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courtesy Mark H. Milstein



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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Clinton To Ban Private Gun Sales

No background check, no gun, no exceptions."

On 7 November our Commander in Chief, "Zipper Willie," gave a radio address concerning gun shows and private gun sales. If the Zipper's plan is implemented, as outlined in the radio address, it will be the most drastic change in gun ownership ever. His intention is to ban all gun sales without a background check.

If you are wondering why our headline states that Clinton intends to ban private gun sales when he only said: "No background check, no gun, no exceptions," the reason is simple. Every sale will involve a background check and the associated record keeping. The sale will not be private. This means no gifts of a gun to your children or grandchildren without government approval. No casual trades with a friend.

How will this be administered?

Will ordinary gun owners have to maintain the same records as a dealer?

Will our records be subject to audit by the BATF? If our records are not adequate what kind of penalties will we face? Will we have to call a number and do a instant check on our neighbor or grandchild?

Will this end gun sales between private individuals?

We believe that any regulations promulgated by this antigun administration will be intentionally onerous and fraught with penalties for simple oversights in record keeping. The obvious goal is to chill all such sales. Many people will choose not to make a sale to an individual because of the possible consequences.

How bad can it get? Don't think it will end here. The next step or even this first step may include a demand for a complete inventory of all your firearms. After all, how can the BATF be sure you haven't sold a gun without government approval if they don't know what you started with? If you believe that the records of transfers will be deleted after some limited period, then you

believe that Bill Clinton never tells a lie.

As usual, his speech included outright lies, misrepresentations and obvious contradictions. Clinton said: "But at too many gun shows, a different, dangerous trend is emerging. Because the law permits some firearms to be sold without background checks, some of these gun shows have become illegal arms bazaars for criminals and gun traffickers looking to buy and sell guns on a cash-and-carry no-questions-asked basis." Since the law permits some sales without background checks the sales are not illegal!

He also said, "I believe this should be the law of the land: No background check, no gun, no exceptions. Therefore, I am directing Secretary Rubin and Attorney General Reno to report back to me in 60 days with a plan to close the loophole in the law and prohibit any gun sale without a background check. We didn't fight as hard as we did to pass the Brady Law only to let a handful of unscrupulous gun dealers disrespect the law, undermine our progress, put the safety of our families at risk. With this action, we are one step closer to shutting them down." Since gun dealers are already required to make background checks at gun shows, this is another lie.

How will the ban be implemented? Clinton can issue an executive order. An executive order gives the president virtual dictatorial powers and is not subject to the usual checks and balances. Or, he can go to congress with proposed legislation. A Republican-controlled congress may resist such drastic legislation. We say "may." After all, Brady passed only because of Republican support.

Phone your congressmen now! 202-224-3121. Write your congressman too: U.S. Senate, Washington D.C., 20510; or, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515. ✉

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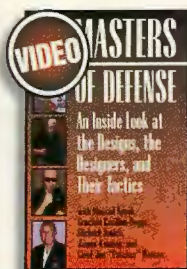
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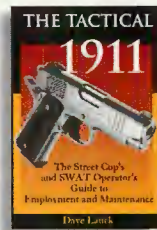
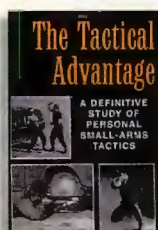
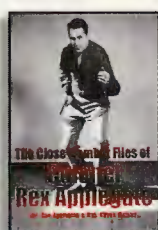
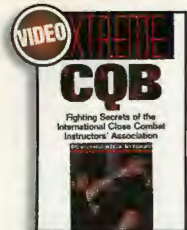


MASTERS OF DEFENSE

An Inside Look at the Designs, the Designers, and Their Tactics

with Massad Ayoob, Graciela Casillas-Boggs, Michael Janich, James Keating, and Chief Jim "Patches" Watson

The best way to design a fighting knife is to ask an expert knife fighter. This irrefutable logic is the basis of the Masters of Defense, a revolutionary cutlery design project that has resulted in some of the best tactical knives ever produced. The brainchild of knife authority Jim Ray, the Masters of Defense project combines the talents of five respected self-defense experts with state-of-the-art production techniques to set a new standard in defensive edged weaponry. This original Paladin production gives you an inside look at the Masters of Defense project and the people behind it. The five experts not only discuss their knife designs and the logic behind them, they demonstrate their personal styles of knife fighting and teach you how to employ their distinctive blades in a variety of defensive situations. **Masters of Defense** gives you an unprecedented look at the pinnacle of tactical knife design and edged-weapons tactics and is must viewing for all serious knife enthusiasts. *For information purposes only.* Color, approx. 90 minutes, VHS only. **\$39.95**



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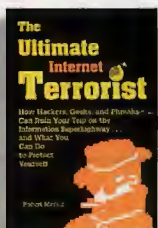
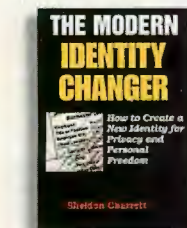
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And Never Be Believed

According to the *New York Times*, CNN's semi-famous war reporter and revisionist military historian Peter Arnett is back on the job, reportedly working on a special for CNN covering the Algerian War. Wonder who will watch it? As a reader noted in response to Arnett's Operation Tailwind fiasco, a liar can tell the truth many times and never be believed.



Hackers Change G.I.s' Blood Types

According to *Wired* magazine, the DoD reported that crackers penetrated military web sites last year, altering medical files. According to a report in *Federal Computer Week*, the crackers changed blood types in G.I.s' records, information that is crucial in performing battlefield transfusions. Art Money, a senior DoD official, noted that the DoD experiences some sort of "cyberattack 60 times a week."

Money told a meeting of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association that as a result the DoD has developed a more restrictive security policy on the type of information posted on unclassified web sites connected to the Internet.

In an interview in *Internet Relay Chat*, a hacker who goes by the name t3k-9 recited a list of vulnerable U.S. government web sites, noting "they don't pay enough for computer people — you get \$50,000 for a \$150,000 job."

Flying High

A Colombian Air Force C-130 cargo plane was seized by U.S. Customs at the Ft. Lauderdale airport, with a reported 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of cocaine on board. In Colombia, Air Force Chief General Manuel Sandoval offered his resignation to President Pastrana over the incident. President Pastrana in turn accused the United States of mishandling the drug bust, saying U.S. officials should have told his government before the plane took off from Colombia. "Why, if they knew about this cargo ... didn't they tell us first?"

Three junior Colombian Air Force officers had been sentenced just a week earlier for an incident last September, where 4 kilos of heroin were found aboard Colombia's presidential jet shortly before it was to fly former President Ernesto Samper to New York for a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. In the sentencing, the judge alluded to evidence of senior Colombian Air Force brass involved in drug trafficking, referring to the existence of a so-called "blue cartel."

Aussie SF OK'd For Mission-Prep Doping

According to Australian news reports, guidelines have been issued for the use of performance-enhancing drugs after it became apparent that "half of the soldiers serving in special forces" were already using — unsupervised — some form of performance enhancement. The report is based on collaborative research by Australia, Britain, The United States, New Zealand and Canada. Commanders and doctors of the Special Air Service Regiment, 1 Commando Regiment and the 4th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment have been given briefings on the dosage, use, benefits and side-effects of the drugs.

Rejecting some 50 other performance-enhancing drugs, military scientists have approved six drugs or techniques. They include Creatine powder, a naturally occurring substance in the muscles which stores high-energy phosphate; Modafinil, which was invented as an aid to people with sleep disorders, but which also keeps soldiers alert on long night missions; Ephedrine, which is banned in sports but which, when combined with caffeine, gives a bigger energy boost than either drug alone; and caffeine, which can also improve endurance. The main physical technique — also illegal in sports — is "blood-loading," which involves taking up to a liter of blood from a soldier and deep-freezing it. The body will compensate for the lost blood and when endurance is required for an exercise or mission, the blood is reinfused into the body.

Vietnam veteran and former West Australian Police Minister Graham Edwards, now an Australian Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Cowan, noted, "Australian soldiers have an incredible reputation based on self-discipline, a commitment to your mates and a highly professional work ethic, and no drug in the world will enhance that."

Korean War POW Escapes Home

A South Korean prisoner of war escaped from North Korea this September, returning to his wife and children 45 years after the war stalemated in a ceasefire. ROK's Agency for National Security (NSP) said 72-year-old Chang Mu-hwan returned to the port of Incheon aboard a ferry, after seeking refuge in a third country for a month. A defense ministry official said Chang escaped from North Korea in August by crossing the Tumen River between North Korea and China. He had been taken prisoner by North Korean communist forces in 1953 shortly before the ceasefire, and media sources said Chang was taken to a POW camp at a coal mine in North Korea and forced into slave labor for 45 years. The South Korean Defense Ministry had listed Chang as KIA, although they list some 20,000 as MIA.

Last April, fellow POW Yang Soon-yong, 72, who also escaped the North last year, said he knew of 50 to 60 South Korean POWs still surviving in the North.

\$10-Million Fine For Boeing

Boeing has agreed to pay a fine of \$10 million — the largest ever for violations of the Arms Export Control Act — in response to charges it disclosed American technology secrets to foreign companies working with the aerospace giant.

The fine will not stop a Justice Department criminal investigation into the allegations that Boeing shared embargoed technical information with Russian and Ukrainian partners in the Sea Launch commercial rocket project, a \$500 million project to launch satellites from

Continued on page 12

Any martial arts or military gurus want to make the same offer?

Get My FREE Report On Lethal Fighting—And I Guarantee For The Rest Of Your Life You won't Lose Using My System. And I Put It In Writing!

This man had 3 high-ranking black belts and over 300 street-fights in 20 years, yet 15 minutes of this undefeatable system he knew Jerry's guarantee was for real. Let him tell his story.

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?

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-I 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-t! 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—


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Jerry Peterson


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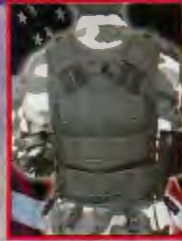
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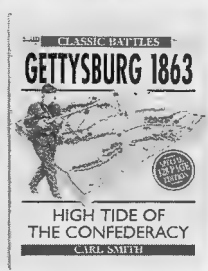
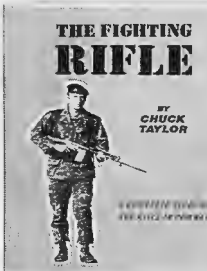
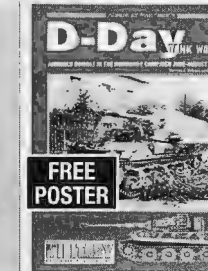

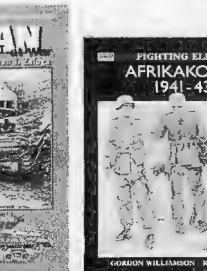
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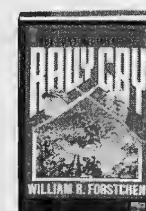
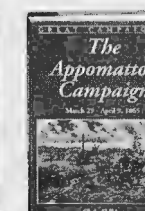
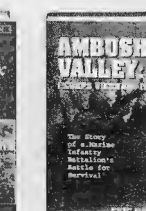




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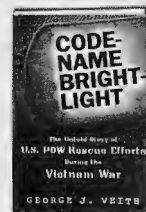

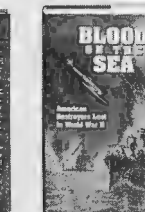





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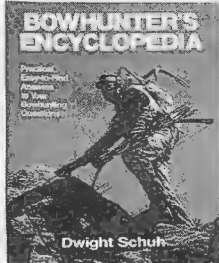
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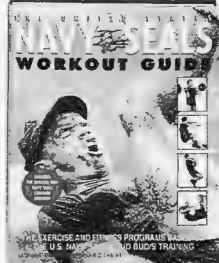
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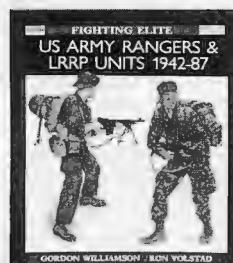
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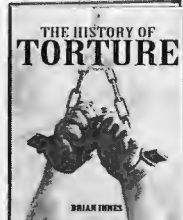
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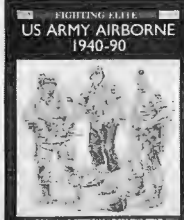
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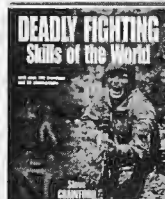
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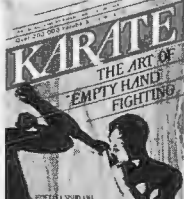
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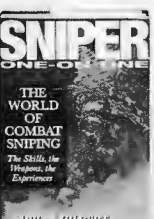
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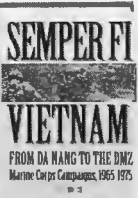
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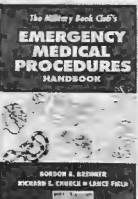
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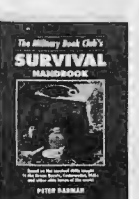
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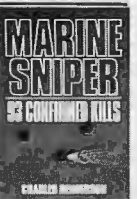
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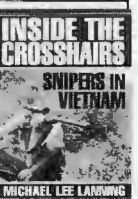
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a floating platform in the Pacific. The project has been sidetracked since the allegations arose in July, but work will now resume.

Boeing has a 40% piece of Sea Launch, but most of the technology is foreign. The program plans to use a modified version of former Soviet SS-18 ICBMs to launch satellites from a platform at the equator.

\$5K Bounty For "Coyotes"

The U.S. Border Patrol has offered a \$5,000 reward — possibly more — for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the deaths of eight Mexican nationals believed abandoned without water in 120-degree heat near Salton City, Calif., last August. Noted INS Western Regional Director Johnny Williams, "These callous smugglers are, indeed, public enemy No. 1."

GAO Questions Longbow

The General Accounting Office initiated and issued a report to Defense Secretary William Cohen, which stated the new AH-64D Longbow Apache is too heavy to carry out its primary mission, and that it has radio problems which restrict its ability to transmit target information to other choppers in an attack formation. Boeing, maker of the new attack helicopter, the Army and private aviation analysts rejected the unsolicited GAO report. Paul Nisbet, a defense analyst for JSA Research noted, "The Department of Defense can show the GAO data was over 90 days old and that they've got a good weapons system."

The unsolicited report was released just as Boeing begins marketing the Longbow internationally, and as the Army was ready to declare the first production run ready for combat. International sales could run to \$11 billion through 2008 for Boeing, and to \$2-3 billion for Lockheed Martin, which makes the all-weather targeting radar.

At issue is the rate of climb ability with a full load of missiles, during combat maneuvers to avoid enemy fire.

Vietnam War Museum Opens in New Jersey

After a year's worth of rewriting the museum's text panels to a form all sides could accept, the Vietnam Era Educational Center has opened in Holmdel, N. J. Michael Shafer, a Rutgers University professor and member of the organizing committee noted, "We found ourselves between the two extremes, between those who believe that the war was profoundly immoral ... and those who believe that the failure to pursue the war to military victory was evidence of moral failure, that the peace movement sold the nation down the drain."

The \$3.8 million center was financed by a 1995 donation from Atlantic City casinos and attempts to deal with the entire Vietnam War experience. After a great deal of revision, correction and philosophical give-and-take by all sides, the resulting museum is a "thought-provoking and fair, balanced story," according to Kelly Watts, executive director of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation.

How To Spell Relief

We spell relief "Refugee Relief International." RRI is alive and well, doing its substantial part to help keep the victims of war and tyranny alive and well, as it has for many years. RRI has ongoing refugee-relief and humanitarian projects in Nicaragua, Cambodia and for Karen refugees in Thailand. RRI's quiet, competent cadre of *medicos* donate their time and physicians' skills to help the forgotten victims of disease and tyranny, and you can help get them there. Although the volunteers are unpaid, RRI attempts to underwrite medical team air fares to get them in-theater. That takes money.

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Japanese Youth Crimes More Violent

According to a report issued by the Japan Justice Ministry, youth crimes in Japan are becoming more heinous, and are increasingly committed by groups rather than individuals. Citing cases of murder and attempted murder over the past 10 years, by youths 16 and over tried in criminal courts, the report indicated 83% involved the use of weapons, including knives, and 61% were committed by groups.

The report was compiled by the Justice Ministry for use in deliberations on whether the age at which youths can be tried in criminal courts should be lowered from the current 16, to 14 years of age. Interest in the issue of at what age youths can be tried in criminal court has increased since a May 1997 slaying and beheading of an 11-year-old Kobe boy by a 14-year-old boy, whose case was sent to a "family" court instead of criminal court.

Justice minister Kokichi Shimoinaba told a news conference that the age issue deserves review, although the report per se does not indicate an increase in crimes by 14- and 15-year-olds.



Trivia If True

According to a reader who emailed us with a tone of authority, the term "the whole 9 yards" originated with WWII fighter pilots in the South Pacific: When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 machine-gun belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the plane. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole nine yards." Well, maybe, but were we a pilot and watched some penguin string our ammo belt out across the sand then load it in our plane, the whole 9 yards would be the length of his neck. No, we don't know why it supposedly originated with South Pacific pilots. Maybe fighters in the CBI, European and North African theaters were too busy to measure it. Perhaps measuring a belt was the fastest way to count rounds. ✕

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On The Mark

Peter Kokalis was on target concerning glitches in *Saving Private Ryan*. Other points: Rangers were all-volunteer. Discipline was high and unit cohesion was higher than most units in the ETO. Scenes of blatant disobedience toward NCOs and officers are far-fetched. In the closing segment, two P-51Ds swoop down and destroy a Tiger tank — both birds were “slick.” No bomb racks, rocket pods, nor drop tanks! The director should have obtained a P-47 or P-38 or even some British aircraft like a Typhoon, planes designed for close air support.

Even though it was obvious the filmmakers did not do all their homework, still I think Hollywood has come as close as they’ll ever with war films!

R. Crawford
San Antonio, Texas

Technicolor Pink?

Regarding Peter Kokalis’ excellent critique of *Saving Private Ryan*, I can add nothing to his technical remarks, which show in detail Hollywood’s disregard for accuracy. However, he was remarkably restrained commenting on the leftist agenda underpinning this and other American films in the last 30 years.

For example, we will never see a movie about John Rabe, the Siemens executive in 1937 Nanking, who saved thousands of Chinese from rape and murder by rampaging Japanese troops. Neither Rabe, a Nazi party official, nor the victims he saved, would be politically correct enough to get the “Schindler treatment.”

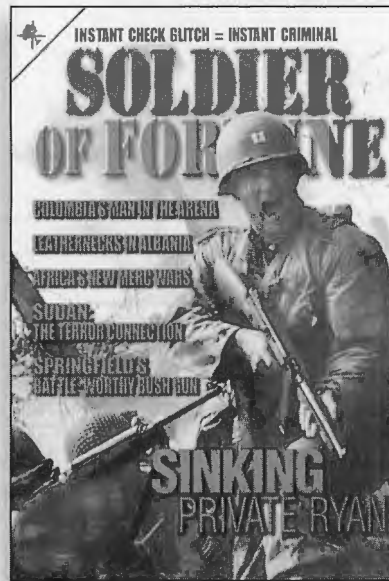
David E. Steele
Los Angeles, Calif.

Hoo-Ray For Holl-y-wood

I have just read Mr. Kokalis’ technical review. He may have been correct in his assessment, but he won no points with me.

It was a movie, not an army training film. Lighten Up! The movie felt and looked realistic for the most part. Much of Kokalis’ criticism is just fine hair-splitting.

He complained about soldiers who dis-



obeyed orders. If he thinks this never happened in combat, he needs a reality check. He also insinuates Mr. Spielberg empathizes with the movie’s coward, I suppose because Spielberg did not serve in Vietnam. I noticed Kokalis’ military service was late 1950s-early 1960s. What war did we fight then?

After doing the calculations, your own Robert K. Brown was old enough to have served in the Korean War. Yet I find no record that he did. Your response?

Finally, I fail to appreciate Kokalis’ comparisons to Vietnam and the liberal left. He also babbles on about political correctness. I saw nothing liberal, nor could I fathom how it had anything to do with political correctness or Vietnam. Oh please! Spare me! The movie was far more realistic than most others I’ve seen over the years.

You guys didn’t like it when readers wrote to criticize *Soldier Of Fortune, Inc.* TV show. I’ve spent plenty of money on your magazine over the years. I won’t do it again.

Laurence McKinney
Durant, Oklahoma

P.S. You probably won’t print this since it was not another pat on the back.

Sure, we’ll print it, but you won’t get to read it since you’re not buying SOF anymore ... Don’t know how you calculate, or what “records” you checked, but Brown

was in high school during the Korean War, volunteered for the first war that came along and served as an SF officer in Vietnam, where he traded anatomical parts for combat ribbons. Kokalis served in technical intelligence in the “Cold War” Army but has a couple dozen tours in combat zones on three continents for SOF. Regarding our “not liking” criticism of SOF, the TV show, if we “didn’t like” honest criticism, why do you think we print those letters? Maybe you should lighten up. And quit drinking kerosene.

Warts And All

I liked the movie *Saving Private Ryan*, flawed as it may be. I watched it several times. If nothing else, it’s a study what not to do with first-class camera, artwork and actors.

In defense of Spielberg, the hold-the-bridge thing makes sense to me. Miller does what a Ranger should: He wings it when the situation’s tight. His motivation for staying is very practical — if the Nazis get the bridge they can make heavy-duty use of it. It’s for that, primarily, that he stays.

I dunno. It’s kicks, huh? To second-guess a big-time movie. In a way, though, movies themselves are a war; a parallel universe at work on you. I feel sad about Miller, sad that he has to die, even if you and Rush Limbaugh think he was a wuss.

Charles R. Hockett
Los Angeles, Calif.

Good ... For Hollywood

I take issue with Mr. Kokalis’ criticism of Spielberg’s *Saving Private Ryan*. I thought it was very well done, for a Hollywood movie.

Granted, there were some unlikely



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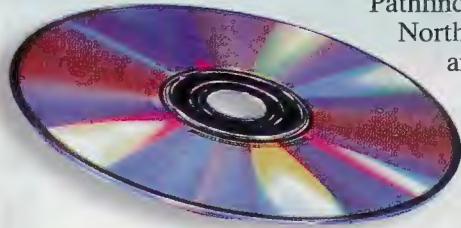
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things in the movie (crossing open terrain in daylight in enemy territory, etc.), but the overall impact really struck home. From opening scenes of scared young grunts puking their guts out from fear, to that first sound of incoming rounds, it instantly and uncontrollably brought me back to 1969 when I was a scared 18-year-old grunt. The theater had Surround Sound and, believe me, I was down in the seat after the first couple incoming rounds hit.

Mr. Kokalis says sights weren't used on some of the machine guns in the movie: We had some guys saw the front sights off their M60s for LRRP duty — they usually directed fire by walking tracers to their targets.

Also, I routinely mounted and re-mounted my Leatherwood scope on my M14 without zeroing because in some insertions, if you fired you would compromise your loca-

tion. I also did this with CAR-15 and Colt scope and never had a problem under 200m. Rarely did we shoot over 400m because you couldn't see that far.

I served two tours in Vietnam (1969-1971), first as a sniper in airborne, then as a Ranger. This is the most realistic movie I have ever seen in conveying the sights and sounds of combat and especially the fear that we have all experienced when being shot at.

The closing scenes in that movie really bothered me. After 28 years, I still lay awake some nights wondering why I made it and some of my buddies didn't.

(name withheld)

Two-Handed Grenade

I enjoyed the article. One other aspect of the film that caught my attention was the use of mortar shells as grenades. Can the fuse on these mortar shells be reliably activated by striking the bottom of the mortar shell on an empty ammo can?

Robert A. Swiech

Mortar rounds of the era were setback armed and impact detonating, so it might have worked — but it would take a good arm to throw mortar rounds far enough so the thrower was outside the burst radius.

Missed Some

Other grave errors in *Saving Private Ryan*: The sergeant had two years of combat, from North Africa onward. Yet in the last battle scene, when he takes on a Tiger with a bazooka, the screenwriters blow it. Everyone with experience against German tanks knew a 2.75-inch bazooka was ineffective on the front and sides of a Tiger. The only hope was blowing a track, then working around back and puffing another round through the rear armor into the engine compartment. Two, if necessary.

But the "experienced" sergeant bounces two rockets off the main gun mantlet, which with the front hull bow, have the thickest armor! Only a recruit would do that. The screenwriter rewarded his stupidity by having the Tiger's bow machine nail him.

When Captain Miller is on the beach, he grabs the collar of a wounded man and drags him. An artillery round lands behind them and Miller is knocked forward and on his man, everything from the waist down was disintegrated. Any explosion that would do such damage would have ripped Miller too! Miller would be dead. The movie would be over.

Speaking of concussion and realism, I didn't see any victims of concussion — which can rip a man's gear and clothes off and leave him dead, without a mark. The body will only withstand about five pounds of instantaneous overpressure without vital

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internal organs being turned to mush.

Then in the final battle scenes, several airborne troops blow the tracks of a Tiger. Then, six or eight swarm the tank to take out the crew. Germans manning a 20mm AA gun kill every one of them. No leader would allow that many troops to expose themselves — one or two would attempt to drop a grenade down the turret hatch. The screenwriter's and the director's intent made absolutely no sense. It wouldn't happen that way.

Milton J. Schick
Tucson, Ariz.

Five pounds of overpressure can move mountains, but may or may not fluidify a human. Explosions are capricious events — it's hard to say just what would happen in any uncontrolled circumstance.

Tell It To Dale Dye

In spite of Kokalis' complaints, I still found *Private Ryan* riveting.

Why doesn't he pillory *SOF* alumnus Dale Dye concerning the technical deficiencies? You could fill a couple of articles with errors my untrained eye has picked out in *Platoon* alone.

I personally was amazed at how much *Private Ryan* got right, not the minor things it got wrong. Keep up the good work, Pete. It is appreciated.



Jack Schrauth
Dixon, Ill.

We should note that "Technical Adviser" doesn't equate to "Technical Dictator." A director may or may not take advice, depending on how important he thinks a point is to the story, whether anybody would notice, what it would cost — even time considerations. You can lead a horse to water ...

Allow Poetic License

Let me first state that I truly admire this magazine for journalistic quality and ability to get the facts straight. I also admire the

expertise that Peter G. Kokalis continually demonstrates. I, like you, often watch movies looking for technical errors, sometimes to the dismay of my family. However, I was impressed with what few technical difficulties there were in *Saving Private Ryan*. Yes, as you pointed out, it wasn't technically correct for the soldiers to group together and engage in frivolous conversation. But ... there wouldn't be much of a movie if there weren't some of that conversation.

As far as the other technical problems in the movie, I think that only a person of your caliber and expertise would find them. What I did get from the movie was a greater appreciation for the sacrifices that my grandfather made during WWII. I believe this film should be shown to high-school-aged kids, right along with all the Holocaust films that they show to children, because of its patriotic message.

Bruce Sumner

Realistic View

While I noted many of the technical errors that Mr. Kokalis pointed out, the bottom line is that it presented a very realistic view, insofar as is possible in a film, of the horrors of war and what our nation's service men and women endured in WWII.

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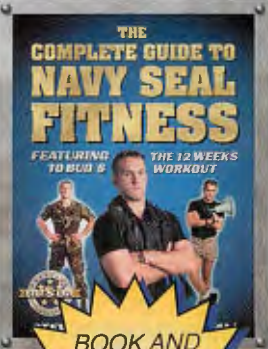
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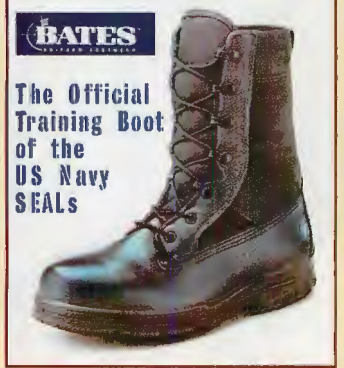
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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

Cat And Mouse With American Lives

Clinton's cat-and-mouse games with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein are taking a toll on military troops and equipment, making him a laughing stock even in remote regions that don't have access to Court TV.

As Saddam sat back waiting to once again toy with Clinton, U.S. Air Force jets raced toward the Persian Gulf in November. Once the buildup was the slightest bit threatening to Saddam, his people sent Clinton a fax and once again said the dictator would behave, and allow U.N. weapons inspections. Clinton fell for it, and all attacks were called off. Almost immediately, 46 combat aircraft, including six F-117 stealth fighters, turned around in Europe and headed home. The Navy's aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Eisenhower* and a group of destroyers, cruisers and other ships also headed back home with the simple promise of the world's second most famous liar, Saddam Hussein.

What's in it for Saddam, besides a good laugh. How about more time to prepare himself for an attack he knows is inevitable, more time to figure out a way to kill more American pilots, and more time to hide his weapons of mass destruction. As the *New York Times* points out, "Saddam has been playing 'one-step-forward, three-steps-back' with Bill Clinton" for years.

The United States has spent \$6.9 billion answering Iraqi provocations since 1991, putting thousands of troops and hundreds of jets into the region for weeks and months at a time. Military officials say the game has hurt morale and let to the mass departure of experienced troops, tired of missing major holidays and leaving families behind for nothing. The Air Force, which is losing pilots faster than it can train them, has a pilot shortage of 700 and growing. Remaining pilots have started referring to Christmas as "SaddamX."

Meanwhile, the president has yet to devise any clear strategy for toppling Saddam, despite his continued vows to "intensify the effort" to replace the dictator with a democratic regime.

"Saddam is going to have the same effect on Clinton's legacy as Fidel Castro did on President Kennedy's," said RAND Corp. Middle East analyst Zalmay Khalilzad, to Gannett News Service. "He is costing us a tremendous amount of money for these operations and is having a negative effect on American forces."

Clinton's latest retreat was called a strategic move to maintain support for the United States, and condemnation of Iraq by other nations. National security adviser Sandy Berger explained "the burden would have shifted away from Saddam Hussein," if Clinton had pursued an attack.

