Tactical is made from 1/4-inch-thick 420 J2 stainless steel. It features textured, hardcoated aluminum grips with rubber grip inserts. The part-serrated, hollow-ground blade features an angular Tanto style point grind and a shackle-wrench cutout, and has a bead-blasted finish.

Slightly point heavy, it fills the hand and hangs well. This robust tool chopped well, cut synthetic line well and the point geometry is such it begged to be thrust into car doors, steel drums and the like. The form and texture of the grip never let it slip throughout any of this abuse. There is an ample lanyard hole in the butt, and this would be a very good underwater knife.

It comes in an impact-resistant synthetic sheath that will fit over

a pistol belt or take standard LBE hooks. As a bonus is included a GI-style lensatic compass in its own nylon pouch.

This is a serious knife, well designed and flawlessly wrought.

United Cutlery Brands, Dept. SOF
1425 United Blvd., Sevierville, TN 37876
phone: 423-428-2532; fax: 423-428-2267

Short Sword

Combat with hand weapons probably reached its zenith shortly before the advent of firearms. In Europe, armies were initially raised from among the agrarian population of whomever was attacking or defending the particular piece of turf or principle that caused the dispute. And most such medieval weapons used in these



wars began as adaptations of basic agricultural or foraging instruments — plowshares and pruning hooks, if you will, which had been beat into swords. That adaptive process has come full circle with Gutman Cutlery's Short Sword. Unlike the classic Roman-style short sword in both design and materials, this instrument is crafted in Seki, Japan from AUS-8 stainless, and features a matte Teflon finish, Kraton grip and a tough riveted Kydex sheath. Workmanship is what one would expect from the guilds in Seki, and the unique design merits some comment.

Out of the box, the Short Sword reminds one of a turn-of-the-century European saber-style bayonet but with a more pronounced forward-swept, thinner blade, that has less belly than a machete but more than a saber. The bevel of the grind on our specimen is straight and not too acute — about what you'd probably put on a large Bowie you intended use for chopping. And as a chopper is where this "sword" comes full circle as a very good field tool.

With the excellent grip provided by its Kraton handle and the good reach by the nearly 15-inch blade, the Short Sword is an excellent light brush and vine cutter, handier than an equivalent-size machete, and it's quiet. We don't know if it's the Teflon coating or the soft synthetic handle or its configuration, but the Short Sword does not ring when it cuts through a dry branch as does a typical GI machete. There are times when this feature alone would make the Short Sword the field chopper of choice. Except for the common axe-handled brush hook, it would be hard to find a better tool for working your way through those wild cane-berry patches up in the Northwest — and this is a light-but-effective woods companion one could swing all day. As long as there are Nikes and nickel-plated revolvers we do not plan to be in any sword fights, but as a very good tool we give the Short Sword a thumbs up. Available from

Gutmann Cutlery, Dept. SOF
Box 2219, Bellingham, WA 98227
phone: 360-650-9141; fax: 360-676-1075.

Gun Laws of America

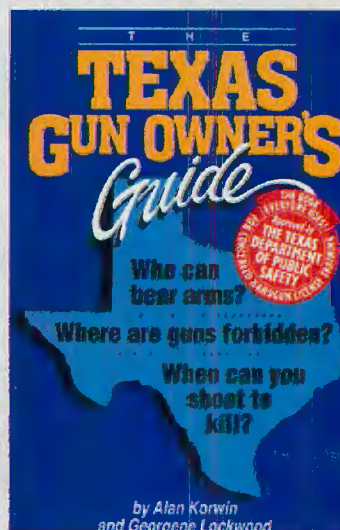
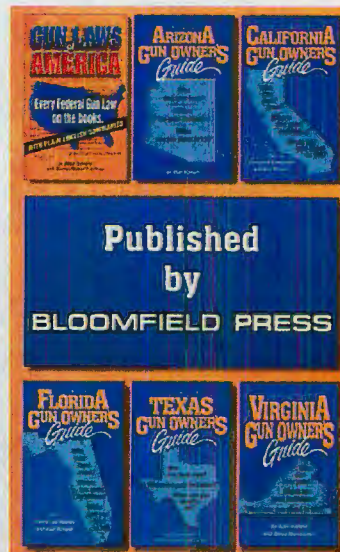
By Alan Korwin with Attorney Michael P. Anthony.

It has often been said that knowledge is power. More importantly, knowledge can keep you out of jail! Did you know that using food stamps to obtain firearms or ammunition is grounds for permanent disqualification from the food-stamp program? Have you ever wondered what laws pertain to war trophies or "battlefield souvenirs?" If you are denied a firearm because inaccurate information turned up during your Brady Law check can you sue the government? The answers to these and scores of other firearms related question can be found in Alan Korwin's latest fact filled book, *Gun Laws of America*.

If you own a gun, are considering getting a gun, or even if you think you know all there is to know about the legal aspects of firearms, this 378-page book definitely belongs on your bookshelf. It is also must reading for law-enforcement officers, judges, and defense as well as prosecuting attorneys.

In addition to collecting and printing every federal gun law on the books, author Alan Korwin provides the reader/researcher with much-needed "plain-English" summaries of the laws. From tracing the history of America's gun laws from 1791 to up to date information on the Brady Law and the soon-to-be Orwellian Brady II law, *Gun Laws of America* covers a wide range of firearms topics from the Militia to the National Guard to free ammo and governmental limits. It's like having a complete gun-law library in one book.

In addition to this latest offering, the author has also published equally well-researched-and-written gun owner's guides for Arizona, California, Florida, Texas and Virginia, with more to come. These state guides provide a wealth of knowledge not only on individual state laws but also detailed information on the many "hows," "whys" and "what ifs" of concealed-carry. Remember, relying on rumor can get you arrested. Get the facts. And, if publishing great books weren't enough, Alan Korwin and Bloomfield Press will keep its customers up to date on the ever-changing firearms laws.



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—Richard L. Sherrow ✂

NEW COLT

DEFENDER

The history of the Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company is replete with scores of innovative and famous designs. However, two stand out above all others: the Single Action Army model and Model of 1911 .45 ACP pistol. Both are still very much alive. Cowboy action shooting has given the Model of 1873 revolver a new lease on life and the M1911 has remained popular since the year of its adoption.

For almost four decades only one version of the M1911 was available, the full-size Government Model. Early in 1950, a light-weight pistol, available in calibers 9mm Parabellum, .38 Super and .45 ACP was introduced as the Commander Model. It featured a 4.25-inch barrel and a round ring-type hammer. ALCOA supplied the alloy frame forgings from a material called "COLTALLOY." This popular configuration is still available.

During the mid-1980s an even smaller variant, called the Colt Officer's ACP Model was introduced. It featured a 3 5/8-inch barrel and was available with either a stainless steel slide and frame or a stainless steel slide with a light-weight alloy frame.

In recent years Colt has been pushed hard by a bevy of competitors

Ultimate Compact .45 ACP?



Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



producing M1911-type pistols. The 10-round magazine ban has, if anything, further increased the popularity of the M1911 type. Colt's recent introduction of the ultra compact Defender .45 ACP pistol is a clear attempt to regain its prominence in this arena. A substantial effort in the redesign and further compaction of this highly improved Officer's ACP Model was directed to the human engineering of the pistol. The benefits have been significant and the result more than just a little successful.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent a production series specimen of the Colt Defender for test and evaluation. Length, overall, is 6.75 inches (171.45 mm) from

the muzzle to the tip of the beavertail. The height, with a magazine installed and including the rear sight, is 5.0 inches (127.0 mm). The maximum width, at the grip panels, is 1.2 inches (30.5 mm). The weight, empty, is 25.8 ounces (731.4 grams) with magazine. The six-groove barrel is only 3 inches (76.2 mm) in length and has a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches.

A standard Officer's ACP lightweight frame with minor modifications has been machined from an aluminum alloy forging. The frame is provided with a unique Teflon-impregnated electroless nickel finish. This new finish offers superior corrosion resistance,

greater lubricity and enhanced durability. The Defender's ultra-compact slide is a machined forging, made from a 400 series martensitic stainless steel (a premium stainless-steel alloy).

The slide has small bevels machined at the corners on the front (top and bottom) and rear (bottom) to inhibit snagging. The right side of the slide is marked "LIGHT-

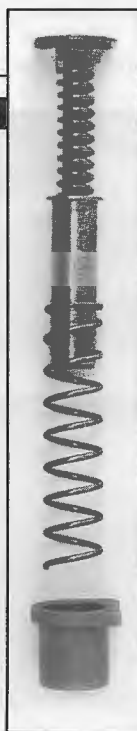
(above) Colt Defender features exceptionally low perceived recoil and above average accuracy potential. Colt Defender's telescoping recoil spring system (left) was developed to reduce felt recoil, muzzle rise and rotation, to provide more rapid target reacquisition after each shot.

This pistol functions by the principles perfected by John Moses Browning, with some small but significant changes. Locked-breech, short recoil-operated, the barrel and slide are locked together by two ribs on top of the barrel in front of the chamber which engage two recesses in the underside of the slide. They are securely locked together during the moment of high chamber pressure and they travel rearward a short distance still firmly mated to each other. During recoil, the barrel swings backward on its link which is attached to the frame by the slide stop's axis pin passing through it. As rearward trav-

Method of Operation

el continues, the barrel is forced downward and away from the slide. The barrel's rearward travel ceases when it strikes its stop in the frame, while the slide continues backward to complete extraction and ejection of the empty case before rebounding by means of the telescoping recoil spring system to strip and chamber another round from the chamber.

The coned barrel no longer interfaces with a conventional bushing as found on the Colt Officer's ACP pistols and others in the Colt M1911 series. Instead, when in battery, the muzzle locks into what Colt calls a "precision-engineered" hole in the front of the slide. This substantially increases the Defender's accuracy potential. A clearance bevel has been machined into the top of the muzzle end of the barrel. A coned barrel con-



figuration was first used on the ill-fated Detonics .45 ACP pistol.

The firing pin block of the Series 80 Colts has been retained. A hole inside the slide, on the right side, contains a spring-loaded firing pin block plunger, which is held in place by a modified firing pin. Two levers in the frame — a trigger bar lever attached to the sear pin and a plunger lever connected to the hammer — operate the firing pin block mechanism. When the trigger is pulled, the trigger bar lever rotates rearward and causes the plunger lever to rise against the firing pin block plunger, driving it upward so the spring-loaded inertia firing pin can move forward through a notch in the plunger. When the trigger is released the plunger's spring pushes it downward to once more block the firing pin. All of this has an adverse effect on the trigger pull weight which was 5.75 pounds on our test specimen.

— P.G.K.



Colt Defender proved to be reliable with a wide range of ammunition.

WEIGHT” and the left side carries the Rampant Colt logo and “COLT DEFENDER SERIES 90”. The ejection port is of the now almost standard enlarged and beveled type to enhance functional reliability and prevent denting the empty cases. The rear cocking serrations are deeply machined.

Another new, and excellent, feature on this pistol is the low-profile high-visibility sight system. The blade-type front sight, with a single white dot, is dovetailed to the slide and can be tapped to the right or left to correct for lateral zero. The large open square-notch rear sight, also dovetailed to the slide, has a white dot on each side of the notch. The back surface of the rear sight has been serrated to reduce glare. This back surface has been extended downward into a machined notch in the slide to increase its surface area and consequently speed acquisition of the rear sight. The sights have a black-oxide finish. Due to the geometry of

these sights, self-luminous tritium sights could be easily installed.

One of the Defender’s most interesting features is its telescoping recoil spring system. It was developed to reduce felt recoil, muzzle rise and rotation, to provide more rapid target reacquisition after each shot. Be advised, however, that the concept of telescoping recoil spring assemblies is not new. Examples can be found going back as far as almost 60 years ago. The first example of a telescoping recoil (or “operating”) spring assembly that I know of was that of the German MP38/40 series of 9mm Parabellum submachine guns, which were developed in the mid-1930s. In most instances, telescoping recoil spring assemblies have been used by designers when one of the design priorities was a compressed, or compact, envelope.

The Colt Defender’s telescoping recoil spring group consists of a small diameter



Colt Defender is noticeably shorter than the Colt Officer’s ACP.

Devotees of the M1911 are never satisfied. For more than half a century pistolsmiths have been filing, stoning, polishing, grinding, soldering, welding, hammering and changing parts on the .45 auto pistol. Why? Is the design defective? Most certainly not. Is it poorly executed in production series? Not necessarily. This constant tinkering and honing is no more or less than an expression of devotion for what is arguably the best

Tuning For Armed Professionals

combat handgun that ever slapped leather. Many still carry an M1911-type pistol into the deepest shadows of danger. Professionals whose lives may well depend upon this tool of the trade will spare no expense to obtain the ultimate degree of reliability and performance, real or imagined. Is this obsession for perfection any different from that of the professional race car driver? I think not.

Let me say at the onset, the new Defender is the best .45 ACP pistol Colt has produced in over a decade. It symbolizes their commitment to take back the M1911 pistol market, which historically belongs to them. The Defender can be stuffed into a holster, right out of the factory box. Nevertheless, I could not resist having it tweaked, just a little. While the Colt Custom Shop is fully qualified to do work of this type, I used those with whom I am personally familiar and in whom I have the utmost confidence. DVC Armaments, a subsidiary of G.G.& G. (Dept. SOF, 3602 East 42nd Stravenue, Tucson, AZ 85713; phone: 520-748-7167; fax: 520-748-7583; web site: <http://www.gggaz.com>) has developed an enviable gunsmithing reputation among armed professionals in the Southwestern United States.

The following is the brief list of work performed with the cost in parenthesis. Only one thing really bothered me about the Defender: its trigger-pull weight, which was 5.75 pounds. The more you shoot, the more trigger sensitive you become. DVC Armaments lowered the trigger-pull weight to a crisp 4.25 pounds (\$85) — about as low as you can go with a Series 80 trigger mechanism. They also polished the feed ramps (\$50), tuned the extractor (\$20), removed some burrs from the ejection port (\$50) and refit the thumb safety (\$15). That’s all that I felt was required, and you could justifiably argue about any of this except the trigger job.

Those who might very well live or die as a consequence of the handgun strapped to their side, must ask themselves how highly they value their continued existence on this earth. Professional gun handlers will usually spare no expense and will expend no small amount of time in practice to increase the odds in their favor. Wouldn’t you?

— P.G.K.

spring held captive on a guide rod which has a sheet-metal end piece attached to the guide rod with a spring clip. At the front end of this component group is a steel sheet-metal tube. During the recoil stroke, the front half of the guide rod protrudes out the front of the tube. Around the outside of the tube rides a larger diameter spring. The entire assembly is held in place by an open-ended spring cup that interfaces with the slide. During the recoil stroke, the guide rod also projects out the front of the slide.

The Defender is equipped with a ring-type hammer of a slightly different configura-

tion than that of the original Commander hammer. In keeping with the current fetish, the hole in the Defender's hammer is oval, rather than round.

The skeletonized, thermoplastic trigger is the best I've ever encountered on a Colt-made M1911-type. Carrying no serrations, it is smooth, which is exactly what we're looking for in a trigger designed for serious social purposes.

The extended thumb safety is also the very best Colt ever installed on one of their .45 pistols. By today's standards, this is an absolutely essential component for a fighting .45.



Slapping Leather

For the last 30 years I have slapped leather out of holsters designed and hand-crafted by some of the greatest holster makers of this era: my close friend, the late Bruce Nelson; Milt Sparks; Ken Null and Greg Kramer. Holsters from all of these craftsmen will more than just do and still hang on the belts of pistoleros throughout the country. In addition, about a decade ago during the war in El Salvador I started using custom holsters made by Sam Andrews (Andrews Custom Leather, Dept. SOF, Route 4, Box 48, Alachua, FL 32615; phone: 904-462-0576 — send \$2 for catalog).

Sam has been crafting custom combat holsters for 21 years. Located in north-central Florida, near Gainesville, and just one hour south of the Georgia border, his customer base now 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.

One of Sam's most interesting designs is the Hybrid Saddle Holster, a high-riding strong-side scabbard. This model is a "hybrid" of Sam's original Saddle Style Holster. This extremely flat concealment rig is molded on a curve to follow the shape of the hip. The outer leather is larger than the inner strip to create a perfect pocket for the handgun, regardless of configuration. Fully suede-lined, all hardware is covered or countersunk. Made with a full-length molded sight track, this model is available with an open top or thumbbreak configuration. The Hybrid Saddle model features a front cutaway to enhance the speed of the draw stroke. The grip area is cut away as well for faster access. There is an adjustable tension screw for added security. This is sufficient for me, as I do not care for thumbbreak designs.

The Hybrid Saddle Holster's most unique features is a full-length spring steel reinforcement incorporated down the front of the holster. This prevents leather stretch and holds the holster tightly against the body. Even pistols as large as a Colt Government Model can be effectively concealed with this holster, which costs \$85.

A pouch containing a single magazine is more than sufficient for concealed carry. Andrews Pancake Mag Pouch carries the spare magazine high and close with comfort. A shield at the back prevents the magazine's floorplate from rubbing against your clothing and digging uncomfortably into your body. This pouch costs only \$25.