Yes, it probably would have. And that's largely because the

president is known more as a draft-dodging sexual predator than a responsible captain of foreign policy.

But there's more at stake here than the president's popularity and legacy. U.S. intelligence believes Saddam is hurriedly working on weapons of mass destruction that could wipe out Tehran or any large American city. Perhaps it's time for the leader of the free world to stop worrying about what a bunch of foreigners think and start listening to Pentagon and state department officials who wanted to go ahead with blasting Iraqi targets.

The cat-and-mouse has to stop. Clinton has no credibility at home or abroad, no matter what he does with Iraq. It's time our policy toward Iraq included some form of victory and closure.

The Cost Of A "Bill" Job

Some U.S. nuclear systems may fail due to the Year 2000

computer bug, said Michael Kraig, a researcher at the British American Security Information Council, at a November press conference in Washington. The council, an independent research organization that analyses international security issues, just issued a report called "The Bug in the Bomb: The Impact of the Year 2000 Problem on Nuclear Weapons."

Kraig says the U.S. Defense Department has acknowledged that several "high risk systems" may not be repaired or tested in time, and there are problems where repairs are not possible. The report describes scenarios that range from accidental

launches, to inaccurate data by early warning systems, to missiles blowing up in their silos.

None of which the defense department soundly refutes. Instead, Americans are reassured that everything might be okay. U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre, for example, was quoted in *Defense News* saying: "Probably one out of five days I wake up in a cold sweat thinking (the Year 2000 bug) is much bigger than we think. And then the other four days I think maybe we really are on top of it. Everything is so interconnected, it's very hard to know with any precision that we've got it fixed."

What Americans can be assured of is the fact that President Clinton, the highest elected official in the land, has had precious little time to pay attention to any of it. As we enter the Year 2000, with a problem that may or may not cause worldwide blackouts and accidental bomb detonations, never forget how the leader of the free world conducts business — on the phone to congress with his pants pulled down.



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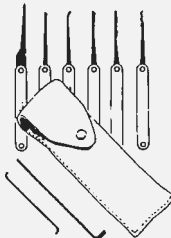
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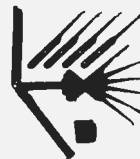
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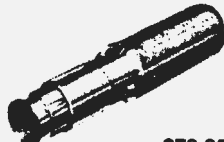


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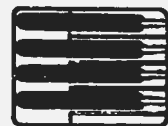
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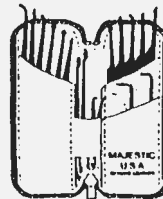
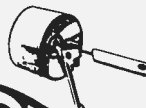


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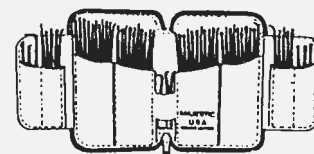
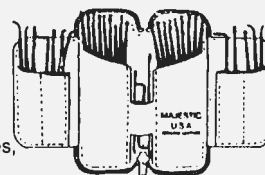


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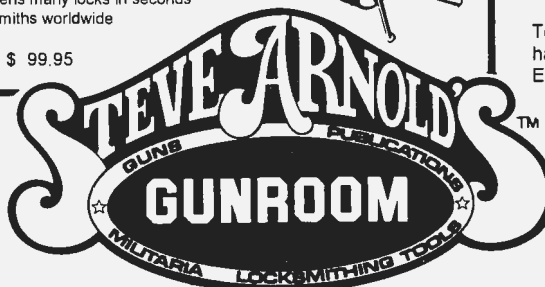
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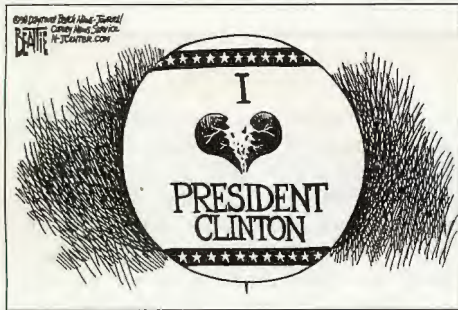
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Green Slime

Clinton signed the Kyoto Protocol in November, which is intended to cause a dramatic reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases some believe cause global warming. Clinton signed the treaty knowing full well it would be dead on arrival on Capitol Hill, where the senate voted 95-0 urging the administration not to sign it. In order to win approval, the measure would need an impossible 65 votes in the Senate.

The need to defeat the treaty is a no-



brainer for anyone in congress, Democrats and Republicans alike. Rather than a true effort to control greenhouse gases, the treaty is a massive and overt wealth transfer that calls for industrialized nations to cut back on greenhouse gases, but places no restrictions on developing nations, such as Mexico. Any economist on earth knows such a treaty would force businesses in developed countries to move production and jobs from industrialized nations to places like Mexico, Brazil and China.

By signing, the *New York Post* opines, the administration could win "brownie points" with the "greenie lobby," knowing full well it would do nothing to jeopardize corporate America. How's that for standing on principal?

Wealthy Trailer Trash

Paula Jones has never lived in a mobile home, yet Clinton succeeded in portraying her as trailer trash from the time she went public to tell how the former Arkansas governor once exposed himself to her and demanded oral sex. Throughout his presidency, he has consistently portrayed the Jones grievance as a financially and politically motivated attack with no merit.

Now things have changed. As Clinton says, it's the economy, stupid. The economics of any politically motivated charge with no merit simply don't add up to an \$850,000 settlement, such as was paid to Jones in November. The American public should view this cash reward, from a man without a pot to piss in outside of the White House, as an all-out admission of guilt. As for Jones? She should buy up some trailer parks and rent to Clinton in the year 2000, when Americans outside the Beltway will have their way with him. ☒

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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

Adjustable Magnetic Flashlight Holder

Most problems that arise requiring the use of a flashlight also are the sort of problem that requires two hands to fix. Here's a handy third hand for those tired of breaking teeth on a mouth-held flashlight: Solve-It's Adjustable Magnetic Flashlight Holders. The flashlight holder attaches to steel surfaces with a strong magnet, rotates 360 degrees, and pivots up to 70 degrees vertically.



Made of heat-treated corrosion-resistant metal and high-impact synthetic and having powerful magnetic bases, these rugged devices will keep your flashlight focused where you need it, leaving your hands free for the task at hand. Since these holders will stand upright on their own, they may also be used on non-magnetic surfaces. They carry a one-year unconditional warranty, and come in mini AA size, and standard D-cell size.

For more information or to place an order, contact Solve-It! Marketing Company, Dept. SOF, 4990 Speak Lane, Suite 280, San Jose, CA 95118; phone: 800-771-8348; fax: 408-266-5020.

Deprinter

Pocket carry of "pocket" pistols can be problematic for a number of reasons, not the least of which are that the pistol will probably shift around and never be in a position for handy draw, and a pistol in a pants pocket *looks* just like a pistol in a pants pocket. They can also be uncomfortable and hard on pockets. Concealed Carry Manufacturing's Deprinter alters the profile of the pistol and fixes its position in the pocket, keeping it concealed and accessible.



Available as a stock item for Browning Baby, Colt Mustang, Jennings J22, Lorcin L25, Phoenix Raven and Seecamp LWS32. Available for virtually any other small pistol on a custom basis at the same price.

Contact C.C. Manufacturing Co., Dept. SOF, 16161 Nordhoff St. #242, North Hills, CA 91343; phone: 818-362-8106.

Cavalry Gun Safe

Sun Welding Safe Co., in the business for more than 13 years, has introduced a new premier model, the Cavalry. Among the Cavalry's outstanding features are a heavyweight 3/8-in. door with massive 1-in. diameter locking bolts on four sides; a Group II Sargent & Greenleaf combination lock protected by a hard plate and impact absorption plate; 5/8-in. UL fire insulation on all six interior surfaces, with a total body and fire-stop thickness of 3/4 in. Additional luxury features include a 24-karat gold-plated dial and handle, a fully adjustable interior with "secure guard" to protect guns during earthquakes or burglary attempts; a standard key-locking dial so you can lock the combination when safe is either locked or unlocked; and custom formulated polyurethane paint in a wide variety of colors. There are five Cavalry models to choose from.

Each Sun Welding Safe is covered by a lifetime warranty. For more information on the Cavalry or Sun's other lines of safes, contact Sun Welding, Dept. SOF, 290 Easy Street #3, Simi Valley, CA 93065; phone: 805-584-6678 or 800-776-1908.



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Grip, the Plug provides a place to store extra firing pins, springs, etc. Made of 70 durometer rubber, the Plug is friction-fitted into the bottom of an existing A2 pistol grip. It fits snugly and removes easily. For more information on the AR Stowaway Pistol Plug and other firearms accessories, contact DPMS Inc., Dept. SOF, 13983 Industry Ave., Becker, MN 55308; phone: 612-261-5600 or 800-578-3767; fax: 612-261-5599.

Bicycle Holster System

The Squared Away BHS-101 Bicycle Holster System provides a discreet method for the bicyclist to carry a pistol, chemical spray, cellular phone or a variety of other items. Constructed of 1000 denier Cordura, closed-cell padding and ballistic nylon, the BHS-101 attaches to the bike using five adjustable straps with milspec hook and loop fasteners.

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The GAMA Solution

The world's defense markets are generally in what can best be described as a "belt tightening" posture. With the collapse of the Evil Empire at the start of the 1990s, world opinion took a relaxed sigh of relief as the perceived threat seemed to disappear overnight. That this is not really true is apparently of no consequence, since worldwide defense budgets have continued to spiral downward. To survive in this shrinking environment, arms makers must develop and offer products that provide client states with weapon systems that clearly demonstrate substantial cost savings in one area or another.

One of the most brilliant examples of this concept is the GAMA (Gun Automatic Multi-Ammunition) project developed by Vektor, a division of Denel (Pty) Ltd. (Dept. SOF, 368 Selbourne Avenue, Lyttelton, Gauteng, P.O. Box 5445, Pretoria 0001, South Africa; phone: 011-27-12-620-2387; fax: 011-27-12-620-2407). The successful objective was to field a 20mm automatic cannon that could be instantly converted to fire more cost-effective smaller caliber ammunition for training, or even other 20mm rounds that a country might already have in inventory in substantial quantity.

The GAMA system starts with the dependable South African GA1 cannon which is normally chambered for the 20x82mm round. This ammunition is manufactured only in South Africa and to

(right) GA1 automatic cannon chambered for the 20x82mm round, mounted in tandem with an SS77 GPMG in caliber 7.62x51mm NATO, on a South African Buffel, a mine-protected personnel carrier. (below) GA1 converted to fire the 12.7x99mm (.50 cal. Browning) heavy machine gun round.

a limited extent in France. Furthermore, some authorities believe that the 20x82mm is marginal in some applications. Research commenced with the 20x110mm Hispano HS-404 shell, which was the longest round anticipated, and was also readily available. The GAMA project envisioned a caliber change to the weapon only, not the entire gun pod. The mounting points thus would remain the same.

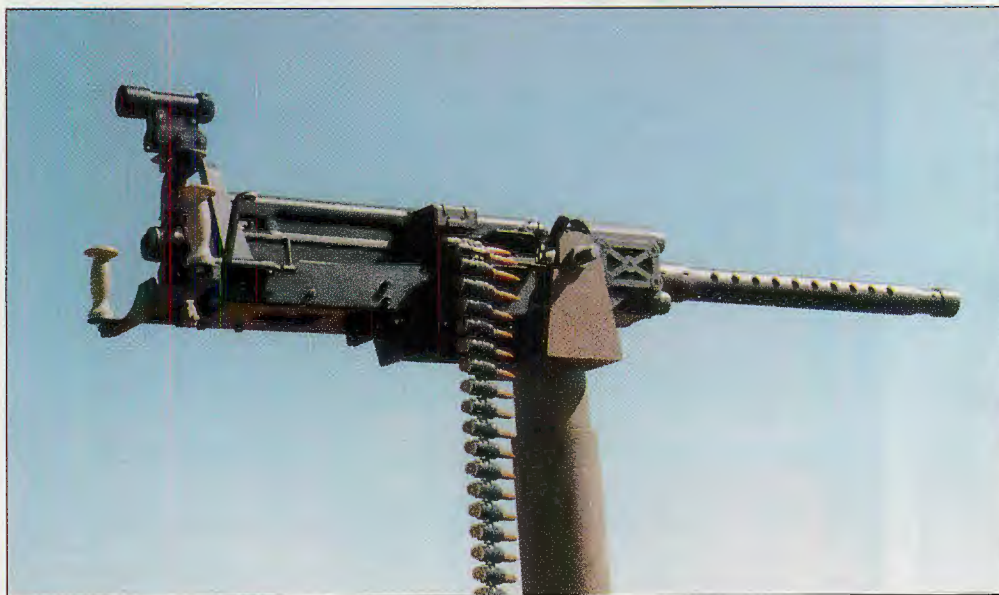
The GA1 itself is a vastly improved and updated version of the German MG 151/20 aircraft cannon, which was designed in 1934 as a 15mm weapon but was scaled up to 20mm during World War II at the request of the *Luftwaffe*. The MG 151/20 was also adopted by the Japanese and used as a "flexible" gun in bombers. Subsequent to World War II, it was employed by the French air force.

The method of operation is roller-locked short-recoil with firing from the open-bolt position. The cyclic rate is 650 to 750 rpm. Belt-fed, the GA1 uses push-through disintegrating steel links. The headspace is fixed. The bolt is a two-piece assembly with three lugs on

the bolt head (similar in appearance to interrupted threads) that rotate slightly more than 57 degrees clockwise to lock within recesses in a receiver bushing. The bolt head also contains the two locking rollers, which run on cam tracks in an unlocking ring inside the receiver body.

The front end of the receiver bushing holds the barrel by means of interrupted threads. A spring-loaded, anti-bounce device that consists of a steel balance weight with a multi-strand spring — both riding inside the bolt carrier — serves as a stabilizer for the reciprocating components. There is a heavy compression spring between the receiver bushing and the unlocking ring. When the barrel moves rearward in recoil, it drives the bolt head rearward against the cams on the unlocking ring to rotate the bolt anti-clockwise out of battery. A multi-strand spring buffer at the rear of the receiver absorbs some of the systems recoil energy.

The principal distinction between heavy machine guns and automatic cannons lies in the area of their ammunition. There is often very little difference between their cases. Propellants and charge weights also differ very little. The primer caps on ammunition designed for automatic cannons may be of either



the percussion or electrical types.

The greatest difference between heavy machine guns and cannon ammunition is therefore in their respective projectile types. Most cannon projectiles are shells (i.e., hollow projectiles which contain explosive material that is initiated by an impact fuze at the target or at some earlier point during the trajectory by a time-delay mechanism). Most, but not all, heavy machine-gun projectiles are of the solid-ball type with lead or steel cores, which sometimes have hollowed-out areas at the base or nose that contain tracer or incendiary elements, respectively.

The GAMA project objective was to provide for conversion to six calibers. In addition to the original 20x82mm, they are the 20x102mm (US M39, most often electrically primed) and 20x110mm cannon rounds and the following heavy machine gun cartridges: 12.7x99mm (.50 cal. Browning), 12.7x108mm (Russian) and 14.5x114mm (also Russian). The US 20x102mm is considerably more powerful than the 20x110mm, with a muzzle velocity close to that of the 20x139mm Hispano. The design challenge was the longer overall length of the 20x110mm round and the larger rim diameter of the US 20x102mm cartridge (29.5 mm versus 25.1 mm for the 20x82mm. At first a telescoping bolt carrier was tried, but eventually the receiver was lengthened. The larger rim diameter required the feed mechanism to be lifted.

The same link, with plastic inserts for the smaller calibers, was used for all six calibers. The original GA1 cyclic rate, 650 to 750 rpm, was retained for all calibers.

The following changes were made to the GA1: 1) The receiver body was lengthened and is 72 mm longer than the original. 2) To get the bolt head behind the longest round (20x110mm), the feed tray was lengthened by 36 mm. There are spacers for use with shorter rounds. 3) The cartridge stop was also lengthened by 36 mm and thus the pick-up point, where rounds are stripped from the links, remains the same for all calibers. 4) The bolt carrier was also lengthened by 36 mm. 5) The top cover was also lengthened by 36 mm at the front end to move the feed mechanism backward in position over the links. 6) The bullet lead (guide) was modified. 7) The buffer assembly was redesigned and the barrel spring removed. 8) And, of course, each caliber has its own barrel. The barrels for higher energy rounds have muzzle breaks designed by mathematical modeling. With regard to the electrically-primed US 20x102mm case, the round is fully chambered before the electric impulse strikes the primer. This method of discharge is also employed in Vektor's 30mm DEFA 55C5 cannon.

Muzzle velocities of the various conversion rounds vary considerably. The South African 20x82mm cannon shell leaves the muzzle at 2,362 fps, while the 20x110mm

round reaches 2,723 fps. Both the US 20x102mm cartridge and the Russian 14.5x114 heavy machine gun round have a muzzle velocity of 3,380 fps.

The GAMA design forecast was done using dynamic motion analysis. Structural behavior was examined by means of finite element analysis. And, the entire system was designed by CAD (Computer Aided Design).

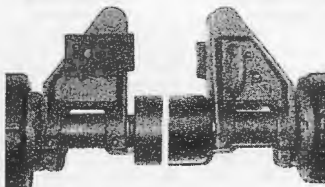
I have personally witnessed the GA1 — mounted on the Caspir Mk 2 Mine Protected Vehicle (MPV) — employed with deadly effect by *Koevoet* (a police counterinsurgency unit) in the former South West Africa (now Namibia) on the border with Angola.

It's salient features are the simplicity of its design, which provides for ease of maintenance and cleaning, its compactness and a relatively light weight. With a 20x82mm barrel, but without a mount, the GA1 weighs only 39 kilograms (approximately 86 pounds), empty. This compares with 84 pounds for the .50 caliber Browning M2 HB machine gun and with 106.5 pounds for the caliber 12.7x108mm Russian *Degtyarev Pekhotnyy* (DP) Model 38/46 heavy machine gun.

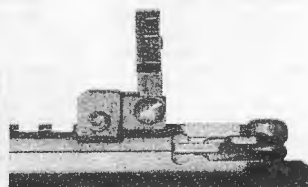
The GAMA project adds even further versatility to what is without question one of the finest 20mm automatic cannons in the world. The GA1 can be mounted on a tripod, in an aircraft pod, or on mounts designed for helicopters, boats or vehicles. ✕

F.I.R.E. System for AR15/M16

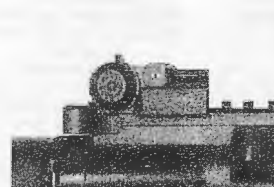
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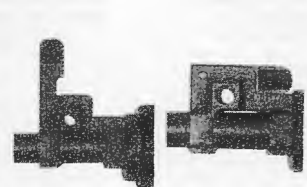
SLiC Mount
Sling and Flashlight
Attachment



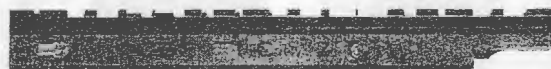
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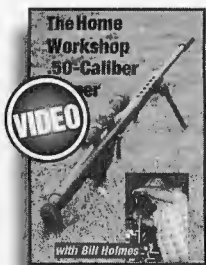
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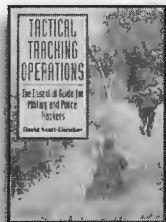
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THE HOME WORKSHOP .50-CALIBER SNIPER RIFLE

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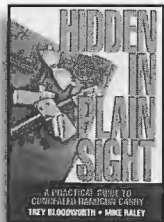
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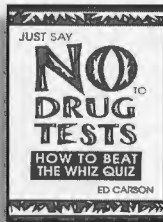
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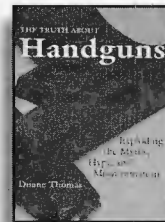
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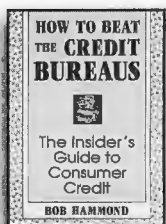
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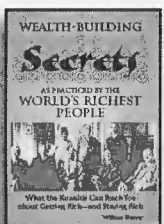
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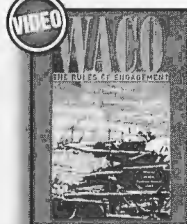
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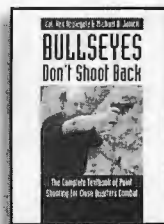
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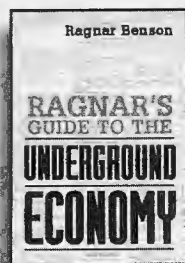
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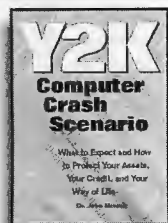
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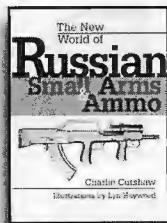
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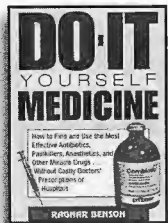
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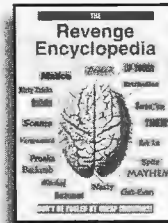
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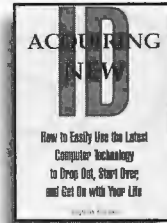
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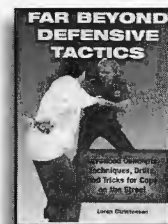
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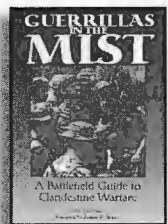
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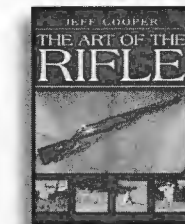
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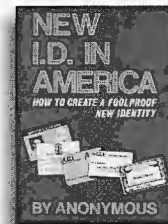
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I Was There

Text & Photo by
PO3 Joseph S. Meadows, USNR

Caribbean Beat

AS I waited for the final leg of my travel itinerary to Panama City, Panama, I could not help but wonder what I'd stepped into. As a prior-service Army veteran in a combat arms MOS (13B), I had just recently completed my first annual training stint with the Naval Reserves — and it would be an understatement to say that I was not impressed with the caliber of training or the lack of discipline that existed within the ranks. Also, there was the obvious distinction of uniforms that divided us into two class systems, E-6 and below, and E-7 and above. But I had volunteered for a 60-day counter-drug operation, "Operation Frontier Shield," aboard a naval warship, so had no one to blame but myself.

I deplaned in muggy Panama, at 0200 at a near-deserted airport, and then encountered the twin barriers of my inability to speak and comprehend Spanish and no waiting duty driver to ferry me to my destination.

After an hour, I was assisted by the Panamanian National Police who had convinced me that hoofing it to Rodman Naval Base was not only a torturous hike, but that my chances of getting there unscathed by anti-U.S. thugs were less than slim. It was useless to phone for a ride since a state of conflict still existed. (And, besides, no one had telephone numbers to Rodman Naval Base.)

The PNP dropped me at my destination at 0430 and, for the first time in my military career, I reported to a *floating* duty station.

I reported aboard the *U.S.S. SIDES* (FFG-14) to the Officer of the

Deck (OOD), who assigned a young seaman to escort me to the berthing area where I would spend the next 60 days. After stowing my gear and making up my rack, the seaman gave me a brief tour of the ship, after which I headed back to my rack for some much needed sleep.

After a day of rest, I reported to my chief (NCOIC), who briefed me on the ship's mission, personal conduct, scheduled operations — which included patrolling known drug-running routes — and, most importantly, known port visits where we could hit the beach for a few hours of liberty. I met the other members of my team, which included two Petty Officer First Classes (PO1s — equivalent to E-6s) and a P02 (E-5). I was comfortable with my new shipmates and found myself already feeling as if I were part of a team.

The mission of the *SIDES* was to patrol a sector of the Caribbean known to be a drug-running route from Colombia up through Puerto Rico and ending in the United States.

Since the military is barred from conducting police operations under the constitution, we were accompanied by — and under tactical control of — the U.S. Coast Guard, which ironically was being directed by the Joint Interagency Task Force headed by General Barry McCaffery, USA (Ret.). Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachments, known as LEDETS, were aboard to conduct the actual board-and-searches and we were to assist them logistically — and with military force if necessary.

Our initial searches of ships were fruitless and after enduring a

Coke is the name for differing substances. Here, one of Joseph Meadows' (second from left) teammates grips a can of the legal variety, while shipmates display a sizable cache of the other — some of the more-than-5,000 lbs. of cocaine seized from modern-day Caribbean buccaneers.



couple of days and nights at Guantanamo Bay ("Gitmo"), Cuba, waiting for the searches to be completed, I was beginning to believe that we were never going to seize any drugs during our tour.

The morning of 19 Sept 96 started with the usual routine. A young ensign, on the bridge for instruction as underway Junior Officer of the Deck (JOOD), spotted a small "go fast" boat darting about using evasive maneuvers. The officer decided to take a closer look at the suspect boat and altered the ship's course to intercept. The "go fast," which was too small to be picked up on radar, had to be visually tracked which, at an approximate range of 1,000 yards, proved to be no easy task. After trying to raise the speeding boat on every possible radio frequency and by use of signal lights, the captain and a Coast Guard warrant officer were summoned to the bridge. The "Coastie" radioed a sitrep to JATF East, out of Miami, and secured permission to pursue our quarry, now 75 miles north of the Colombian coast. Once we were green-lighted, the ship went into "Law Enforcement Phase III" (pursuit mode).

We cut the distance to 300 yards when the "go fast" switched course — and headed directly toward us!

You could see the tension and surprised look on the captain's face. Without hesitating he ordered the M60 GPMG (which I was manning on the starboard bridge wing) locked and loaded.

As the "fast boat" sped closer, I drew a bead, allowing for distance and speed (thank you, 4th Infantry Division Training NCOs). As the boat came within 50 yards I didn't notice any aggressive or hostile actions from its four crewmen; they were simply staring at us staring at them.

Just as the "fast boat" whipped past us, one of its crew began tossing small parcels into the sea.

One of our chiefs ordered a marking flare to be thrown overboard. We altered course to continue the chase when the "fast boat," once again, did a 180 and roared at us.

This time when it passed, it took up and maintained position off our stern. Our CO shouted "All Stop!"

As quickly as the "fast boat" stopped, it revved up again, while its crew dumped more parcels. This time our CO ordered the items retrieved and identified. The "fast boat" then took off,

beyond the effective range of our fire hoses.

When word reached the bridge that the packages were kilo-size plastic containers — of cocaine — we already were at flank speed in pursuit. The official word from JATF East was "to pursue and apprehend," hardly surprising after they were advised of the contents. We gave chase and when it seemed that they were about to outrun us (*SIDES'* top speed was 35 knots; our prey's was 50 to 60 knots), we were assisted by a LAMPS 45 helo, and a P-3 Orion aircraft. When one would run out of gas, it would be replaced by the other. This continued until early the next morning, when the "fast boat's" engines went down due to overheating and it was DIW (dead in the water).

It took us nearly 45 minutes to reach them. When I got out to the flight deck of our ship that morning, I saw for the first time the faces of the guys we had been chasing for close to 24 hours.

Instead of the hard-core, *Miami Vice*, drug lord-types, we viewed rather ordinary fellows, who could have passed for on-the-skids merchants who hung out pierside at every port south of Miami, looking to trade everything from conch shells to stuffed baby alligators for a pair of worn-out Navy-issue Chukka boots.

Our four captives, later identified as Colombian nationals, were subsequently turned over to that country's coast guard (their fate likely was decapitation).

As for the drugs, the final count was 330 lbs. of uncut cocaine, which was weighed, photographed and documented, before being dumped into the Caribbean.

The "fast boat" was turned over to the Colombians — the first occasion that the U.S. Navy had surrendered its "catch" to the Colombians for prosecution evidence.

The *U.S.S. SIDES* remained on-station for four months, August to November '96. She steamed over 25,000 miles on anti-drug patrols in the Pacific and Caribbean, while confiscating more than 5,000 lbs. of cocaine and two smuggling craft.

"Operation Frontier Shield" is ongoing and involves more than 10 nations.

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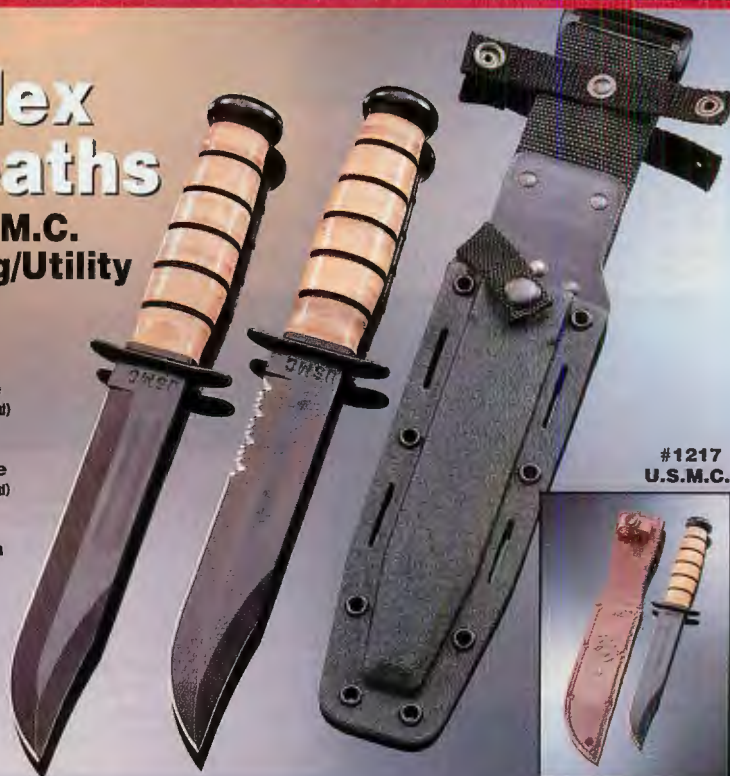
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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Herbicidal fungus: Scientists experiment with fungus that could eradicate narcotics plants and remain in soil to destroy future crops. • **Military pay:** Rand Corporation report finds most enlisted military personnel earn more than civilian peers, with the exception being those with high technical skills and senior NCOs. • **Drone space:** Clinton Administration quietly changes U.S. policy to allow unmanned aircraft (such as recon drones) to fly over foreign countries without notice or permission. U.S. has used cruise missiles under this policy for a decade, and has decided non-lethal aircraft could do same thing. The difference, critics say, is that cruise missiles fly over a nation en route to some other target, while recon drones pass over a nation to spy on it. • **Stop work:** Army forced by congress to issue "stop work order" to Stewart & Stevenson on \$1.4 billion multi-year contract for family of medium tactical vehicles. Congress had told Army not to issue the contract until Army satisfied several problems with the trucks. (Drive shaft breaks at highway speeds.)

2

RUSSIA/FORMER USSR

Military crisis: Report by International Institute for Strategic Services says Russian Army desperately short of officers. Problem expected to worsen, as more than half now in service will leave within a year and cannot be replaced. Report says artillery and mechanized units operating without officers, while those still in uniform have been diverted to staff and technical duties. Study notes the cash shortage will make nuclear forces hard to maintain at current levels. Report openly skeptical of Russian plans to build all-volunteer force by 2005. • **Nuke transfer:** U.S. Congress opts to cut aid to Russia in half until Clinton certifies that Moscow has taken steps to halt transfer of nuclear or missile technology to Iran. • **Sick leader:** Yeltsin cancels trip to EU summit, as rumors of major health problems escalate. Government says Yeltsin to take "reduced role" in future, all but admitted he may never return to duty.

6

IRAN

Desert dilemmas: Hardline fundamentalists improve grip on power with October elections, in which moderate candidates were blocked from running. • Fundamentalist and moderate demonstrators clash in street brawls. • Iran complains of Netherlands allowing exiled opposition groups to operate and that Czech Republic had allowed Radio Free Iran to begin broadcasts. • General Zinni of U.S. Central Command says Iran built "asymmetrical" naval force designed to attack U.S. Navy's weak points. Asymmetrical force includes shore-based mobile anti-ship missiles, gunboats and mine-laying submarines. • Iran accuses U.S. of using outrageous stories to panic Gulf Arabs into buying more American weapons.

5

IRELAND

Catholics & Prots: British courts jail three members of Irish National Liberation Army for life in connection with last year's murder of Protestant extremist inside Maze Prison. David Jones removed from office as head of the Protestant Orange Order, for refusing to negotiate parade routes with Catholics. The Protestant Loyalist Volunteer Force declares permanent ceasefire. Catholic man murdered by the Protestant Red Hand Commando group in October.

1

12

10

9

COLOMBIA

Drug war: President Pastrana insists peace process continue, despite ELN attacks. Soldiers rescue 18 people kidnapped by the Maoist People's Liberation Army. An 800-man rebel attack on Mitu destroys 120-man police force. Clinton provides \$280 million in new drug-war funding after Pastrana promises to jointly increase the fight.

9

10

CUBA

Communist spies: Castro admits in interview that Cuba sent spies to infiltrate Cuban exile groups inside U.S. Cuban officials insist they had every right to spy on U.S., given the country's antagonism toward Cuba.

12

MEXICO

Drug money: Swiss probe into finances of Raul Salinas proves he made \$500 million in illegal drug trade. U.S. officials say they will seek extradition of the Amezcua brothers for drugs. EPR rebels kill two officials in Oaxaca state.

13

UGANDA

New coalition: Lord's Resistance Army, West Nile Bank Front, National Rescue Front Two, Allied Democratic Front and National Freedom Army sign coalition pact on 15 October. Uganda bans all aircraft from flying over cities after Sudanese cargo planes drop bombs on northern Uganda. Ugandan troops rescue 200 civilians from ADF rebels, destroying 18 rebel camps during September and October. Relief workers report street children as young as 14 being forced into Army.

14

AFGHANISTAN

2,000 executions: Human Rights Watch reports Taliban troops executed more than 2,000 people after capturing Mazar-i-Sharif last summer. Iran launches war games on Afghan border. Iran gives unregistered Afghan refugees three weeks to leave country.

3**CHINA**

Dissidents, pirates and soldiers: Government continues to jail dissidents who tried to register the China Democracy Party. • EU issues report praising China's progress in human rights. • China releases 12 Indonesian pirates who hijacked Malaysian freighter in early 1998, raising questions of whether Chinese officials were involved in the crime. • China cuts term of compulsory military service from 42 months to 24 in bid to switch to all-volunteer Army.

4**KOSOVO**

Unrest continues: Russia threatens to veto U.N. resolution for use of force in Kosovo and demands NATO lift air strike activation order. • Laser from unknown source injures eyesight of two Americans in UH-60 helicopter near Zenica, the most serious in a recent rash of laser incidents. U.S. issues special visors and briefly suspends night training. • U.S. and German generals meet in Belgrade with final warning over Kosovo. • U.N. Security Council passes resolution calling for compliance with past resolutions, but omits any use of force. U.S. says NATO can attack without U.N. approval. • U.S. desperate to avoid casualties, hires U.S. firm, DynCorp, to provide 150 American mercenaries as ground monitors for Kosovo. • Serbs shell Siptitula.

7**LEBANON**

Death & destruction: Skirmishes between Lebanese and Palestinian guerrillas vs. Israeli and SLA troops continues at somewhat less intensity. Israeli planes strike guerrilla targets in October and November. Islamic Jihad official critically wounded by car bomb. Lebanese military court sentences 53 pro-Israeli Lebanese to 1-15 years in prison for spying for Israel.

8**SOMALIA**

Generation of war: Skirmishing, lawlessness and impromptu roadblocks continue across Somalia. Heavily armed group tries and fails to abduct two Red Crescent officials. U.N. report says long war in Somalia means an entire generation will never have the education and training to lead productive lives, crippling the country for decades. Marehan and Ogadeni clans fight to control Kismayo during last days of October. Rahanwein Resistance Army drives Hussein Aidid's forces out of Bakol.

2**5****4****7****6****14****3****16****13****8****11****11****ANGOLA**

U.S. and UNITA: UNITA members of parliament loyal to Savimbi return to their seats after month-long suspension. Savimbi's top aide, General Ben-Ben Pena, dies in South African hospital from kidney infection. Angolan parliament votes to cancel Savimbi's special legal status as head of opposition because he had not complied with the peace accords. UNITA rebels capture Songo, Kamulemba and Ngola-Luije on 28 October. U.S. cuts any links to UNITA.

15**PHILIPPINES**

Deadly clashes: Clashes around MILF Camp Omar in Maguindanao province leave three soldiers and 39 rebels dead. Abu Sayyaf rebels threaten to blow up oil depots and barges around Basilan, prompting military forces to deploy. Bombs explode on two passenger busses in Mindanao, killing one. • Philippines seeking alternate methods to finance \$7.9 billion military modernization program.

World Strep 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 \$77 per year (26 issues), \$81.80 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in world intel are encouraged to subscribe.



1



2

TANDEM



3



5

THREATS

SEALs Lock, Load & Leap



4



6



7



8

by Harry Humphries

DZ Photos by Chris Mayer

Aerial Photos by Dave Peterson & Steve Barker

1 — To test the premise that it would be possible for small-unit jump teams to deliver suppressive fire as they jump into a hot DZ, Director Harry Humphries and Dennis Chalker, of Global Studies Group, Inc., geared up and tried it.

2 — Availing themselves of an M60, a plane and photo-helmeted jumpers, Humphries (as gunner) and Chalker (as tandem master) jumped over the desert.

3 — Two jumpers in camera headgear had a tough time flying with Humphries and Chalker, as the tandem jumpers were near terminal velocity due to the weight factor of the two of them flying with heavy gear and M60 machine gun.

6 — Humphries and Chalker found there was no problem free-falling with the M60 — provided the stock was kept out of the air stream (i.e. tucked in the shooter's chest).

5 — Humphries experimented with the stock wing effect during the second jump, and found it to be an effective wing, causing erratic falling flight: Jumpers had to counter the turning effect, which caused buffeting.

6 — Once the canopy deployed, the weapon was easily handled.

7 — Because they did not have the M60 strapped or bagged, Humphries was able to load the feed tray and had about 25-30 degrees of effective fire zone, restricted only by the harness.

8 — The canopy is then cut away and the tandem master is free to support the shooter.

9 — Conclusion: There is no question that this technique can be used with little training, and provides an effective aerial firing platform for small jump teams making para insertions into hot areas.

10 — Russian paratroopers are also trained to engage enemy as they descend. This trooper is firing blanks as he drops from the top of the Russian equivalent of a 34-foot tower.



DF files



9



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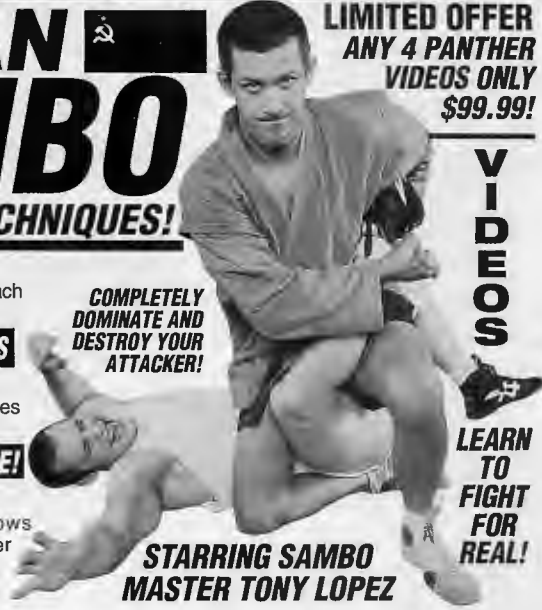
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Taliban Turnaround

The Rise and Fall of Afghanistan's Islamic Militia



Some of the Taliban are too young to grow beards, like this 7,62x54R gunner hammering away (left) at the enemy north of Kabul, with a Russian PKM GPMG. The hardest-learned lesson for surviving young Taliban is that in northern Afghanistan, power and control shifts frequently overnight. (below) A Taliban gunner fires the Russian-built 122mm D-30 Howitzer. Ammunition comes from a variety of sources, including Iran, Egypt and Pakistan.

**Text & Photos by
Jake Border**



"Within hours of jointly establishing control in the northern provinces ... the Taliban were well on the road to suicide"

— editorial extract from a Pakistani English-language newspaper on 7 June 1997

It came as a surprise. Not only to the northern opposition alliance but also to observers in the outside world. Afghanistan's puritanical Islamic *Taliban* movement had penetrated the mountainous Hindu Kush divide and seized the heartland of ethnic Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam. On Saturday, 24 May 1997, Dostam's northern capital, Mazar-i-Sharif, fell to the turbaned Taliban.

Within the next couple of days, all five provinces of Dostam's northern fiefdom had fallen and white flags symbolizing pro-Taliban sympathy had gone aloft in two additional provinces to the northeast.

The only resistance holding out in the face of this seemingly unstoppable Taliban juggernaut were a defiant *Shi'ite* faction based at Bamiyan in central Afghanistan, and commander Ahmad Shah Masood's ethnic *Tajik* fighters based in the Panjshir Valley, where Masood had gained international fame — and the epithet "Lion of the Panjshir" — in the *jihad* (Moslem Holy War) fighting the Soviets during their ill-fated 1979-89 military invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

The bearded Moslem militants seemed set to conquer the whole country as they had bragged they would, but to the astonishment of the outside watching world — and to the chagrin of their foreign backers — they didn't pull it off. Instead, they bungled. Badly.

On Wednesday, 28 May, barely five days after they had triumphantly entered Mazar, a much-bloodied and humbled Taliban were driven out like lepers. By Afghani standards a total army was wiped out: Hundreds were killed and some 2,000 were believed captured. Some fugitive survivors made it to the mountains; some lucky stragglers made it to sanctuary with local supporters. Among the Taliban prisoners were a score of heavyweights including Foreign Minister *Mullah* Mohammed Ghaus, Kabul Central Bank Governor Maulavi Ehsanullah, and Herat Governor *Mullah* Abdul Razaq, who had just been appointed the new political and military boss of northern Afghanistan.

Treachery, Greed & Betrayal

How did this reversal of fortune take place so suddenly?

The story is one of treachery and intrigue, of greed and betrayal, a tale lacking in virtue and valor, but one which clearly underscores the basic Afghan principle of conquest. The moral of this tale: Backroom deals beat battlefield bullets.

Dostam lost in the north because of a mutiny among some very disgruntled senior commanders who sold out to the Taliban. There was no fighting, no *blitzkrieg* breakthrough on the frontlines by the fundamentalist militia. It was a classic case of back-stabbing by a trusted subordinate.

The dramatic change took place after six months of military stalemate on the front lines of northwest Afghanistan. The mutiny began on the morning of Monday, 19 May, when Dostam's own foreign minister, General Abdul Malik, led a revolt in Faryab province.

In a swiftly executed uprising, Malik's men arrested a gang of Dostam's generals and allegedly 5,000 rival Uzbek soldiers. They also took commander Ismael Khan, another leading Afghan freedom fighter from the *jihad*. The Taliban had defeated Ismael Khan in September 1995 and driven him out of his western provincial capital, Herat, across the border into neighboring Iran. There, Khan took sanctuary until returning to Afghanistan to fight under Dostam's colors. Ismael Khan had commanded a front in Badghis province to the south of Faryab; half of Badghis had been under Taliban control and the other half under control of the opposition Dostam-Ismael Khan

alliance. With Malik's defection, Badghis became the first domino to fall to the Taliban, quickly followed by Faryab. Ismael Khan and 700 of his followers were handed over to the Islamic militia and flown to their southern Afghan headquarters in Kandahar city, where they are now still imprisoned.

In the meantime, Dostam's spokesman, talking to the international press, strongly denied that Malik was a turncoat and that Badghis and Faryab had fallen to the Taliban. But the writing was clearly on the wall: For Dostam, the gig was up. A few days later, he fled Afghanistan for Turkey, where he was offered asylum.

Gen. Malik's Defection

What sparked Malik's defection? Conventional wisdom among Western Afghan-watchers points to the 1996 murder of Malik's elder brother Rasool Pahlawan as the start of the breakdown in relations between the two Uzbek warlords. Rasool was the feared ruler of Faryab, a strongman in the literal sense of the word, and a potential challenger for Dostam's unofficial title of "King of the North." One of Rasool's less cruel acts of notoriety was the sale of a foreign journalist to the Afghan communist regime based in Kabul during the *jihad*. The hapless journalist had been Rasool's guest during a period this Uzbek commander was briefly — if only nominally — a resistance fighter.

Dostam headed a federation of military commanders belonging to northern Afghanistan's *Junbish-i-Milli* ("National Islamic Movement"), of which Rasool was deputy. *Junbish* included other ethnic groups, as well, but the Uzbeks dominated, and the dominant Uzbeks were a cohort of so-called *pahlawan* — literally "wrestler" or even "hero" — who are powerful local princelings equivalent to the ethnic Pushtoon *khan*, or ruling feudal "lord."



A typical Taliban foot soldier, sporting an untrimmed beard, a turban, and the ubiquitous 7.62x39mm AKM.

A Suitable Bribe

Among others, Dostam was fingered for the murder of Rasool, although little more than circumstantial evidence has been forthcoming. Doubtless the Taliban fueled the flames of Malik's suspicions and cemented the sincerity of their offers of friendship and alliance with what is locally known as a "suitcase handshake" — meaning a suitable bribe.

In any event, by Wednesday, 21 May, the Taliban, with Malik's blessing, had marched through Badghis to the Faryab provincial capital of Maimana. There, Ismael Khan, in person, was handed over to them. By all accounts, Malik did not hand over any of the arrested Dostam generals or Uzbek militiamen to the advancing Taliban.

Over the next two days, an unlikely combined force of Malik's Uzbeks — under the command of his younger brother Gul Mohammad Pahlawan — and the Taliban began infiltrating the two neighboring provinces of Jawzjan and Sar-i-Pul on the eastern flank of Faryab. Jawzjan is Dostam's native province and he had to suffer the shame and dishonor of watching an enemy force made up of Uzbek rebels and Pashtoon religious fanatics close in on his home village of Khwaja Dukoh, located just north of the Jawzjan capital of Sheberghan.

From a humble beginning as a peasant farmer's son who worked as a pipefitter in the Sheberghan gas fields, Dostam rapidly rose to military prominence, first under the Russians as strongman of the much-feared *Jawzjan Militia* and later under the Afghan communists as commander of the so-called 53rd Armored Division. Better known to Afghans as warlord of the Uzbek *Gillam Jam* (meaning "Carpet Gatherers" but which is a colloquial pun for what locals describe as their ferocious appetite for rape and plunder), Dostam was never renowned for ideological loyalty. In 1992, he dropped communist president Najibullah in favor of Masood's *mujahideen*; in 1994, he joined forces with Masood's arch-rival Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the *Hezb-i-Islami* faction; in 1995, Dostam's jets supported the Taliban fighting against Ismael Khan; by October 1996, he was brothers-in-arms with Masood again.

Bloody Mutilated Corpse

Perhaps reflecting on notoriety earned when Dostam's Jawzjan militiamen were the mainstay of the communist regime's defense of Kandahar, or equally perhaps summing up the 53rd Division's dubious social record while in support of Masood in Kabul, the ultra-pious Taliban official mouthpiece *Radio Shariat* had more recently bombarded Dostam with various insults. He was called a "blood-sucking and notorious hireling of the Russians," an "abductor of women" ... and, horror of horrors, a "liquor-crazed general!"

But any lingering delusions Dostam may have harbored



Taliban reinforcements on patrol near the front line north of Kabul. Truck-mounted anti-aircraft cannon, such as this Zu-2-23, make ideal infantry-support artillery.

about a potential alliance with the Taliban should have been instantly evaporated by the image of the mutilated and bloody corpse of his ex-boss Najibullah hanging by the neck in a public place the morning after the Moslem militants had captured Kabul in late September 1996. The Taliban's summary execution of Najibullah (along with his brother, Ahmadzai), who at the time was under United Nations protective custody in Kabul, was a clear message that captured communists were dead meat.

Turncoats were apparently tolerated, but only as a means to an end, as General Malik was soon to discover.

Battle For Sheberghan

The battle for Sheberghan began late on Friday, the 23rd, but Dostam's loyalists put up little resistance to Gul Mohammad's Uzbeks and the Taliban force under Mullah Abdul Razaq. This capital fell at 1100 hours on Saturday morning, 24 May, following the defection of three jet fighters to neighboring Maimana. One of Dostam's deserting pilots was General Hafizullah, who a year or so earlier had been freed in a prisoner exchange Dostam had arranged with his then-rival Masood. So much for gratitude. Later in the day, two military helicopters from Mazar-i-Sharif also defected to Maimana, and a Czech-made L-39 dual-seater jet trainer, equipped to carry a payload of either rockets or bombs, defected to Kabul.

Mazar-i-Sharif, the jewel in the crown of Dostam's northern fiefdom, fell at 1700 hours Saturday to Malik's tanks, which rumbled unopposed through the main city bazaars. At this time the Taliban militia waited outside Mazar, allowing Malik's troops the honor of "liberating" Dostam's capital city. Large portraits of Dostam which had looked down on prominent public places were torn down, and in some cases were replaced with portraits of Rasool Pahlawan. The takeover was orderly, but gunmen — not necessarily belonging to Malik's mob — robbed foreign journalists and others staying at the United Nations club during the night.

The bulk of the Taliban reportedly entered Mazar on Sunday, 25 May, by which time neighboring Samangan and Kunduz provinces had also declared in favor of the Moslem militants. So did Pakistan, which emerged from the diplomatic closet as the first country in the world to officially recognize the



An Mi-17 military helicopter, armed with air-surface rockets, unloads food supplies for Masood troops on the front lines near the western provincial capital of Herat, before the September 1995 fall to Taliban forces.

Taliban as the official rulers of Afghanistan. Saudi Arabia followed suit on Monday, the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday.

Deadly Passage?

A bigger morale blow to the opposition (though later they claimed it was a pre-planned deception) was the Sunday defection of one of Masood's top commanders. Basir Salangi, who controlled the southern side of the strategic Salang Tunnel (linking Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif by sealed road through the Hindu Kush) switched sides and let the Taliban pass freely up to where the road had been blown up just below the tunnel entrance. Until then, the Taliban had been unable to penetrate the Hindu Kush massif from the Kabul side.

The Shi'ites, the unsung warriors of this fighting, had withstood massive offensives by the Taliban against their frontlines at the Shibar Pass, an alternative unpaved route southwest of the Salang Tunnel through the inhospitable Hindu Kush. The Shibar Pass gives access to Bamiyan, site of two massive Buddha statues — the tallest 55 meters (181 feet) tall, the other 38 meters (125 feet) tall — which had been carved into a cliff-face between the 3rd and 4th centuries AD.

In early April 1997, a Taliban commander set off an international hue and cry after he told journalists the "un-Islamic" Buddhas would be blown up if the extremist religious fundamentalists captured the area.

Masood's Shi'ite allies *Hezb-i-Wahdat* heroically defended their patch. But his own man, Basir, had quit under pressure, declaring to foreign correspondents present at the time: "Now I am a Talib, too!"

At the Salang it took only a couple of days to clear the debris of the dynamited road, and then the estimated 2,000-strong Taliban column of jeeps, private cars and commandeered taxis, Russian-made tanks and armored fighting vehicles lumbered through the 2.7-kilometer (1.7 mile)-long tunnel that Russian and Afghan engineers had taken six years to construct, into northern Afghanistan on their way to reinforce Mullah Razaq in Mazar-i-Sharif. They didn't make it.

Culture Shock

In Mazar, on Monday, 26 May — only the Taliban's second day in town — tension began to build as they attempted to impose their strict Islamic codes on the more broad-minded and liberal local population. Never mind that the purist-Taliban objected to the free sale of Russian vodka or Danish canned beer in the bazaar, or that cinemas and video rental shops (all closed in Kabul; the Taliban announced the conversion of some cinemas into mosques) were commonplace, what dramatically escalated resentment was the heavy-handed way in which these self-declared moral watchdogs attempted to regulate the famous Shrine of Hazrat Ali, better known as the Blue Mosque. Looked upon as elements of idol worship, religious portraits and revered icons (mostly Shi'ite) were taken away; carpets were rolled up and removed because they were considered too opulent; mullahs harangued from the pulpit in the little-understood Pushtu language; and women were ordered out of the public domain and back into the seclusion of their homes to pray.

Malik might have tolerated this sort of extremism — and even the confiscation of his personal fleet of limousine jeeps — but he wasn't too happy about Taliban attempts to disarm his own men. Furthermore, when the top slots were handed out,

Malik was rewarded with the dubious distinction of deputy Afghan foreign minister (he was already foreign minister for Dostam), while Mullah Razaq got the plum post of political and military commander of northern Afghanistan. Also, apparently overriding a previous agreement, autonomy for Malik's Junbish was rubbed out by the new Taliban rulers in Mazar.

Gun Control

The shaky new partnership between Malik and the Taliban came under real pressure on Tuesday, 27 May, when the Taliban began to seriously impose their challenge to an Afghan's traditional right to bear arms. Junbish pahlawan began to understand that their authority and privileges, not to mention personal security, were being greatly undermined by the Islamic militia's insistence that all personal and heavy weapons be handed over. However, eyewitness accounts by Western correspondents indicate that the first armed resistance to the Taliban came from the *Hezb-i-Wahdat* fighters of the local Shi'ite community in Mazar-i-Sharif.

Mowing Down The Taliban

Fighting erupted early Tuesday evening when the Taliban, who had entered the Shi'ite quarter of Sayyadabad, were ambushed from rooftops and street corners, and mown down like moving targets in a carnival shooting-gallery. Malik's troops, which had ostensibly been in backup to the Taliban, joined in the massacre, shooting from the rear, trapping the Taliban in a murderous crossfire. This was the start of a ferocious 15 hours that marked the end of the Taliban's short-lived presence in Mazar-i-Sharif.

By nightfall, the city was engulfed in street battles, which manifested a macabre and deadly sound-and-light show of Kalashnikov tracer-fire, muzzle-flashes of truck-mounted 23mm anti-aircraft cannon, and the thunderous explosions of tank, mortar and RPG rounds. It was a one-sided battle; the religious militia were the unliked and unwanted strangers in town who had no more ammunition and no artillery support.

Bloody Piles Of Taliban

By morning the bodies of dead Taliban fighters lay in bloody piles in some places; the Red Cross conducted most of the gruesome task of collection for burial.

The Taliban weren't the only victims of this effervescent shambles of betrayed loyalties. The United Nations complex got looted and several journalists were robbed,

not by the defeated Taliban, but by greedy, unprincipled locals and frisky fighters high on the emotional charge of battle.

A cameraman for Associated Press and a contract photographer for *Time* magazine were held-up at gunpoint by military men in a house where they had been offered refuge during the vicious night fighting. They were robbed of all their expensive equipment. Not surprisingly, three months later, when back in Mazar, an Uzbek commander offered to sell back to the AP man his Betacam videocamera, but elected to keep the journalist's watch, which now adorned his wrist. Some of the *Time* photographer's Canon gear ended up in a Mazar photo shop, where it was tracked down (but not offered for resale) after a sympathet-



(above) Troops loyal to General Abdul Rashid Dostam (portrait with suit and tie) parade near Blue Mosque. (below) Dostam's troops in traditional Uzbek dress.

Continued on page 85

Omega Proving Ground

by Don McLean

A-F 546 Applegate Combat Boot Knife

In retrospect, there have been many watershed innovations in the development of fighting knives: the Roman short sword, the classic Bowie, the Fairbairn-Sykes stiletto, the Gerber Mk II, and the Applegate-Fairbairn. Considering the Applegate-Fairbairn, it is open to debate if its basic scheme can be improved, but it is obvious that there can at least be very worthwhile variations on the original design.

Those of us who were privileged to know Colonel Rex Applegate knew there was no B.S. to the man, nor to his ideas, nor to his weapons designs or choices. The military, police and ordnance communities and innumerable individuals were impoverished by his untimely passing last fall. His converts, as well as those who chose to disagree, acknowledged his ideas and designs were built upon experience and reason — anomalous is an age where one can aspire to authority by buying a word processor or sagedom by hanging a shingle in front of his cave.

The basic Applegate-Fairbairn fighting knife was the evolutionary outgrowth of hands-on experience in WWII with similar designs that had displayed certain weaknesses. The result was a seminal design that, like the Ka-Bar, was of such acceptable form and complete utility it may never be improved — only reiterated in modern materials or adapted to more specific uses.

One such specific adaptation of the Applegate-Fairbairn is the new Applegate Combat Boot Knife. As made by Boker, it is wrought from the same 440-C stainless, hardened to Rockwell C-58, and this clever knife features the same brass handguard, matte bead-blasted finish and weighted and glass-filled Delrin handle as its full-size brother. Likewise, it comes in a tough, secure Kydex sheath. At a distance, it might be mistaken for the original except for its size — but up close it is obvious that form is properly following function. Head-on it is like being nose to nose with a SR-71 Blackbird, with the “leg” side of this “boot” knife hollow ground and distinctly concave.



The innovative A-F 546 Kydex sheath can be worn in a number of ways to suit the mission or other circumstances, and, of course, this "boot" knife slips very comfortably into a boot. It is 9 inches overall, with a symmetrical 4-3/4-inch dagger blade. The Delrin handle is appropriately weighted for a thrusting/slicing knife, and there is a handy lanyard hole in the butt that will take 550 cord or a leather thong. It's enough knife to get the job done, and compact enough to have with you. As typical of the Applegate-Fairbairn designs, it is strong all the way to the point — where the original Fairbairn-Sykes commando daggers would fail. The shape and texture of the handle give a secure yet maneuverable grip, which falls easily to the hand and keeps the operator aware of the position of the blade.

First-rate gear that's good to go, as you would expect from a design by Applegate and manufacture by Boker.

Available from Boker USA, Dept. SOF, 1550 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80215-3117; fax: 303-462-0668.

Steiner 8x22 Mini-Scope

Sometimes, less is more, especially when assembling gear for a long-range trek away from base, where the only tools you will use are the tools you carry with you and every ounce counts. Or if the gear you will use in a given scenario is gear somebody may think you shouldn't have with you, and concealment is important. And, in either instance, there is no use taking along something that will not do the job.



Thus, when a high-end maker comes up with a product that will deliver the same result in an envelope a mere fraction of that of a competing design, it's news. And when the weight is only 3 ounces compared to a couple pounds, it's worth serious consideration.

Steiner, who needs no introduction to those familiar with rugged, precise outdoor optics, is marketing an 8x20 Mini-Scope monocular that has a 360-foot field of view at 1,000 yards, weighs a scant 3 ounces, and hides in the palm of your hand. Steiner describes it as half the size of your wallet (we'd guess they've never seen an editor's wallet). It gets lost in your shirt pocket, or comfortably may be worn on a neck lanyard. It's not just small, it's *very small* — and it's *good*: The light transmission of the Mini-Scope exceeds that of many full-size (read that *heavy, cumbersome*) binoculars, and the image it gives is sharp as a cholla cactus, with no detectable parallax and excellent light-gathering properties. There was a time when such nifty gear was available only to espionage types or those with a wallet several times the size of this precise instrument.

Outdoor activities from hunting to sporting events, from recon patrols to static surveillance, from boating and fishing to bird-watching and tours of clothing-optional beaches would all be optimized with one of these in your kit — and that's its salient feature: It's small enough that you will have it along, but will never notice it in pocket or pack until you need it.

The Mini-Scope comes in a top-quality soft leather case (excellent for pocket carry), in brushed silver finish (#422) or in green (#423). An optional lanyard is available at nominal cost. The top-quality optics are mounted in a rigid, shock-resistant body and the multi-coated lenses deliver clear, bright images even in low light.