— P.G.K.



Shrinking Colts, from top to bottom: Colt-made M1911A1 Government Model from World War II, Colt Commander, Colt Officer's ACP Model, and new Colt Defender.

The frame has been undercut at the top of the front strap to bring the firing grip upward and thus closer to the bore's axis. This is one of several elements designed to reduce felt recoil.

The grip safety, of the so-called beaver-tail-type, represents an enormous improvement. A Colt proprietary design, it features a flared vertical hump to ensure disengagement of the safety during the firing stroke. Its tang is more than large enough to completely contain the hammer and prevent it from biting the hand. The grip safety has also been raised up to move the hand closer to the barrel. This component is a prime example of Colt's new commitment to bring the highest possible level of human engineering to their product line.

The flat-type mainspring housing directly below the grip safety is serrated and made of a gray thermoplastic. It will more than do, but as a consequence of my own personal idiosyncrasies, I have changed that out with a stainless steel Ed Brown mainspring housing with 30 LPI checkering that I obtained from Brownells (Dept. SOF, 200 South Front Street, Montezuma, IA 50171;

phone: 515-623-5401; fax: 515-623-3896).

The magazine-well is only slightly beveled. It is sufficient, as I experienced no problems with inserting magazines under simulated stress. The magazine catch/release button is exactly where it has been for almost nine decades. Nothing needs to be changed there. Magazines, empty or loaded, fall cleanly away when the catch/release is depressed.

The single-column, detachable box-type magazines are of the traditional Colt M1911 type, which is to say that the floorplates are not removable. A pity, as that would speed the required disassembly. The stainless steel magazine bodies are equipped with five indicator holes on each side and a high-visibility orange plastic follower. Original Officer's ACP magazines held only six rounds. The capacity has been increased to seven. Two are supplied with each pistol.

The Colt Defender comes with Hogue

Colt Defender has many standard features usually considered to be custom options, such as extended thumb safety; skeletonized, thermoplastic trigger; beavertail grip safety of proprietary design; and low-profile, high-visibility sight system.

black pebble-grained, wrap-around, "rubber" grip panels featuring finger grooves and molded over hard plastic panels to add rigidity. I don't like them; my hands are far too large for the finger grooves. More important, rubber grip panels are too tacky and do not permit readjustment of the firing grip during the draw stroke, if required. That can be dangerous.

We replaced them with a pair of Kim Ahrends cocobolo tactical grips supplied by DVC Armaments, a subsidiary of G.G.& G. Beautifully executed, they cost \$50. There is a smooth depression on the left grip panel directly in back of the magazine catch/



release. The left grip panel also comes up far enough to protect the plunger spring tube. You cannot install a finer pair of grip panels on an M1911.

We tested the Colt Defender's reliability to the maximum extent possible. Over a thousand rounds of 13 different loads were used to probe the Defender's weaknesses, if any. Four types of Winchester ammunition were fired in the Defender: 230-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) (product #Q4243), 230-grain JHP subsonic (#XSUB45A), Black Talon 230-grain JHP (#S45A), and 185-grain Silvertip Hollow Point (#X45ASHP5). Black Hills accounted for another four loads: 230-grain JHP, 230-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ), 200-grain JHP, and 185-grain JHP. We also utilized Federal's 230-grain Hi-Shok JHP (#45D), PMC's El Dorado Starfire 230-grain JHP (#C45SFA), two Cor-Bon .45+P loads: 230-grain JHP at 950 fps and 185-grain JHP at 1,150 fps, and finally, my own reloaded ammunition with 6.3 grains of Unique in back of a 230-grain Round Nose Lead (RNL) bullet.

Two so-called "Commander Syndrome" stoppages were observed. Both were operator-induced. During the recoil stroke, if even slight upward pressure is applied to the slide stop lever, it may pop up into its notch on the slide and lock the slide rearward at a most inopportune moment. Only the 185-grain Cor-Bon .45+P JHP ammunition would not feed reliably through the Colt Defender. In this instance, who cares? This is not ammunition I would recommend under any circumstances. When it does manage to leave the muzzle and strike soft tissue, it will invariably over-expand and under-penetrate. Exclusive of the Cor-Bon 185-grain JHP, there were no other stoppages of any kind.

Considering the reduced envelope and lightweight frame, perceived recoil is

Continued on page 87

Colt Defender

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .45 ACP

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

Weight, empty: With magazine: 25.8 ounces (731.4 grams).

Length, overall: Muzzle to tip of beavertail: 6.75 inches (171.45 mm).

Width: 1.2 inches (30.5 mm) at the grip panels.

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

Barrel length: 3 inches (76.2 mm).

Feed: Single-column, detachable box-type magazine with seven-round capacity.

Sights: Low-profile, high-visibility sight system. Blade-type front sight, with a single white dot, is dovetailed to the slide and can be tapped to the right or left to correct for lateral zero. Large open square-notch rear sight, also dovetailed to the slide has a white dot on each side of the notch. Back surface of rear sight serrated to reduce glare and extended downward into a machined notch in the slide to increase its surface area and consequently speed acquisition of the rear sight.

Finish: Stainless steel slide. Frame has a Teflon-impregnated electroless nickel finish.

Price: \$750.

Manufacturer: Colt's Manufacturing Co., Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06144-1868; phone: 800-962-COLT; fax: 860-244-1449; web site: <http://www.colt.com>.

T&E summary: Best Colt-made .45-auto pistol in two decades. Design exhibits heavy emphasis on human engineering. Many standard features usually considered to be custom options. Exceptionally low perceived recoil. Above average accuracy potential. Reliable with a wide range of ammunition. Competitively priced. Compact envelope.



Colt Defender .45 ACP pistol, fieldstripped.

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PRESENTS

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THE China SYNDROME

A decade ago, news reports marked the event as just another footnote in the annals of Cold-War weapons development: On 29 September 1988, the People's Republic of China detonated its first neutron bomb.

On that same day, the Federal Bureau of Investigation began a probe that reached a disturbing conclusion. The technology enabling China to build this strategic weapon was not independently developed by its scientists. It had been stolen by communist spies, from supercomputers in the top-secret Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

China's spy coup against the U.S. evoked little public notice at the time, much less official reaction. Uncle Sam's spy hunters were pre-occupied with the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact. But was the Livermore espionage case and the acquisition of China's first neutron bomb

Has The Next Cold War Started?

by James L. Pate
and James Norell

an isolated intelligence success? Or was it merely one notch in the gun of Chinese spymasters, whose long-range aim is to target not only U.S. technology, but our national infrastructure, our domestic secu-

rity, our very way of life?

What if deep-cover Chinese agents, infiltrated into the U.S. years ago, gradually have purchased sufficient influence to steer Clinton and his administration's policies toward crippling consequences for our nation? What if the business zeal of U.S.-based multinationals, greedy for a place at the corporate trough of the world's largest marketplace, subverts any sense of national loyalty?

What if specially trained saboteurs and training cadres are hidden among the flood of illegal Chinese immigrants, organizing Chinese street gangs in West Coast cities, with access to automatic weapons smuggled in and cached by secret agents, waiting for orders to activate at some propitious moment, perhaps during a national emergency?

What if every time U.S. Customs agents get close to busting Chinese-backed gun-runners — in such undercover operations as



Greg Gibson, AP/Wide World

last year's Dragon Fire and Operation Leatherneck in 1990 — the investigations are mysteriously compromised at a crucial juncture? (See "Operation Leatherneck" and "Leatherneck II" Jan. and Feb. '95.)

What if the credibility of honest agents is attacked when those agents voice suspicions of corruption in such internally sabotaged investigations of Chinese gunrunning? What if those agents are suddenly prey to a harsh bureaucratic retribution, including accusations of criminality, mental instability and retroactive incompetence?

Not Hypothetical Cases

Sounds far-fetched, doesn't it? But there is a mounting body of evidence, seemingly unrelated events unfolding over a period of years and collected from widely disparate and mostly uncoordinated news reports and government documents, suggesting otherwise. *Soldier Of Fortune* will explore these and other questions, in this introductory overview and in subsequent articles to be published over the next several months.

To be sure, such a scenario may be fodder for another good Grade-B movie plot. But maybe not. Stranger things have already happened.

What if President Clinton signed an executive order mandating the automatic declassification of millions of the government's oldest secrets? It happened three years ago and applies to all government agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the National Security Agency (NSA). Not until late-July was it revealed that only the FBI has a blanket exemption. (Perhaps Billy Boy is a bit squeamish about having people know just what he was up to in the Soviet Union during his college days.)

What if the Clinton Administration gave China the entire U.S. patent database — 160 years of proprietary data and drawings on magnetic tape — free of charge? Just to sweeten the deal, they update it weekly. This actually happened, at a time when

news reports were focused, instead, on congressional handwringing over China's piracy of songs and movies owned by Clinton's liberal political benefactors in Hollywood and New York.

What if the U.S. sold China impossible-to-get machine tools suitable for the manufacture and repair of such strategic bombers as Boeing's B-1? What might be the geopolitical repercussions if our government sold Cray supercomputers, essential to advanced weapons development, to China? Under Clinton, this and other so-called "dual-use technology," with both military and civilian applications, have been conveyed to the Red Chinese.

On 12 June, Vice President Al Gore announced the declassification and release of the Navy's secret deep-ocean thermal imaging database, according to cyber columnist Joseph Farah, of the WorldNetDaily. This technology secret has heretofore been used exclusively by our Navy to cloak strategic-attack subs hiding in deep-ocean trenches. The Navy is also in the process of declassifying its deep-ocean Sound Surveillance System, Farah reported, an underwater listening network used to detect the movement of submarines in strategic areas.

Spokesmen for Gore and Clinton are adamant that this giveaway of military technology is in our national security interests, optimistic that China's good will and solemn promises, in the case of the deep-ocean thermal data, will empower a better means to forecast global warming trends such as *El Nino*. "The acoustical data," they noted seriously, "can also be used to track whale migrations ..."

Or what about selling China our Global Positioning System, crucial to ballistic missile guidance and the precise movement of armies and navies, or encryption secrets which have now made the Chinese military's command-and-control apparatus impervious to electronic eavesdropping by the National Security Agency?

Favors For Friends

By Clinton's hand, it's all been done — much of it over the specific objections of his own secretaries of state and defense, and the heads of NSA and the Central Intelligence Agency. Had most of these technologies been in the hands of Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War with Iraq, U.S. casualties could have been astronomical.



AP/Wide World

(far left) U.S. President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin review honor guard upon Clinton's 27 June arrival at the East Plaza of the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing. Various solons and human-rights groups protested the trip, which wags have suggested was for Clinton to accept PRC's Employee of the Year Award. (left) President Jiang Zemin is leader of a nation of more than a billion people that has bragged they can field an army of more than 200,000,000. Despite the peaceful platitudes during Clinton's trip, as we go to press the PRC announced they have added another six nuclear missiles to those already targeting the United States.

If all this sounds weird, Clinton is living proof of an axiom by someone who *does* inhale, gonzo journalist Hunter Thompson: When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro.

Try this: Clinton is arguably the most anti-gun president to ever sit in the White House. In 1994, he won passage of his cherished ban on the import of military-type semiautomatic rifles. Overnight, a civilian weapons export market worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually to the Chinese vanished with Clinton's signature.

But with one more stroke of the pen last year, Clinton put the Chinese government's gun-manufacturing companies back on the U.S. gravy train. Meanwhile, hundreds of law-abiding U.S. gun dealers, small businessmen who lost orders from China in the mid-stream of commerce, got screwed. China ended up with their money *and* their guns.

Clinton apparently was more concerned about the financial interests of China's state-owned arms merchants, Poly Technologies, Inc. and Norinco, a commercial business arm of the People's Liberation Army.

Clinton's ballyhooed gun ban was a campaign full of wonderful, liquid shining clabber about being tough on crime, about how safe America's streets would be now that these types of weapons were banned. Yet, less than two years later, on 2 February 1996, a Clinton import waiver was granted for Norinco and Poly Technologies to import 100,000 AKM rifles.

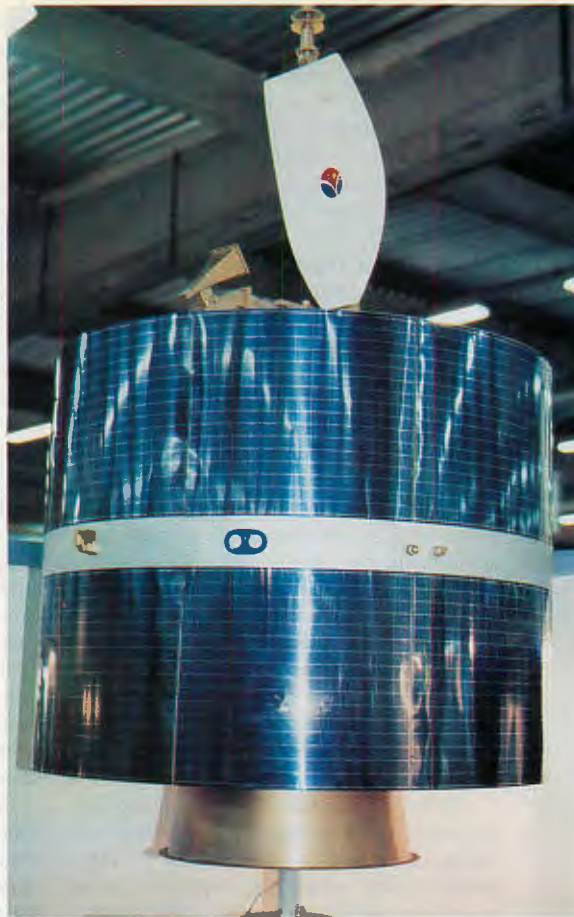
The semiauto AK-47 variant is designed specifically for the civilian market — just the type of weapon Clinton paraded before the public as an evil instrument of death, unsuitable for sport shooting.

Curiously, the Chinese companies were confident enough about obtaining the waiver that the shipment was already at sea when Clinton actually put pen to paper in China's behalf!

Four days after Clinton signed China's waiver, the president of Poly Technologies, Wang Jun, was granted a White House audience with Clinton. Wang Jun's visit was sponsored by an old friend of Bill, Ernest Green, an Arkansas native who is now a managing director of an investment firm in Washington.

Another FOB also sponsoring Wang's visit to see Clinton was a Little Rock restaurateur named Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie, a mainland Chinese immigrant who's now a U.S. citizen. Could Trie be a sleeper agent?

To hear First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton tell it, Charlie was a small businessman whose restaurant made the best egg rolls or the best chop suey in Little Rock. Whatever it was, Charlie must have sold a



This Chinese comms satellite, (above), and photo satellite, (below), may not be the very leading edge, but as American technology is passed over to them by greedy American companies with the way paved by sleazy politicians, we can expect their technology to soon approximate the West's.



lot of the stuff, because he was able to donate \$640,000 to Clinton's defense fund, set up to help the First Bubba pay his mountainous legal bills. Trie also donated another \$360,000 to the Democratic National Committee. The entire \$1 million was refunded as illegal when investigators traced Trie's largess to the Bank of China, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Chinese government.

With \$1 Million You Get Egg Roll

So it wasn't won tons that made Charlie's wallet fat. He also controlled Diahatsu International, a holding company for 23 separate businesses, based in Hong Kong and that other hub of international trade and intrigue, Little Rock. When federal investigators sought to question Trie

Summer Productions

about the source and legality of his donations, he fled to his homeland, where he maintains an apartment. He has since surrendered to federal agents and is a cooperating witness in an ongoing investigation into whether the Chinese government sought to subvert the U.S. political process with cash.

Wang wasn't exactly candid about his own background. He entered the U.S. on a visa that identified him as a representative of an investment firm. It neglected to mention that he is perhaps China's number-one communist arms dealer. Wang, now under investigation like Trie, was among a number of campaign contributors invited to the White House for coffee.

Unlike other invitees, though, Wang got to meet privately just before the coffee with the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, introduced by Trie. Then Trie and Wang headed out to meet Bill, the Sodomite.

The president's meeting with Wang was "clearly inappropriate," said Clinton, who claimed he didn't specifically remember being introduced to Wang. This poor memory, despite a widely publicized wire photograph of Bill and Hillary with Wang and a purported Chinese gun dealer, whose Detroit-based company was an alleged front for the PRC's national police.

"Nothing inappropriate came from it in terms of any governmental action on my part," Clinton said in typically Orwellian doublespeak: The action — the waiver — had come two days *before*.

The day after the meeting between Clinton, Trie and Wang, another event of questionable propriety occurred. Ernie Green, who helped arrange Wang's visa, donated \$50,000 to the DNC, according to Federal Election Commission records. Investigators sought to

determine whether that money came directly from Green, or was funneled to him by Trie or some other Chinese government proxy. Green's prior gifts to the DNC were relatively modest; \$3,700 in August 1994, and \$250 in February 1995.

While Poly Tech's 100,000 legal rifles were in transit to CJA Inc., the Detroit company which was later identified as a front for the Chinese National Police — the same agency of Tianamen Square infamy, other Poly Tech arms merchants working for Wang were about to close another gun deal — this one illegal. Federal investigators said Norinco executives were also implicated in the gunrunning scheme.