As good as it gets, as we expect from Steiner. For more information on Steiner's full product line, contact Pioneer Research, Dept. SOF, 97 Foster Rd., Suite 5, Moorestown, NJ 08057; phone: 609-866-9191; fax: 609-866-8615; toll free order line: 800-257-7742; or check out their website: www.pioneer-research.com

Smith & Wesson Special OPS Combat Folders

Brigade Quartermasters, long one of our favorite suppliers of hard-use gear, has introduced the Smith & Wesson Special OPS Combat Folder Series of knives. With a 4-3/4 inch Tanto-style blade of high-carbon steel (a favorite type of steel for edge retention), these knives are designed for comfort and utility. The handles are of textured and black-anodized aluminum, with rubber inserts for grip and comfort. The blade opens smoothly one-handed with a knurled thumbstud, and locks rigidly for fixed-blade security when working.

The blade is coated with black polymer for inhibiting rust as well as glare. The blued steel belt clip is quickly removable for sheath or pocket carry, if preferred. A lanyard hole in the butt will prove handy working around or under water (you laugh; it worked



S&W Special OPS Combat Folders

omegaPROVINGground

when your mamma tied your mittens to you, didn't it?).

Although these knives both have a Tanto-style straight edge and angular point, the blades may be had either with (#SW110) or without (#SW108) a serrated edge. A good serrated edge can be worth the effort sharpening if you work a lot of rope or may need to cut aggressively. The strength at the point of a Tanto-style blade is a good feature for the working knives of rescue personnel, where the knife may have to be pounded in, or used to pry. The blade is roughly $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick — enough meat for serious work.

Made by the able cutlers in Taiwan for Brigade Quartermasters by Taylor Cutlery (official licensee of Smith & Wesson), these sturdy and practical working knives represent an outstanding value for the buck. As a policy, we do not quote prices in this column (we encourage the reader to shop around), but we can say these knives retail for less than \$40 — a very good buy these days.

Along with a full line of outdoor, military and police gear, these knives are available from Brigade Quartermasters, Dept. SOF, 1025 Cobb International Blvd., Suite 100, Kennesaw, GA 30152-4300; phone: 800-228-7344.

Harley-Davidson M2 MotorTool

Speaking of compact and effective, our spies at Sturgis this year reported that virtually every rider there had some sort of multi-tool on his hip. Since Harleys rule, who better than Harley-Davidson to team up with United Cutlery and Seber Tool for a special edition Harley-Davidson M2 Motor Tool. This subcompact folding tool features pliers, wire cutter/stripper, Phillips and square-bar screwdrivers. Fully open, the tool is 3-5/16" overall, and a compact 1-3/4" folded. Made of hardened tool steel and Teflon-coated, the MotorTool will snap on your key ring or hide in your watch pocket until needed to tweak your carburetor or open a brewski in the shop. Lifetime guarantee, of course.

The HD-7 has a logo laser-engraved around the pivot head, and the HD-8 has the logo laser-engraved along the handles. They both come in a snazzy hardshell gift box. You did get a hawg for

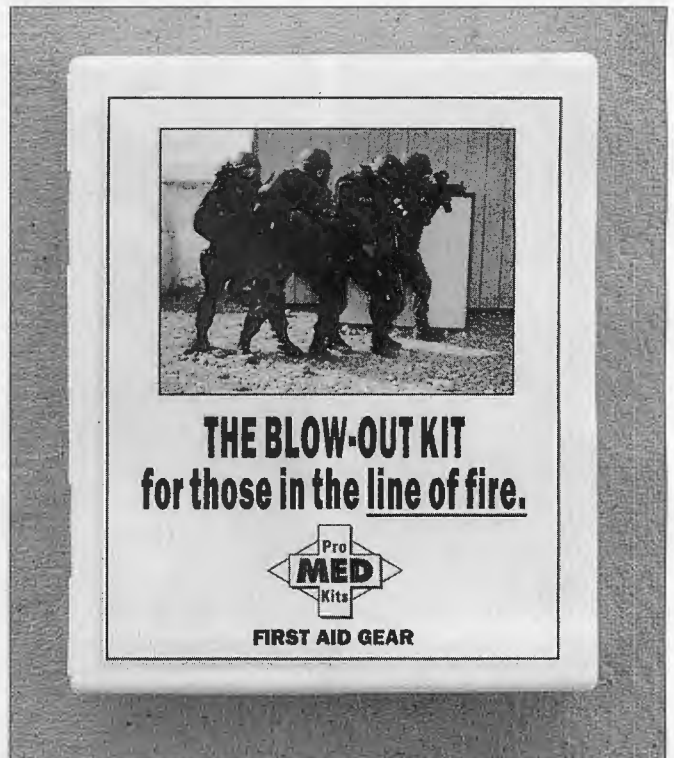


Christmas, didn't you? Well, tell the misses you need this tool, too. Or if you want to give one as a gift but don't have anybody special in mind, send one to Colorado's Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell. He rides a Harley, and it wouldn't hurt to tell him congratulations on his landslide re-election and thanks for his support of the Second Amendment.

Available from Harley-Davidson dealers, or from United Cutlery, Dept. SOF, 1425 United Blvd., Sevierville, TN 37876.

The Blow-Out Kit

Designed by paramedics for paramedics, the first-aid gear provided by Pro-Med Kits is selected to fill the requirements of specific scenarios. In other words, an eclectic assortment of appropriate gear you will need, not a bulky collection of whatever they could get cheap and stuff into a box.



A good example is the Blow-Out Kit, which is designed to be used as a trauma medical kit in the event of a gunshot wound or other serious life-threatening injury. It comes with a Fast-Action Card with instructions for treating several life-threatening injuries. Personally, I'd rather be treated by someone who wouldn't have to refer to the card — but in real life it is just as likely it was your medic who got shot, and the information on that card may well save a life in the hands of a novice.

The Blow-Out Kit contains sterile gauze pads, petrolatum gauze, conforming gauze, Betadine solution, antimicrobial wipes, bandage scissors, Bloodstopper trauma dressing, elastic-wrap dressing, nitrile gloves, triangular bandage and the fore-mentioned Fast-Action card. It comes in a compact white synthetic case. Good gear — in an arena where you don't want anything but good gear.

Contact the maker for information on their full line of emergency medical kits: Pro Med Kits, Dept. SOF, 216 F St., Suite 152, Davis, CA 95616; phone: 530-750-1158.



Ruger's 10/22 Magnum



Ruger's 10/22 Magnum

Since 1964 generations of shooters have had a love affair with the Ruger model 10/22. This little carbine has been one of the most successful products in the firearms industry. With its light weight, accuracy and after market products, its no wonder that every one from the novice to the champion shooters in events like the Chevy Truck Challenge use the Ruger 10/22.

But as popular and accurate as a .22 LR can be, there are those who will always want more. And "more" is available in a rimfire package in the .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR). Essentially an elongated version of the obsolete .22 Winchester Rimfire, the .22 WMR can launch a 40 grain bullet at 2,000 fps.

Now, Ruger has finally answered the prayers of rimfire shooters who asked for "more" with the 10/22 Magnum, essentially the classic semiauto rifle chambered for .22 WMR. Operating by means of the unlocked blowback principle, and firing from the closed-bolt position, the 10/22 Magnum builds on the standard 10/22. As a cartridge is fired, gas pressure pushes the cartridge against the bolt face. The bolt's own mass retards this rearward movement until the chamber pressure lowers to a safe level. The case is then extracted and ejected. The bolt is pushed forward under spring tension stripping a fresh cartridge from the magazine and into the chamber. The rifle is then ready to fire. All of this, of course, is accomplished very quickly. In fact, in the time it took you to read this, your shooting buddies have used up the rest of your ammo.

A .22 WMR operating this way could require a bolt weighing twice as much as a .22 LR. To keep the dimensions of the bolt nearly identical to the standard 10/22, Ruger has used advances in material developments, called "Heavy Metal Alloys." These heavy metal components have twice the mass of standard steel for any given volume, thus allowing Ruger to build a magnum version without an extra long bolt and receiver.

The 10/22 Magnum uses a heat-treated steel receiver rather than the standard aluminum-alloy version. And it is precision-machined to incorporate Ruger's integral scope mounts. A sliding cross-bolt safety is utilized and just like the standard 10/22 is located in front of the trigger guard. Set into an American hardwood stock, the 10/22 Magnum is assembled just like its baby brother, complete with barrel band.

The magazine is of the rotary design, identical to the one found on the bolt action model 77-22. Nine rounds of .22 WMR easily load into the rotary body. Ten rounds is only possible by loading a round into the chamber and topping off the magazine. The 10/22 Magnum functioned reliably with the four types of ammo we tested: Federal Classic, Winchester Super X, CCI maxi-Magnum and Maxi-Magnum + VHP. Accuracy hovered around 2 inches at 50 yards with the gold bead front sight, and single folding leaf rear sight adjustable for windage and elevation.

This rifle is for shooters who want a greater effective range than a .22 LR can offer. Suggested retail price is \$425, which includes Ruger's integral scope bases for patented Ruger scope rings. After more than two decades of asking for a 10/22 chambered in .22 Magnum, the shooting world will have to figure out what to do with it.

Contact Sturm, Ruger & Co., Dept. SOF, 200 Ruger Rd., Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 520-541-8824; fax: 520-541-8850.

— Matt Flaherty

Guard Alaska

The merchandisers of some products make it a point to assure buyers their fine products have never been tested on animals. Not so Guard Alaska, whose product is not only tested on animals — they videotaped the animal's response, retreat and remorse to demonstrate the efficacy of their product and their confidence in it at short range. You see, Guard Alaska sells bear repellent and their product is not only the best on the market it is probably the only one that is actually effective on bears and other large carnivores who are programmed not to retreat at irritation, but only in response to overwhelming, searing pain.

Guard Alaska is the good stuff, not to be confused with so-called "bear repellents" that are ineffective, some which even have carriers that actually *attract* bears. Starting with an oleoresin capsicum formulation that isolates the noxious fraction of the natural compound, Guard Alaska then uses a proprietary carrier that does not weaken the strength of the functional ingredient. This proprietary carrier also works to open pores of the skin, and remove protective mucous from the eyes and other mucous membranes of the target. Having covered these crucial points heretofore blithely ignored by the



Guard Alaska

industry, Guard Alaska then compounds their OC sprays in 10% for personal or police use or against small animals — and 20% for serious threats such as bears or other large carnivores.

Tested in the laboratory (for quality and purity), and in the field (*on bears*), the Guard Alaska products are the only ones certified by the EPA as a repellent for all species of bear. Their products are in use by the U.S. postal service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, the U.S. Army in Alaska and all types of outdoorsmen. It is now available in the lower 48. At the request of the armed forces, there is an ongoing R&D project to develop a system to repel boarders from HumVees and other personnel carriers.

The Guard Alaska O/C products are suitable for personal protection against large animals (20% ultra-hot pepper), for police use (10% Night Shift series in liquid or foam), and for general personal protection (3/4-ounce Magnum, 1-1/2-ounce Magnum, and 3/4-ounce Hotlips with keychain holster). All units have available either a top-quality holster or split-ring canister carrier. Shelf life is excellent — an important consideration for a product you hope to never have to use.

This is the good stuff. Some sprays will deter an assailant who is fighting for your life: These products will deter an assailant who is fighting for his life! If you need such a product, this is the one we recommend. If you sell such a product, this is the one that will ensure your customers come home to their families.

For more information on the product line, or for the name of the retailer nearest you, contact Ref Instruments, Inc., Dept. SOF, 75 Baseline Rd., Suite A-18, Gilbert, AZ 85233. Phone: 602-632-1514; fax: 602-632-1521. Demonstration videos are available free to retailers, or @ \$9 to consumers. ❖



Hotel
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WELCOME
SOLDIERS
OF FORTUNE

Desert Storm

Soldier Of Fortune's
'98 Las Vegas
Convention

by **Chris Mayer**

Photos by Chris Mayer
& Robert Walchli

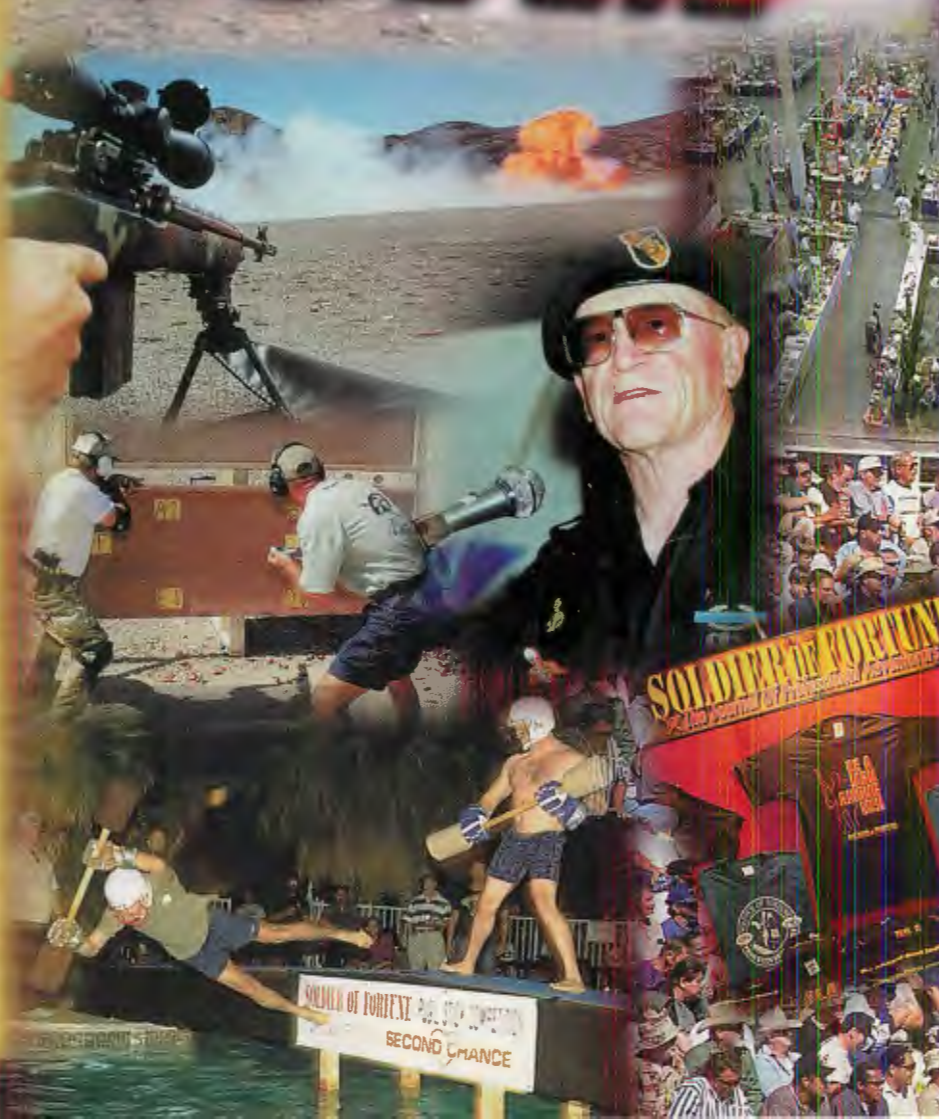
*"If Bill Clinton could ban any gun
show, it would be the SOF Expo."*

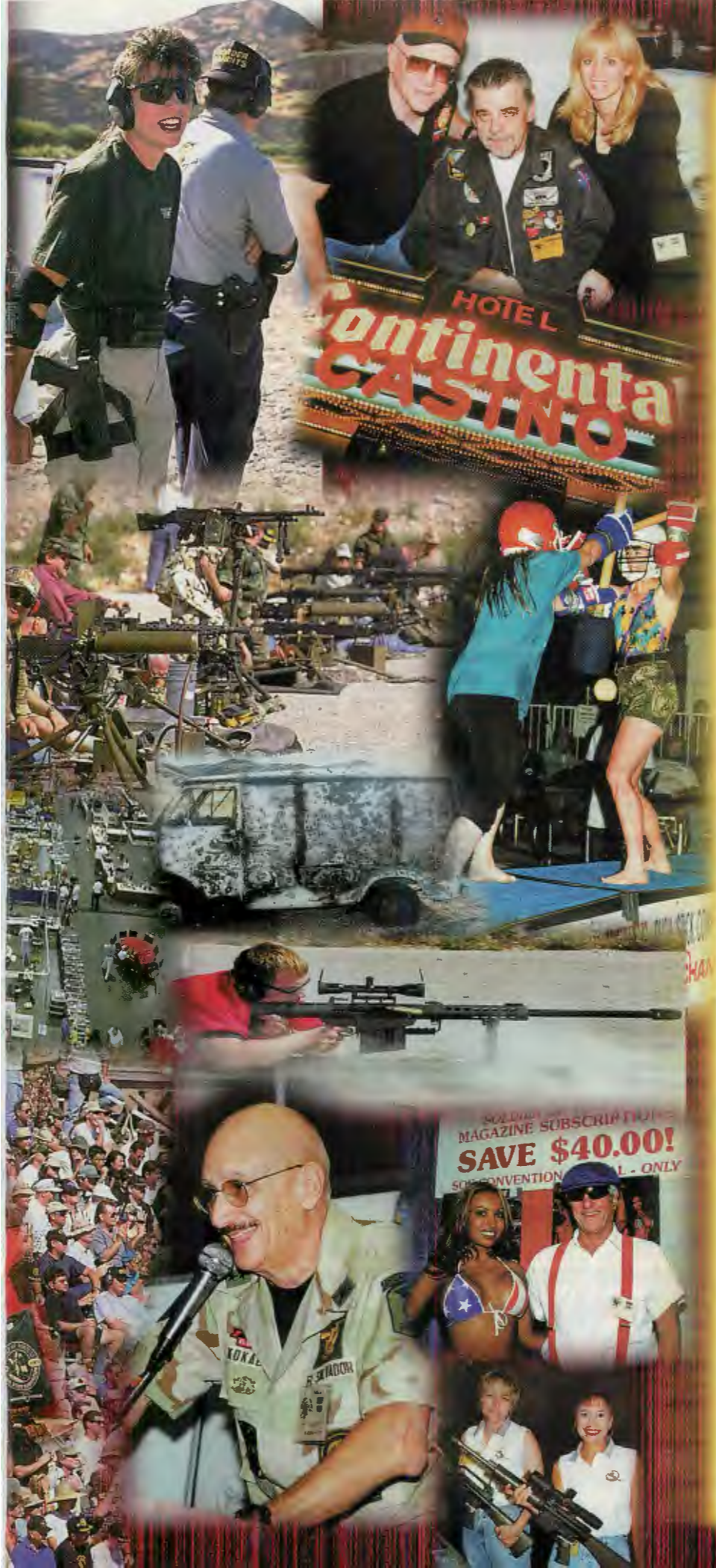
—Robert K. Brown

With this in mind, hundreds of conventioners — and thousands of Expo attendees — gathered in Las Vegas this past September for the 19th Annual Soldier Of Fortune Convention and Consumer/Trade Show. They were there for many different reasons, but all shared a conviction — to continue the battle against oppression.

Conventioners came to renew old acquaintances, make new ones, attend a widening variety of seminars and participatory events, and to view an ever-expanding selection of the latest technology in weaponry, counterterrorist equipment, and military collectibles.

Gathering each evening in the bar, or at poolside, at the headquarters hotel — The Continental — *SOFers* swapped stories, drank, and watched the gladiator spectacle of the Pugil Stick contest. This year, we crowned husband-and-wife champions, Jared and Amy Dunn, in the men's lightweight and women's divisions, while in the men's heavyweight divi-





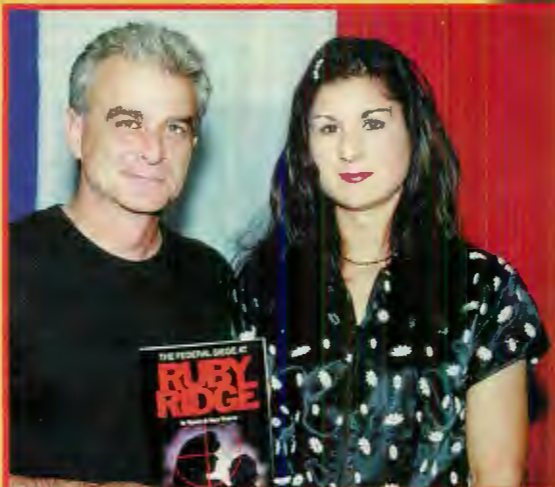
sion, past winner Ron West retained his title. This heady competition was sponsored by Second Chance Body Armor, with prizes also donated by Global Studies Group, Inc., Benchmade Knives, Armalite, Ed Brown Products, Strider Knives, Second Amendment Foundation, KA-BAR Knives, G.G.&G., Beretta, U.S.A., and Phillips Publications. (Bob Brown and SOF heartily thank you, one and all!)

Seminars, too, were well-attended. But just beneath the genuine spirit of camaraderie, R & R and hoopla lurked the specter of our nation being eroded into a socialistic police state, courtesy of Bill Clinton and his fellow collectivists.

Despite the dire predictions, however, our spirits were buoyed and most departed Glitter Gulch renewed in strength to combat and defeat the current and upcoming threats to our American legacy.

Only At The SOF Convention

Fourteen seminars were presented by "real world" operators and renowned experts in the



Randy and Sara Weaver at the SOF Expo with their insightful book, *The Federal Siege At Ruby Ridge*. Hundreds of guests stopped by their booth to meet them — and to congratulate them on their extraordinary courage.

fields of military history, tactics and training; law enforcement; and geopolitical overviews which, this year, focused on the Balkans and Africa.

"Machine Guns: Where They've Been and Where They're Going" was the topic presented this year by SOF's technical editor, Peter G. Kokalis. He outlined the machine gun's history of design, technology, and purpose. His conclusion was that this weapon has moved full-circle to the original intent of an area-fire weapon with the introduction of the automatic grenade launcher to nearly all of the world's armies.

Randy Weaver's Q & A presentation, "Ruby Ridge and Waco: Where Beliefs Result in Government Executions," was standing room only. Conventioneers seized the opportunity to ask many questions of one of the Ruby Ridge survivors and to sift through much disinformation disseminated by antifreedom forces.

Global Studies Group Inc., headed by former SEAL Harry Humhpries, provided seminar instruction on "Alternative Force/Close-

Quarter Conflict." With the able assistance of noted knife maker Ernie Emerson, retired SEAL Team Command Master Chief Dennis Chalker, and movie actor/Navy SBU vet, Marshall Teague, convention goers were instructed in defensive tactics for those up-and-too-close social situations.

SOF's editor and publisher, Col. Robert K. Brown, (Ret.), chaired a distinguished panel discussion "Stalking the Eagle: Global Terrorists Target the United States." With Major General John K. Singlaub, USA (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Harry C. Aderholt, USAF (Ret.), Commander Chip Beck, USNR (Ret.), *SOF's* African correspondent Al J. Venter, Master Sergeant Richard L. Sherrow, USA (Ret.), the group considered the potential dangers to the United States from the world's predominant terrorist groups.

Additional seminars addressed the SEAL Teams from Vietnam to present, SWAT weapons, electronic developments, training, and missions, CNN's "Operation Tailwind" hoax, the current situation in Africa and Afghanistan, and the tyrannical attack on the Second Amendment. *As always, the seminars were recorded by — and are available from — On-Site Taping Services, 29318 Quail Run, Agoura, CA 91301; phone: 818-991-8084.*

In addition to the seminars, participatory events were well attended. For those who wanted to learn by doing, Cold Steel's Lynn Thompson conducted a free, nine-hour, four-phase introduction to the techniques and tactics of knife combat.

Under the auspices of Ka-Bar Knives, Kevin Martin and former *SOF* editor Marty Kufus presented an introduction to "military-style" knife combat.

A "Real World Field Medical Treatment and Orthopedic Injuries Survey" seminar was conducted by William J. Mazzucco, Jr., P.A.

A highlight and fixture of our annual show is *SOF's* World Championship 3-Gun Match, arguably the most demanding match of its type. The 3-Gun Tactical Match has attracted competitors from throughout the United States and numerous foreign countries. Organized and conducted once again this year by match director Michael Horne, the event required extensive expertise with the handgun, shotgun, and rifle — just to remain competitive.

This year, the match consisted of eight stages, as well as a team event, all designed to simulate offensive or defensive shooting situations. The contest was comprised of three stages for pistol, three for rifle, two for shotgun, and the team event that required team members to be armed with handgun *and* shotgun or rifle.

All stages necessitated engagement of multiple targets, with reloading, and some shooting from the most unusual firing positions. Moving targets traveling at high speeds, others so distant that iron sights were almost unusable, and lung-busting movement that raised the heart and respiration rates to the point that sight alignment was nearly impossible.

The 1998 top gun, the winner over the 233 shooters who completed the grueling event, was Michael Voigt. Our congratulations.



(above) Robert K. Brown (center) chairs the spirited panel discussion, "Stalking 'The Eagle': Global Terrorists Target The United States," in the distinguished company of (from left to right) *SOF's* Contributing Editor Richard Sherrow, USA (Ret.), Cmdr. Chip Beck, USNR (Ret.), Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, USA (Ret.), Brown, Lt. Col. Mike Peck, USA (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt, USAF (Ret.), and *SOF's* African Correspondent Al J. Venter.



(above) *SOF's* Foreign Correspondent Rob Kroft provides a sitrep on the complex conflicts in Africa and Afghanistan during his seminar "Africa Ablaze (Once Again)/The Agony Of Afghanistan: When Will It End?" (right) Walter H. "Harry" Constance, Vietnam-era SEAL Team veteran and the author of *Good To Go*, an account of his experiences in the Teams, chaired the seminar "SEALs — Vietnam To Present Day: Exploits, Motivations, Weapons, And Training."



(above) Randy Weaver and *SOF's* Richard L. Sherrow take a conventioneer's question during the "Ruby Ridge and Waco: Where Beliefs Result in Government Executions" seminar, where it was standing room only. (left) *SOF* World Championship 3-Gun Tactical Match Director Michael Horne awards the #1 shooter, Michael Voigt, his trophy and prize during banquet ceremonies.





Macro and micro views of the SOF Expo. Crowds were excellent, sales were brisk.



"Surf's up!" A pugil contestant takes the cold and deep plunge. (inset) Ron West, the heavyweight division's repeat champion.



"All ready on the firing line!" (right) The result of a mega-round fusillade.

The Awards Banquet

The Banquet, which sold out early, convened with the usual wit and wisdom of John Donovan, presentation of the Colors, a poignant prayer by Col. Alex McColl (Ret.), followed by his reflection on our patriotic responsibilities.

The gala gave everyone a welcome chance to get together before the final hectic day of the Expo, and to honor special guests, top shooters, contest winners, as well as to contemplate and rededicate our commitments to resist those who would drain from us — and our nation — our hard-won freedoms.

Keynote speaker, Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, Jr., pilot of the B-29 bomber *Enola Gay* that delivered the atomic bomb to Hiroshima, spoke to the assembled conventioners and guests about his experiences. Tibbets was the first



Flanked by John Donovan and Col. Brown, Brig. Gen. Paul Tibbets (Ret.), pilot of the bomber *Enola Gay*, receives the "Golden Boot" award for kicking the Japanese in the a...

recipient of the *Soldier Of Fortune* Humanitarian Award. Robert K. Brown presented the honor to Tibbets for saving millions of lives and effectively ending WWII.

General Tibbets related some of the incidents and history preceding and following the attack that opened the age of nuclear warfare and answered questions from the group. He brought the enthusiastic crowd to their feet and reflected the unanimous feelings when Tibbets declared his feelings about Bill Clinton: "The sonofabitch is no damned good!"

Home On The Range

The Manufacturers' Demo provided ample opportunity for center-stage promotions of various equipment. Highlighted by Richard C. Davis, President and CEO of Second Chance Body Armor, who demonstrated once again his absolute confidence in his line of body protection by firing a .40 S&W Black Talon round into his chest. Second Chance Body Armor has saved nearly 800 law enforcement officers and this was the 186th time that Mr. Davis has *personally* tested his product.

Ronnie Barrett and his son, Chris, showed off their M82A1 semi-auto and M95 single-shot bolt-action .50 caliber rifles demonstrating the power and accuracy that they provide. The

Continued on page 83

Prestina, September 1998

From controlling 40% of Kosovo a year ago, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was beaten back by Serb government forces into small isolated pockets, had top leaders assassinated, watched quarrels in their ranks grow to major splits and had Swiss bank accounts frozen. As if that weren't enough, Washington diplomats shooting from the mouth helped cut down the nascent freedom movement, as surely as the cannon fire from Serb police armored vehicles devastated whole villages of Albanian Kosovars.

These KLA military defeats of the past summer have caused even deeper rifts and splits within the ethnic Albanian independence movement, which has always had a consensus problem. A second guerrilla army rivaling the KLA is now reported operating from bases in Northern Albania. They are known as the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kosovo (FARK). Like the KLA, the group advocates independence for Kosovo,

but they have an adversary relationship with the much larger KLA and the rift could lead to greater schisms within the already divided ethnic Albanian community. The existence of FARK was confirmed by the KLA, American officials and international observers in Albania. Their operations in Kosovo so far are unknown and their numbers are believed small.

But FARK is reported aligned with Jular Bukoshi, prime minister-in-exile of Kosovo's parallel government. Bukoshi has been based in Germany and is mainly responsible for raising funds for the KLA, but he now appears to be funding FARK.

Unity within the Kosovo independence movement has traditionally been a problem. The undisputed leader of Albanians in Kosovo was once Ibrahim Rugova, leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) who was elected President of the unrecognized *Republica Kosoves*. Rugova is also one of the most puzzling and enigmatic leaders in Europe today. A pacifist and follower of Gandhi, Rugova does not con-

done the guerrilla war in which many of his former followers are now engaged, but he is widely considered to be Kosovo's most influential Albanian leader. Wearing his signature dark silk scarf, Rugova often appears for a few minutes on Friday mornings at the Press Center in Prestina run by his party. But Rugova talks in riddles, repeating the same mantras in a boring monotone. He reminds me of Senator Eugene McCarthy, respected for his character and wisdom, but never able to step up to the podium and make a fiery speech that would unite his followers and carry the day. His critics say Rugova has failed his people and that "any" leadership, even military leadership, is welcome.

Cut Off The Head

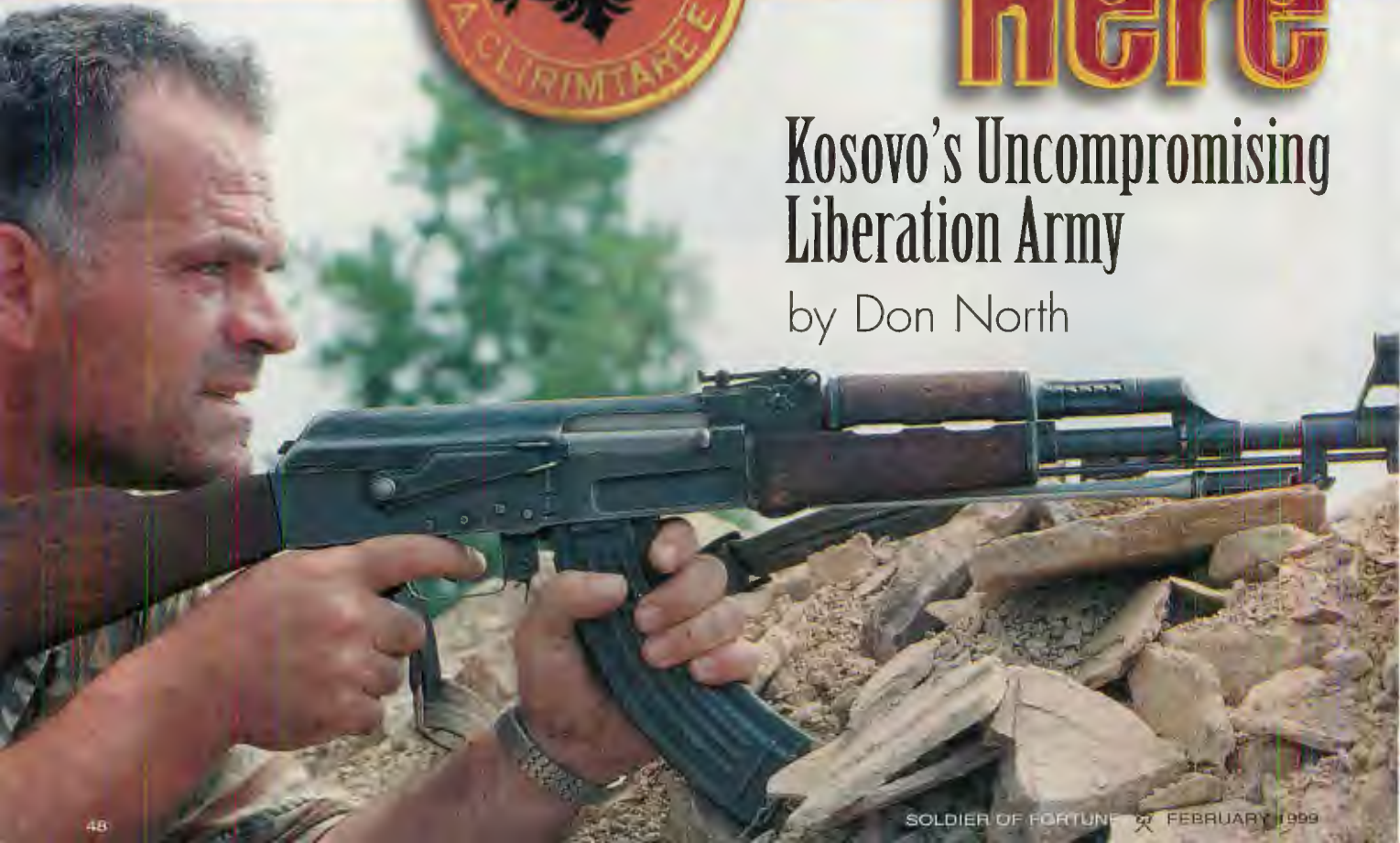
One of the top KLA military leaders was lost in late September 1998: Ahmet Krasniqi, 50, who had been named defense minister of the Republic of Kosovo last March. Krasniqi was gunned down by two masked men as he entered his home in

The UÇK Stops Here



Kosovo's Uncompromising Liberation Army

by Don North



Tirana, Albania. He was buried with full Albanian military honors September 29th, complete with riflemen firing over his coffin and a military band playing the funeral march. In the eulogy, another Kosovo leader Ibrahim Shala, said, "Ahmet Krasniqi was a brilliant figure who put in place the basis for the Kosovo armed forces." Shala accused the Yugoslav Secret Service of being behind Krasniqi's death.

The "wet job" on Krasniqi may have been ordered by the notorious intelligence service of Serbia, but the trigger men were believed to be former *Sigurimi* agents, the brutal secret police who terrorized Albania during five decades of Stalinist rule. Albania's government is now entirely controlled by the old Stalinist communists. *Sigurimi* agents have returned from exile and are now waging a war of terror against former president Sali Berisha, who supports the KLA.

Before his death, Krasniqi's role in the KLA was secret. The fact he was considered a supporter of Ibrahim Rugova may indicate Rugova is more interested in the role of the KLA than he has let on. Krasniqi was an impressive soldier and apparently recruited other top Albanian officers who were veterans of the Croatian army.

Krasniqi was born in a small Kosovo village 50 years ago and educated in Prestina. A graduate of the Military-Infantry

Academy in Belgrade, he was sent to Zagreb for Army service. When the Bosnia conflict flared, Krasniqi sided with his Croat comrades and was a senior officer during the route of Serb forces from the Krajina enclave. Krasniqi was the author of many studies of warfare in the Balkans. Recently, he was arrested by the Serbs during a visit to Belgrade. With the help of Kosovar friends he escaped from prison and became a leading organizer of the KLA.

During the Bosnia war more than 5,000 ethnic Albanians fought together with Croat and Muslim military units. His assassination is considered another major setback for the KLA.

Losing Leaders

Another fallen KLA leader was the powerful clan chieftain Adem Jashari of the Drenica region, which was always a bastion of resistance against the Serbs. Adem Jashari was considered a *bajrak*, or brotherhood leader, and a "farmer-in-arms" who could be counted on to provide men for military duty. The old traditions have crumbled with time, but the clans have survived. Jashari had been trained in Albania and had been convicted and sentenced in absentia for killing a Serb policeman. On last March

5th at the beginning of the Serb military's offensive that began in Drenica, Jashari and 22 of his family were killed.

Serbian Police who spearheaded the assault on Drenica said Jashari was "leader of the KLA." In fact, Ahmed Jashari was one of five regional commanders of the KLA, responsible for the Drenica region. This is a region where feuds break out over a minor insult to a man's honor. Tradition dictates these offenses be avenged by killing any man in the family of those who committed the insult, which in turn creates another cycle of vengeance.

In the context of the code of honor, the Serb military has violated every blood-feud rule ever known and the 22 deaths in the Jashari clan will take a long time to be satisfied. The Serb police units operating in Kosovo also maintain a "blood feud" vendetta policy: every time a policeman is killed, wipe out a family. Every time a police patrol is shot up, level a village. There are enough scores to settle now on both sides to maintain a spiral of terror and violence in Kosovo for decades.

Since 1995, in these Drenica hills new recruits swear an oath on the red flag with the double headed falcon. "In front of my flag I

Not only are KLA ethnic Albanians — so are weapons. At left is early Type 56, at right men with Type 68 rifles — both supplied Albania by PRC. Some 600,000 such light weapons were liberated from Albanian arsenals, have found way to current conflict.

photos: AP/Wide World



give my oath and my life, that I will die for freedom and for my land and that I will obey my army. If I betray my comrades they have the right to kill me. Now I am a soldier who fights for freedom."

UCK: The Kosovo Liberation Army

In the Albanian language: *Ushtria Clirimtare E Kosoves* (UCK) is in English, the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). They first began to form in Macedonia in 1992, where about 30% of the population is ethnic Albanian, and where many training camps are still believed to operate. During the war in Bosnia, Milosovic wanted to avoid a second front and Rugovo knew Albania grievances would not be heard over the louder clash of arms in Bosnia.

Following the Dayton Accords, when the Kosovo question was left off the agenda, in frustration the KLA unleashed small hit-and-run attacks in Kosovo. They did not attack Serb Army facilities, but concentrated on ambushes of police patrols and attacks on Albanians who collaborated with Serb officials.

Their leaders came from the ranks of former Yugoslav army officers expelled from the service by Slobodan Milosovic's regime in 1989. Many joined Croatian or Muslim units and fought the Serbs in Bosnia, between 1992 and 1996. Most of them are reported to have come to the KLA from the Croatian army or two special units of the Muslim army in Bosnia, the *Crni Labudovi* (Black Swans) who were the striking fist of the 1st Sarajevo Corps and the *Zivinicke Ose* (Zivinicke Wasps) who were part of the 2nd Tuzla Corps.

There were an estimated 5,000 ethnic Albanians in the Croat and Muslim military during the Bosnian war. How many of them are now in the ranks of the KLA is difficult to determine. There are enough, however, to recently cause NATO's supreme commander General Wesley Clarke to complain directly to the Croatian defense minister in Zagreb over the flow of "professionals" from Croatia to Kosovo.

Training of Albanian Kosovar recruits progressed in 1996 in Bosnia, Albania, Macedonia and according to some reports in Pakistan and Iran. Much of the training also went on within the KLA stronghold cities of Drenica, Malisevo, Junik, Orahovac and Srbica for teachers, students, farmers and workers who at night answered the call of "the messenger." They were also trained in clandestine tactics by KLA leaders who were former members of the Serbian Internal State Security Service (UDBA) the army and police. Their organization was designed to maintain strict confidentiality around its insurgency plans and reduce the possibility of being infiltrated by an outsider. Each unit is made up of three men, who know only the members of their own unit. A single person is responsible for passing on orders from above.

Arms-Rich Arena

No member of the KLA keeps a large stock of weapons at home. There are special warehouses in the so-called "liberated" zones where the arms are hidden. The person responsible for weapons then brings them to the troops before an action and returns them to the hiding place afterwards.



The fighters of the KLA come from all over: locals hastily armed and poorly trained (top), seasoned troops who have fought perhaps against the Serbs in Bosnia or in other armies (center), and enthusiastic *gastarbeiters* from Germany and elsewhere who have returned home to fight for a separate Kosovo homeland.

Photos: AP/Wide-World



AP/Wide World

Serbian security forces (top) observe KLA building in Ovcarevo. (center) enthusiastic arms merchant in Tropoje hawks his wares to KLA buyers, and (bottom) Albanians help wounded KLA fighter who was flown to a Tirana, Albania military hospital.



White - Mithun



AP/Wide World

Near anarchy in neighboring Albania in 1996 provided an easy market for looted AKs and other light weaponry. Mobs who ransacked the country's armories took more than 600,000 weapons that have never been recovered. Heavily laden mule trains of small arms snaked over the Albanian border into Kosovo and Montenegro until Serb forces managed to heavily mine the infiltration routes into Kosovo by last fall.

The fact there are more Albanians living in Europe and North America than there are in the Balkans, provides a diaspora to support the KLA. A 3% tax on Albanians working in Europe is reported to have swelled the war chests in Swiss banks and provided funds for much-needed German-made Armbrust anti-tank missiles and Russian anti-aircraft guns.

By early January of 1998, the KLA was strong enough to force a column of Serb armored vehicles to retreat from Drenica. The KLA boasted of having 30,000 guerrillas on call, but a more realistic estimate of some 12,000 in February is considered more accurate.

Arcan, Again

In response, Slobodan Milosovic dispatched the Serbian Ministry of the Interior forces directly under his control to carry out a new wave of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Some of the special forces units under Commander Arcan, infamous for his terror tactics in Bosnia were spotted moving into Kosovo in February. Journalists say two Dutch tanks captured by the Serbs who overran and eliminated some 6,000 Muslims at Serbrenica, were identified by their serial numbers in a column of armor sent to bolster the Kosovo police garrison. It seems the same old gang of experienced rapists and assassins were getting another chance in Kosovo. Serb police strength in Kosovo was estimated at 13,000 with an additional 21,000 reservists. The police have become an alternative army that can be relied on to be more loyal to Milosovic as they are better paid, and equipped with helicopters, and Praga armored vehicles.

Unlike the conscript-based army, the police are a professional force better trained in counter-insurgency and riot control than the army. The army (force of 10,000) has largely been limited to protecting the borders from KLA arms movements. Although a few hundred police in Belgrade were fired for refusing Kosovo duty, the potential for trouble in the army where a large number of the conscripts are from Montenegro may be greater. Montenegro's president Milo Djukanovic has objected to Montenegro conscripts serving to quell a rebellion in Kosovo that they blame largely on the policies of Milosovic.

Soldiers By Necessity

Meeting the KLA first hand is not a difficult task for a foreign journalist in Kosovo, but one's reception may vary wildly from one area to another, or from day to day. I met the KLA in two districts of Kosovo. Southeast of Pec in western Kosovo, not far from the Albanian border, is the village of Barane. It normally has a population of 30,000, but now an additional 30,000 refugees have flocked here from areas under Serb attack. Barane itself had been hit three weeks earlier when Serb police shelled, looted and burned 38 of the larger, more affluent homes in the village.

After the last Serb checkpoint, the road passed through a curtain of heavy smoke between farmhouses still ablaze. Emerging from the smoke, like Alice through the looking glass, you enter KLA territory. There are no visible defenses nor fighting holes outside the village. A tattered red Albanian flag with a black double-headed eagle flaps from flagpoles here and there. There are no license plates on the cars, no Serb jurisdiction here.

Dozens of young men in German army language and "LVK" insignia are standing idle around the village. Some have AKs, while others cradle deer rifles. A senior officer introduces himself and coffee is served. He is

a college professor from Prestina, out of a job since Milorovic fired most Albanian professors three years ago. His main concerns are logistical: how to feed his men, how to find shelter for the growing hordes of refugees. Not much enthusiasm for soldiering is expressed, as he would much prefer to be teaching college physics. He felt he had no choice but to join the KLA. "If you were an Albanian Kosovar today, Mr. North, you too would join the KLA."

Turn In Your Arms (Yeah, Right)

East of Pec, climbing into the Rugova mountain range, I visited a series of villages in these hills that had not been touched by Serb police actions. Helicopters had passed over dropping leaflets threatening a deadline of five o'clock Friday to gather all weapons for later collection by Serb police. The deadline was about to pass, and although no one seemed to take the warning seriously, the KLA were fully armed and ready for anything that afternoon. The KLA seemed to be a weird mixture of young local thugs, college professors and European expats returned home.

This was an area that had never seen a journalist before and many of the younger KLA were suspicious that I was a Serbian agent. They scrutinized every page of my passport, but the older troopers overruled them and made me welcome. In the Rugova mountains I met KLA who had been born in these hills, emigrated as teenagers and had now returned to join the independence struggle. A few Germans and "Swede," a German warrior who came from Sweden three months ago and took part in some of the KLA's toughest battles. "This round I took a Janik," "Swede" told me pointing to a round hole in the outer fabric of his Swedish Army flack vest. "And these two came from an AK-47 in the battle for Orasovic." Swede said he was sure the Serb police use "dum-dum" bullets. Although he had been hit four times, he said his flack vest saved him but left bad bruises on his body. He was obviously a well-trained professional soldier, probably from

the Swedish army. He was decked out in jeans and a flack jacket and armed with a Smith & Wesson magnum and a two-way radio from Radio Shack. His wife had recently given birth to a son back in Sweden. "Swede" was planning to trek over the mountains to Montenegro and fly back to greet his new son and then return to Kosovo for the winter.

Ebb And Flow Of International Politics

On 5 July, a day after Independence Day in Washington when we celebrated our freedom from Britain, a state department spokesman announced with unabashed irony, that the United States would not accept independence for Kosova "won by force of arms." Earlier, U.S. Special Balkans Envoy Robert Gelbard went to Belgrade and praised dictator Slobodan Milosovic for his cooperation in Bosnia and branded the KLA "without question a terrorist group." In 1998, unlike 1776, any group who disturbs the status quo looks like terrorists to Washington. That was enough of a green light for Milosovic to unleash his "ethnic cleansers" on Kosova. As in Chechnya, the United States is again trying to deny freedom to a small, savagely oppressed people for the sake of the comfortable status quo.

Having first threatened Serbia with bombing, Washington made an about face and decided the KLA was a bigger threat. If the KLA actually succeeded in liberating Kosova, Macedonia's Albanians might try to join them. Greece would go to war to save Macedonia and who knows what Albanian constant state of anarchy might do to Serbia's communist commissar, Slobodan Milosovic, the man Washington once branded a war criminal, was encouraged to "take the KLA down a peg" as another American diplomat speaking without attribution delicately put it. As in Bosnia, the victims had become the villains.

Serb tanks continued a scorched earth campaign with artillery, tank cannon and 20mm guns to destroy Albanian villages,



(Top) KLA fighters in surplus Swiss uniforms ride farm tractor up mountain road near Damanik, after Yugoslavian President Milosevic signed agreement with NATO, avoiding air strikes. (Bottom) Decani police display weapons seized from KLA: Type 56 AKs, Type 56 SKS rifles, Type 68 Rifles, Type 57 Goryunov medium machine guns — all Chinese, supplied to Albania.



farms, crops and animals across central and western Kosovo. From March to September some 500,000 civilians were driven from their homes.

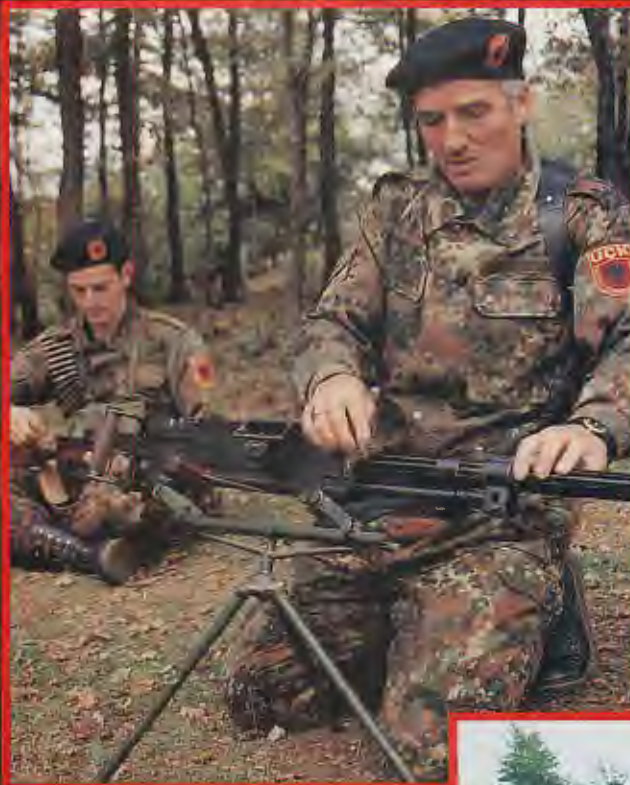
The Serbian Ministry of Interior has a 30,000-strong force in Kosovo, including special anti-terrorist units. The Serb Army has its 10,000-strong Prestina Corps, comprising several squadrons of attack aircraft, rocket and artillery units and a special border battalion. Even if they withdraw to Serb bases to satisfy NATO demands, they can be back in almost any area of Kosovo within three or four hours. Driving time from Belgrade to Prestina is only three hours on good roads.

What Went Wrong?

The KLA committed serious blunders. Its leaders mistook previous Serb military inaction for retreat. The KLA dug in around villages and set up blocking positions along roads. Instead of fighting a war of hit-and-run attrition, lightly armed KLA units battled Serb armor and heavy artillery. Guerrillas have no business fighting set-piece battles. The KLA lacks sufficient anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, radios and supplies. The KLA guerrillas are hampered by poor communications, bitter personal rivalries, and a total lack of coordination or cooperation, either political or military. Their failure to establish a clear, precise and secure chain of command and coordination between the three separate divisions in Kosovo, severely hampered their operations.

The first KLA group, centered in Drenica, is probably the least ideological of the three, but because Drenica is unsuitable for prolonged defense, it suffered from a lack of skilled commanders and neglect in planning. After the bloody elimination of the Jashari clan in March, Drenica became the symbol of Albanian resistance and attracted such large numbers of refugees it created a logistical nightmare and a heavy burden on the local commanders. The second group, around Malisevo, drew more capable military commanders and logistical officers. It had more weapons than the Drenica group, but in spite of seizing a relatively compact territory, it failed to create joint defensive structures. Politically, it shot itself, and the whole KLA movement, in the foot by proclaiming its goal to be the unification of all Albanian populated lands, which alarmed the international community.

Malisevo also failed to use concentrated forces in coordinated attacks to open and hold a secure line of communication with forces along the Albanian border. Without a steady flow of weapons and ammunition, the Malisevo group was forced to scatter into the woods and lie low until another opportunity presents itself.



(Top) KLA fighters in surplus German uniforms clean weapons in mountains near Kosovo. Machine gun probably is SGT on improvised — and optimistic — mount. (Center) Fighters commute between Albania and Kosovo on horseback, good gear for terrain, common in Albania where until recently private autos were banned. (Bottom) KLA flag flies outside empty motorpool in Kosovo.



Croatians. Even a small number of such professionals could make continued Serb military occupation of Kosovo expensive and painful. But many Albanians will admit they are too headstrong to take such good advice.

Whether or not NATO unleashes its air power against Serb forces in Kosovo, this winter will largely be a period of re-training,

mending fences between KLA units and winning the full support of two key segments of the population: the intellectuals and heads of the clans.

In September, Bardhyl Mahmuti, one of the KLA's five commanders, told journalists in Prestina that the KLA had only been strengthened by Milosovic's offensive and had gained useful fighting experience. "Milosovic's forces did not target us as much as the civilians," he said. "Now we are ready to fight for as long as it is necessary to achieve our aims."

Albanian Kosovars are largely backward and poor, but they are also a stubborn warrior people, accustomed to battling against impossible odds, and afraid of no one. They will fight on.

Don North is a television and print journalist who has covered the Balkan crisis since 1993.

Air Force Captain Thad Darger, who flies an F-117A Nighthawk, the stealth fighter, is facing a watershed decision: In the coming days, Darger must decide whether to take a lucrative bonus and sign another multi-year contract with Uncle Sam, or do what an alarming number of his fellow military pilots are doing — leaving the military for higher-paying civilian airline jobs. “It’s the biggest decision I will ever make in my life,” said Darger as he and his wife, Danyel, discussed the pros and cons of staying in the military.

“Thad loves what he does, and that makes our life so much more enjoyable, but I also want him home a lot too. I don’t like it when he’s gone,” said Danyel, as her two young children played in a briefing room in the 8th Fighter Squadron Headquarters at Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., where 53 of America’s stealth fighters are housed in individual climate-controlled multi-million dollar hangars.

A survey conducted by the Air Force reveals that almost 40% of pilots leaving the cockpit chuck their careers at the nine year mark, the end of their original commitment. “The number one reason they give in exit interviews is time away from home, or ‘Ops Tempo,’” said Lieutenant Colonel Russ Frasz in the Directorate of Personnel Force Management at Headquarters, USAF, in the Department of Defense.

“And when it comes to pilot retention, the red light is on,” commented Frasz as he discussed a presentation he made recently to the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Panic At The Pentagon

“We’re starting to use the word ‘crisis,’ because we see what’s out in the future,” said Frasz, who monitors the life cycles of pilots and navigators from recruiting to retirement.

At the end of the last fiscal year, 30 September, more than 1,600 veteran pilots had left the cockpit — including more than 400 through retirement. Promotions also took pilots out of the cockpit and put them into staff positions, leaving even fewer pilots to push throttles.

The majority of the highly trained combat warriors who left bailed out because of the high tempo of operations that kept them away from home for one third of any given year. “Everyone has thought about getting out,” said Capt. Brad Freels, a weapons officer instructor in an F-15E squadron at Seymour Johnson AFB, North Carolina, the home of Strike Eagles, “but there are few jobs in the civilian sector as exciting as being a wizzo.”

Freels has decided to stay in the Air Force, but he’s worried about the mass exodus of experienced pilots.

“Our manning in the Strike Eagle community is well below 100%, and with people getting out at the rate they’re getting out, it’s going to be hard for us to get back to where we should be in the next



EMPTY SADDLES

five to six years," Freels told *SOF*.

Because of money constraints and quality of life issues, Freels doesn't feel the Air Force is producing the quality of the aviators that it did five years ago. The Air Force will be able to only graduate 900 "shiny new pilots" to put in cockpits this year, and these will be woefully short on experience. Senior commanders tell *SOF* it will take four or five years before the Air Force can begin to replace that level of experience in the cockpit, although some officers hope the Air Force has leveled off.

Leveling off, however, is not going to sustain the Air Force of the future. Even if retention levels improve, the Air Force is still going to be some 2,000 pilots short by the year 2002. Quality of life and the lure of the airlines are the second and third reasons pilots give for leaving the Air Force when their initial contract expires.

Frasz says the average Air Force pilot is worth about \$5.9 million — up to \$8 million for an F-15E pilot. The Air Force is offering pilots who have completed their 8th year of service a \$22,000 per year bonus to sign up for another hitch. But there are few takers: "The so-called 'take rate' goal is 50%, but it has fallen to 26% this year." The Navy is also not getting very many takers.

Supply Side Economics

In 1997, 14 major airlines hired more than 3,700 pilots, more than half coming from the American military. In 1998, the airlines hired almost 4,500 pilots, and the demand far exceeded the supply of available military pilots again — and will continue to exceed the supply through the year 2003.

Before fiscal '99 was well underway, 180 pilots had already been approved for separation, and that number is expected to exceed those who left in FY '98. The situation will only worsen as Vietnam-era pilots reach the mandatory civil aviation retirement age of 60 in the next year or so. By comparison, the airlines hired fewer than 500 pilots in 1993.

Riding the people-mover between terminals at Chicago O'Hare this year, I passed Lieutenant Commander Jim Qualls, an acquaintance who now flies as first officer for United Airlines. Another former Naval aviator we both know is flying a 747 for Federal Express.

Most naval aviators don't complain about cruises, because that's where the action is. They get all of the flight time they want, and

sometimes more than they want. But they are concerned about their careers ashore: "Home Tempo is our problem," said Commander Gene McCreary, a spokesman for the Chief of Naval Personnel, "because our pilots don't get enough flight hours when they're ashore, and the maintenance dollars aren't always there." But McCreary says the Navy is learning to do more with less.

The Air Force used to be a home-based force where tours were stable. But the Air Expeditionary Force concept has changed all of that. Now, units in the Air Combat Command are deployed all over the world on 45- and 90-day rotations. As a result, operational stress is mounting due to the growing number of deployments to world trouble spots like Southwest Asia.

"We're doing about four times



USAF wife Danyel Darger in Stealth Hangar No. 12, at Holloman AFB; husband Capt. Thad Darger behind her in cockpit of F-17A "Christine," veteran of 38 combat missions over Baghdad. Extended, repeated deployments away from families are costing armed forces the cream of their pilots.



Uncle Sam Faces A Crisis In The Cockpit

Text & Photos by Dale B. Cooper



Former Navy FA/18 Hornet pilot Dan Skaar in cockpit of his Super MD-80, at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. Like other Navy pilots, too many six-month cruises, reduced flight time and parts shortages convinced Skaar it was time to bail out.

as much contingency work today with one-third fewer people than we were when we were a much larger force," said General Richard Hawley, chief of ACC, at Langley. With a booming economy offering plenty of civilian jobs, especially in aviation, the Navy is facing a shortfall of up to 7,000 recruits for the first time since the military became an all-volunteer force 25 years ago.

The other services would be in the same boat if they had not offered signing bonuses and scholarships, and in the Army's case, eased education standards to fill the ranks of the 1.4 million active-duty force. "What's good for America isn't necessarily good for military recruiting," observes Major Derek Kaufman, a spokesman for the Air Force recruiting service in San Antonio.

Admiral Jay Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations, says the Navy is partly responsible for the problem because it didn't make a stronger push in recent years as the economy improved, unemployment fell and the number of high school graduates entering college increased. Johnson says the Navy will have to increase its pilot retention rate to a target of 50% in the next two years or face a pilot shortage.

Eject, Eject, Eject!

Until last summer's deployment to Saudi Arabia, Capt. Matt Murray planned to make a career in the Air Force. Murray loved flying an F-15E Strike Eagle at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base. "It's

flying and that's what I love to do," said the father of two young daughters, "But it's gotten too hard on what it does to everyone else. It's just not me anymore."

Murray spent almost 250 days of the past 18 months flying circles over the desert in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. "It just got too tiring being the world's policeman," said Murray, "but the straw that broke the camel's back was when I came home from my last deployment and saw my two daughters cling to me for dear life." Murray didn't hesitate. He did what other Strike Eagle pilots at Seymour Johnson are doing: He filed for divorce from Uncle Sam, and joined the ranks of commercial aviation. Murray has completed training at United Airlines and is flying the "Friendly Skies" as a first officer.

As of 1 June 1998, 1,416 pilots had separated from the Air Force. "If we compare that to the same time last year, we see that the number is up 78%," lamented Frasz, who keeps an inventory of those completing their commitments, and who could leave if they chose.

General Hawley says the shortage of pilots will impact his command and every other major command in the Air Force. "We'll have to put every available aviator in the cockpit," said Hawley as he discussed the ramifications of retention with *SOF*. That is music to the ears of some "desk jockeys" who would rather be "turning and burning" than putting slide presentations together for senior staff.

Pulling majors and lieutenant colonels out of staff positions and putting them back into the cockpits of fighters, bombers and transports will "deprive us of the ability to properly manage the force, because we won't have the qualifications in some of our management staffs [that we need to do that kind of work]," noted Hawley. As a result, the Air Force will not be able to properly groom future leaders.

Hawley, who flew 438 combat missions as an O-2A for-



(above) Dambuster pilot Lt. Cdr. Mike Wettlaufer, climbs into his FA/18 Hornet aboard *U.S.S. Independence*, prior to a simulated strike mission in Iraq during showdown with Saddam Hussein in February-March 1998. Finding and training the world's best pilots is hard — keeping them even harder.