On 18 March 1996, a ship owned by the People's Liberation Army, the *Empress Phoenix*, landed at Oakland, Calif., with a general cargo that included crates marked as

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"small tools." In reality, the boxes held 2,000 full-auto AK-47s. This lethal contraband was a test shipment for a much bigger arms sale being planned, which, the prosecutor said, was to include "Red Parakeet" surface-to-air missiles.

Crude But Effective Smuggling

The illegal AKs had been sold to American gunrunners by Poly Tech operatives in the U. S. and in Red China with the express knowledge of Chinese government officials. The intended destinations, investi-

and to its ringleader, Hammond Ku.

Curiously, cargo manifests indicate, some of the containers of machine guns and grenade launchers were not seized, and presumably went on to their destination, possibly U.S. gangsters or Chinese-backed insurgents in Mexico.

Most interesting, though, is that serial numbers from the M2s prove that these carbine rifles were among the millions of weapons and pieces of U.S. military assistance ordnance left in Vietnam in 1975, when communist troops captured Saigon.

What if the Clinton Administration gave China the entire U.S. patent database — 60 years of proprietary data and drawings on magnetic tape — free of charge?

gators allege, were Asian street gangs on the West Coast. Some of these same gangs, the *San Francisco Examiner* reported, include leaders who are believed to be former ultra-Marxist Red Guards from China.

The only hitch for Poly Tech and Norinco gun merchants was that their American counterparts were, in reality, undercover agents for U. S. Customs and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The sting operation, tagged "Dragon Fire," began to unravel, several U.S. Customs sources told *SOF*, after a high-level Clinton Administration official tipped the news media.

The task force made its move in May 1996, seizing the 2,000 full-auto AKs and 2,000 silencers. It was the biggest single seizure of automatic weapons in U.S. law-enforcement history. Indictments were handed down against 14 Americans and Chinese nationals.

But the big fish managed to escape the U.S. Customs net and return to China, apparently also tipped off by someone in the highest levels of the Treasury Department. The central player on this end was Hammond Ku, a Chinese-American businessman with ties to both Norinco and Poly Tech. Also arrested was a Chinese-American restaurant owner, Richard Chen, who had worked as a U.S. representative for Norinco.

More Guns For More Insurgents

About a year later, in March 1997, warehouse workers on the U.S.-Mexican border near San Diego found two semi-trailer-sized shipping containers filled with full-auto M2 carbines, assorted heavy weapons parts and unassembled grenade launchers. The bonded, sealed containers were marked "Strap Hangers, Combo tools" and "Spare Parts for Sewing Machines."

Subsequent indictments alleged that the guns were smuggled into the U.S. at the behest of Peter A. Tran and Curtis Debord. The two men were connected in those indictments to the San Francisco deal involving 2,000 AK-47s — Operation Dragon Fire —

The guns had been transhipped through the Port of Long Beach in a circuitous route that included Bremerhaven, Germany. They were sold by Vietnamese arms dealers and were part of a huge cache of former U.S. military assistance booty collected after the withdrawal of American forces in 1975.

The M2s seized in 1997, were some of the same weapons involved in another compromised U.S. Customs investigation, Operation Leatherneck, which also appeared to have been betrayed from within the highest levels of the Treasury Department when the deal was about to consummate in 1990.

Leatherneck was an alleged conspiracy by Vietnamese gun merchants, backed by Chinese bankers, to smuggle \$70 million worth of captured U.S. ordnance and weapons — 16 shiploads of machine guns, rocket launchers, mortars and millions of rounds of ammo — to street gangs on the U.S. West Coast. Does the plot sound familiar?

The alleged perpetrators in Leatherneck also included a long-time CIA contractor, living in Thailand, a former British SAS operative, three retired Marine Corps veterans of Vietnam, a retired Army colonel specializing in logistics, and a former U.S. congressman.

Guns For Insurgents

Leatherneck was a top-priority Treasury Department investigation, monitored daily by the National Security Council. Besides the gun-smuggling, agents also identified 10 major U.S. corporations, from oil companies to soft-drink manufacturers and a cable television network whose former owner's wife was friends with Vietnam's communist leaders (We're not mentioning any names, but the initials are CNN). The companies allegedly were doing business in Vietnam when such commerce violated the Trading with the Enemies Act.

But the identification of the U.S. companies — all of them major contributors to national political campaigns, became problematic. Just as Senior Special Agent Frank

Caliendo, of U.S. Customs, and his undercover operative, Mickey Downie, were about to close the gun deal, it was mysteriously queered by unseen hands in the Treasury Department. Both Downie and Caliendo suddenly found themselves the target of a very intense bureaucratic retribution, and both their careers took a nose dive.

"There's no doubt in my mind," Downie told *SOF* in July, "that the reason we had our cover blown is because we were about to bust the bad guys, which in Leatherneck included Chinese bankers and other communist officials, and some prominent U.S. companies. And I have no doubt that China was behind the whole thing. After Frank and I were tossed off the case, these guys went back to doing that they were doing. That's how these M-2 carbines ended up back in the United States."

The passage of the M-2s through the Port of Long Beach came at an inopportune

Summer Productions



China was experiencing launch problems with the commercial satellites they were putting up for Western companies. No problem: Loral passed the technological fix over to them. Export permits for this sensitive technology? No problem: Loral's honcho was the single largest contributor to the Democratic National Committee in 1996.

time for the efforts of China to procure a major port facility on the West Coast.

Always remember this about China: The organs of the state and capital business are one and the same. As a world political and economic entity, Red China has been compared by some experts to the melding of Hitler's military, especially the SS, and Germany's industrial complex. China's version is communism in a capitalist smiley-face, selling us the rope to hang ourselves.

Seedy Sale Of Cheap Successes

The root of its success in America is money. Red China provides millions of dollars for politicians and political entities willing to be bought. It provides billions of dollars for U.S. multinationals, and billions of dollars to U.S. cities wishing to attract China-based industry.

A good example is the City of Long Beach, California, part of the Los Angeles megalopolis. In 1994, the Long Beach Naval Shipyard was declared surplus as part of Bill Clinton's crippling military reduction in force.

Clinton's hatred of our military is well known. Besides trying to turn the Pentagon into a social services lab to advance the political agendas of feminists and homosexuals, he has also gone at the force structure with a meat ax.

During Clinton's watch, the Pentagon has eliminated 709,000 active-duty soldiers and 293,000 reservists. Eight standing Army divisions have vanished. So have 20 Air Force and Navy wings, including 2,000 combat aircraft; 232 strategic bombers; 13 strategic ballistic missile submarines, including 232 missiles with 3,114 nuclear warheads. Add to that list 500 ICBMs with 1,950 warheads; four aircraft carriers and 121 surface combat ships.

And Clinton has sold or leased the support bases and shipyards needed to sustain all this, such as Long Beach.

Rather than finding another military use for the Long Beach base — a resident Marine command which wanted it was evicted — the Navy Department gave the property to the City of Long Beach. Unlike most other such local transactions, this one drew the attention of the Clinton White House, which lobbied city leaders to lease the sprawling, state-of-the-art port complex to the Chinese Overseas Shipping Company, or COSCO.

COSCO is owned by the People's Liberation Army. Some would argue that COSCO is the Red Chinese Army. It is also the world's largest commercial shipping fleet. The M2 smuggling case, and its nexus with Long Beach, evoked angry questions from two Republican congressmen from southern California, Duncan Hunter and Randy Cunningham, about why the Navy and the White House would be so eager to turn over a strategic naval asset to COSCO, a business-friendly front

ports of entry controlling either end of the Panama Canal. Hutchinson is also negotiating a lease for the old navy base and shipyard in Charleston, S.C., and another shipbuilding facility in Mobile, Ala.

What if these port facilities became strategic beachheads for more espionage, and the smuggling of sophisticated military hardware into our country? It would be an ideal way to infiltrate agent provocateurs, who are assimilated into the population and "swim as fish in the sea," as Mao Ze Dong described a subversion tactic in which China is unexcelled.

What Cost COSCO?

"I can't even begin to imagine the degree ... of under-the-water, on-top-of-the-water and land-based surveillance that would be needed to ensure that COSCO did not use [Long Beach] for intelligence gathering, or the insertion or recovery of agents, or other forms of espionage," said Richard Fisher, an Asia expert for the conservative think tank, Heritage Foundation.

Communist China's COSCO beachhead

Congress is now considering a ban on the launches of U.S. satellites from China. Such a bill passed the House in May, but the Senate has, as of this writing, failed to act. Clinton has already said he would veto such a bill.

for a foreign military adversary.

The Long Beach deal is not the only such effort by the communists to enhance China's global maritime strategy. Another front controlled by the PRC, Hutchinson Port Holdings, has committed \$22.2 million for a 25-year lease for Colon and Cristobal,

appears unstoppable.

Members of Congress who demanded that the COSCO deal be halted were told by then-Navy Secretary John Dalton that national security is not an issue. Letting the biggest communist military organization on the planet run one of the largest ocean-shipping terminals in the U.S. just seemed like good business to Dalton.

One might wonder why a secretary of the Navy would be such a booster for China and her surreptitious business enterprises. Dalton, a former Texas banker and DNC fundraiser, came to the Clinton Administration after working for the San Antonio office of Stephens Inc., an investment firm headquartered in Little Rock, Ark. The Stephens company represented the now-notorious Lippo Group, an Indonesia-based corporate giant with heavy financial ties to — you guessed it — China. (Stephens also handled some of Hillary Clinton's phenomenally lucrative investments.)

More importantly, the Stephens branch office in Washington, D.C., was used as a mail drop by John Huang, DNC fundraiser, frequent White House visitor and suspected Chinese agent. A native of mainland China, his meteoric rise in Washington came by way of the Lippo Group, owned by the Riady family and heavily involved in various businesses with the PRC and the People's Republic of Vietnam.

Huang became an acting assistant secretary of commerce under Ron Brown. Like his



Although there have been scant takers for the PRC's F-81 fighter, it is among a varied arsenal for sale on the world market. China has also made licensing agreements to build advanced Russian-design fighters for their own use, but one of the biggest customers for aircraft components is the United States: Boeing has a large manufacturing operation in PRC.



THE C802 MULTIPURPOSE ANTI-SHIP MISSILE SYSTEM

The C802 is a high-subsonic, very low altitude, sea skimming multi-purpose anti-ship missile system, powered by a turbojet engine. It can be installed on ships, the coast, and aircraft. It can be used to attack enemy destroyers, escort vessels, landing boats, transport ships and so on. It has the following advantages:

Actively seeking a share of the world armaments market, China has become the Robert Hall of Third World ordnance buyers. Chinese anti-ship missiles (above) have shown up in the Gulf — and Chinese surface-to-air missiles have shown up in smuggled shipments to North America (right), along with thousands of illegal machine guns.



friend, Charlie Trie, Huang is suspected of funneling millions from the Chinese government to Clinton's various political war chests.

As a China expert in the Department of Commerce, working just across the street from his Lippo mail drop in the Stephens firm, Huang had access to America's most tightly held trade and defense secrets. Curiously, though, his top secret security clearance was approved only after the White House signed a waiver — yes, another waiver — for the normally required stringent background check.

Bull Market In A China Shop

It was while Brown and Huang were at Commerce that more strange events involving technology transfers to China became public.

After the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement inside China in 1989, and the subsequent massacre of students at Tiananmen Square, Congress imposed sanctions requiring American companies doing business in China to obtain waivers. These waivers became a political issue when questions were raised about whether China was obtaining critical missile technology during the launch of U.S. commercial satellites in China.

Concerned about national security ramifications, the Pentagon began to resist pressure from the Clinton Administration to sign more of the waivers. So Clinton removed authority for granting such waivers from the Pentagon, where the overriding inclination is to guard military secrets, and gave it to Brown's commerce department, which wanted trade with China at any cost.

Congress is now considering a ban on the launches of U.S. satellites from China. Such a bill passed the House in May, but the Senate has, as of this writing, failed to act. Clinton has already said he would veto such a bill.

The lawmakers were prodded by revelations that two major U.S. satellite manufac-

turers, Hughes Electronics and the Loral Space & Communications Co., were under criminal investigation for allegedly sharing missile secrets with the Chinese in an effort to correct the failure — and, thus, presumably alleviate the financial setbacks — of a few China-based satellite launches.

Subsequent analyses by U.S. intelligence agencies, however, as reported in the *New York Times*, say the Chinese probably used those secrets to improve not only their commercial missiles, but extend the range

The task force made its move in May 1996, seizing the 2,000 full-auto AKs and 2,000 silencers.

and accuracy of strategic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Of Course

The story grew even hotter when it was reported that Loral's CEO, Bernard Schwartz, was also the DNC's largest individual contributor in 1996. Various senate committees have held 13 hearings on satellite exports to China. The consensus is that the PRC has benefited militarily through its access and acquisition of sensitive information, Majority Leader Trent Lott said.

Big business defends the waivers for satellite launches in China, though, arguing that it's good business sense for everyone involved. The Satellite Industry Association says a ban on Chinese launches could cost its members 16,000 jobs and \$8 billion over the next five years.

By 2002, according to economic projections by Merrill Lynch, such U.S.-based companies as Globalstar and Iridium may be making up to 10 percent of their launch-

es in China, one of only a half-dozen places on the planet suitable for launching satellites into orbit. These and other companies have already contracted for \$1.7 billion in Chinese launches, an amount projected to grow to \$8.3 billion if Clinton's waivers continue.

So, while the United States exports to China our latest military secrets and our most sensitive satellite and missile technology, U.S. taxpayers get in return low-tech illegal weapons for terrorists. Every time a U.S. consumer buys a doll or a tool or any other product made in the PRC, they are buying more bullets and more guns and more political influence for the biggest totalitarian government on earth.

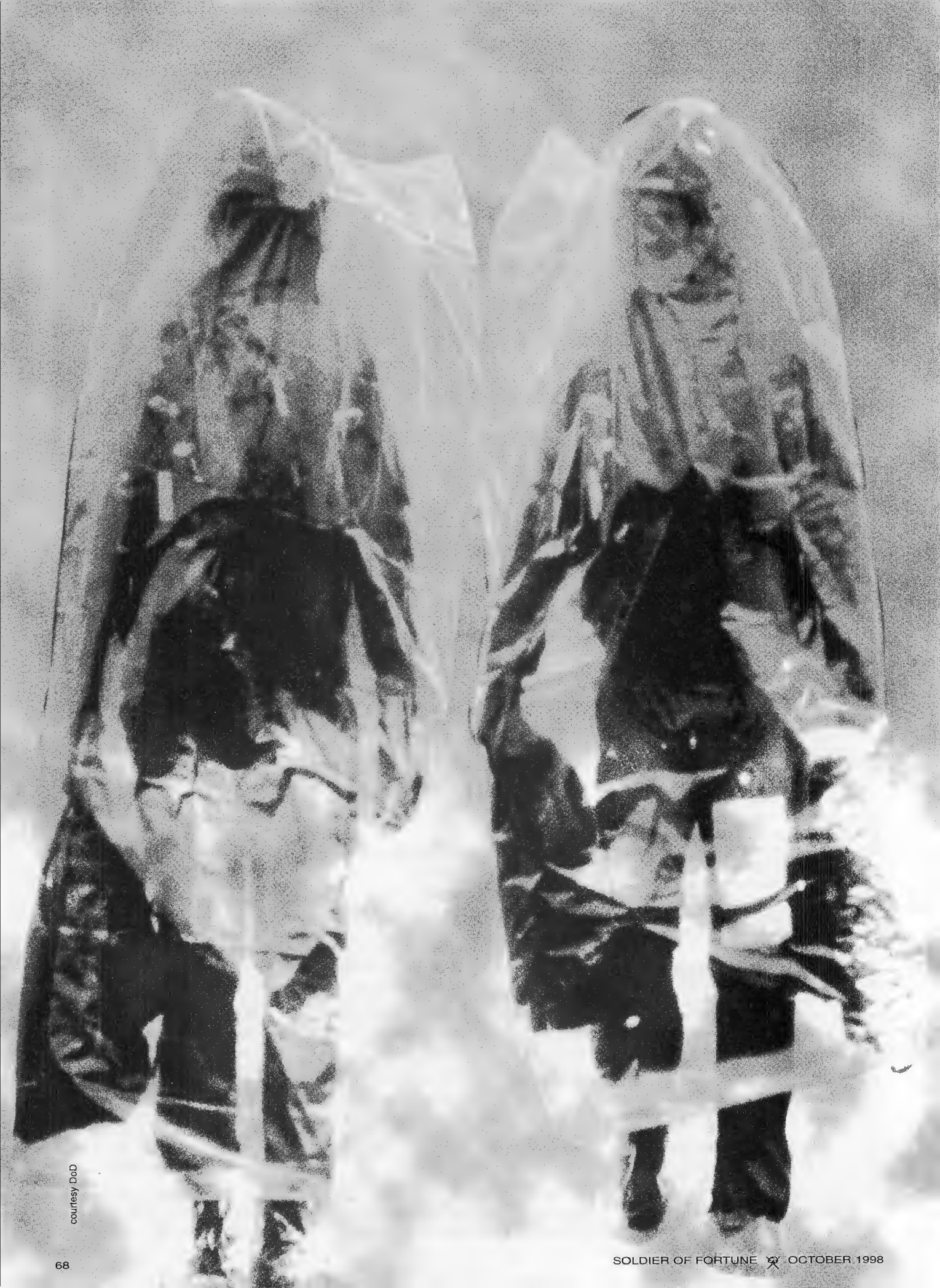
"High-tech information ... is of particular importance to Beijing," Nicholas Eftimiades, a senior analyst for the Defense Intelligence Agency, wrote in his book, *Chinese Intelligence Operations*.