(right) Lt. Col. Gary Woltering led record-setting flight of stealth aircraft from the 8th Fighter Squadron to Kuwait, has spent more than half of past 18 months there, keeping eye on Saddam, is keenly aware of the "War On The Home Front," and the toll it's taking among military families.

ward air controller out of Pleiku Air Base while a young captain during the Vietnam War, pulled no punches as he discussed the retention problem at his headquarters in Virginia. Here is the text of that interview with Hawley, a 1964 Air Force Academy grad with a master's in economics from Georgetown University:

How serious is that situation?

It's a very serious issue for the Air Force and for the country, because these are highly skilled, dedicated people who are the core of our combat capability. But I would hasten to add that it's not restricted to pilots. We have a lot of retention issues across the entire force, so this is a widespread problem.

There's no quick fix, is there?

No, this is a complex issue that involves a basic problem that can be traced back to the drawdown in the military over the past decade where we have reduced the size of the military by approximately 40%. But we've increased the workload on our people by nearly four times when we consider the contingencies and that kind of operation we are doing around the world.



Continual deployments affect more than jet jocks: Capt. Effson Bryant, Jr., (left) base chaplain at Holloman AFB, found himself overseas when his small daughter went in for surgery. (above) Strike Eagle pilot gives the thumbs up — but doing more with less has reached the point of diminishing returns, and the military is losing some of its best talent — especially pilots — to the civilian sector.

What kind of people are leaving? Are they the ones who fly combat aircraft or are they in the transport area?

It's pretty uniform across the Air Force. Our primary measure for predicting retention is the take rate on the pilot bonus. And that take rate is pretty much the same across the Air Force; about 26% this year — 27% within my command. And that's exceptionally low. We need a 50 to 60% take rate on that bonus in order to have the kind of future retention that we need to sustain in the force."

Is money an issue?

No. The first thing our people will tell you is it's not money. This is like any other organization that needs to keep good people. People want to stay with a class operation; they want to be part of a world-class organization where

the nation is willing to sacrifice to the same degree they're being asked to sacrifice, and so they have second thoughts about whether or not they want to continue with this commitment they have made to their country.

You've seen the exit interviews of aircrews who are leaving. What are the primary reasons for them getting out?

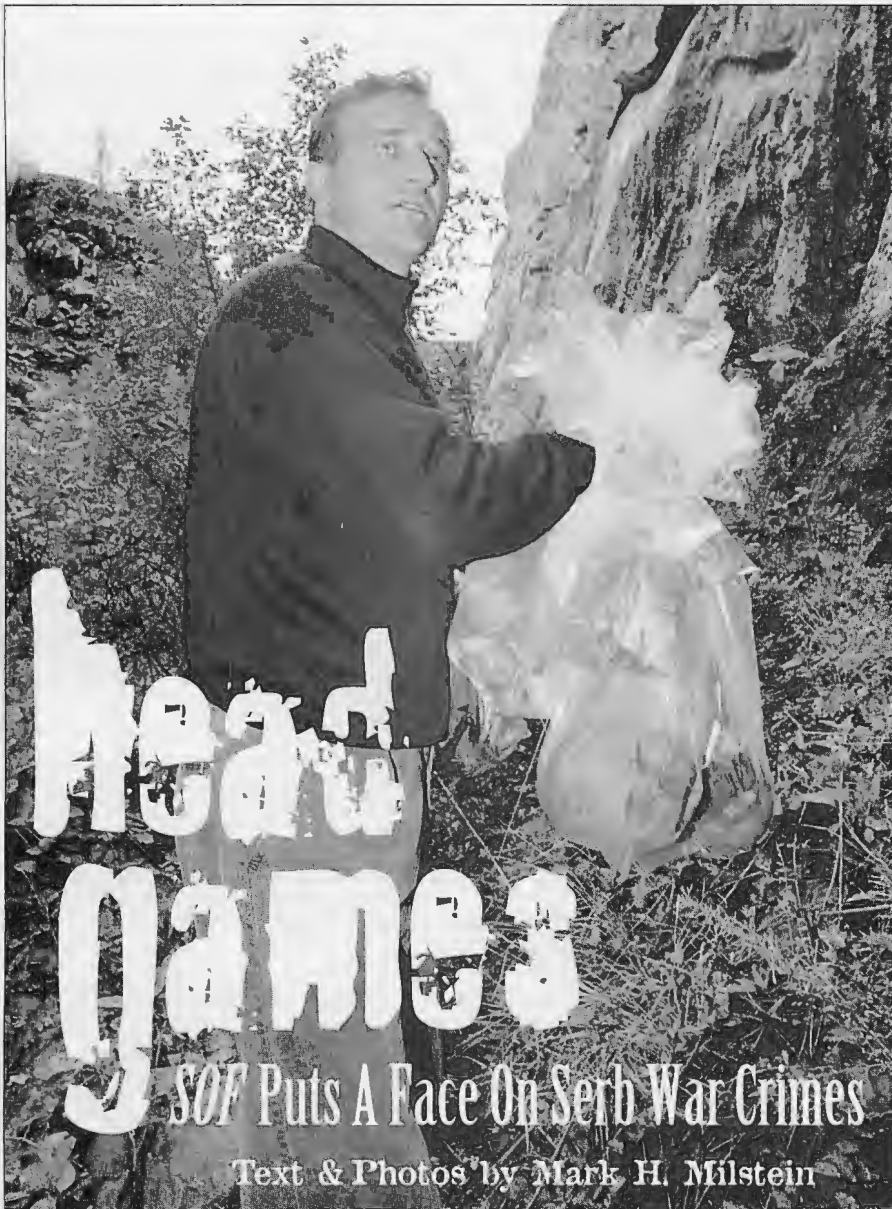
"Well, the number-one issue that comes up in all of exit surveys whether it be with pilots, crew chiefs or communicators is the high operational tempo that we are asking them to sustain. In many of the weapons systems in Air Combat Command today the average aviator is deployed for more than 120 days a year. That's four months a year gone to someplace like Saudi Arabia or Kuwait where the living conditions are not very good and often where the mission is not very demanding, so their skills erode. These are all achievers that take on this work for the country, and when they see their skills eroding, they say "I'm not making progress in my profession," and get frustrated and say "maybe I ought to do something else."

It's tough on the families. Today 70% of our couples are both working; one in the Air Force, maybe two in the Air Force. That's a real challenge when one member of that couple is gone for four or five months a year; year after year after year. Then after several years in ACC doing that kind of work, we ask them to go to Korea for a remote assignment for a whole year. That's a tough lifestyle; tough on the family, tough on the people. There's an old saw that says, "You recruit the soldier; you retain the family," and in many cases we're losing the family."

Number One Draft Pick

If Capt. Thad Darger decides not to take a bonus and sign another five- or six-year contract with Uncle Sam, he can take his pick of major airlines. The former B1-B pilot has hundreds of "heavy

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How many putrefying skulls can you fit into the average kitchen garbage bag? That's the question we pondered as we watched a Serb police forensics detective lazily toss a bullet-punctured head into the clear plastic sack lying less than a rifle barrel away from us.

The answer, we learned, is two: Trying to stuff a third or a fourth head, as the Serb cops soon found out, didn't leave them with enough extra plastic to sufficiently tie off the bag to keep the fetid odor of decomposing flesh from wafting out and coating their noses and mouths.

It was our third civilian massacre in less than two weeks, and while most of the world was tittering about the bedroom antics of President Clinton, *SOF* was back in Kosovo trying to figure out why the Balkans generated so many men in uniform with penchants for mass murder.

We also wanted to explore, in the framework of the Kosovo conflict, the mechanics of arresting, trying and convicting tens and perhaps hundreds of grunts, NCOs and politicians associated with mass murder and crimes against humanity.

It was a cloudy Saturday morning, and we were at the bottom of a round canyon adjoining an open-pit bauxite mine 40 miles west of the Kosovar capital, Pristina. A company of Yugoslavian army troops, with light armor in the form of Yugo-made APCs, had occupied the site less than a week before and had discovered the mass grave during a routine patrol.

According to our Yugoslavian Ministry of Information handlers, the mine had been



"How can you tell from skulls and bone fragments that these are Serbs?" a reporter asked. "Who else could it be?" said Information Ministry spokesman. (top) "The village down there was mostly made up of Serbs. Serbs don't kill Serbs. We are the victims here. This massacre

was done by Alban terrorists." (above) Grisly work continued at mass grave while Ministry of Information handlers provided background information on massacre.

the site of a Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)-organized mass murder of ethnic Serb civilians three months earlier.

Rain Drops Kept Falling On The Heads

While our Serbian guides continued to shower us with little tidbits of information concerning the massacre, a light rain started to fall, turning the loamy soil on the killing floor into a bone and bloody-clothing-choked goulash.

The gaggle of press that had been invited to this dog-and-pony show began to get antsy. Rain coats and hoods came on. Photographers snapped away and the police tossed more skulls, jaw bones and bits of clothing into the bags in an attempt to shape the news before Mother Nature stole the show from them.

"How can you tell from skulls and bone fragments that these are Serbs?" a reporter from an American daily newspaper asked.

"Who else could it be?" came the answer from the ministry spokesman. "The village down there was mostly made up of Serbs. Serbs don't kill Serbs. We are the victims here. This massacre was done by Alban terrorists."

Putting together this story wasn't going to be easy. First we needed to visit as many mass graves and massacre sites as combat conditions allowed. Second we needed to interview as many eyewitnesses as we could, and third, we needed to, if at all possible, come face to face with the killers themselves.

Three days later, *SOF* came upon 65-year-old Sabria Shehu, as she was being taken back to her home in the village of Vranic. She was perched on a bed of hay in a tractor cart in the company of three of her neighbors. The four women had spent the day searching for a doctor for a friend's sick daughter, but returned home without getting treatment for the girl because the doctor they were visiting had problems of her own: She had been stabbed, raped and then shot to death by Serb security forces, according to the women.

Shehu, an ethnic Albanian, told us that two days before she and her two stepchildren had been awakened by loud bangs and gunfire, and soon realized their village was under attack by Serb security forces.

She said she made it safely into the woods, where she hid with her neighbor's family. But her stepdaughter, 30, and her stepson, 40, along with five other members of the village, were captured by the Serbs.

Shehu's neighbor, Ruzhdi Muqa, a 38-year-old itinerate farmer who, upon his return to the village later that afternoon found the bodies, picked up the story when we met him trying to rebuild his shattered home in Vranic.

"Sabria's stepdaughter was raped," Muqa said. "Then the girl was shot in the neck. Her brother and the other men that were caught were also shot. Then the Serbs poured benzene on them and burned their bodies."

We asked whether Muqa could identify

the men responsible for the massacre?

Uniformed Code Of Justice

"I know they were Serbs by their uniforms," Muqa answered. "They were militia or army ... I don't know. They thought that Sabria's children were with the KLA. They wanted to know where the guns were. We don't have any guns. So they killed them."

We then asked Muqa if there were any Serb civilians with the uniformed men?

"No," Muqa answered. "They were all in uniform."

Muqa said the Serb security forces returned yesterday and told the survivors that they had 48 hours to turn over their weapons or the village risked a second assault.

"Their chief said our village would look like Vukovar if we didn't give him our guns

[a reference to the Croatian city that was leveled by Yugoslavian forces in 1991]," Muqa said. "We don't have any guns, but if we could buy them and then give them to the Serbs maybe they would leave us alone."

It was time to drive back to the town of Suva Reka, where we hoped to visit the morgue at the local hospital. If we could, we told Muqa, we would return tomorrow when the Serbs claimed they would come back to collect the guns: An opportunity to come face-to-face with the men that committed the murders in Vranic would be hard to pass up. On the other hand, the men who shot and then burned five civilians three days before would probably not hesitate to kill two nosy journalists.

Word had it that the morgue contained a large number of unclaimed civilians, vic-



(above) JNA BOV-3 triple 20mm SPAAG system leads convoy bringing food and provisions to a group of special police guarding a shredded farming village in Kosovo. Aircraft targets have been hard to find, but fortunately the three 20mm guns can be depressed for targets such as farmhouses and Alban homes. (below) Crew of JNA BOV-M armored personnel carrier takes a break while Ministry of Information personnel show journalists mass grave, troops discovered a week before.



tims of the still-unidentified Serb security forces that plowed through the area over the weekend.

"As you can see," an orderly at the hospital told us, "these people were shot and burned. I don't know who did this, and honestly I don't want to know who did this. It's too terrible to think about."

We held our breath as the orderly pulled down the sheets to expose the burned and distorted bodies lined up on the floor in what looked like an unused kitchen.

"Yes, they are Albanians," the orderly answered. "It was too dangerous to bury them the other day, and no one has come to claim them."

We were now on our way back into one of the few still-contested areas of Kosovo, the Drenica triangle. We had heard that Serb paramilitary forces, together with regular Yugoslavian army and Serb national police units were still fighting for control of a number of villages near the town of Milisevo.

We weren't disappointed.

Dogs Of War

The road from Suva Reka twisted and turned through one leveled village after another. Dozens of mongrel dogs attacked the bloated carcasses of dead cattle lying in the middle of the road. Clouds of black birds smothered much of the spilled grain coming from destroyed storage bins and overturned combines. Shop after shop had been looted. Cars littered the drainage ditches alongside the road, many of them crushed and deformed from tank treads.

We passed a heavily armed Serb supply convoy bringing food and provisions to a group of special police guarding a shredded farming village. The Serbs had taken over the mortar-pierced mosque and tattered remains of the caretaker's residence and turned it into an AO command center.

Serb snipers and lookouts peered out from the darkness of gutted homes and small shops that lined the town's single street. A steady drizzle was falling when we



Yugoslavian police forensics detective IDs and bags human remains at mass grave 40 miles west of Pristina, which according to Ministry of Information had been the site of KLA-organized mass murder of ethnic Serb civilians three months earlier.

stopped to make small talk.

"Get out of here," one of the Serbs said from behind the half-open window of his blue Steyr-Puch jeep, the barrels of two Kalashnikovs pointed in our direction from the rear window.

We're just looking to see what kind of problems you guys are facing from terrorists, we said in the hopes of enlisting some sympathy and an invitation to join them on a patrol or talk about the situation.

"No," he reiterated. "I said get out of here!"

We heard the jeep's rear door open slightly, and we knew that pushing the point was fruitless. Any more attempts on our part to force the issue was only going to net us a swift ass-kicking at best, and time in a Serb police brig for sure.

We had experienced numerous other sit-

uations like this in the past. We would come upon Serb positions and checkpoints, try to make small talk and soon be told that we had to leave and that taking photos was prohibited. The idea that a platoon commander or a lone soldier at a checkpoint was going to fill *SOF* in on the mechanics of any recent massacre or activities was wishful thinking.

Alternate Intelligence

But what we couldn't wring out of the participants, perhaps we could learn from other sources back in Pristina. What *SOF* didn't have in official sources within the Serb security apparatus, we had in ancillary intelligence in the form of the brother, who was a military policeman in the Yugoslavian army, of our favorite bartender in Kosovo, Darko Bojanic.

"Let's look at the anatomy of an average security sweep," Darko's brother Dragan told us. "We [Serb security forces] get information from many different ways, but mainly from within the Albanian community itself. We've developed a system like they have in Israel with the Palestinians. We learn where there are terrorists or weapons and we go in. While I don't know of any soldiers I work with who have killed civilians, it's known that there are 'special police' that are many times assigned to units involved in such operations."

Dragan wouldn't tell *SOF* outright, but did strongly hint, that those "special police" were not in the uniformed services but were instead "contract" fighters provided by men like Zeljko Raznatovic, better known to the outside world as Arkan. Arkan, who now lives in Belgrade and runs a bakery, is wanted by Belgian police authorities and Interpol.

Arkan and his men often hit the head-



Morgue at local hospital in Suva Reka contained many unclaimed civilians, victims of the still-unidentified Serb security forces that plowed through the area over the weekend. "As you can see," an orderly told *SOF*, "these people were shot and burned. I don't know who did this, and honestly I don't want to know who did this. It's too terrible to think about ... Yes, they are Albanians ... it was too dangerous to bury them the other day, and no one has come to claim them."



lines during the Croatian and Bosnian wars, especially in the early stages, because of their brutality and their ethnic cleansing excesses in eastern Slavonia and central Bosnia. In 1994 and 1995, Arkan terrorized the people of Kosovo as the head of his Scorpions, militia fighters dressed in "Mad Max"-style who burned, looted and destroyed the family homes of those Albanians thought to be behind an independence movement.

According to Dragan, members of Arkan's Skorpions have in the past been "attached" to regular security force units and/or have been given logistical support by Serb security forces when they've conducted their own operations.

"Yes," Dragan said, "it would be quite difficult to imagine that a platoon or company commander would all of a sudden say to his men that they should kill civilians. We have a tight command structure. Anyone going off on his own to do something like that would be asked by his commander, 'Hey, where were you for the past few hours?' 'Why weren't you doing this or that?' That kind of activity couldn't remain a secret for long. I mean, how do you keep a hundred guys from talking. Everyone would know."

Dragan said that the men under "contract" to the security forces usually had their own agendas. "They take their orders from the top, if you know what I mean," Dragan told *SOF*. "They're not listening to some general. They've got friends in Belgrade that give them all sorts of money to do the dirty work."

"They are allowed to travel quite freely," Dragan continued. "Who knows what they are doing? I've heard from friends that they are the ones responsible for much of the killing. I mean, if you were a commander, and a few of your men had been killed by KLA terrorists you'd want these guys to go to that village and get revenge, wouldn't you?"

We left our interview with Dragan knowing more than we did earlier in the day, but first we needed to understand the definition of "war crime" to better interpret what we were seeing out in the field.

War, Crimes And Punishment

According to the International War Crimes Tribunal statutes, the term "war crime" is the technical expression for a violation of the law of war by any person or persons, military or civilian. Every violation of the law of war, is a war crime.

Late last year, against the protests of U.S. delegates attending the Rome Conference on the creation of an international war crimes tribunal, a separate draft emerged concerning the definition of war crimes as they pertain to those in command.

The Rome Conference said military commanders and warlords "who control irregular forces" are held to be criminally responsible if they "knew or should have known that forces under their command were committing or where about to commit such crimes."



Sabria Shehu (center) and her neighbors of Vranic had spent the day searching for a doctor for friend's sick daughter: They found the doctor, who had been stabbed, raped and then shot to death by uniformed Serb security forces, according to the women.

With those passages now acting as guidelines for prosecution, any of the Serb security force commanders who knowingly or unknowingly hosted "contracted special police" who might have committed atrocities while attached to their units now faced the prospect of many years behind bars or death by hanging. The same holds true for KLA commanders who oversaw the murder of civilians by men under their command.

According to the Rome Conference, civilians who commanded military forces are held to a slightly less rigorous standard on the grounds that they may have less control over their subordinates. That might be good news for the likes of Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosovic; but bad news for prosecutors trying to nail down future genocidal dictators.

The relationship between commander and subordinate is deemed slightly less binding. Nonetheless, the standard is still high: "The superior either knew or consciously disregarded information that would have enabled him to conclude" that crimes were being committed (Article 25).

The staff at the semi-official press center in Pristina had told us that during the latter part of the summer numerous Serbian civilians had been executed by Albanian guerrillas who then burned their victims in an oven to hide the evidence.

The press center staff said the Albanians had killed Serbs like the Nazis killed the Jews at Auschwitz.

Although the massacre had been widely reported by the mainstream media, we wanted to see with our own eyes the massacre site and perhaps, if possible, speak with the security force soldiers that discovered the remains.

The killings took place at a lime factory about 28 miles southwest of Pristina, in the village of Klecka.

Strategic Lime

According to the stories written at the time, Serb security forces found the remains of 22 Serbian civilians in a giant kiln at the factory after taking control of Klecka from the KLA.

The Serb police said that civilians were put before a firing squad and executed, and the lime factory's ovens were used in hope that the high temperatures would destroy the evidence. However, several partially burned bodies remained.

When *SOF* arrived in Klecka, the Serb police we encountered acted like we were from Mars when we asked to see the lime factory's kilns.

"You have to leave here," the body-armored and helmeted policeman told us. "No one is permitted into the factory. It is a strategic site."

We just want to see the ovens where the Serb civilians were killed, we again said. "Isn't there anyone here that we can talk with?" we asked.

"No," came the response. "You have to leave. No photos. Now go!"

We were disappointed, but not surprised. While Yugoslav authorities have said that they want to redress the media's portrayal of the Yugoslav security forces by showing journalists the sites KLA-committed atrocities, the word had not yet filtered down to the average lug-head in the field who couldn't give a rat's ass about counteracting the world's impression that the Serb military machine's murderous bent would make the SS blush in shame.

Massacre At Orahovac

The road to Orahovac was mostly empty of checkpoints the morning that *SOF* decid-

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"Mr. Ritter has been rewarded for his truth telling with a stern warning from the United Nations, a Federal investigation into his association with Israel and the ludicrous assertion of American officials that he does not know what he is talking about. This treatment is an embarrassment to the country." — Editorial, The New York Times, 5 October, 1998

No United Nations arms inspector has spent as much time searching for Saddam's weapons of mass destruction as former U.S. Marine Major W. Scott Ritter. Nor has any member of the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq been as critical of U.N. and American efforts to find them. And having done so, his activities have been curtailed by the U.S. State Department and he is under investigation by the FBI.

Ritter first entered Iraq on his search for Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapons with the UNSCOM 24 inspection team of December 1991. His last visit was the aborted UNSCOM 255 inspection of August this year. In between, there has been much controversy; Ritter has been accused of being a CIA spy; by his own admission he has worked closely with Israeli intelligence, though admittedly, to the benefit of UNSCOM. Also, he has also been remarkably forthright about the inability of the secretary general of the U.N. and the U.S. Government to support him when push became shove.

WMD Resuscitation

Meanwhile, UNSCOM and Western efforts at uncovering Saddam Hussein's

weapons of mass destruction have been thwarted. In an interview with *Jane's Intelligence Review*, in New York, it was Ritter's view that in the months that no U.N. arms spot inspections have taken place inside Iraq, Saddam might have resuscitated his biological warfare program. Because biowarfare time frames are calculated in months, not years, it was not impossible that Baghdad could have produced tons of anthrax and botulinum toxin, he reckons.

"There is simply no organized, unscheduled U.N. activity to prevent them from doing so," says Ritter.

Similarly, Ritter surmises, Baghdad might have its nuclear program on track again, especially since several hundred nuclear physicists and technicians in Iraq are still on the payroll. While many assets were destroyed after Operation Desert Storm, more were stashed before UNSCOM could get to them.

Ritter is outspoken about the current impasse. He claims:

- There is evidence Iraq may have been conducting chemical weapons activity outside Iraqi territory, notably the Sudan. This ties in with reports from South Sudan where there was speculation of SPLA forces suffering casualties consistent with the use of chemical weapons such as Sarin or VX. Ritter

Iraq's

UNSCOM Follies

by Al J. Venter

Photos courtesy author



Alarming Truth
From A U.N. Whistle Blower



stated he had been unable to investigate these reports because UNSCOM's mandate did not extend beyond Iraq.

- A recent UNSCOM inspection of the Iraqi air force headquarters uncovered a document which showed that in Iraq's presentation of the material balance for chemical weapons, it over-declared the number of bombs dropped and the tonnage of chemical agents used during the Iran/Iraq War. As a result, says Ritter, several thousand bombs and 700 tons of chemical agents previously listed as expended may still be hidden.

- Also, substantive evidence points to the possibility Saddam tested biological weapons on live humans in 1995. The mastermind behind Iraq's bioweapons program is Dr. Rihab Taha — dubbed "Dr. Germ" by the media. It's of some embarrassment to the British Government that she took her Ph.D. in plant toxins at the University of East Anglia between 1981-84.

- Ritter confirms that it was Israel that passed on the intelligence that Oxoid, a Basingstoke company, sold Iraq 40 tons of biological growth medium, none of which Baghdad is now able to account for.

- UNSCOM had received detailed information from a north European country and three Iraqi defectors, that Saddam is hiding all the necessary components (except the fissile cores) for three atomic bombs. According to Ritter, these are implosion-type nuclear bombs in the 20kt range; similar, but larger, than the A-bomb which obliterated Nagasaki at the end of WWII. It is not clear whether the size of the bombs meet Iraq's design goal of making them fit inside the 88cm warhead of a Scud. While it is surmised that Baghdad does not have highly enriched uranium (HEU) at this stage, it did secrete a lot of uranium hexafluoride feedstock prior to UNSCOM activity. UF₆ is a precursor used to deliver HEU.

- A confusing aspect about all this is that while American intelligence assessments officially concur on the credibility of the nuclear report (and went on record to that effect), U.S. policymakers on Capitol Hill said, in early October, that the government had never received such information from UNSCOM and, in any event, did not regard his claim as credible.

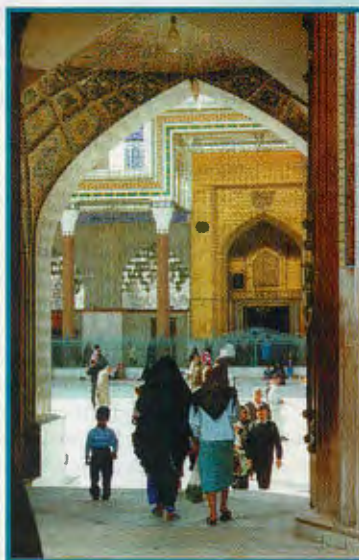
- His intelligence contained detailed information on how the weapons were concealed — including the names of Special Republican Guard (SRG) and Special Security

Organization (SSO) officers involved — the types of Mercedes trucks (with white cabs and red-stripe markings) used to move embargoed assets about as well as the location of seven transport depots where all these vehicles were housed. A subsequent review of U.S. surveillance imagery found five. Ritter's requests for permission to go after them was rejected on instructions from the U.S. State Department.

- On ballistic missiles, Ritter maintains that Iraq consistently refused to talk about those that had been produced indigenously. Baghdad repeatedly told UNSCOM that it had never produced an operational ballistic missile. Yet Iraqi documents held by the United Nations provide evidence that after the Gulf War, seven locally-produced *al-Husayn* missiles were destroyed. Ritter reckons there are still up to 12 that have been dismantled and dispersed in hiding sites throughout the country. The experts agree that they could be reassembled at very short notice.

- Defector reports, says Ritter, indicate that Iraq's leadership had devised a plan to produce operational *al-Husayn* ballistic missiles within six months of a decision being made to do so. This ties in with other intelligence that Saddam has been importing machines and tools (ostensibly for other purposes) to enable him to do so.

- Ritter told *JIR* that Iraq went to extraordinary lengths to conceal its WMD assets. "(They) change their concealment mechanisms every month. Consequently, to avoid such info becoming dated, we would need to act promptly on any information that comes in."



One of the mosques in central Baghdad stands as a reminder of the great historical culture throughout Iraq. (below) Equipment from Al Hakam, thought to be used in the manufacture of chemical weapons, was destroyed by the U.N.



VX Nerve Gas

More evidence of clandestine WMD work arrived even as this article was being prepared. French tests inside Iraq appear to have found traces of chemicals linked

to the production of VX nerve gas on Iraqi missile warheads. Ritter confirmed to *JIR* that he had been aware of these findings "for a while now." His question was why France had delayed for so long in releasing the final results?

Another source maintained that the hold-up was intentional; that Paris did not wish to undermine Iraq's push at the United Nations to get sanctions lifted. It is no secret that of all countries, France stands to gain the most from any eventual economic restructuring of the rogue state, though no French diplomat you talk to at the United Nations (or anywhere else) would be crass enough to admit it.

The discovery has other implications. The

One of the Iraqi national monuments in Baghdad. Al Hakam (inset) is one of Saddam's biological warfare plants 90 minutes from Baghdad. It was leveled on instruction of UNSCOM after irrefutable evidence of anthrax was found at the facility.



This monument, composed of discarded helmets, stands as a memorial to Iraqi soldiers lost during the Iran/Iraq war. (below) For all the problems with U.N. sanctions, Baghdad is still very much alive commercially. Barter has replaced much of the normal commercial trade.

system of VX production in Iraq is unique: it contains not only a phosphorous-carbon bond, but sulfur as well. The sample taken from the grounds of the Al Shifa Pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum prior to the U.S. cruise missile attack on the Sudan had this consistency. It has been known for a while that after Desert Storm, Iraq moved some of its WMD assets abroad, first to Libya and then, overland, into the Sudan.

The significance of Ritter's disclosures about Iraq's nuclear aspirations, according to *The Washington Post* (30 Sept 1998) "would revise the conclusions of recent reports by the IAEA, which is an uneasy collaborator with UNSCOM."

There's good reason for reaching this conclusion: A year ago Vienna's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported active inspections were nearing the point of "diminishing returns. The finding that led Russia, France and

China to suggest that the Security Council's "nuclear file" on Iraq be closed. "In effect, this would be tantamount to certification that Baghdad had no capacity to build an atomic bomb," said the *Post*, which, it implied, was absurd. The newspaper took the matter a step further, contacting Gary Dillon, chief of the IAEA Action Team on Iraq. Dillon, while rejecting Ritter's claims as "unsubstantiated," did not respond to several messages requesting an interview.

Significantly, the IAEA had previously acknowledged gaps in its information about Iraq. In a confidential report on 19 August 1997, the Action Team wrote that it could not verify how much the

Baghdad government had accomplished in its efforts to devise a working nuclear weapons design. After the 1995 defection to Jordan of Saddam's son-in-law, Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel (he was debriefed by the CIA), Iraq was forced to turn over technical drawings on the use of precision-shaped charges known as "explosive lenses," interlocking hexagonal blocks of explosives designed to implode, as well as details of how to crush HEU to a critically dense mass for inclusion in the warhead. What transpired later, was that Iraq at first denied that it had built the molds and then said it couldn't find either the molds or the lenses. Ritter told *JIR* that it was typical of the sort of obfuscation he had encountered all along.

Meanwhile Iraqi scientist Dr. Khidhir Abdul Abas Hamza, who defected in 1995, has been working closely with Dr. David Albright, a physicist and President of Washington's Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS). Albright told *JIR* that Hamza was probably the most important source to reach the West with



information about Saddam's nuclear weapons program. It was still very much alive, he was assured by Hamza.