"As a result," Eftimiades wrote, "the PRC's intelligence operations against the United States have become so intrusive that senior U.S. law-enforcement officials have publicly identified China as 'the most active foreign power engaged in the illegal acquisition of American technology.'

"The PRC's intelligence apparatus is more than just a support department for policymakers," Eftimiades warns. "It is inextricably linked to the foreign policy decision-making process and internal methods of economic development and political control ... The United States and other Western industrialized nations are woefully unprepared to protect their national assets from Beijing's espionage efforts."

What China can't steal through spying, U.S. corporations are willing to sell. And what big business can't sell, Bill Clinton and Al Gore are happy to give away.

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courtesy DoD



ast month *SOF* reviewed the history and agents of chemical warfare. In this issue we examine biological agents and weapons. We look at where, and by whom, CBW has been used in the years following the Vietnam War, as well as what the future may hold.

Often called the poor man's atomic bomb, chemical and biological weapons bring to technologically and economically deficient countries — and even terrorist groups — the ability to possess weapons of mass destruction.

Reflect upon the cost of depopulating a single square-mile area: Using a tactical nuclear weapon would cost no less than a million dollars, and they probably don't have one. Employing conventional weapons (rockets, artillery and cluster bombs) will quickly eat up \$100,000-plus. On the other hand, CB agents are the "Blue Light Specials" of modern warfare. With costs ranging from under \$1,000

Although there are scores of potential BW agents, we will concentrate on those most likely to be used as weapons:

- **Bacteria:** These free-living, one-celled microorganisms run the gamut from harmless and beneficial to deadly. Those most likely encountered as BW agents include anthrax, brucellosis, cholera, tularemia (rabbit fever) and pneumonic plague. In a natural form the diseases caused by these agents usually respond to antibiotic therapy.

- **Viruses:** Composed of protein and nucleic acid, these organisms require the living cells of a host organism in order to multiply. The diseases they produce normally will not respond to antibiotics but may respond to certain antiviral compounds. Even so these compounds are rare, and those available are of limited use. The most common viral agents are: Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE), Korean and Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Ebola, Rift Valley Fever and Dengue Fever.

Better Killing

PART 2

Through

Chemistry

for a good dose of nerve agent to just a few dollars for a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of weapons-grade anthrax, there is no comparison.

Now the obvious question: If CB weapons are so inexpensive and relatively easy to make, why haven't we seen their full scale, or at least limited use, in past global conflicts (i.e. WWII, Korea, Vietnam, etc.)?

The answer, basic though it is, boils down to two things: First, CBW isn't like conventional or even nuclear warfare.

When you fire a bullet or launch a cruise missile you can be just about positive that it isn't going to make a U-turn and wind up back in your face. Not so chemical and biological agents. An unexpected wind shift can easily find you reaping what you've just sown. The second, and equally powerful reason is, very simply, the fear of retaliation in kind.

Throughout the Cold War, although the focus was predominately on nuclear arms, it must be remembered that all the big kids on the block stockpiled large stores of chemical and biological weapons, as well. And, just as with nukes, nobody wanted to instigate a CB war, because payback would be a bitch.

Biological Agents

Unlike chemical agents, biological agents are living organisms or toxins derived from these organisms. They may be targeted against plants, animals or materiel. Also, unlike chemical agents, biological agents are classified by what they are rather than what they do.

Bio War "Blue Light Specials"

Text & Photos by Richard L. Sherrow

- **Rickettsia:** These typically parasitic microorganisms are found living in the bodies of certain lice and ticks and are easily transmittable to animals and man. Treatable with broad-spectrum antibiotics, rickettsia resemble viruses in that they grow only in living cells.

Typical BW agents include: Q-Fever, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Scrub Typhus and Epidemic Typhus.

- **Chlamydia:** The least known and least virulent of potential agents, these

intercellular parasites are like viruses in that they grow only in host cells and like bacteria in that they may be treated with broad-spectrum antibiotics. Diseases produced include: psittacosis, coccidiosis and histoplasmosis.

- **Fungi:** These primitive plants are non-photosynthetic, capable of anaerobic (without oxygen) growth and draw nutrition from decaying vegetable matter. Their value as anti-crop agents has long been recognized, resulting in the development of such food-crop destroyers as rice blast and wheat blast.

Since most fungi are spore-forming they are significant in that they may be used to develop militarily effective toxins such as trichothecene mycotoxin, also known as T-2 or Yellow Rain.

- **Toxins:** Toxins are substances produced from living or dead plants, animals or microorganisms. Many of them are highly poisonous, being many times more deadly than the most powerful chemical nerve agents. Fast-acting, toxins can kill within a matter of minutes to a few days. Unfortunately, with the exception of a non-FDA-



Chemical and biological weapons not only share some of the same tactical limitations and advantages, they require similar "friendly" delivery systems. This assortment of U.S. chemical and biological munitions includes more violent arty and mortar rounds for gas, and "soft" bomblets for biological agents.

approved vaccination for botulinum toxin, no other prophylactic treatment exists, although some are under development. As for treatment after being stricken by a toxin, no antitoxins generally exist.

Some of the "toxins-of-choice" for BW use are: botulinum toxin, clostridium perfringens (gas gangrene), trichotecene mycotoxin, ricin, palytoxin and saxitoxin (shellfish poison).

And Weapons Systems

For delivery purposes, bio weapons fall into two categories: wet (or liquid form) and dry. In this aspect they are similar to chemical agents, therefore, the means of delivery, or weapons systems, should also be similar. The difference is truly a matter of life and death.

The big drawback of delivering bio agents is the very thing that makes them work ... they are living organisms. Be they microorganisms or vectors such as mosqui-

toes, fleas or ticks, they can be readily killed. When a nerve-agent-filled artillery shell is fired over a target an explosive burster detonates the round, effectively dispersing the agent. If a biological agent, such as anthrax bacteria, were placed in the same type shell, the shock and heat from the explosion of the burster would kill most of the little buggers. Therefore, a "gentler" means of delivery is needed.

Some of the more common means of getting "bugs-to-target" include aerial or vehicle-mounted spray tanks, minimum-explosive-opening cluster bombs, rocket and guided missile warheads and even hand delivery. During the 1930s, for example, Japan dropped bags of grain containing infected fleas into China. Even hand-held devices can be used, such as the back-pack sprayers or hand thrown canisters used to spread wheat rust spores in the former USSR.

One of the most commonly asked ques-

tions is, "Can I get a shot or pill to protect me from biological agents?" The good news is, there are some vaccines available for the numerous diseases. The bad news is, unless you know ahead of time what agent or agents you are going to encounter, you may be, as the saying goes, SOL.

Ivan The Terrible

Without a doubt, the strongest proponent of CBW in modern times was the Soviet Union. It was no secret that a great percentage of the Soviets' massive stockpiles of CBW agents was maintained as a vital part of their basic munitions load. Nor, was it a secret that their military forces actively trained in live toxic-chemical-agent environments. As a result of this realistic training more than a few of Ivan's finest departed for that great collective in the sky.

Nor were their "peacetime" losses restricted to accidents with chemical agents. Witness the major anthrax accident at the biological weapons facility in Sverdlovsk, in 1979, where, depending on intelligence sources, from a few dozen to more than 100 people died. There was little doubt that if the U.S. ever went to full-scale war with the Soviet Union, CBW would have played a major roll in the hostilities.

Soviet military doctrine was clear: The use of lethal and non-lethal chemical weapons was a perfectly acceptable means of waging full-scale war or putting down local resistance in back-country bush wars. If you had the chance to put agents, weapons and tactics to operational tests with little or no risk to the *Rodina*, all the better. And, if you can try out a few bugs, better still.

Some may remember the infamous "umbrella murder case" of dissident Bulgarian journalist Georgi Markov. After defecting to Italy then London in 1968, Markov was a reporter for Radio Free Europe. Finally, the Bulgarian communist party, fed up with his constant stream of attacks on their regime, ordered a hit on Markov. Although the KGB were ordered by Yuri Andropov not to take an active part, they were permitted to provide the materials advice.

While waiting for a London bus in 1978, Markov was "accidentally" stabbed in the leg with an opened umbrella. As the assailant withdrew the umbrella a tiny platinum sponge ball, not much larger than a period on this page, was left embedded in Markov's leg.

Impregnated with less than 1/100 gram of ricin, a toxin derived by Czech CIS researchers from castor beans, the ball soon leaked the poison into Georgi Markov's bloodstream. Within four days he was dead from massive internal hemorrhage and organ failure. A Czech defector was subsequently targeted with a more sophisticated version that effected more subtle symptoms, but with the onset of symptoms he demanded a complete examination and x-rays revealed a similar platinum sponge in his shoulder: it was removed and he recovered.

• Yellow Rain: Despite the fact that the



At left is U.S. BLU 21/B45 biological bomblet, at right are bomblets for delivery of BZ and GB gas.

U.S. never experienced the Russian Bear's CBW might, the same can't be said for some less fortunate countries. From 1975 to 1982, nearly 300 reports of CBW attacks were documented in Laos alone. From symptom descriptions and physical evidence it is known that chemical agents, ranging from concentrated forms of CS riot control agent and incapacitating agents to, very likely, nerve agent Soman (GD) were used by communist Lao and Vietnamese forces under direct Soviet supervision to slaughter thousands of H'mong tribesmen.

In addition to the chemicals, biological agents such as trichothecene mycotoxins, known as "T-2" or "Yellow Rain" were employed with equally lethal results. Developed from the ergot fungus endemic to rye grown in Eastern Europe, it came in the form of a fine mist-like powder, which dropped from a helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft and covered plants and villagers, alike. Soon the victim's skin was burning and inflamed. Next came horrendous vomiting, bloody diarrhea, hemorrhaging, and, often, death.

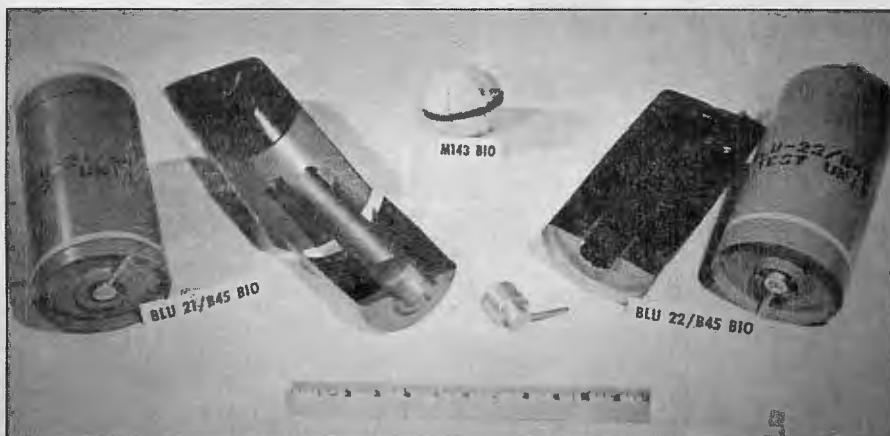
Despite the poo-pooing of many liberal scientists who claimed that Yellow Rain was really only "bee droppings" and that our friends the Soviets would never do such a thing, the incontrovertible evidence was otherwise. A load of shit was dropped, all right, but it wasn't from bees on mass-defecation flights.

In November 1981, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee convened to address the question of Soviet CBW aggression. Among those who testified before the committee was then-*Soldier Of Fortune* magazine Associate Editor Jim Coyne. Not only did Coyne testify, he brought proof, in the form of actual samples of trichothecene mycotoxin recovered during an *SOF* foray into Laos.

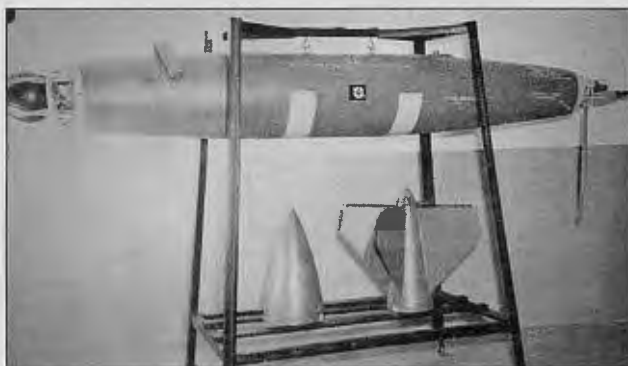
Laos' neighbor to the south has also felt the sting of Soviet state-sponsored CBW terrorism. From 1978 to 1981, more than 1,000 Kampuchean were killed and many more injured when Vietnamese forces unleashed clouds of white, yellow and black aerosols and powders. As of yet, these substances remain unidentified, but the symptoms ranged from tightening in the chest, nausea and vomiting to disorientation, skin decay, and blistering.

By far, the most egregious use of CBW by the Soviets was in the 1979-1989 occupation of Afghanistan. Thousands of Afghan *Mujahideen* guerrillas, as well as civilians, fell victim to Russian nerve gases, as well as to a variety of other lethal and non-lethal agents. Included in these was a concentrated form of CS-type riot control agent and a suspected incapacitant known as "Blue." Also referred to as "X" gas, knock-out gas, or "Flash," this agent was said to have caused almost instantaneous unconsciousness.

Methods of delivery ranged from aircraft



(above) U.S. biological bomblets include from left BLU 21/B45, M143, BLU 22/B45. (below) U.S. A/B45Y-1 biological agent aircraft spray tank could deliver sizable payload to attack enemy personnel, crops, even matériel.



and helicopter bombing and aerial spraying of *Mujahideen* outposts and villages to poisoning of individual water wells.

Although strongly suspected, it was never proven that the Soviets used mycotoxins or other bio weapons during their 10-year siege of Afghanistan.

Mother Of All Threats

It wasn't until Saddam Hussein promised to unleash his CBW arsenal against the Coalition Forces that the world, and even many in our own military, began to take notice of the very real threat of chemical-biological war. For many years, one of the first things to be scrubbed when a U.S. military training schedule got over-crowded was CBR training. All that was about to change.

There was reason to take this madman seriously. Just look at his track record: During the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War, Iraqi forces unleashed tons of deadly chemicals on their foe. From 1984 to 1986, enough mustard agent was used to kill more than 16,000 Iranians. Also, in 1984, enough Tabun-filled (GA) bombs were dropped to wipe out approximately 5,000 of the enemy.

If that weren't proof enough, Hussein gassed his own people! After the war he used CW genocide against Iraqi Kurds, who he considered subhuman, as well as sympathetic to the enemy during the war. The worst of these attacks came on 16 March 1988 in the northern Iraq Kurdish town of Halabja when, depending on estimates, up to 5,000 Kurdish men, women and children were murdered in a severe mustard gas attack.

For a number of years Iraq had been devel-

oping a hefty CBW arsenal. More importantly, Saddam Hussein had no compunction against using CBW as just another weapon.

Iraq's basic CBW use policy revolves around its non-persistent and persistent agents. If the war with Iran was any indication, Iraq tended to use non-persistent nerve agents such as Tabun (GA) to "soften-up" a target followed by an immediate ground assault. In areas they had no intention of occupying themselves, but wanted to deny the enemy, persistent mustard was used.

Operation Desert Storm

The question over whether or not Iraq actually used chemical or biological agents during the Gulf War continues to stir heated debate. There is no question that it was stockpiled and that during the course of battle there was dispersal, accidentally or otherwise.

Just one example was the demolition of the giant ammunition supply point (ASP) at Khamisiya (Tel al Lahn). Located 200 kilometers north of Kuwait City, this 50-square-kilometer ammo dump was blown up during a one month period after the war. On 10-12 March 1991, U.S. troops misidentified the contents of Bunker 73 (also known as "The Pit"). As a result, a large quantity of 122mm Sarin-(GB) filled rockets were blown up. The Iraqis claimed Bunker 73 contained 2,160 GB filled rockets. In October 1991, UNSCOM inspectors examined the "pit" and discovered 782 damaged — but intact — 122mm GB rockets. Assuming the Iraqis were truthful that leaves 1,378 rockets, each containing approximately 15 pounds of GB — that's more than 20,000 pounds of nerve agent. Even under ideal circumstances standard high-explosive disposal operations would only destroy about 60% of the agent. That leaves around 6,000 pounds in the air.

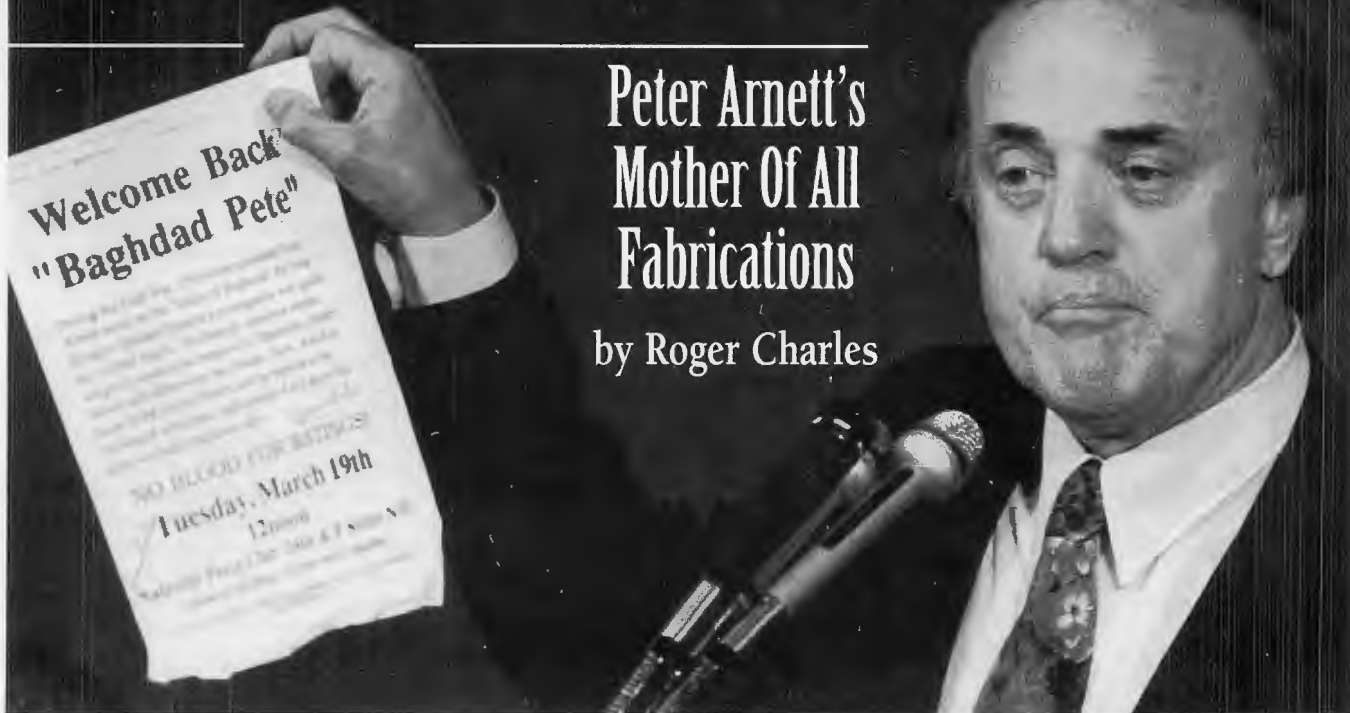
Chemical Agents

The presence of numerous chemical agents in Iraq has been established either through Iraqi admission, or examination of captured ordnance. Among those agents known to be possessed by Iraq are:

Continued on page 78

Inherit The Tailwind

AP/Wide World



Peter Arnett's Mother Of All Fabrications

by Roger Charles

Washington Times editor-at-large Arnaud de Borchgrave wrote in *Wall Street Journal* of Arnett's "long history of anti-American propagandizing under the guise of journalism." Regarding Tailwind story, de Borchgrave charged Arnett "not only distorted and twisted the facts but deliberately suppressed evidence to the contrary. The final product was unadulterated disinformation — deliberate as opposed to inadvertent misinformation." Arnett also received mixed reviews over his coverage of the Gulf War from Baghdad as a CNN reporter.

Monday, 8 June, found CNN "international correspondent" Peter Arnett feeling especially cocky. The previous evening he'd been the on-air reporter for the lead story on the premier episode for the newsmagazine, *NewsStand*.

In the segment titled "Valley of Death," CNN charged that U.S. Special Forces and Montagnard strikers assigned to SOG (Studies and Observations Group), Vietnam, had conducted a cross-border raid against a North Vietnamese Army camp 60 miles inside Laos as part of a "top secret" operation code-named Tailwind. Arnett

Tailwind Timeline

July 1970 — Kontum, RVN Operation Tailwind planned by MACV-SOG, CCC to disrupt supplies flowing to NVA, take prisoners, relieve NVA pressure on royalist Laotian troops; B company assigned.

11-14 September 1970 — Chavan, Laos; B company inserted by helicopter, engaged by NVA. Every SOG soldier wounded: Six die from gunshots or shrapnel. Company commander, Capt. Gene McCarley, wounded in mouth, assigns platoon leader Robert Van Buskirk to brief MACV Saigon: Van Buskirk awarded Silver Star; medic Sergeant Rose awarded DSC.

1971 — Bad Tölz, West Germany Van Buskirk arrested by DBR police and Army CID for aiding terrorists, arms trafficking; serves 18 months, returns to USA; in 1974 experiences "religious awakening."

1983 — Van Buskirk's book *Operation Tailwind* published, making no mention of American defectors, nor caucasians, nor nerve gas.

August 1997 — McLean, Va.: CNN reporter April Oliver meets with two SOG veterans, asks how many times did they call in B-52 bombers on your own men, and how many times did you use nerve gas? (never asks "Did you ...")

September 1997 — Jointly produced by Arnett and Oliver, CNN *Impact* alleges SOG had USAF bombers kill own men: program also alleges SOG soldiers "war criminals." SOG veterans, offended enough to follow up, learn Oliver is contacting other SOG veterans.

October 1997 — Englewood, Colo.: Oliver tells author on phone she has DoD documents at hand proving U.S. used nerve gas in Laos, indicated she is investigating Operation Tailwind, written of by Van Buskirk.

October 1997 to April 1998 — Undersigned initiates independent investigation with interviews of SOG personnel and documentation, of Operation Tailwind ... and of CNN investigation.

October 1997 to May 1998 — CNN interviews Buskirk, who recalls "suppressed memory" of killing Americans and nerve gas, while on camera (he would later claim that CNN crew suggested these events to him earlier). CNN interviews virtually all SOG soldiers on operation Tailwind: Oliver and staff repeatedly told no nerve gas could have been used as many GIs were exposed without gas masks and none died. CNN also told indigenous soldiers had no protection and none died.

7 June 1994 — On premier of CNN/*Time NewsStand* program, lead segment of show titled the "Valley of Death," alleges use of nerve gas by U.S. during 1970 in Laos, saying targets of deadly attack by MACV-SOG are American defectors; that during raid, women and children are murdered (a non-scripted addition from Arnett).

8 June 1998 — *Time* magazine prints article by Arnett and Oliver, repeating charges. *Time* will later claim not to have conducted any investigation of their own.

8 June 1998 — Undersigned posts first factual rebuttal of the CNN/*Time* allegations on internet. Vets from all eras spontaneously undertake to locate information, documents, talk with persons shown on *NewsStand* program.

8 June 1998 — Retired General Perry Smith begins internal investigation for CNN.

10 June 1998 — Vietnamese Government issues statement, "Surprise to us. You'll

covered the action spanning a four-day period, stating that the SOG raiders had been issued "orders to kill everything in sight, including American defectors" located there. He went on to claim that the SOG commandos had been "promised anything in the U.S. arsenal to complete Tailwinds' mission; anything except nuclear weapons."

Dramatically narrated and accompanied by hard-rock mood music, the show produced few interview subjects willing to talk on-camera, and even then some of the key admissions were said to have taken place "off camera." Arnett failed to explain why cameras were not turned on to capture this crucial testimony.

According to Arnett's narration, not the testimony of any witness, up to an additional 20 "bodies that look [sic] like Americans" were observed by the star of the program, then-First Lieutenant Robert Van Buskirk, the soldier who claimed to have thrown a white phosphorous grenade down a spiderhole, killing two defectors.

As if this weren't enough to bust the credibility meter on every television set carrying this fairy tale of American Nazi Rambos in deepest Laos, Arnett and his show added another headline-grabbing charge — that while the SOG soldiers engaged in an extended firefight at the camp, USAF A-1 Skyraiders based in Thailand had twice dropped deadly sarin nerve gas.

Arnett described how the SOG force and the enemy soldiers had been in such close proximity that the sarin gas had fallen on both groups. However, CNN investigative hot-shots ignored the obvious problem of explaining how the "smart" lethal gas somehow distinguished between bad guys and good guys, killing only the former while the latter survived.

Time Warner, Inc., the new owner of both CNN and *Time*, had heavily promoted the program as a major news story. *NewStand* boasted that the investigation behind the CNN/*Time* joint project lasted for eight months and that their ace sleuths had "contacted over 200 people, from corporals to generals, including dozens who fought or flew in the Tailwind mission."



Washington Times editor de Borchgrave wrote in *WSJ* that, "In a March 22, 1965, AP story, Mr. Arnett quoted Radio Hanoi in his lead paragraph accusing U.S. and South Vietnamese troops of using 'poisonous chemicals' against innocent children in an experiment. Further down in that dispatch, Mr. Arnett referred to the non-lethal tear gas being used by the military. But it didn't take long for war critics at home and abroad to charge that the Johnson administration was experimenting with toxic chemicals." Here, a young Arnett (then working for AP) and moviemaker Larry Bedford are escorted away from a Chu Van An high school.

AP/Wide World

This was a misleading statement, considering that Arnett and crew failed to say how many of the 200 contacted had slammed down the phone upon being told that CNN was calling: The network founded and operated by Jane Fonda's husband was not known for being particularly popular with Nam vets.

But, on this Monday after his CNN expose — the same day that *Time* carried a major article by Arnett and the principal CNN producer, April Oliver — the counterattack of outraged veterans and their allies was still forming. So when Arnett went on the *Gil Gross* CBS radio show, he was upbeat, laughing and engaging in light repartee with his host. The radio host closed his show with a compliment, "Peter, it's a hell of a story ..."

With a chuckle, Arnett responded, "... there's a lot yet to be learned, but it's certainly fun talking about it."

The ancient Greeks had a saying that "those whom the gods would

humble, they first made arrogant." It's hard to believe that Peter Arnett has been humbled by this experience but it's pretty certain he no longer finds it fun to talk about.

From "Most Visible Man In The World" to "Can't Be Reached"

After a few early interviews with favored media puffball pitchers, Arnett went on vacation. The vacation was interrupted for a show trip to Atlanta a month after the "Valley of Death" aired. CNN staged a dramatic puppet show with the obviously thin storyline that Arnett had met with CNN Chief Executive Officer, Tom Johnson, and other senior executives to make the case for saving his job. At the end of the day — and just in time for the three major television networks' nightly news broadcasts — CNN broke the contrived suspense with the announcement that Arnett, by the hair on his chinny chin chin, had saved his job.

CNN's lapse of professional journalistic standards and shameful conduct in putting "Valley of Death" on-air placed Arnett in the middle of a media maelstrom that has exposed one of television's

have to ask Arnett ... "

10 June 1998 — First editorial questioning CNN/*Time* allegations, by Joseph Farah, on internet website *WorldNewsDaily*, based on research of undersigned.

14 June 1998 — CNN/*Time NewsStand* second broadcast, still alleges nerve gas but makes no mention of targeting of American defectors or killing women and children. Gen. Perry Smith gives his resignation to CEO of CNN after they refuse Smith's investigation results showing story is without foundation.

15 June 1998 — *Time* announces it will begin independent investigation into allegations broadcast on *NewsStand*.

Week of 14 June 1998 — Gen. Walter Busbee (Army Chemical Corps, Ret.), makes written statement concerning CNN's dismissal of his expert evaluation in favor of the untrained activist's opinions. Reporters for *Washington Times*, *New York Post* and *Weekly Standard* write exposes of CNN/*Time* allegations. CNN is challenged to a debate by *Soldier Of Fortune*.

17 June 1998 — CNN producer, April Oliver, responded to criticism on CNN's internet Tailwind Bulletin board.

23 June Washington Press Club — CNN declines to debate and a press conference is held. In a written statement, U.S. Ambassador to Laos in 1970, Ambassador Godley, firmly refutes claims regarding nerve gas and defectors (Godley had specific authority to approve all SOG missions and methods, had set limits of Tailwind). Star witness is Capt. Rose, medic on Tailwind mission, interviewed by Oliver but whose testimony was ignored. Rose subsequently interviewed by DoD to aid their investigation.

24-26 June 1998 — Select Congressmen on committees of Veterans Affairs and Intelligence are visited by panel member and briefed. First requests for congress-

sional hearings made.

24 June 1998 — CNN drops all advertising of "free and open" debate slated for CNN show *Reliable Sources* the following weekend. Floyd Abrams is brought in by Tom Johnson, CNN's CEO to look at the investigation results and try to minimize CNN's exposure to legal action.

25 June 1998 — Only U.S. adviser to fledgling Thai Chemical Corps in 1970 writes detailed statement refuting possibility of nerve agents on Thai soil.

27 June 1998 — CNN declines to participate in their own staged debate, on *Reliable Sources*. Opposing journalist Eric Felten presents so strong a case CNN host closes show by saying CNN must either show their evidence or make the mother of all retractions.

2 July 1998 — From prepared statement, CNN CEO seems to retract Tailwind allegations: close reading of statement and 60-page report by Floyd Abrams indicates CNN has recanted nothing, simply stipulated they can't prove story "yet," while trying to position themselves for anticipated legal actions. CNN fires April Oliver and Jack Smith for cause.

9 July 1998 — Cochet, Pitre and Simon are disclosed to be pursuing legal actions against CNN (this firm has beaten CNN's Abrams in legal arena in past). Suit is expected soon.

10 July 1998 — CNN founder Ted Turner makes emotional appeal expressing his apologies. In statement, Turner establishes misconduct of CNN/*Time* FCC guidelines for licensees.

Tom Marzullo served with SOG during the Vietnam War, and has been a prime mover in investigating CNN's "investigation" of Operation Tailwind.

best kept secrets — that celebrity “reporters” like Arnett have become too valuable to the bookkeepers that drive network television to be allowed to practice actual journalism.

It’s the producers, not the on-air reporters, who investigate, organize and write the story. The reporters add their celebrity — and credibility — by their participation. Since their own professional reputation is on the line, the reporters also provide a crucial check to the often overly focused and enthusiastic production team. At least the *good* ones do.

In Arnett’s case, the slipshod “investigation” that underpinned the story was at best so egregiously inept or at worst so intentionally mendacious that it erupted in a media explosion that became much larger than the original story.

A senior CNN official who was interviewed for this article acknowledged that CNN would not endorse Arnett’s claim that Arnett had “contributed not one comma” to the story. This source also denied that Arnett’s role was purely robotic and stated that while the reporter’s role was to read questions that were handed him by the producers, Arnett may well have changed the wording of some questions. The official refused to quantify or qualify Arnett’s participation beyond this.

Speaking on background, the source corroborated Arnett’s claim and CNN’s public announcement that the producers of the show, April Oliver and Jack Smith, were the central players in the disaster. Both Oliver and Smith were fired by CNN. (Please, do not confuse *this* Jack Smith with the Jack Smith of ABC News who is a veteran of the battle of the Ia Drang Valley and is widely respected as a man, a veteran, and a journalist.)

Arnett’s tired claim that he merely read the scripts handed to him by the producers was further deflated when two other CNN “star” reporters, Wolf Blitzer and Christiane Amanpour, announced that they staked their professional reputations on the validity of *their* on-air reporting.

Amanpour issued Arnett a stinging figurative slap in the face when she asserted, “I believe, contrary to what Peter Arnett appears to believe, that a network correspondent should be responsible for what he or she says on the air.”

In a 17 July op-ed piece in the *New York Times*, Amanpour expanded:

The defense offered by the correspondent, Peter Arnett, that he was just reading work prepared by others, that he contributed “not one comma” to the Tailwind story, has raised legitimate questions... I reject the idea that a television correspondent is neither responsible nor accountable for what he or she says on the air.

... The I-was-just-reading defense pumps blood to the very heart of the worst prejudices about television news correspondents and the news media in general. It tarnishes all correspondents, all our organizations, and devalues what we do ...

... a correspondent must accept the consequences when mistakes are made. It’s that simple. Ninety-nine percent of the correspondents I know under-



Debate-cum-press conference held in Washington by SOF included, from left, Gary M. Rose, Jack Singlaub, Robert K. Brown, Tom Marzullo, Steve Feldman, Chip Beck. (inset) although CNN did not care to debate, they did send camera crew.