Hamza had come across with a lot of evidence, including details of his having trained a cadre of young scientists who, working with more senior people, would be able to quickly resume Iraq's atomic bomb program once sanctions were lifted. The nuclear program had been personally directed by Saddam from its inception almost three decades ago. It was abetted, he said, by a host of Western countries which sold Iraq sophisticated equipment as "they winked and laughed" at patently false cover stories (See *JIR*; "How Saddam Almost Built His Bomb" December 1997). An interesting sidelight was the number of Iraqi students at Western universities and the time spent by senior Iraqi scientists at American universities studying the latest scientific journals and technical accounts of America's nuclear efforts.

At issue, following the Hamza's disclosures — which were also passed on to the IAEA in Vienna, is how that body could have considered providing Saddam with a clean nuclear bill of health once these details



Boatmen near one of several bridges destroyed by allied bombers and rebuilt by Iraq after Desert Storm.

had become known. Hamza has said from the start (and he has the evidence to prove it) that Iraq will continue building atomic bombs as soon as it can do so. The effect of this anomaly within the Washington intelligence community has been unsettling. Certainly, it has allowed the Iraqis powerful leverage to lobby for an immediate lifting of sanctions. This has been coupled to an implied threat that if the United Nations did not act (soon) they would do so unilaterally.

One of the consequences of this ongoing dispute (and Saddam's refusal to allow UNSCOM inspection teams to continue with their work) according to the BBC, was a presidential edict in early October for a large-scale military training exercises in which more than a million civilians were be taught to use light weapons. In anticipation of some sort of unilateral action on the part of Baghdad, that was followed by an order that Iraqi airports be repaired and their buildings refurbished as soon as possible.

UNSCOM'S Troubled Past

UNSCOM has had a difficult time in Iraq from the start and the stories are legion — of inspection teams arriving at a site and demanding access only to be told that their documents weren't in order. While this was being fixed they would watch helplessly while Iraqi officials burned drums of documents in full view of where they were held up. Or being held at the front gate while Iraqi Army trucks full of equipment drove out the rear.

According to group leader Ritter, the number of UNSCOM personnel in the country at any time averaged about 120. This figure could be upped if unscheduled searches were envisaged. Then teams of between 30 and 70 would make surprised visits to sites where it was believed that items relating to WMD were hidden. Ritter stressed that they rarely acted before being in possession of reliable information. As the flow of intelligence increased, these "raids" became more intrusive, which, basically, was what Ritter's job was all about.

Obviously the Iraqis would object vigorously, both in Baghdad and in New York. Several times, with UNSCOM on the brink of making new discoveries, Saddam would become confrontational. And when this happened, negotiations would start, usually culminating, after determined Iraqi intransigence with U.S. threats to retaliate with force. And, as we have seen, Saddam Hussein would always back down at the last moment. This would rarely happen before entire Allied battle groups, including aircraft carriers and squadrons of military aircraft, had been moved into the Gulf. The cost of such actions has been enormous.

In Baghdad, most UNSCOM activities center on the three-story blue-and-white



(above) One of the U.N. transport planes, after transporting an UNSCOM replacement team, arrives at an airport near Baghdad. (left) The UNSCOM headquarters building in downtown Baghdad. Efforts by UNSCOM and the West to uncover Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction have been thwarted.



striped building that houses the U.N. Monitoring and Verification Center in the old Canal Hotel. An incongruous three-story structure, it is backed by a communication tower which maintains contact with New York. From here, inspection teams leave each day by bus to the various suspect locations. Although Ritter's teams are no longer in the country, the monitoring and verification of declared facilities goes on.

Bio-war Complex

Dr. Jonathan Tucker, director of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Project at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies, spent some time with UNSCOM in Iraq in February 1995.

The purpose of Tucker's group was to investigate possible Iraqi biowarfare activity at Al Hakam, an expansive complex of warehouse buildings spread about the countryside, a 90-minute drive south of the capital. Tucker and his group found an untidy, make-shift facility at the 18-sq.-km. site. He recalls that the equipment looked jury-rigged and was certainly not up to western standards of cleanliness.

From the start, Saddam's people insisted that Al Hakam was devoted solely to the production of single cell protein (SCP) as a chicken feed supplement. All the equipment installed, the U.N. team observed, was dual purpose. Already in December 1994, microscopic examination of samples taken from

the *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) production line at Al Hakam revealed two anomalies; the bacterial cells did not have the crystalline inclusions required for insecticidal activity (for which BT is used) and the dried product at the end of the line, in any event, was too fine for spraying on crops. These findings suggested that Al Hakam was being used to train technicians for the future production of dried anthrax spores.

The discovery highlighted another problem within UNSCOM, says Tucker. The French and Russian experts with us contended that the Iraqis were "clean," that they had little more than a research program on the go, and that their technical capabilities in industrial biotechnology were limited. Some members even insisted that allegations that Iraq had produced and weaponized biowarfare agents before the Gulf War was little more than fictional disinformation from U.S. intelligence agencies.

Other members countered that given Saddam's cavalier attitude towards human life, the Iraqi government would be prepared to cut corners on worker health and safety to help disguise a clandestine BW facility. Given the lack of hard evidence at the time, it was difficult to make a strong case either way. It was only after Kamel defected and he revealed that Al Hakam had already produced huge quantities of anthrax and botulinum toxin, that the facility was razed.

In this regard, Tucker shares Ritter's argument; that while the opposition might place serious obstacles in the way, persistent inspections do work. Certainly, Baghdad has been formidably obscurantist from the start.

Continued on page 88



How Bill Clinton Reignited The Cold War

By the time 12 years of Republican rule in the White House ended with Bill Clinton's election in 1992, everyone thought the Cold War was over. Our biggest enemy of the post-war era, the Soviet Union, had crumbled, politically and financially bankrupt. The world seemed a safer place, our future in the 21st century bright, peaceful and potentially prosperous.

When Bill and Hillary moved in at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, there were no nuclear weapons aimed at U.S. shores. The U.S. military held an unequaled, high-tech edge in satellite surveillance, encryption, command-and-control communications, stealth technology, supercomputers and ballistic missile guidance. In the global superpower arena, the Soviet Empire was on the mat and Uncle Sam stood alone and unchallenged.

Yet Clinton, apparently happy to appease the leaders in the People's Republic of China (PRC), and even more eager to collect the multi-million-dollar campaign contributions of high-tech corporate leaders greedy for profits from the world's most populous nation, has done more than any other single person to reignite the Cold War. It is an irony that, for the most part, has gone unnoticed.

As a presidential candidate in 1992, Clinton declared the "biggest threat to the future to be ... the proliferation of nuclear

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let ... this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes."

— President Dwight D. Eisenhower

by James L. Pate and Jim Norell
Photos: AP/Wide World

technology ... [and] other weapons of mass destruction." He bitterly attacked President George Bush's China policy, calling it "an ill-advised and failed policy of constructive engagement ... " When Bush approved waivers for some U.S.-made satellites to be launched from China — under much stricter security guidelines than those later required by the Clinton Administration — Clinton's running mate called Bush "an incurable patsy for those dictators he sets out to coddle."

As president, in October 1994, Clinton said that "there is nothing more important to our security and to the world's stability than

(above) President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin walk to welcoming ceremony in Beijing's Tiananmen Square last June. Vocal critic of the Bush administration's "constructive engagement" with China, Clinton administration has milked both Chinese and those who would do business with them, to enrich Democratic campaign coffers.

preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles."

Despite this and other claims about his commitment to stopping nuclear proliferation, Clinton's China policy has resulted in more — not less — nukes and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) falling into questionable hands. Thanks to Clinton, his well-oiled political machine and its insatiable thirst for money and power, the world is a much more dangerous place than when he first entered the White House.

With the collapse of the Soviets' Evil Empire, the PRC took its place as the chief global adversary of the United States. But despite its enormous conventional military might, Red China's status as a superpower was very tenuous. And when it came to the Pentagon's high-tech edge, the PRC was not even in the equation. In 1993, the Chinese military's electronic capability was Third World, based on the vacuum tube.

Sleeping Giant Strides

Indeed, field commanders in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) once "cried themselves hoarse" in frustration over the everyday difficulty of transmitting secure messages via the military's obsolete communications net, said an article published in the PLA's daily newspaper in September 1997. Such technical difficulties "are now history," said the reporter.

The self-congratulatory article was just one more sign that the PRC, which had inherited the Soviet mantle as the most powerful communist dictatorship on the planet, has emerged as a superpower in its own right, thanks in large measure to the U.S. commander-in-chief.

China's foot soldiers can now talk to each other, confident that their command-and-control transmissions are impervious to interception by America's National Security Agency (NSA). The PLA's commandos now get training in the latest techniques by no less a cadre than U.S. Army Special Forces. China's military-owned civilian merchant fleet — COSCO — is the largest in the world, capable of projecting massive conventional military force around the globe.

In another year, having leased the port facilities at both ends and being the pilots through it, China's military will control the Panama Canal, one of the world's most strategically important waterways. Its satellite navigation systems are state-of-the-art. It also has access to the deep-ocean thermal-imaging satellite system that allows the U.S. Navy to locate enemy submarines. Heretofore, our nuclear attack subs had been able to hide undetected in unfathomable undersea trenches. But Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have given the Chinese navy the ability to "see" into the ocean abyss where out undersea warriors might hide.

China's army is in the advanced stages of developing laser weapons designed to destroy satellites in space. It already has particle beam weapons that can damage sensors on space-based reconnaissance and intelligence systems, which means it could "blind" systems vital for deploying U.S. forces.

Chinese research scientists now enjoy access to supercomputers that, in 1992, were unknown to a nation once called the Sleeping Giant. Its intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) can fly straighter and further than ever before, and deliver multiple warheads on targets. China now has 13 of its 18 nuclear-tipped CSS-4 ICBMs aimed at the United States.

To whom does the PLA owe its gratitude? In large part, China's generals can thank Bill Clinton and Al Gore, and the keen skill with which the White House has been exploited simultaneously by the unholy military-industry alliance that Eisenhower warned about, and China's long-running, largely successful spy operations run in the U.S. by Red Army front companies.



Chinese spysop Vice Minister Lt. Gen. Shen consummated many satellite deals with Bernard Schwartz, CEO of Loral: Technology obtained via COSTIND/Loral deals saved China billions in missile R&D, turned PLA's Second Corps into a deadly force of thermonuclear war. Clinton personally arranged for Schwartz to meet COSTIND Vice Minister. Schwartz also, it happens, is biggest individual contributor to DNC since Clinton took office — not counting Riady family and China's other illegal proxy contributors. In all, Schwartz has donated more than \$2.2 million to the Democrats since Clinton took office.

Treasonous Conduct

Since the Clinton Administration came to power in 1992, China's high-tech military might has grown until it is at least equal — maybe even superior to — our own national defense force. How did this happen?

"The Clinton Administration has made a series of Faustian bargains and policy blunders that have allowed [China] to further its aims in Washington," according to *Year Of The Rat: How Bill Clinton Compromised U.S. Security for Chinese Cash*.

Written by Edward Timperlake, a former

Marine aviator and investigator specializing in national security matters for the House of Representatives, and William C. Triplett, II, a former Republican counsel to the senate Foreign Relations Committee, the book is the most well-documented and damning compilation yet assembled of Chinagate. It could be a prosecutorial blueprint.

"We believe that the Clinton Administration's help to the Chinese military and the cover-ups of Chinese arms proliferation were motivated by equal parts corruption and classic appeasement," the authors wrote. "Did the Clinton administra-



By 1994, when Chinese satellite launches had become increasingly lucrative, Schwartz upped his donation to the DNC to \$100,000. Two months later he was invited to join a trade delegation headed by late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Schwartz denied any *quid pro quo* was involved, but Commerce is still defending lawsuit by Judicial Watch alleging Brown, DNC chairman before becoming commerce secretary, sold seats on trade delegations for \$100,000 donations to DNC.

tion sell out America's national security to one of the country's leading and most dangerous adversaries merely to raise campaign cash? ... Yes."

Some Have Already Called It Treason.

"The more you look into this business of the transfer of advanced, sophisticated technology to the Chinese military, which seems to be clearly for [political campaign] contributions, the harder it is to stay away from words like treason." House Majority Leader Dick Armey told fellow Texans on a visit home. "You have to understand. This is not just ... [the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal]. That's the least of it."

Yet Reuters news agency reported as this issue went to press that Attorney General Janet Reno was leaning against appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate Clinton's campaign financing, a complex web of money, influence, political cronyism, insider deals at the Pentagon and financial ties between Clinton and Chinese agents of influence dating to the 1970s.

Reno's reluctance should be no surprise. Among the first steps taken when the Clintonites took office was to bring the law-enforcement mechanism of the executive branch under the firm control of staunch Democratic Party loyalists. *For the first time in history, the incoming administration fired all the serving United States attorneys.*

Clinton has consistently denied that his China policy has compromised our national security, or that policy decisions have been driven by the need for political campaign cash. Calling its relationship with China's communist dictators "constructive engagement" — the same term candidate Clinton condemned when used in the Bush administration — Clinton's argument is that the U.S. will get more cooperation out of the PRC on the nonproliferation issue by helping modernize its military than by taking a hard-line approach.

Timperlake and Triplett don't see it that way.

Principles Last

"China is an occupied country, under the boot of home grown thugs who go by the title of the CCP [Chinese Communist Party] and its military arm, the PLA," they wrote. "The United States policy toward the PRC should be quite simple: To the extent possible, we should be promoting democracy and human rights in China while doing everything we can to hold back the modernization of the PLA. ... The Clinton-Gore administration has adopted the very opposite policy — discourage Chinese patriots struggling for democracy in their own country and promote the prestige and capabilities of the PLA."

What has the United States taxpayer gotten in exchange for Clinton's generosity to his comrades in China?

The most tangible benefit is in trade goods. Evidence is everywhere — toys, tools, clothing, electronics. Walk into any warehouse discount super store. Pick up a few manufactured items to see were they

were made. Thousands of items we take for granted every day are made in the PRC. It's perhaps part of the false sense of economic well being felt by those average Americans whom the pollsters depend upon to show support for anything Bill Clinton might do. It's the cheap Chinese consumer goods economy, stupid.

But even the cheap Chinese imports that have flooded our markets extract a price. Products from toys to tools to lamps and thousands of other household goods are made in slave labor camps run by the Peoples Armed Police (PAP), for profit-making front companies either directly owned by or closely allied with the PLA.

All of those trade goods lapped up by Americans are turned into hard currency for Red China to buy more military technology. It's a turn on the notion of turning swords into plowshares: In this case, it's the profit from "Barbie" and "G.I. Joe" dolls being turned into AK-74s, tanks, MiGs and nuclear missiles.

While Clinton argues that sharing technology with the Chinese provides them an incentive to not sell weapons systems to other countries, China has passed along the fruits of that technology to some of the world's most notorious state sponsors of terrorism, such as Libya, Iran, Syria and North Korea.

Iran has gotten the Silkworm missile from China and, more recently, the dreaded C-802, China's pirated version of the U.S. cruise missile. China also sold to Iran raw materials and manufacturing equipment to make chemical and biological weapons, and nuclear weapons technology.

China's sale of U.S. missile technology to Iran raises an interesting question for the Clinton administration, especially for Vice President Gore. As a U.S. senator, Gore spon-

sored a bill, now law, mandating severe trade sanction penalties to be imposed against China for selling cruise missiles to Iran.

While Defense Secretary William Cohen has issued dire public warnings about the grave threat these missiles pose to U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf, the Clinton administration — most notably Al Gore — has done nothing about enforcing the law against China's actions.

Profit Made In U.S.A., Weapons Made In China

The cruise missiles were sold to Iran by Poly Group, headed by Wang Jun, who attended a Democrat fund-raiser in the White House in February 1996. Two months later, Wang Jun's company was busted trying to smuggle thousands of full-auto AK-47s and Stinger-type shoulder-launched missiles to Chinese street gangs in California.

One of Wang Jun's subordinates, Liu Chaoying, who met Clinton twice at fund-raisers, gave tens of thousands of dollars to the Democrats, laundered through Johnny Chung, a Chinese agent posing as a California businessman. Chaoying, who was photographed with Clinton in 1995, had been a top executive with China Precision Machinery Import-Export Corp., the company that made the missiles sold to Iran. She has a degree in political economy, with a focus on Marxism-Leninism, from the Chinese People's University and is a graduate of the Electronics and Computers Department of China's COSTIND spy shop. She served China's military as an intelligence officer. Until his retirement in 1997, her father, General Liu Huaqing, an old-line communist revolutionary, was the PLA's top general.

Another indirect technology beneficiary of Clinton's generosity towards China is



Hughes and Loral, tired of paying NASA up to \$150-million per launch, preferred Chinese launches at \$25 million. Long March missile had unacceptable failure rate up to 75%, so Pentagon contractors worked with Red Chinese engineers to fix major problems. Spark for this assistance was catastrophic launch destroying \$200-million Loral satellite. While aerospace industry overall divided its cash donations equally between Democrats and Republicans since 1991, both Loral and Hughes donated \$2.5 million to Dems in same period, only \$1 million to GOP.

Syria, who bought ballistic missile guidance systems that the PRC got from the U.S. Syria also purchased ballistic missile fuel, and chemical and biological warheads to arm those missiles.

Libya and North Korea also got ballistic missile know-how from China, plus Libya bought technology to make poison gas.

China sold to Pakistan an entire ballistic missile factory, and tools for making nuclear weapons, which Pakistan has done successfully. This set off nuclear-test detonations that begot a round of nuclear saber-rattling with India that has brought more instability to the Indian subcontinent than ever before.

All this has poured billions and billions into the personal fortunes of China's "princelings," the well-connected adult offspring of old-line Communist Party officials who now head the PRC's leading industries, which are thinly disguised eco-

weapon to incinerate Los Angeles was reported by the *New York Times*.

No News Is Good News

Even now, the U.S. public, which gets most of its information from television, is in the dark on the grave threats to our national security resulting directly from Clinton's reckless appeasement. While the *New York Times* and even the left-leaning Clinton-loving *Washington Post* have broken major stories on Clinton's China scandal; it has been mostly ignored by television.

That explains why most Americans have never heard of COSTIND, the Commission on Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense — the immensely successful industrial spy agency of the PRC. If COSTIND means nothing to most Americans, the fruits of its work in the U.S. will surely darken their future sense of per-

edge held by Uncle Sam, and thus meet the U.S. on equal terms in a strategic and/or tactical military confrontation. China should exploit what communists see as America's most evil weakness: capitalism. He said China should just buy what it needs directly — ostensibly for commercial use, with the promise of "progressive" relations with the United States — then divert the technology to purely military applications.

COSTIND has also been able to acquire militarily useful technology indirectly through clandestine agents of political influence, such as the longstanding financial relationship between Bill Clinton and owners of an Indonesian banking empire named *Lippo* (a Chinese word meaning "energy"). But Bill Clinton isn't the only one with a three-decade relationship with *Lippo*. The shadowy multinational conglomerate is headed by the Riady family, whom the Central Intelligence Agency has told congress also has "a long term relationship with a Chinese intelligence agency."

COSTIND also acquires precious technology by infiltrating major U.S. defense contractors with China's own scientist/agents; by spying and stealing. Chief among Ding's U.S. targets are companies producing satellite and communications encryption technology.

While Ding conceived the big picture, the man charged with executing Ding's espionage program for China is Lieutenant General Shen Rongjun, an intelligence officer and COSTIND's second-in-command. It is Shen who has directed meetings with top executives of major U.S. defense contractors, including Loral Space and Communications, Ltd., the Motorola Corp. and Hughes Space and Communications, Inc.

The Big Loral Sellout

It was the deal in which these three multinational corporations were involved that ultimately led to a massive breach of national security that allowed the PRC to better target its nuclear missiles against the U.S., and has made its military command-and-control communications net invulnerable to monitoring by the NSA.

"COSTIND Vice Minister, Lt. Gen. Shen, met and consummated a series of satellite deals with Bernard Schwartz, the CEO of Loral," Charles Smith, president of a Virginia-based computer security firm, wrote in his on-line column for *WorldNetDaily*. "The technology obtained from the COSTIND/Loral deals saved China billions in missile R&D and turned the [PLA's] Second Corps into a deadly force of thermonuclear war.

"The Loral operation led by General Shen revealed the many flaws in Chinese missile guidance and control systems," Smith wrote. "Improvements in rocket electronics design and guidance system assembly obtained directly from Loral were quickly applied to the 2nd Artillery's force of CSS strategic missiles.

"The 2nd Artillery has a reliable global



Berger led charge at White House to repeal export controls on satellites for China, secretly undermining opposition of then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher. A week after Christopher resigned, export controls were repealed entirely, and Berger eventually was promoted to national security adviser. Once the point-man at Hogan and Hartson law firm for Trade Office of the Chinese Government, Berger is now Clinton's chief adviser on high-tech exports to China and their effect on national security. White House denied any technology of strategic value was transferred in Loral's overly generous trouble-shooting report: "The facts are our friends," said Berger, right. However, in the wake of that incident, CIA analysts have concluded that 13 of China's 18 long-range nuclear-tipped missiles have been re-aimed at U.S. targets as far as 8,000 miles away.

nomic extensions of the Community Party's political machine.

And it got Bill Clinton millions of dollars in campaign loot — and a second term in office.

Has China been softened by Clinton's technological largess, by his insistence that the PRC be recertified as a "most favored nation" trading partner? Is its military less of a threat, its ministers less bellicose? No.

If anything, China has become more emboldened than ever, shooting ballistic missiles across the Formosa Straits at tiny Taiwan. While China's U.S. ambassador whines about visits to the U.S. by Tibet's Dalai Lama and Taiwan's president, China's military leaders have even threatened a nuclear strike on U.S. soil. On 24 January 1996, the PLA's threat to use a nuclear

sonal and national well being.

COSTIND has three functions, according to *Year Of The Rat*: (1) coordinating all of China's research and development on weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and WMD delivery systems; (2) smuggling arms and (3) intelligence gathering. It is headed by General Ding Henggoa, who has masterminded an incredible penetration of our military-industrial complex.

In his book, *Chinese Intelligence Operations*, Defense Intelligence Agency security specialist Nicholas Eftimiades noted that "COSTIND personnel engage in espionage by attempting to steal foreign technology with military applications, primarily from the United States."

In 1993, Ding boldly postulated a way for China to catch up with the technological

reach, with powerful accuracy, thanks to the successful COSTIND operations with Loral," Smith wrote in mid-November. "General Shen also led the successful penetration of Hughes in the purchase of ASI-ASAT satellites ... The Hughes satellites provide the Chinese army with secure communications that are invulnerable to earth combat and highly accurate all-weather navigation for strike bombers and missiles."

President Clinton personally arranged for Loral's CEO, Bernard Schwartz, to meet COSTIND Vice Minister General Shen, Smith reported. Which brings us to an interesting nexus of characters in this story.

Schwartz also happened to be the biggest individual contributor to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) since Clinton took office — if you don't count the Riady family and China's other illegal proxy contributors. Schwartz's generosity is quite a turnaround from the 1991-92 election cycle, when Schwartz donated only \$12,500 to the Clinton-Gore campaign, a paltry sum for a

man in his income bracket.

But by 1994, when satellite launches from China had become increasingly lucrative, Schwartz upped his donation to the Democrats to \$100,000. Two months later, Schwartz was invited to join a trade delegation heading to China headed by the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Schwartz denied any quid pro quo was involved. But the commerce department is still defending a lawsuit by Judicial Watch alleging that Brown, who was the DNC chairman prior to becoming commerce secretary, sold seats on his trade delegations for \$100,000 donations to the DNC.

While the aerospace industry as a whole has divided its cash donations equally between Democrats and Republicans since 1991, both Loral and Hughes donated \$2.5 million to the Democrats in the same period, and only \$1 million to Republicans. In all, Schwartz has donated more than \$2.2 million to the Democrats since Clinton took office.

There were other coincidences that

raised concern about the Loral-Hughes deals being used by the Chinese to steal what technology we weren't willing to sell or give away.

Of Moles And Men

Federal agents were called in to investigate when it was learned that Shen Jun, a high-level Hughes scientist with a security clearance and access to proprietary computer codes, is the son of Lt. Gen. Shen, COSTIND's second-in-command. The son, a 30-year-old Canadian citizen, is still in California on a U.S. work visa as Hughes' project manager for a commercial satellite program. His job involves training companies or countries who buy Hughes satellites on how to use the software that controls the satellites. He has even traveled to China, his homeland, under a Hughes contract with China. To date, the younger Shen has not been charged with any crime.

Asked how an individual with a close family connection to the very top echelon of a foreign spy agency could be allowed to enter the U.S. to work for a secure defense contractor under a security clearance, an Immigration and Naturalization Service executive was blunt — but anxious for anonymity in an administration in which honesty is not the best policy for career advancement.

"National security has been substantially damaged by this administration's immigration policies, especially with respect to China," the INS official told *Soldier Of Fortune*. "We will regret this legacy for a long time into the future."

The Love Of Money ...

At the root of all of this is money. Huge amounts of money.

The joint Chinese government/U.S. defense-contractor satellite launches began in 1988, under the Republican administration of President George Bush. However, those deals were closely monitored under a



China's sale of U.S. missile technology to Iran raises interesting question for Clinton administration, especially for VP Gore. As U.S. senator, Gore sponsored bill, now law, mandating severe trade sanctions be imposed against China for selling cruise missiles to Iran. Although Defense Secretary William Cohen issued dire warnings about grave threat these missiles pose to U.S. troops in Persian Gulf, Clinton administration — most notably Al Gore — has done nothing about enforcing that law. Here Gore attends reception with Dem fund-raiser Maria Hsia and Master Hsing Yun at Hsi Lai Buddhist temple in Los Angeles. (right) Gore's pleas for dem funds evidently paid off, as Buddhist nuns testified to congress their temple illegally reimbursed donors after fund-raiser attended by Gore, later destroying or altering records "to avoid embarrassment."



strict, multi-layered security review by various federal agencies, including NSA, the CIA, the Pentagon and the Department of State. The agencies had virtual veto power over any technology export licenses pertaining to Red China. The launches thus approved were vetted as having no military application.

When any doubts were raised about the transfer of so-called dual-use technology — state-of-the-art commercial know-how that could be used to make better enemy weapons — Bush refused to allow proposed launches. A good example came on 30 April 1991, a denial explained by Marlin Fitzwater, Bush's press spokesman.

"The President has decided not to approve a request to license the export of U.S. satellite components to China for a Chinese domestic communications satellite, the *Dong Fang Hong 3*," Fitzwater said. "The President made this decision because certain activities of Chinese companies raise serious proliferation concerns."

"The United States has undertaken a major worldwide effort to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, particularly to regions of instability," Bush's press spokesman said. "We take this issue very seriously, and the President's decision not to approve satellite licenses in these circumstances underscores the importance attached to non-proliferation."

The use of national security waivers on technology export to China has been in use since 1989. Reacting to the PRC's massacre of hundreds — possibly thousands — of pro-democracy Chinese citizens in Tiananmen Square, congress imposed sanctions against China, including a restriction on export licenses for high-tech hardware, something the PRC desperately wanted. Legislation required that any exceptions must have a waiver personally signed by the president. Bush and Clinton together have signed 11 such waivers. But Clinton has signed twice as many as Bush and, unlike Bush, Clinton has never turned one down.

From the earliest days of the Clinton administration, there has been heavy pressure to liberalize these safeguards on the export of U.S. technology. The restrictions were, in fact, reaffirmed by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 9 October 1995. Following a long series of heated internal debates, Christopher issued a classified order which preserved state department authority to limit American satellite launches in China.

All that changed in March 1996, when

Bill Clinton reversed Christopher's decision, also going against strong objections from the Department of Defense. Christopher resigned as secretary of state on 7 November 1996. A week later, President Clinton signed an executive order stripping DoD and State of their approval authority on high-tech export licensing, giving final say-so instead to the commerce department.

which became known as COCOM, to restrict the flow of strategic technology to unfriendly nations, primarily the Soviet Union. A waiver required a unanimous vote of member nations.

COCOM's focus was gradually refined to technology related to nuclear and other WMDs, and expanded to include other proscribed nations. It was a major obstruction for Clinton's biggest political benefactors, like Bernard Schwartz, who wanted to sell high-end satellite and missile technology to China. One of Clinton's first thrusts in the foreign policy arena was his quiet effort to reduce COCOM's mandate. Finally, in March 1994, only two years into his first term, Clinton succeeded in dismantling COCOM completely.

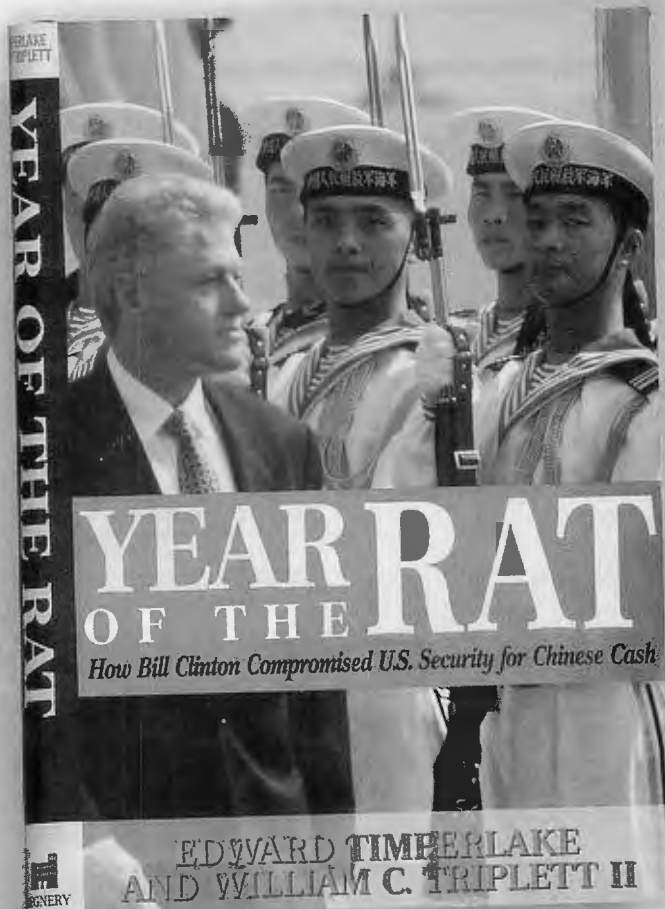
But *The Wall Street Journal* soon took note, reporting in its edition of 4 January 1995, that "High-Tech Goods Flood Into China As Controls Ease."