De Borchgrave acknowledged Arnett’s positive traits, saying that his “tremendous physical courage is much admired by his colleagues.” Contacted by SOF for additional comment, de Borchgrave noted, “based on personal experience, [Arnett had a] big chip on his shoulder about the U.S. military ... spent his entire career trying to undermine U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War.” Here Arnett (above) as an AP newsman was in Kien Phuong province with senior U.S. adviser for 7th Division, Colonel Markey. (right) In his autobiography, Arnett claimed mutual respect and even friendship with soldiers in Vietnam. Colonel Hackworth recalls a very different situation: “In one unit in my ‘Kill a Commie for Mommy’ 101st Parachute Brigade there was actually a price on his head ... This hatred still exists among tens of thousands of Vietnam vets and his recent phony story has re-ignited that feeling.” On AP Saigon staff in 1965, Arnett examines captured VC (right).



stand it, and 99 percent of my colleagues at CNN want you to know they understand it, too.

Unfortunately for Arnett, he must now reconcile his desperate comments to evade and escape responsibility for his significant role in “Valley of Death” with the much more deliberate comments about journalistic ethics he espoused in his autobiography, *Live From The Battlefield*.

Responding to criticism of his January 1991 report that Desert Storm aircraft had bombed an Iraqi plant that manufactured pow-



SOF staff

AP/Wide World

AP/Wide World

SOF staff

dered milk, Arnett wrote that, "I had learned in Vietnam to believe only what my eyes had seen. I have an inborn skepticism because I am a journalist. I can only confirm what my eyes can see."

Whoa, just a minute. Is this the same Arnett that now claims he parroted charges of major war crimes without having an iota of skepticism about the material? Who willfully ignored credible sources that contradicted his preferred view of events?

Maybe the Arnett who now eagerly seeks refuge in being just a talking head is the same one who wrote that, "the only important determinant in the news business is to be first with the story."

Most journalists hear even before they enter the ranks of the paid scribblers that the goal of the professional reporter is, "to be right and be first, but first, be right."

After 35 years of reporting, Arnett seems to have totally missed the fundamental point that the first requirement is to be right. And that brings up the question being asked in many media circles: Is this the first such mistake Arnett has made, or is it the just first time he's been caught red-handed?

Questions Earlier Arnett Conduct

Two seasoned veterans of many of the same battlefields that Arnett has covered have recently pointed out that they had earlier observed questionable professional conduct by Arnett. Former international correspondent for *Newsweek* and current Editor at Large with *The Washington Times*, Arnaud de Borchgrave, wrote in a *Wall Street Journal* op-ed piece that Arnett has a "long history of anti-American propagandizing under the guise of journalism."

De Borchgrave further charged that Arnett "not only distorted and twisted the facts but deliberately suppressed evidence to the contrary. The final product was unadulterated disinformation — deliberate as opposed to inadvertent misinformation."

He then wrote that, "In a March 22, 1965, AP story, Mr. Arnett quoted Radio Hanoi in his lead paragraph accusing U.S. and South Vietnamese troops of using 'poisonous chemicals' against innocent children in an experiment. Further down in that dispatch, Mr. Arnett referred to the non-lethal tear gas being used by the military. But it didn't take long for war critics at home and abroad to charge that the Johnson administration was experimenting with toxic chemicals."

De Borchgrave does acknowledge Arnett's positive traits, saying that his "tremendous physical courage is much admired by his colleagues" and that he is "[I]mmensely likable, a great raconteur ..." When contacted by this writer for additional comment, de Borchgrave stated that, "based on personal experience, [Arnett had a] big chip on his

shoulder about the U.S. military ... spent his entire career trying to undermine U.S. foreign policy during the Cold War."

De Borchgrave has made these and other very serious charges about Arnett's professional conduct, which at press time, remain unanswered.

Phoney "Here-I-Am-On-The-Battlefield Stand-Ups"

"Stand-ups" are television shots where reporters stand in front of some background that portrays the locale from which they are reporting. Locations of the stand-up are clearly labeled or stated with the object of providing visual authentication of the context in which the story is set and proving that the reporter at the scene of the action.

Retired U.S. Army Colonel David Hackworth has shared many of the 19 battlefields from which Arnett has reported — beginning in 1965 in Vietnam where Hackworth was fighting the war that Arnett reported, and continuing to the mid-1990s in the Balkans, and Haiti where they both served as journalists.

Hack has written of some of his observations of Arnett in his syndicated column, *Defending America*, asking, "Why would any reporter put his name on any report, especially a story that painted Americans as war criminals, if he didn't know he was signing off on the whole truth?"

Hack then answers his own question: "Perhaps the answer is Arnett-style 'journalism.' I've seen him report 'from the bloody streets of Port au Prince' while standing behind a palm tree in Haiti's safe Montana Hotel; report 'from the sniper-infested alleys of Sarajevo' while on a hotel roof in faraway Belgrade. His credibility and license to stretch the facts ain't exactly up to *60 Minutes* standards." Hack's statements may explain why Arnett works only for CNN, unlike his fellow CNN reporter Cristiane Amanpour who also works for the CBS news magazine.

In his autobiography, Arnett claimed to have established mutual respect and even friendship with the soldiers on the Vietnam battlefield, attributing this at least partially to the fact that, "I was not so much against the war as much as I was for accuracy. I believed the truth was to be found in the battlefield and not in the briefing room."

Hack recalls a very different situation: "In one unit in my 'Kill a Commie for Mommy' 101st Parachute Brigade there was actually a price on his head. You could bet money that had he accom-

CNN Circles The Wagons

Wayne Laugesen, assistant editor of *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine, made repeated phone calls to CNN in Washington, D.C. during the week of Monday, 15 June. Phone records will show repeated calls to CNN's main number in Washington, which is (202) 898-7900. Phone records will also reveal repeated calls to (202) 515-2942, and (202) 371-1090, which are other CNN phone numbers.

The purpose of these calls was to invite CNN correspondent Peter Arnett and producer April Oliver to debate our panel of experts on 23 June about their story on Operation Tailwind. Arnett did not answer his phone. Laugesen twice left information about the invitation on Arnett's answering machine. On subsequent calls, Arnett's voice mail was full and accepting no messages.

On Tuesday, 16 June, Laugesen sent written invitations via fax to Arnett and Oliver. On the same day, Laugesen sent a Federal Express overnight package to Arnett, containing the invitation (tracking #802850667784). On 17 June, Laugesen tracked the package and found it "had not been received for delivery" by Federal Express. Laugesen initiated a Federal Express investigation and filed an official complaint. The package was finally located and delivered to CNN at 0907 hours on Thursday, 18 June. It was received and signed for by "A. Cook." Federal Express took responsibility for the delay, and *Soldier Of Fortune* was not charged for this delivery.

On Wednesday, 16 June, Laugesen sent a written invitation via Federal Express to Oliver (tracking #802850667795). It was delivered to CNN, at 820 First St. NE, Washington, D.C., at the same time as Arnett's package, which had been sent one day earlier. Oliver's package was also received and signed for by "A. Cook."

Later on Wednesday, 16 June, Laugesen called Oliver at (202) 515-2943, her direct extension. Oliver answered and said she had received her invitation. She was short with Laugesen, explaining she was on deadline. Oliver explained she had already discussed the invitation earlier with Chip Beck, who would be on *SOF's* expert debate panel and was researching the story for the magazine. Oliver said the decision whether to accept the invitation would be made by her superiors at CNN. Laugesen never heard from Oliver after that.

On Friday, 19 June, Laugesen continued his efforts to contact Arnett by phone. Eventually Laugesen was transferred to CNN's public relations department. A woman by the last name of "Cooper" asked Laugesen to fax her a copy of the Arnett invitation. She said Arnett was working at home all week, and she would be speaking with him later that day. She promised to fax him a copy of the invitation once she received it. At about 1400 hours on Friday, 19 June, Cooper called Laugesen and said Arnett and Oliver had officially declined the invitations because they were busy with deadlines on the Tailwind story. She was polite and assured him Arnett and Oliver had each read and considered the invitation.

Laugesen had no further contact with CNN regarding *Soldier Of Fortune's* invitation to Arnett and Oliver.

Continued on page 86

Sight Unseen

Continued from page 51

Founded in 1916, Stembridge Gun Rentals, Inc., caters to the film and video industries. Harry Lu has been a weapon specialist at Stembridge for eight years, where his firearms resumé includes *Waterworld*, *Eraser*, *Air Force One*, *True Lies*, and *Terminator 2*.

Changing The Face Of Dynamic Entry

Growing up in gang-troubled East L.A., Lu knows about guns. A gunsmith and shooter for 19 years, he first saw Sight Unseen in March 1997 at the L.A. sheriff's office range out in Wayside. Lu put 50 rounds through the sight, which was mounted on an AR-15. "There were a few bowling pins about 25 yards down range. I shot perpendicular [to them] from a crouch, with the gun across my knees. I hit a pin every time in near-darkness.

"After shooting at the range, we went to the tear gas room and closed the doors. [Looking through the sight] I saw some cardboard boxes and could read the writing on them in total darkness." Lu paused, then concluded, "It'll change the face of dynamic entry."

If Sight Unseen's SU-4 proves as durable as claimed, it may, indeed, change the face



"I was surprised at how quickly I adapted to this new mode of target acquisition."

of dynamic entry. No longer will cops have to stick their necks out. "Using cover, they can methodically clear areas while minimizing personal risk. Sight Unseen also may become a deterrent as word of its effectiveness spreads through the criminal community — savvy crooks will surrender if they think they'll be shot without a chance to return fire. Law enforcement's use of laser target designators proves crooks quickly lose their juice when they realize they're in a sharpshooter's sights.

The Department of Energy recently purchased an SU-4 for in-house use by tactical units. Following suit, the Naval Special Warfare Command's research and engineering facility, in Crane, Ind., is ordering two SU-4s for test and evaluation for a Special Operations Forces (SOFMOD) M4A1 5.56mm carbine.

These prestigious initial orders will ultimately sound the wake-up call for numerous purchases by other agencies and units.

The future is now.

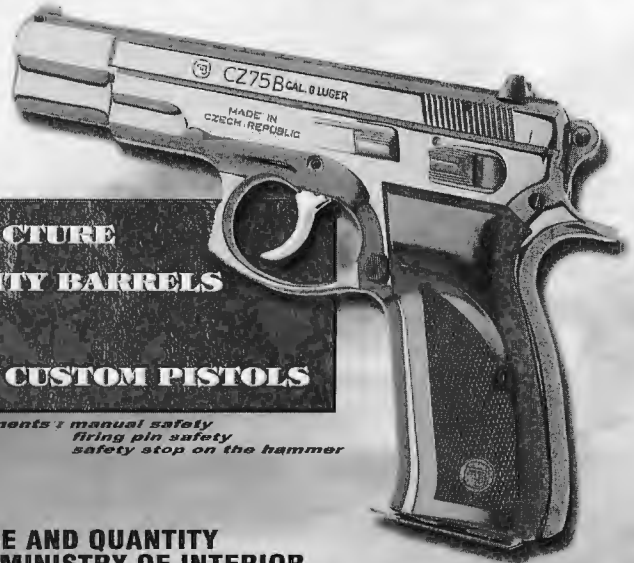
For more information on Sight Unseen, use official letterhead to contact: Matthew Hagerty: LandTec, Inc., P.O. Box 5456, Sonora, CA 95370; Tel.: 209. 533-4001; pager: 800-308-0856.

N.E. MacDougald is a former SOF Senior Field Editor. ✉

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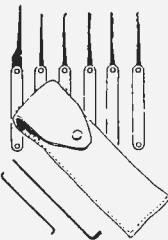
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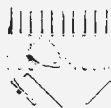
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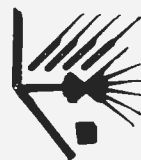
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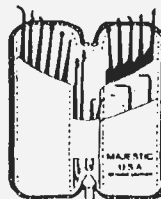


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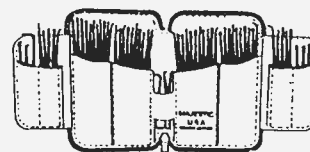
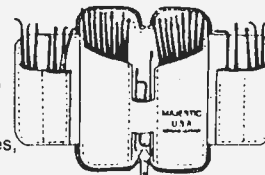
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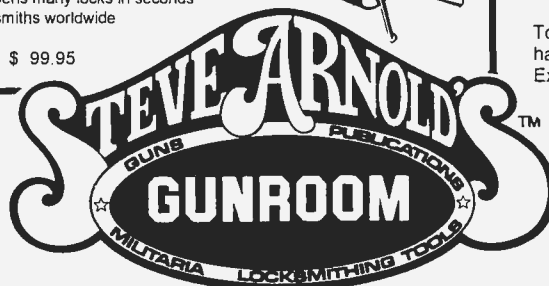


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Better Killing ... Part 2

Continued from page 71

• Nerve agents: Sarin (GB), Tabun (GA), Soman (GD) and VX. There is also evidence Iraq had VR-55 and was working on thickened GD and a form of "dusty" VX.

• Blister agents: Sulfur mustard (HD) and possibly Lewisite (L). There is evidence of work on "dusty mustard," a form of blister agent that has been impregnated onto fine dust particles allowing it to penetrate most permeable protective clothing. This type of agent was known to the Soviets and it has been speculated that is why their chemical protective outfits were made of impermeable rubber and not permeable charcoal-impregnated cloth.

• Incapacitating agents: Intelligence reports that Iraq also has "Agent 15," which is similar to, or may be the same as, BZ.

• Biological Agents: Just exactly what bugs were whipped up at Salman Pak, Iraq's principal bio research center located some 20 miles southeast of Baghdad, isn't fully known. What we do know is some of their most promising germs are:

• Anthrax: Caused by the spore-forming bacteria, bacillus anthracis, this zoonotic disease is normally found in horses, cattle and sheep. Also known as Woolsorter's Disease, anthrax is very resilient and may live in the soil for decades. It may be passed to humans by handling diseased animals, ingestion of contaminated meat (rarely) or inhalation of the bacterial spores. One to six days after inhaling anthrax spores the victim develops a fever, fatigue, mild discomfort in the chest, and possibly a dry cough. After few hours, or two to three days, he feels better. Suddenly his skin turns blue, profuse sweating begins, breathing becomes labored ... then death. Untreated, inhaled anthrax is 95-100% fatal.

• Botulinum Toxin: The biological warfare version is capable of airborne aerosol delivery. Onset of symptoms is 24-36 hours with a progressive paralysis of many of the body's muscles. Starting from the head and moving downward the victim may experience drooping eyelids, a dry mouth and

throat and blurred vision. Approximately 60% of untreated cases are fatal, death being caused by paralysis of the muscles used in breathing. Because of the similarity, its symptoms may be mistaken for nerve agent poisoning.

• Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever: Prevalent in most of Africa, the Middle East, the Balkan States and the former USSR, this tick-borne virus' symptoms begin 3-12 days after contact with an infected tick. The victim is flushed and may have running eyes. In a few more days come a severe headache, lower back pain, nausea and G.I.-tract hemorrhaging. The disease can be fatal in 30% of cases.

Terrorism

What's in store for the future? To deny that chemical-biological terrorism will become a real threat in the future is to deny the past. These days, terrorism is an everyday fact of life. Only 30 years ago, in the late 1960s, the Pentagon formally acknowledged terrorism as an actual form of warfare.

In those days, large truck bombs were virtually unheard of. Now they've become a household word. Only soldiers knew of Sarin and ranchers of anthrax. Now those words are equally common. It's not a matter of if, but when and where.

Can't happen, you say? In 1975, 70 liters of French mustard agent fell into the hands of the leftist terrorist group, Baader-Meinhof (Red Army Faction). Fortunately, it was never used ... unfortunately, it was never recovered.

The operative word in "terrorism" is "terror." Fear fed by misinformation can have disastrous results. When you can paralyze a people through fear you save a thousand bombs. Without a doubt, the greatest fearmongers in American today are those in the broadcast "news" media. Whenever there is an event it immediately blossoms into a "critical situation." "If it bleeds it leads!" isn't just a cute news cliché, it's reality. Facts don't sell — hype does.

Witness the recent FBI bust-gone-bad in Nevada. Two men were arrested in connection with a phony anthrax plot. By the time the media was finished scaring the crap out of the citizenry, folks were scrambling to

find gas masks and anthrax vaccine.

And if you think the talking heads behind the anchor desks fear a CBW attack on America, think again. They don't fear it, they pray for it.

While we were setting up security for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles and the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco, a local San Francisco TV station was telling viewers just how easy it would be to target these events with a biological attack. No bugs? No worry. The media marvels told you just how to mail order germs. There was just one catch, they could only be ordered on a laboratory letterhead. No letterhead? No sweat. They gave step-by-step instructions on counterfeiting a letterhead!

And if that weren't enough, now the dedicated urban terrorist just has to pop down to the local plastic surgeon for a fresh supply of Botulinum Toxin. Bearing the cutesy-poo moniker "Botox," this deadly toxin is the latest in wrinkle-reducing chic in (where else?) sunny California. What can you expect from twits who inject themselves with monkey piss, all in the quest for beauty.

Whether in everyday life, or under the threat of chemical or biological attack, a cool head, common sense and education are your best allies.

Bugs And Gas

Effective tools for a modern battlefield, or horrible remnants of a bygone age? Is it better to succumb to the lethal gas cloud that creeps into your foxhole or to die trying to hold in your guts after being pierced by a chunk of searing hot shrapnel? Should we maintain a deterrent stockpile of these politically incorrect weapons while striving to develop more "humane" CBW agents? Perhaps we would do well to reflect on the words of General Robert E. Lee at the battle of Fredricksburg, "It is well war is so terrible or we should grow too fond of it."

SOF's contributing editor for forensic sciences, Richard L. Sherrow is a former staff instructor at the Seventh Army CBR School in Vilseck, Germany, and the CB-EOD School, Fort McClellan, Alabama. ✕

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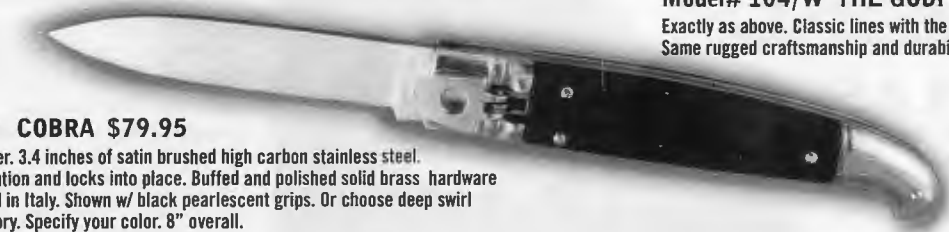
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Iran's Terror Exports

Continued from page 39

York Times Cairo Bureau, told me that lately a serious of tragic "accidents" had befallen leading government figures. In 1994, she said, the head of intelligence in Supreme Leader Khomeini's office (along with three senior aides) died in a car crash. A year later Mansour Satari, chief of the air force, and seven of his senior officers were killed when their military jet exploded on take-off at Isfahan Military Airport. A diplomat in Tehran who investigated the disaster told Miller that the plane had been sabotaged.

Shortly thereafter, Ahmed Khomeini, the sainted *Imam's* son, who had become increasingly critical of both Khomeini and Rafsanjani, suddenly and inexplicably died. A poisoning was suspected.

"On A Nuclear Day, You Might Blame Tehran"

Iran's very comprehensive nuclear programmes — one is public (Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and the other covert — are the direct responsibility of Pasdaran command. Sardar Shafagh, one of Iran's leaders in its nuclear programme (he defected to the West while on a visit to Minatom, in Moscow, in 1995) was a Pasdaran general. Since then, Shafagh has been the source of much valuable intelligence, including the fact that Tehran is building its own nuclear bomb, an implosion fission device.

It is, indeed, difficult to understand how Tehran can refute cumulative charges that is building a nuclear device(s).

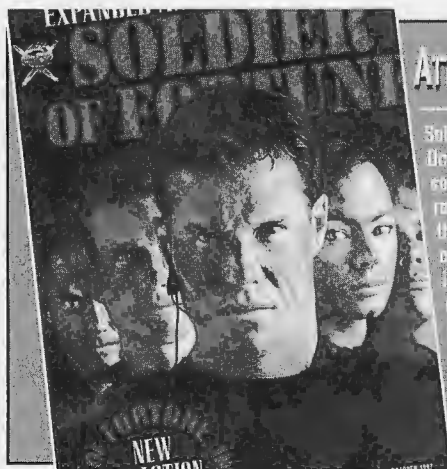
On 27 August 1997, the American publication *Nuclear Fuel* provided its readers with details of a joint U.S./German "sting," in which an offer of former Soviet nuclear warheads was made to the Islamic republic for \$3 million each. It was very cleverly contrived.

A German businessman, in Hanover, who put the deal together and offered it to an Iranian procurement officer in 1993, has testified to German prosecutors. It would have been clinched by Iran's Defense Industries Organisation (DIO) which, says German Intelligence, is a clandestine nuclear- and military-buying agency that has been most active throughout Eastern Europe and FSU states in the past.

The German had been shown a letter of introduction from the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI). This was the same body that tried to buy nuclear technology from the South African Atomic Energy Corporation, in Pretoria, early in 1996.

Haj-Podge of Terrorist Philanthropy

Since 1991, Pasdaran agents has given Hamas about \$20 million a year to foster their version of the revolution within Israel. Hamas counters that while it receives *some* cash from Iran, it is not very much and, in



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any event, it always arrives late.

Likewise, Islamic Jihad — among a host of fundamentalist revolutionary organisations — have offices in Tehran. These range from Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria to Moro secessionists in the Philippines, as well as to ultra-fundamentalist PAGAD in South Africa

The question most often asked in the West is why so many countries — and especially those of the EU — are supportive of a revolutionary Tehran? The country has launched an aggressive nuclear weapons agenda. It has one of the most active chemical- and biological-warfare programmes in the world. Also, the Iranian human rights record hardly bears examination.

More recently, Tehran has been buying North Korea's Nodong-1 missiles and Chinese cruise missiles, all of which have the range to hit Israel or targets in the Persian Gulf. In a series of extended naval maneuvers in mid-1997, Tehran tried to demonstrate that it was, in theory, capable of closing the Straits of Hormuz which daily handles about a third of the world's seaborne oil. Right now, any U.S. presence would preclude that, though Iran — with atom bombs — and, possibly, the means with which to deliver them, presents an entirely different scenario.

Germany, in particular, maintains a high-profile relationship with Tehran. In 1992, at Bonn's initiative, the EU formally adopted its policy of "critical dialogue," the banner

under which European nations have been systematically cultivating ties with Iran. They have also reached out diplomatically; parliamentary and governmental delegations up to ministerial level have been exchanged.

Perhaps the most remarkable gesture took the form of cooperation in intelligence matters. Reports, recently leaked to the

At Bushehr air base, trainees are taught to fly single-engine Pilatus Porters as a prelude to what some describe as "suicide missions."

press by disgusted and disgruntled German participants, indicate that German intelligence has given Tehran computers, software and photographic equipment which can be used for subversion. Also, Iranian agents are known to have received specialist training from German experts, not only in Iran, but at German Intelligence HQ, in Munich.

Peter Frisch, President of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution in Germany (and that country's head of counterterrorism) made it clear that Bonn was very much aware of the Iranian (and the

Islamic) threat. Addressing a strategic studies conference in Jerusalem last June, he said that the extremes now being demonstrated by some Islamic nations were the real danger for the next century. Specifically he cited Iran.

Frisch touched on both nuclear and weaponization issues, stating that Iran had acquired missiles that could strike the heart of Germany (3,000 kms.). Shipped from Afghanistan, he said, there were now 6,000 *mujahideen* fighters in Bosnia. "They could, if they wished, easily spread throughout Europe," he told the assembly. Iran was seen as the major participant, he added, but, as usual, other countries were being fronted for these purposes. "We do know that the wherewithal to maintain this huge *mujahideen* force comes from Iran."

With regard to Russia's role, Frisch was blunt: "I don't know how much organised crime plays in [nuclear] proliferation, but the problem of [such] proliferation by Iran, Libya and Pakistan exists. It has existed for some time. We have been fighting against that for a while."

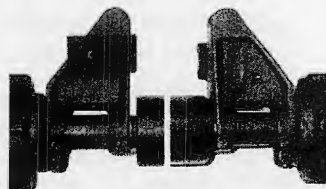
On the mullahs developing nuclear weapons, Frisch said: "While I don't think they have the atomic bomb, they are trying very hard to get it."

Other sources maintain that Tehran is within a year of testing a nuclear device.

Al J. Venter is an contributing editor who resides in Washington state.

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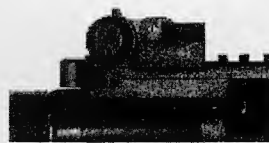
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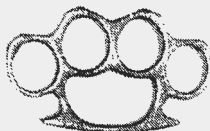
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Genocidal Jihad

Continued from page 47

nets they had just finished a mine sweep.

Mile Forty is commanded by one of Oyay Deng Ajak's subordinate commanders, Assistant Commander Abraham Wana Yoane, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Region. A former seminarian, Abraham keeps a Bible on his desk. One of his officers is also a former seminarian, so being the product of a pricey Franciscan education I got on well with them. We all quoted from the 23rd Psalm ("Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death ..."). Abraham was trained in military tactics and leadership in one of the SPLA's bush academies on the Ethiopian border in 1984. While he wouldn't admit to it, it's a good bet that he, like many other SPLA officers I know, received some military training from the Ethiopians as well.

Big Heads

When we questioned Abraham about the Iraqi soldiers supposedly captured during the fighting, he verified they were Iraqis: "They were light-skinned, not Sudanese and they had really big heads, big heads!" He gestured with his hands describing the size of the Iraqis' heads and we all chuckled before he continued. "A brigade of Iraqis were sent here to kill our people. We captured one who was wounded in action but we had no transport (to evacuate him) so he died after three days. Shot in the stomach." The SPLA also claimed to have captured a Farsi-speaking *mujahideen* — either Iranian or Afghani — who later died of a thigh wound.

Commander Abraham didn't think much of the Iraqis. "With these rivers, trees, and mountains they will never defeat us," Abraham said. "They [Iraqis] can fight in the desert, but not in the jungle. We're not concerned by them. What we fear are Iraqi chemical weapons." He went on to tell us that Iraqis are supplying weapons to Khartoum. This was obvious by the markings on much of the captured ammunition.

According to the commander the "Easter Truce" was somewhat one-sided. The Sudan army had shelled the perimeter lately (I would ride back to Yeï in the back of the Nissan with one of the wounded) and GoS aircraft continued to overfly SPLA positions. Stepping around the occasional unexploded artillery round laying about I toured the perimeter inspecting weapons, observing the troops, and generally providing a day's entertainment for the troops as they mugged for my camera. The perimeter was well dug-in with open-pit firing positions (the SPLA don't use overhead cover on all positions) and bunkers with linking communication trenches. Fresh from their mine-clearing detail, the squad of sappers came running up with mines, both AP and AT, to demonstrate how they would put in a hasty lay in front of their positions. Unless really pushed by an overwhelming number of attackers (like maybe a brigade) with

artillery support and tanks, I doubt that Abraham would have much trouble holding this position. His heavy weapons included truck mounted 107mm multiple rocket launchers, T-55 tanks, several ZSU 23-2 23mm anti-aircraft guns (in the infantry-support direct-fire role — something I saw used to devastating effect in Bosnia), a couple of old B-10 82mm and B-11 106mm recoilless rifles, and, of course, the 37mm AA gun which cut loose and sent me diving for cover during my inspection tour. Additionally, there was a generous distribution of RPD light machine guns, PKM machine guns, the ubiquitous RPGs carried by anyone who didn't mind the extra weight, and a wide assortment of mortars, including 60mm hand-held tubes. Among the most interesting small arms I inspected was an old WWII-era Soviet RP-46 7.62x54Rmm light machine gun.

Nike Time

The highlight of my visit was the troops (the youngest I spoke with was only 15). They all looked to be in good health and morale was high. SPLA ranks have recently swelled with several thousand new recruits trained and equipped for what the leadership, as well as the rank-and-file, hope will be the last obstacle on the road to Khartoum — Juba with its 60,000 GoS and NIF (National Islamic Front) troops.

It was Nike time — the attitude was "Just Do It — Take Juba." That's what these guys were gearing up for. They looked ready. Their equipment was well maintained and their personal gear was better than what I'd seen at other SPLA camps in the past. Many were clad in East German rain-pattern fatigues captured from Riek Machar's forces. The Sudanese Army wears U.S. Army woodland pattern camouflage uniforms, many of which have found their way onto the backs of SPLA troops. As Abraham remarked, "Please thank them for providing our uniforms."

Like any guerrilla army the SPLA is forced to get by on less. These troops are adept at making do and are active in equipping themselves; even it that means stripping the dead. The officer in charge of social programs and logistics gave me a tour of the unit's shoe factory. A cottage industry occupying a corner of the shed housing much of the captured ammunition, several troops were industriously making footwear (Ho Chi Minhs) from tire rubber. They make enough of these sturdy sandals to supply the entire 2nd Brigade. Any surplus goes to other units.

The next project is the construction of several fish ponds to further improve the diet. In that regard the SPLA is nearly self-sufficient. The troops receive some support from the populace who provide millet, red sorghum and cassava. That's the basis of their diet which, through local foraging, is supplemented by okra, wild beans, and, occasionally, wild game such as *dik-dik* and waterbuck. The troops also keep gardens of sweet potatoes, eggplant, tomatoes, and

cabbage. They had a good harvest recently but need more seeds. Unfortunately, Burpee doesn't mail order to the New Sudan.

Meatball War Surgery

Since I was carrying a well-stocked medical kit I asked to see the camp's dispensary. As per my personal SOP I intended to give away everything I could spare before leaving. After walking into the clean and professionally organized tent serving as the camp's dispensary and aid station I dumped out my medical kit for Oliver Yowke Richard, a former ward nurse assistant in the ICRC surgical hospital for war wounded at Lopiding. Trained by Red Cross doctors and nurses there in 1992, Oliver showed me the documents detailing his education in wound management, field amputation, and other aspects of meatball war surgery. He showed me around and we chatted for awhile. Oliver knew what he was doing and was fairly well-equipped.

Field of Bones

With the truck full of our SPLA bodyguards (I'd be happier if someone just issued me a Kalashnikov and left a few of the boys at home) we went for a drive to one of Abraham's outposts. We passed two of the shot-up and burned-out T-55s which litter the road to Juba. I

posed by one of the tanks for a photo with Abraham and some of his troops. It was a scene reminiscent of my previous trips to the southern Sudan. Based on my experience and the dozens of blown away T-55s I've encountered, I don't think Sudanese Army tankers have been having a very good war.

With just a little fanfare we arrived at "Jebel Iraq Outpost" as it is known. It was here that the SPLA killed large numbers of Iraqis. They've erected a sign to commemorate the event which claims 2,500 Iraqi soldiers were killed there. I think maybe they've exaggerated by a factor of 10. Following Abraham and his bodyguards, I trudged up the hill to examine the remains of dozens of the dead.

Mindful of landmines and UXO (unexploded ordnance) I wandered amongst the trees and bones. Many of the dead had been clad in Arab type robes or Iraqi pattern fatigues. Personal effects littering the battlefield included foreign toothpaste and Islamic worry beads. The sun-bleached bones of the SPLA's enemies dotted the hillside in small piles, scattered by the scavenging of jackals and vultures. Chalk-white skulls leered at me from clumps of gasses sprouting out of blackened patches of earth and shell holes. The last time I was

in the Sudan I picked up the skull of a dead mujahideen and mockingly quoted Hamlet's lament to Horatio. Now in the company of war-hardened former seminar-ians, I thought more appropriately of Genesis: "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

Freedom For The South

The SPLA may be planning to let things ride as they are until Khartoum is ready to fall. While Juba may be a plum ripe for the picking, it's politics — not tactics — which dictate the SPLA's military policy. Many SPLA leaders distrust their northern allies in the NDA despite Garang's position as commander of its military wing. If the SPLA takes Juba but the northern opposition groups fail to keep the pressure on Khartoum the SPLA position could become untenable. Taking Juba, only to lose it again, would be a devastating blow to morale. Another scenario leaves the SPLA out of the power loop if Khartoum falls to a *coup* and Garang's northern allies supplant the Bashir regime. Garang has sent troops to the north so that the SPLA will be represented if the NDA, so far victorious, rolls on to Khartoum. The NDA plan is to cut off Khartoum, take Juba, and take power as a united front. But if the alliance falls apart (as is *probable*) the SPLA needs to control as much of southern Sudan as possible to either secede as an independent nation state or maintain some type of autonomous government.

People throughout the south are talking independence, despite the fact that in Nairobi Garang called for the unity of Sudan as a confederation, in post-war settlement, while negotiating with the GoS at the Inter-Governmental

Authority on Development (IGAD) in Nairobi. Regardless of the outcome of negotiations with Khartoum or military action, southerners favor secession and fear a sell-out by the leadership. In the words of one SPLA commander, "Independence is our only option. We have fought too long and too hard for anything less. We'll fight this war until we have our freedom. Only then will it end."

To quote from St. Matthew in Commander Abraham's Bible: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass but the end is not yet."

The end is not yet, but it may be coming sooner than Khartoum expects.

SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott has reported from war zones in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Burma, Cambodia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. ✕



SPLA guerrilla with an RPG rocket launcher at Mile Forty.

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Inherit The Tailwind

Continued from page 75

panied that unit on a mission he wouldn't have returned. This hatred still exists among tens of thousands of Vietnam vets and his recent phony story has re-ignited that feeling."

Like de Borchgrave, Hack is willing to acknowledge something positive about Arnett: "To his credit, at least he didn't climb into a Red anti-aircraft gun position for a photo op with his Siamese twin, 'Hanoi Jane.'"

But Hack reports the strongest verbal attack came from another CNN media stars, Major General Perry Smith, USAF, (Ret.), formerly the military affairs consultant for CNN who resigned due to Arnett's report and its mishandling by CNN, who later impugned Arnett's performance with the barb, "We don't need a liar like him reporting news to us."

CNN Response

Another CNN journalist and Pentagon reporter, Jamie McIntyre, was quoted in the *Washington Post* as having told CNN big-wigs in a world-wide conference call that the "Valley of Death" production team owed an apology to "their colleagues at CNN whose reputation have been grievously wounded by this shoddy piece of journalism."

In the not-entirely-unbiased view of the CNN official contacted for comment on this sorry episode, a seasoned, 35-year old producer, April Oliver, was the "beginning, middle, and end" of this story. Jack Smith, co-producer with Oliver, is a former CBS bureau chief in Washington, D.C., and even more of a seasoned veteran of television news production. Smith joined Oliver as co-producer at the halfway point in the investigation.

That two such experienced producers could so mangle a story and that a reporter of Arnett's experience would so blithely accept their flawed work are just two of the mysteries surrounding "The Valley of Death." The production process lasted eight months and included the management and legal reviews appropriate to material that charged the U.S. Government and individual soldiers with conduct that constituted war crimes, and perhaps even murder.

This was no rush to judgment, no urgently slapped-together-piece driven by some deadline chiseled in stone.

Without an escape hatch and with no space to weasel out of their fabricated story, the glaring headlights of public attention and peer criticism paralyzed CNN. Compelled to issue a corporate apology and retraction, CNN did so on 2 July. Ted Turner followed on 10 July when he personally apologized for the CNN performance and was quoted as saying, "If committing mass suicide would help, I've even given that some consider-

ation. Nothing has upset me more in my whole life."

According to newspaper reports, Turner went on to admit that when he had watched the story after it aired he had immediately questioned its accuracy.

Arnett's Professional Hara Kiri: Mother Of All Lapses, or Something Else?

Arnett has been busy claiming his involvement was limited to "talking head" status, but there is compelling evidence to the contrary. Former USAF pilot Art Bishop, one of the three subjects interviewed by Arnett, shared his living room for several hours with a CNN interview team headed by Arnett. Had Arnett been playing the role of talking head, he could have been in and out of Bishop's home in a matter of minutes, certainly less than half an hour. Instead, Arnett was there for an extended period and personally received Bishop's emphatic statements that he (Bishop) had dropped only tear gas — that no sarin nerve gas had been used. Bishop even produced a flight log that showed a contemporaneous entry to back up his claim that the A-1 Skyraider he had flown had dropped only tear gas in support of the SOG warriors.

On the *Gil Gross* radio show of 8 June, Arnett spoke of interviewing Air Force pilots who had told him that they had dropped tear gas. But Armchair-pilot *Supremo* Arnett dismissed this first-person accounting with his comment, "... can you imagine using tear gas against an enemy that has .50-caliber machine guns and is so gung-ho and souped up on adrenaline?"

And, in case the radio audience missed the point, Arnett dug himself a deeper hole, flatly stating that, "it wouldn't have made any sense" to use tear gas in those circumstances.

And this is where the truly bizarre aspect of this journalistic debacle comes into sharp focus. Why would a journalist of Arnett's experience demonstrate such reckless disregard for credible testimony that was backed up with solid documentation? Did Arnett have the single worst brain fart in the history of television journalism; was it pure hubris, or was there some other factor at work?

Arnett's conduct went far beyond mere indifference to the truth, and this willful failure to exercise normal journalistic caution, given the potential consequences, is simply inexplicable.

If radio talk show host Gil Gross complimented Peter Arnett today on the "Valley of Death" story, Arnett might be pleased with his admission that, "there's a lot yet to be learned."

I doubt, however, Arnett would continue to chuckle and crow, "but it's certainly fun talking about it."

A former ABC producer, investigative reporter Roger Charles is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

Colt's New Defender

Continued from page 60

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Men Of Steel

Continued from page 43

(2260 Massieville Rd., Chillicothe, OH 45601; phone 740-772-6985). They have trained in a variety of disciplines empty-hand, sticks, knives, and swords — but it's the challenge of the kukri they enjoy most.

The two have performed in precision kukri-drill teams at Ohio and East Coast events honoring U.S. veterans. There, the old soldiers recognized the short swords as the weapon of an honored ally who fought both the Japanese and Germans in the Big War.

"My father was a veteran of World War II, in Europe. He has six Bronze Stars," Ron explains to a visitor. "I do that to honor him. I like kukri training. And neither of us [brothers] ever got cut."

Log Drills

An advantage to training near a friend's sawmill is the nearly endless supply of targets.

With the property owner's permission, Ron and Steve built a "firing range" on the hill: Seven tree trunks, sunk securely upright in the ground, will support stacks of chain-sawed logs. These solid-wood targets weigh 15 to 50 pounds each.

As this exercise begins, each swordsman stacks three logs on his post. Each attack has three specific strikes. The two instructors, working the end positions, take turns calling out the technique patterns.

A kukri's slash or chop should travel through the target, not embed ax-like in the wood. However, the damage to the log should almost resemble that of an ax stroke. Between each strike there is a transition lasting an eye blink. During that interval, the wrist pivots and redirects the blade. Control is everything. (Ron and Steve have heard Dr. Gyi's stories from the old country, of kukri masters who could perform three perfect cuts in just one second.)

The swordsmen make sure they keep their stances short, lest they slip in the sawdust and mud. So far, none of the students has misjudged range-to-target and scraped bloody the finger knuckles of his sword hand.

Wood chips fly. Grunts and exhalations blend with the staccato smack of steel on wood and dull thud of logs dropping. Black uniforms are soaked with sweat and rain. This is short-sword training at its low-tech best.

A former member of the American Bando Association, contributing SOF editor and ex-paratrooper Marty Kufus has published feature stories in Black Belt, Inside Kung-Fu, and Masters of Kung-Fu magazines. A retail selection of foreign and domestic kukris is available through Military Weapons Specialties, 5015 State Route 56, Athens OH 45701; phone: 740-592-6205. ☞

Full Auto

Continued from page 18

M983 third generation pocket night vision scope with the adaptor required to mount it on the G.G.&G. Integrated Rail System. Wow! What a setup. Waiting for nightfall, you run out to the backyard to take a look. With a proper cheek weld, you align the Litton night vision device and Aimpoint Comp M on the family dog. And what do you see? The grotesque ghost image of the M16's high-profile front sight assembly, required by the rifle's in-line stock. Do not move up to anxiety level one million. There is an excellent solution.

G.G.&G. (Dept. SOF, 3602 42nd Stravenue, Tucson, AZ 85713; phone: 520-748-7167; fax: 520-748-7583; web site: <http://www.gggaz.com>) has just introduced a unique, milspec fold-down front sight system for the M16/AR-15 series that responds to the above scenario. Utilizing standard M16A2 front sight components, including the square post, the unit is manufactured from 4140 steel and finished by a milspec manganese phosphate process. It can, of course, be adjusted for elevation zero. The unit, machined with integral protective ears, is locked in the upright position by a spring-loaded detent. It can be knocked downward without damage and in the down position it cannot snag when moving through brush or inside constricted interior environments.

There is a receptacle on either side for an Uncle Mike's quick-detachable (QD) sling swivel. An optional mounting block is available for the Laser Products SURE-FIRE flashlight. Another option is a bayonet lug (for use with pre-ban AR-15 and registered Title II M16 lower receivers only), which, of course, I chose to have installed, as this useless appendage seems to both intimidate and infuriate anti-gun liberals.

As we have come to expect from G.G.&G., this is a fine piece of equipment that addresses an area of concern affecting those who pirouette in the dark and mount optics on the M16/AR-15 series. ☞

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I Was There

Continued from page 19

another, then two more. Then, I sprinted to my quarters, grabbed my G3, ran back and opened up in the terrorists' direction.

Adrea had hustled his ass pretty fast from the boot grenade. He jumped a fence in an area where trenches were being dug and fell a couple of meters into a wheelbarrow. Living up to his reputation, founded upon the last few moments of that night, he continued to declare at the top of his lungs, "We're all going to die!"

This was soon echoed by Private Raposo from the terrace who was screaming — not in the future tense but in the present. "I'm dead! They got me! I'm dead!" This, of course, could not be true as he was screaming and standing up while jumping up and down on one foot. A soldier quickly noticed the damage and yelled for Raposo to get back down. He probably was already annoyed enough by events that he did not need someone else giving a melodramatic scream of mortality. A bullet had nipped the bottom of the self-proclaimed-dead Raposo's heel showing a trickle of blood from his boot.

Of course, Adrea in the wheelbarrow was not feeling safe at all. He again shot like lightning towards a tree still yelling his, and our, impending doom. Like a native monkey he was up the tree in no time at all as the terrorists continued their free-fire. Combat 101 does say that the tree is a bad place to be. But Adrea's actions may be proof that humans descended from apes to instinctively run up a tree when scared. Several of the men saw this and shouted up to him through all the commotion of gunfire and explosions. "Oi, man, Get down from there! You're going to die up there!" The only thing that could be heard from the tree was, "We're all going to die!"

After about half an hour the terrorists ran off in typical guerrilla fashion. The fact we finally did respond to their attack was enough to have scared them away. The fatalist, Adrea, still up the tree, was fine but a bit shaken and none the worse. Raposo would naturally survive his heel wound.

Why my mortars did not explode became clear in hindsight: I had neglected to activate them in the excitement, panic and total confusion.

After that night our extended holiday in Mozambique ended. The war had come to us. From then on we naturally were more prepared and knew better of what to do in case of an attack.

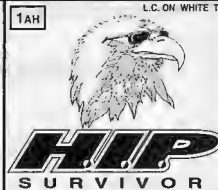
If anything was learned it was to be prepared — and not to be fatalistic about a bad situation. Remain as calm as possible and deal with what's before you. Giving in to screaming and immersion in the fear of impending death while being shot at does nothing for anyone's nerves. And, do not seek sanctuary in nearby trees.

Jamie and Royce DeMelo reside in Canada. ☞

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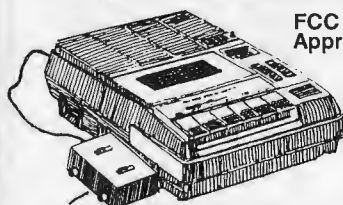
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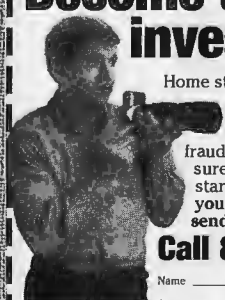
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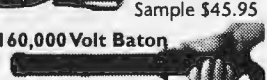


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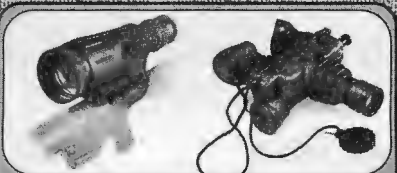
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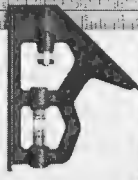
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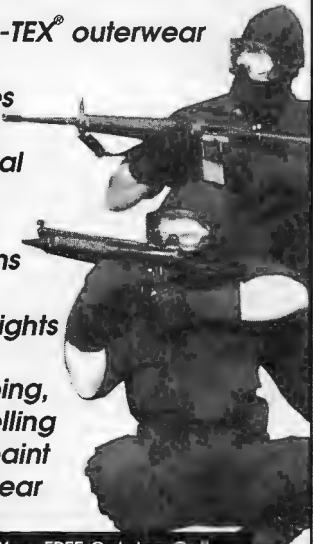
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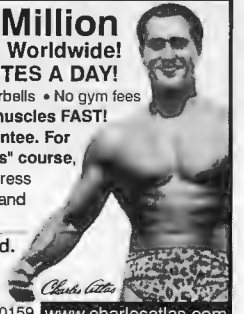
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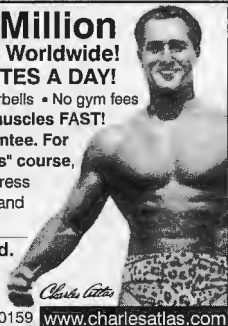
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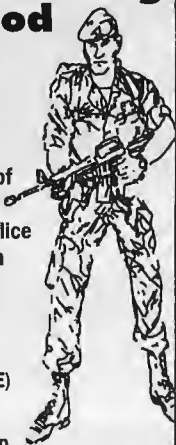
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PRODUCT INDEX

Minute Men Under Siege

Things were grim in Korea in 1950. As usual, our regular Army was not prepared for the war at hand, and our troops kept getting their clocks cleaned as retreat followed bloody retreat. Finally, Joe and Moe dug in on the last bit of ground between them and the Sea of Japan, knowing that if the Pusan Perimeter didn't hold, they were in for a long swim at best.

Then a miracle happened. The 1st Marine Division slammed ashore at Inchon. Their daring amphibious invasion cut the Reds in half and showed U.S. Army units that the communists were not 10 feet tall.

The famous 1st Division was not made up of all regular Marine supermen, either. It had a fair mix of citizen soldiers — Marine reservists — who had been called up, and sent to the battlefield.

Reservists have played a major role in all our country's big scraps. They were vital in WWII, Korea and Desert Storm. Perhaps significantly, they didn't fight in any big numbers in the only war we ever lost — Vietnam.

Since Desert Storm our forces have been gelded. The Army has 44% fewer battalions; the Navy 40% fewer ships; and the Air Force half the squadrons they had in 1990.

Yet, under Clinton's Save-the-World policy, the missions laid on these reduced forces have increased over 300 percent.

The over-committed regulars have reached the point of such extreme exhaustion that they're virtually replacing themselves on-station.

The Pentagon's answer to this over-extension has been to tell the president we're "good to go," salute, and call up the reserves rather than standing tall and telling him what he's done to America's armed forces with his Robo-Globo-Cop madness.

Now the reserve forces are nearly broken trying to pick up the slack for the badly stretched regulars. More reservists have been called up to wade in the ex-Yugoslavia swamp than during the entire Vietnam War.

This constant mobilization is tearing up morale and causing a lot of good people to hand in their quit slips. After all, these Minute Men joined up to defend America — not to be the world's policemen.

Reservists serve three Gods: country, family and full-time employer. Families and employers well understand that when the whistle blows they lose their reservists. But they, too, expect the missions to be about national defense, not repeated call ups to



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.

babysit George Bush and pals' oil wells or hand out propaganda leaflets in Bosnia because jerks in Washington don't understand how to use our military forces.

A lot of bosses — and spouses — are quietly saying, "It's me or the reserves."

America cannot afford to lose our Minute Men punch. Missions in the decades ahead involving antiterrorism, combating weapons of mass destruction and putting down civil strife in our own cities will test them as never before.

To make the Reserves effective we should:

- Tell Clinton to stop using our military as if they're Arkansas' governor guards. In six years, he's continually exhausted our armed forces with hare-brained missions that go back to the unqualified people he's put in charge of the Pentagon.

- Merge the reserves into one force. Right now the National Guard and Reserve units are about where they were in 1917. They hate each other and cut each others' throats while competing for funds, missions and resources. We're spending billions of dollars a year supporting a crippled back-up force that's organized to fight another cold war.

- Convert the National Guard tank units into light infantry, police units and anti-bug & germ teams to deal with the most probable future combat scenarios. Since new technology precludes another WWII, or even a Desert Storm-type fight,

National Guard armored units are a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Lastly, The Pentagon must find out what makes Leatherneck reserve units so good and then clone it on all the other services' reserve forces. Marine reserve units have proven their mettle in every fight — they were as brilliant in Desert Storm as they were in Korea, while most National Guard combat units were rated unfit for the fight in the desert.

Our reserves must be ready for future wars and not, as the record shows (except the Marines') never ready when the bell rings.

[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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COLT MODEL 1911



GIs of Air Service Command practice with the Model 1911 in Georgia, 1943.

In 1905, the United States Board of Ordnance specified that caliber .45 was the only admissible caliber for the sidearm which would replace its .38 revolvers, proven ineffective at stopping an enemy at close quarters during the Philippine Insurrection. Ordnance specifications called for the guns submitted for trial to be fired 6,000 times, in test groups of 100 shots. Five minutes cooling was allowed between each 100 shot test, with each gun being cleaned only after each 1,000 shots. Browning's design, manufactured by Colt, was a short-recoil handgun employing a locked barrel, and it performed flawlessly. Further testing with the pistols dragged through sand and grit, even with

deliberately rusted pistols, did not alter the Colt's perfect functioning record, an incredible first for small arms testing.

An All-American .45

In World War I, orders for two million .45 pistols were placed with Colt, Remington-UMC, and Springfield Armory. During World War II, another 1.8 million of an improved version, the Model 1911A1, were made by contractors including Colt, Ithaca, Remington-Rand, and Union Switch and Signal. This all-American .45 was also quite popular worldwide. Argentina, Brazil, China, Norway, and Spain were among many foreign nations that copied Browning's design for use by their own armies and naval forces. On the civilian front, the Model 1911 and 1911A1 pistols became top choices for self-defense and competition shooting. Today, the Model 1911 and 1911A1 pistols remain military classics, even if they are no longer standard issue.

FASCINATING FACT

During World War II, the need for .45 semi-automatic pistols was so great that orders were placed with many civilian firms that had never made guns before, including the Singer Sewing Machine Company of Elizabeth, New Jersey. Only 500 were manufactured, making a Singer .45 one of the rarest of collector variations.

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