As Timberlake and Triplett wrote in their recent book, there was unbridled "glee in the high-tech community ... AT&T was able to sell previously restricted high-speed telecommunications equipment to China without being monitored by Western intelligence agencies. Motorola, IBM [which had sold to Loral its Federal Systems Division, a highly lucrative Beltway Bandit with Navy encryption and other sensitive defense contracts] and Digital Equipment Corporation officials were similarly jubilant."

Bill Clinton — a man who repeatedly labeled the prosperity of the Reagan Era as "the greed of the '80s" — has given that word new meaning. Clinton has directly encouraged the greed of U.S. defense contractors doing big-bucks business with Red China, and thus undermined U.S. national security. At the same time, some of those contractors and the PRC, through its proxy corporations and clandestine agents of influence, have unlawfully lined the coffers of Bill Clinton's own campaign committees and those of the DNC.

Even for aerospace giants such as Hughes and Loral, the price of placing satellites into orbit on NASA vehicles — up to \$150-million per launch — was prohibitive compared to using Chinese launch vehicles, which cost U.S. communications and satellite firms as little as \$25 million per launch.

However, the Long March missile was unacceptably unreliable, with a failure



New book, *Year Of The Rat: How Bill Clinton Compromised U.S. Security For Chinese Cash*, charges "Clinton Administration has made a series of Faustian bargains and policy blunders that have allowed [China] to further its aims in Washington ... Did the Clinton administration sell out America's national security to one of the country's leading and most dangerous adversaries merely to raise campaign cash? ... Yes."

Chaining The Watchdogs

Clinton's order removed any Pentagon, State, CIA, or NSA oversight and thus made national security concerns on technology exports subservient to commercial and financial considerations.

One other act by Clinton further greased the skids to launch a boatload of technology bonanzas to China. After World War II, the Western allies, primarily members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, set up a voluntary coordinating committee,

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CZECH MATES

Text & Photos by
Peter G. Hokalís

Ifrequently carried one during the war in El Salvador. It was well-known and always highly regarded in international mercenary circles, especially so in Africa, where it was easy to obtain and reasonably priced. Placed in series production in 1976, the Czech CZ75 was one of the very first large-capacity, double-action 9mm Parabellum pistols. It still remains one of the very best and retains immense popularity worldwide.

Superior Features — At A Fair Price

The CZ75's features so impressed Jeff Cooper that they were incorporated into the ill-fated Bren 10. Its great popularity in Africa resulted in South African Vektor's introduction of two pistols, the SP1 and SP2, that clearly copied the CZ75's dis-

.45 And .22 Added To Famous CZ75 Lineup

tinctive grip-frame hump. The entire pistol was copied by Tanfoglio, in Italy, and by ITM (Industrial Technology and Machines), in Switzerland, as the AT84, both rather pale imitations.

Manufactured by *Ceska Zbrojovka Uhersky Brod*, a.s. (Dept. SOF, Svatopluka Cecha 1283, 688 27 Uhersky Brod, Czech Republic; phone: 011-420-633-65-11-11; fax: 011-420-633-63-36-65; e-mail: brazda@czub.cz; internet: <http://www.czub.cz>), all of the CZ75 series pistols, including several new variants, are imported by CZ-USA (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 171073, Kansas City, KS 66117-0073; phone: 913-321-1811; fax:

913-321-2251; e-mail: czusa@gvi.net).

Soldier Of Fortune recently tested several versions of the CZ75B, a .22 LR conversion kit and the CZ97B .45 ACP pistol.

Designed by Frantisek Koucky, the vz (for vzor, or model) 75 is a most successful blend of innovation together with the best features of several other celebrated pistol designs. Chambered originally for the 9mm Parabellum cartridge, the CZ75 was not engineered for the Czech military, but rather for Western and Third World civilian, military and police markets. This is not really surprising as the Czechs have been major arms merchants to the world since the

inception of their nation in 1918.

All of the CZ75 series, with the exception of the Kadet .22 LR model, are short-recoil-operated, with locking systems modified from the Browning Model 1935 (High Power) and the SIG P210. Two lugs on top of the barrel fit into corresponding recesses in the slide when the weapon is in battery. A barrel bottom-lug, which is integral with the hammer-forged barrel, is slotted and retained by the slide-stop pin. The Kadet .22 LR pistol and conversion kit are blow-back-operated.

As the slide moves rearward, the barrel is forced downward and unlocked by the slide-stop pin. This is a theoretical improvement over the swinging link and pin used on the Colt M1911A1 pistol. The recoil spring and its polymer guide rod seat into a hollow below the barrel, as with the High Power. The head of the guide is dimpled to fit a depression on the front face of the barrel nose. The pinned, pivot-type extractor has also been gleaned from the High Power.

The CZ75's hammer mechanism is a removable subassembly — a composite of those found in the Russian Tokarev TT-33 and Swiss SIG P210 pistols. The hammer's retaining pin is exposed by a small hole in the left side of the frame. Only trained armorers should attempt disassembly of these components. As with the SIG P210, the CZ75's slide rides on rails machined inside the frame. This system reduces side play, provides a longer bearing surface and enhances the pistol's inherent accuracy potential.

The CZ75 and any of its derivatives can be carried either "locked and cocked" (a round in the chamber, hammer cocked and the thumb safety engaged), or with the hammer down on a loaded chamber (lowered by hand slowly and very carefully with the weapon pointed in a safe direction) the first

(below) The Czech CZ75 was one of the very first large-capacity, double-action 9mm Parabellum pistols and remains one of the very best. (right) Kadet .22 LR conversion kit is a real tack driver and also incredibly reliable.



(opposite page, top) CZ75B with black polymer finish and thumb-rest grip panels exactly as supplied to the Turkish police; and the CZ97B .45 ACP pistol (bottom), while essentially a scaled-up CZ75B, has several quite different and innovative features. New CZ97B provides the ever-popular .45 ACP round in a somewhat expanded CZ75B envelope.



round can be fired double-action.

The double-action mechanism differs from most others. A wraparound trigger bar engages and L-shaped interrupter pinned to the hammer, connecting the two components. Pulling the trigger in double action pushes the trigger bar and interrupter to release the hammer at the end of the cycle, when the upper surface of the trigger bar is forced down by the sear housing's shoulder. All of the new "B" models feature a firing pin safety of the conventional type. A spring-loaded plunger in the slide must be pushed upward by a lever in the trigger mechanism, that rotates upward as the trigger is pivoted rearward, so the spring-loaded firing pin becomes free to travel forward. After the first round has been fired, the slide re-cocks the hammer and forces the disconnecter to release its engagement with the lower portion of the sear. This allows the sear to pivot rearward to re-engage the full-cock notch. A unique, yet simple, system, it provides the CZ75-series pistols with a smooth double-action trigger-pull weight of about 8.5 to 9 pounds.

Unfortunately, without tuning, the single-action pull weight (invariably about 4 pounds) on these pistols exhibits an objec-

tionable amount of creep. There is also a half-cock notch that, in my opinion, serves no useful purpose. I can think of no situation in which I would not prefer to carry these pistols in the locked-and-cocked mode. CZ75 series triggers are smooth and nickel-chromed.

The thumb safety is located in the proper place, on the left side of the frame above the grip panel. Of adequate size and shape, it can be activated only with the hammer at full-cock and doing so will not drop the hammer. Firing from the Weaver position with both thumbs over the lever, the safety is both easily deactivated and placed back on "safe" after a firing sequence. The CZ75BD model has no manual safety but, instead, a decocking lever that safely lowers the hammer with a round in the chamber. There is also a CZ75 DAO which has no

Disassembly Procedures

Those accustomed to Browning-designed pistols will find no enigmas in disassembling any of the CZ75B series pistols or the CZ97B. Remove the magazine and make certain no cartridge remains in the chamber. Bring the hammer to full-cock. Pull the slide rearward about 1/4-inch until the disassembly witness marks on the left side of the frame and slide are aligned.



Press down and inward on the slide-stop's axis pin which protrudes from the right side of the frame. A non-marring hammer is useful for this purpose. Withdraw the slide-stop from the left side of the frame. Ease the hammer down completely and pull the slide forward to remove this group from the frame. Separate the recoil spring, guide rod and barrel from the slide assembly. The firing pin and its spring, together with the firing pin safety plunger and its spring are held in place by a roll pin through the slide. It is not required to remove these components for normal maintenance and I suggest this be done only by a competent gunsmith. Remove the grip panels. The magazines are of conventional design and should be disassembled every time the pistol is maintained.

If you are disassembling a CZ97B, the recoil spring housing should be removed from the slide, as well as the barrel bushing, which must be unscrewed before the barrel can be withdrawn from the slide. If you are fieldstripping a Kadet .22 LR conversion kit, after removing the entire unit from the pistol's frame in the manner already described, first remove the recoil spring and guide rod. Then, withdraw the slide assembly out the rear of the slide housing (which holds the fixed barrel). As the firing pin and spring are retained by a stop of the M1911-type, they can be readily removed from the slide. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble all of the above in the reverse order. — P.G.K.

external safety, no spur on the hammer and can be fired double-action-only.

Original CZ75 magazines hold 15 rounds and were cloned from the Browning High Power. The pistols are now provided with one 10-round magazine, a cleaning rod, bore brush, magazine loader for caliber 9mm and .40 S&W models and a rugged plastic carrying case. Pre-ban 15-round magazines can be purchased by anyone who buys a new CZ75B from CZ-USA. Abbreviated 13-round magazines for the CZ75 Compact (also supplied with one 10-round post-ban magazine) have an extended floorplate, curved slightly downward at the front to serve as a stop for the firing hand. CZ97B .45 ACP magazines all hold 10 rounds. These single-position-feed, staggered-column, box-type magazines are of conventional configuration and can be effortlessly disassembled. They have a steel body and floorplate with a plastic follower.

The magazine catch/release button is located where it should be, immediately to the rear of the trigger guard on the frame's left side. Magazines do not fall freely out of the magazine-well on any CZ75 series pistols. This can be remedied by removing the grip panels and taking out the spring steel "magazine brake" covering the mainspring assembly and retained

by a single pin at the top. The mainspring assembly itself must be removed to accomplish this. This piece of spring steel can then either be bent slightly or simply replaced by a flat "drop free" spring obtainable from CZ-USA.



(above) Right side of CZ75B factory cut-away clearly shows how the barrel locks to the slide, as well as the right-side trigger bar. Left side of CZ75B factory cut-away (right) shows recoil spring and guide rod and the pivoting trigger system.

The CZ75 series' high-profile fixed sights are excellent. The blade-type front sight is 0.130-inch thick and carries a single white dot. The rear sight's square notch is 0.122-inch wide and it can be drifted in its dovetail in the slide for adjustment of lateral zero. It has a white dot on each side of the notch. The rear sight's exposed corners are well-rounded to prevent snagging. The sight radius is 6.10 inches. The top of the slide on the entire CZ pistol series has longitudinal serrations running the full length.

The sight system of the CZ97B .45 ACP pistol is similar to those of the CZ75 series, with the only exception that the dimensions for both the front and rear sights are 0.125-inch. The sight radius of this pistol is 6.33 inches. The CZ75 Kadet .22 LR conversion kit, which replaces the standard slide group, is equipped with an excellent open square-

notch rear sight, fully adjustable for both windage and elevation, with a sight radius of 6.49 inches.

The steel frames of these pistols are machine-finished investment castings, as are many of the other components. The slides are made from extruded hammer-forged bar stock. The CZ75B weighs 2.2 pounds with an empty magazine, while the CZ97B sent to us for test and evaluation weighs 2.49 pounds.

Barrel length of CZ75B pistols is 4.7 inches (a conventional length for service-size 9mm pistols), that of the CZ97B is 4.85 inches. All CZ series pistol barrels have six grooves with a right twist. The rate of twist for 9mm barrels is one turn in 9.84 inches and for .45 ACP, .40 S&W and .22 LR it's one turn in 16 inches. Height for the CZ75B and CZ97B is 5.43 and 5.51 inches, respectively. Width, at the grip panels, is the same for both pistols, 1.37 inches. Overall length of the CZ75B is 8.11 inches, while that of the CZ97B is 8.34 inches. In addition to 9mm Parabellum, the CZ75B pistols are available in .40 S&W with a beefed-up slide. CZ75B pistols chambered for the 9x21mm cartridge are available in Europe only at this time.

Several different finishes are available.

One of our CZ75B test specimens was furnished with a high-polish, well-executed black oxide finish. The other CZ75B, exactly as furnished to the Turkish police, and the CZ97B we tested featured a



black polymer finish. This two-stage process employs a German polymer lacquer of Swiss design cured over the components, which are first treated with a phosphate ("parkerized") finish. Chip-free and both wear- and corrosion-resistant, this tough-as-nails polymer finish should not be confused with the far less durable black baked-enamel applied to some CZ75s imported several years ago. Other available finishes include satin nickel and a dualtone (blued slide and satin-nickel frame).

Three different grip panels are also available on the CZ75B: checkered walnut, checkered black plastic and black plastic with a thumb rest on each grip panel. The grip panels are held in place by one sturdy Phillips-head screw on each side that threads directly into the frame. Currently the CZ75B pistols are provided with a ringed "combat hammer." The one I carried



CZ75B 9mm Parabellum pistol, right-side view. Note pinned pivot-type extractor which is similar to that of the High Power.



Kadet .22 LR conversion kit is blowback-operated; provides the same weight as a 9mm CZ75B and comes with one 10-round magazine.

in El Salvador had a spur-type hammer.

Fit and finish of these pistols are flawless. Exterior surfaces are polished until all milling marks are removed. All radiused surfaces exhibit perfect alignment. Everything fits together with just the right amount of tightness. The barrel's rifling cuts and its chamber dimensions have been fabricated to the closest possible tolerances. Barrel, slide and frame all carry the pistol's serial number, in the European manner.

The human engineering applied to the design of these pistols is of the very highest order. The grip tang is exactly the right length to prevent the hammer from biting the web of your hand. The grip frame's distinctive hump melts into the hand as though it were a custom-fitted prosthesis. The grip-to-frame angle is perfect; target acquisition is consequently swift and positive. Most important is the incredible simplicity of the design, when compared to all too many of today's pistols. Take off the grip panels on most of them and you're faced with a maze of springs on the frame just waiting to pop off and take out one of your eyeballs.

While the CZ97B .45 ACP pistol is essentially a scaled-up CZ75B, it has several quite different and innovative features. Most distinctive is the full-length frame which extends out to the end of the slide. This increases the bearing surface on the slide and helps to enhance accuracy. It also serves as a stable rest when shooting over barricades, an attribute desired by IPSC shooters. Both the front and back straps of the frame have six pronounced vertical serrations to improve the firing grip. To further enhance accuracy, there is a threaded barrel bushing at the front of the slide. A removable steel housing is used to contain the recoil spring and guide rod. A spring-loaded loaded-chamber indicator, that is both visual and tactile, has been added to gain points for the BATF's import factoring system. Most important, however, the system of breech locking has been changed. The barrel and slide are locked together by a rectangular locking lug above the barrel's chamber which engages the slide's ejection port. This form of locking is found on the SIG-Sauer series, Ruger and Glock pistols, as well.

The CZ97B is by any standard of mea-

surement a large pistol. The distance from the center of the trigger, when it's in the double-action position, in a straight line to the rear of the frame is about 3.2 inches. You need large hands to feel comfortable with that dimension.

Be that as it may, this is, without doubt, the most accurate out-of-the-box .45 ACP pistol I have ever fired. At 7 yards, fired off-hand from the Weaver position, all 10 shots in a string will go into one jagged hole every time. Recoil, because of the pistol's substantial mass, is minimal. We used three different types of ammunition in our test and evaluation of the CZ97B: reloads using 230-grain Total Copper Jacketed Round Nose bullets in front of 5.3 grains of Winchester 231 propellant and Black Hills ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD

57709; phone: 605-348-5150 — call for the location of your nearest dealer; if there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail) with 230-grain Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) and 230-grain Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) projectiles. Two of the JHP projectiles stubbed on the feed ramp. However, after I polished the feed ramp with a Dremel tool we never experienced this stoppage again. There were no further stoppages after several thousand rounds had been fired.

Equally impressive is the Kadet .22 LR conversion kit. Introduced in 1993, the kit consists of three major groups: a 10-round magazine, a slide which contains the spring-loaded firing pin and the recoil spring with

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CZ75B and CZ97B

S P E C I F I C A T I O N S

Calibers:	CZ75B: 9mm Parabellum, .40 S&W and 9x21mm (not available in the U.S.); CZ97B: .45 ACP.
Operation:	Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, double-action trigger system can be locked with the trigger in the cocked position.
Weight:	(with empty magazine) CZ75B: 2.2 pounds; CZ97B: 2.49 pounds.
Overall length:	CZ75B: 8.11 inches; CZ97B: 8.34 inches.
Height:	CZ75B: 5.43 inches; CZ97B 5.51 inches.
Width:	1.37 inches at the grip panels.
Barrel:	Six grooves with right-hand twist; rate of twist: 9mm: 1:9.84 inches; .45 ACP, .40 S&W and .22 LR: 1:16 inches.
Barrel length:	CZ75B: 4.7 inches; CZ97B: 4.85 inches.
Finish:	Black polymer, high-polish blue or satin nickel.
Grip panels:	Checkered walnut, checkered black plastic and black plastic with a thumb rest on each grip panel.
Magazines:	Staggered-column, detachable box-type, steel body and floorplate with plastic follower; capacity: CZ75B: 10 and 15 rounds; CZ97B and .22 LR Kadet: 10 rounds.
Sights:	Blade-type front sight 0.130-inch in thickness with a single white dot; 0.122-inch square-notch rear sight with a white dot on each side of the notch can be drifted in its dovetail in the slide for adjustment of lateral zero; sight radius is 6.10 inches. CZ97B sight dimensions are both 0.125-inch and the sight radius is 6.33 inches.
Prices:	CZ75B: from \$440 to \$455, depending upon finish; add \$60 for .40 S&W; CZ97B: \$599 with polymer finish; add \$20 for high-polish blue; Kadet .22 LR conversion kit: \$279.
Manufacturer:	Ceska Zbrojovka Uhersky Brod, a.s., Dept. SOF, Svatopluka Cecha 1283, 688 27 Uhersky Brod, Czech Republic; phone: 011-420-633-65-11-11; fax: 011-420-633-63-36-65; e-mail: brazda@czub.cz; internet: http://www.czub.cz.
Importer:	CZ-USA, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 171073, Kansas City, KS 66117-0073; phone: 913-321-1811; fax: 913-321-2251; e-mail: czusa@gvi.net.
T&E summary:	Superb example of human engineering. Simple design and extremely durable. High standard of reliability. Frame-mounted manual safety permits desirable locked-and-cocked carry. Reasonably priced.

Y2K

Deadline Of DOOM



President Clinton reviews the federal government's efforts to prepare its computer systems for the year 2000 during a speech at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C. Although he's made a few statements about the Y2K computer bug, *SOF's* research reveals the White House has fallen far short of taking the threat seriously.

The Worldwide War Against Y2K

by Jim Norell

Photos: AP/Wide World

The very computer technology that got us to the moon may well send us back to the 19th century, perhaps beyond. It will happen in the blink of an eye, at the stroke of midnight the instant the new century opens. It will be worldwide.

It's an absolute deadline like no other in the history of mankind: 2400 hours, 00 minutes, 00 seconds, 31 December 1999. It cannot be fudged. It cannot be changed. It cannot be compromised. It cannot be stopped. It cannot be ignored. It can only be reckoned with.

In the developed countries — the First World — there is a deadly race against that clock. Hundreds of billions of dollars will be spent by government, industry, individuals — anyone with a stake in the function of computers. And among people

who understand the inner workings and mysteries of the microchip, there is little argument, except over how massive a hit world societies will take.

For the United States, if those who control technology today have not prepared well, it will surely cripple major segments of communications, commerce, industry and national defense. If the worst predictions take place, it might ultimately spell the end to our way of life, at least for a time.

A *Wall Street Journal* story headlined, "Y2K Is Scarier Than The Alarmists Think," reported that the Federal Reserve has estimated that the cost of correcting, repairing and replacing the national's private information systems may exceed \$50 billion.

The Bubonic Bug

The millennium bug (or the Y2K-bug) is more accurately the Y2K-plague. This thing that may reshape every aspect of our modern world is simply two missing date digits. But those two digits add up to mega millions of miles of bad computer code — code which will crash systems, big and small, worldwide.

It all happened through surprising lack of vision and through almost criminal neglect on the part of the government and the computing industry. In the 1960s and 1970s, binary computers were huge, room-filling, mostly-hardwired machines possessing less memory than today's \$10 hand-held calculators. Well into the 1970s, 64 kilobytes was the threshold for memory. So, to save precious space, programmers shorthanded the year designation from the four digits of the actual century, plus decade, plus year, to the two digits indicating merely the decade and year. Rather than program with 1965, for example, computers were programmed with "65."

The memory shortage long ago vanished as technology improved, but the shorthand was never changed. And the monster mainframes are still around.

But what was good for mainframes was simply carried over to other electronic computing devices.

The space-saving fix, of two digits rather than four, has been in steady use in virtually every computer program, in hard-wired circuits, and in the billions of non-programmable embedded chips which control countless billions of automated events in our modern life.

Mass Denial

Why didn't some visionary see the possibilities of a future disaster, and fix it the very moment the physical possibility of increased memory opened up?

A program designer who works with a major Department of Defense lab told *Soldier Of Fortune* "Everybody always assumed that sooner or later something would come along to fix this. The non-technical types depended on the systems people to fix it. And the technical people knew it was getting too big too fast to fix, and they knew that the people who had the money wouldn't believe it anyway. So, everybody was in denial when the problem was first theorized. Many still are in denial almost 30 years into the problem as we approach the one-year countdown."

These two missing digits can cause billions of computer miscalculations, and program and hardware crashes — many that could shut down transportation systems, banking, finance, healthcare, defense, energy pipeline systems, water supplies, electronic communications. And the granddaddy: the electrical power grid. Without power nothing works.

World Without Power

Peter de Jager, a Canadian who consults for government and industry and has authored the bible on Y2K, *Managing 00*, spelled out the breadth of the disaster for an international conference hosted 2 June 1998, by the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

"If today were December 31, 1999, and our systems were in the current state they are in today, tomorrow our economy worldwide would stop. It wouldn't grind to a halt. It would snap to a halt. You would not have a dial tone tomorrow. ... You would not have air travel. You would not have Federal Express. You would not have the postal service. You would not have water. You would not have power. Because the systems are broken."

When most people think "computer," the word picture that pops to mind is of the ubiquitous personal computer. PCs are everywhere. But the millions of PCs are not the major problem. PC programs can be changed, and altered, especially on the newer vintage machines. Some machines, especially those coming on the market today, are "Y2K-compliant."

There are something on the order of 22 million small businesses in the United States that use multiple or networked PCs — everything from bookstores to auto parts shops. And of those PCs which are older than five years, they will be affected by the bug. Turning back the computer's internal clocks may prevent system crashes, but will also make date-sensitive programs pointless.

To envision the depth and breadth of the total problem, think big, then think really small. Big means mainframe computers — room-sized or building-sized calculators which still rule much of our national defense and government computing and that of institutions such as banks and insurance companies.

Mainframes, with the greatest of difficulty, can be programmed to work around, or to recognize, or live with the bug. Mainframes can be fixed.

But for the older monster computers — especially those owned and run by government — users are facing massive programming problems. Many of these machines were programmed in COBAL and other early computer languages that virtually no one working in the field today can fathom. And there are hundreds of millions of miles of printouts of data that need to be searched and fixed for Y2K problems.

Wanted: Old Nerds

So here, it's also a matter of finding the right people. There is a desperate scramble to find retired computer nerds who can understand and work in these dead computer languages which are complex beyond comprehension to today's younger programmers.



John Koskinen, chairman of the President's Council On Year 2000 Conversion, poses in his office in the Old Executive Office Building in Washington. With less than a year remaining, the coming 2000 looms almost mythically, largely because of a decision made decades ago by shortsighted computer programmers facing a shortage of storage space.





Computer programmers work at the Year 2000 Conversion Center of IBM Japan, Ltd. at its Makuhari office, east of Tokyo, in July 1998. While much of the industrialized world frets over the Year 2000 Millennium Bug and warns of computers gone berserk, Japan is an island of tranquility, with officials insisting their plans to handle the glitch are quietly under way.

calculations they make and mathematical conclusions they draw. If they are skewed by the bug, they are unshakable in their errors. Bad chips must be replaced.

These chips run everything from home microwave ovens, to digital watches, to heart pacemakers, to automobiles, to valves in pipelines, switches on railroads, control systems in aircraft, safety systems in nuclear reactors, switching and shunting systems on the power grid, to every unit that reads bar codes of any kind, to every imaginable electronic device that makes up the miracle of modern medicine, to robotics in manufacturing plants.

The list is as endless as the imagination that applied the computer chip to the former tasks ruled by the mechanics of the



A shopper inspects a modem at the Haidian mall in Beijing's computer business district. The Chinese government is trying to browbeat industries into fixing their systems for the Year 2000 software glitch, but uncertainty and considerable pessimism prevail among government and industry experts.

The task at hand for each of these systems is almost overpowering simply in the tedium and complexity of reviewing data. If you think of the bug as a human disease, and imagine that the cure requires every single blood cell in your blood stream to be examined individually by microscope and altered individually to cure you of a fatal disease, you understand what the programmers must do.

In government, mainframes run the databases of everything from the Social Security Administration to the IRS to FAA to many super-secret functions of the CIA, NSA and Department of Defense.

And there's another problem to face. Even if the majority of programmable systems are fixed and continue to operate past the clock 00 rollover, other computers that haven't been fixed will produce streams of corrupt data that will infect the clean.

Mainframes: That's thinking big. Problem is, in this equation "big" falls next to "small."

Small Is Bigger

Small means the embedded microchip — all pre-programmed and preset. Nobody knows for sure how many there are, where they are, or which ones will work and which ones will fail. Nobody knows how they will fail.

Bruce Webster, chairman of the Year 2000 Group, in Washington, D.C., warns about the "mission critical" chips, which involve essentials.

"There are four billion embedded systems out in the world. Let's say that by sheer brilliance and inspection we can set aside three-fourths of those so we know there's only a billion embedded systems we need to worry about. That means that in order to test just half of those between now and the end of the year, we have to test 800,000 each and every day, weekends and holidays included.

"Who is doing that? Where is that work being done? If we wait six months, that's a third of a billion out of that billion that hasn't been tested, and we're still looking at failure rates on the order of millions ..."

In this case "solid state" takes on a new and unintended meaning. These chips are unshakable in the data they contain and in the

industrial revolution.

Every element critical to the survival of individuals, communities, and the nation is today at risk. Skeptics say it's all hype. But the expenditures at the government and industry level say otherwise. Fortune 1000 companies are investing massive amounts of cash to fix their electronic information systems. Citibank is spending \$600 million; AT&T, \$500 million; GM, \$500 million. GM has said that without a fix, the company couldn't produce one automobile. "Catastrophic" was the word used to describe the situation.

Disastrous Test Result

U. S. Senator Robert Bennett (R-Utah), the single steadiest voice of warning and reason on the issue, described the pervasive nature of the industrial problem this way: "If Y2K were to hit this coming weekend, General Motors could not produce a single car in any one of their 157 manufacturing plants." A test conducted last year at an obsolete GM plant — where the clock was turned forward — shut everything down cold. Nothing worked.

On a smaller scale, but infinitely more horrifying in terms of public safety, the Australian government reported a test of a water supply system in the town of Coff's Harbour. The computer/embedded chip system that monitors the exquisitely exacting addition of purification chemicals was cranked to 00 and the mechanism reportedly dumped the entire load of raw chemicals — enough to kill the total population.

That's not hype.

Where's The Media?

This is a story that has not yet "resonated" either with media or the American people. Senator Bennett, who heads the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem, has held continuous hearings on the Y2K impact and response of every major sector of society. He sees himself as a modern Paul Revere, but rues the fact that news of the Y2K dangers are relegated to business pages when covered by the press at all.

Why? He says that until disaster arrives, the issue of societal col-

lapse is simply "not sexy enough."

"You talk about doomsday. That's pretty sexy. But doomsday is in 2000 and this is 1998," Bennett says. "Reporters say, 'I have a deadline this afternoon. So give me something I can deal with this afternoon. At the largest, my perspective is two weeks ...'"

So presumably two weeks before the computer-generated Armageddon, reporters will get excited.

Bennett is equally frustrated with many of his colleagues in government. "To the folks on the Hill, the primary focus is politics and legislation. Something like this they have a hard time dealing with."

No doubt as the millennium approaches there will be a media frenzy — not over the problem but over whether or not Americans



Harry Woodstrom, vice president of consulting services with SIG Inc., poses at his Houston office. The firm is assisting several energy companies with their year 2000-related computer problems, but experts warn of a possible worldwide power outage in with the new millennium. The computer bug also threatens to shut down pipelines, offshore rigs, refineries and change the way Americans fight wars.

believe there is a problem. Bennett tells of an experience on TV's "McGlaughlin & Company," where at the end of the Senator's appearance, John McGlaughlin turned to the rest of his panel of talking-heads and asked for a vote. "By three to one, they decided it was not a major problem," the Senator said.

If Americans are not hearing about Y2K — as the real countdown begins — they are hearing the sounds of war approaching.

Military Ramifications

With Bill Clinton today rattling sabers in his wag-the-dog desperation to divert public attention from his numerous and deepening scandals, primary concern ought to be directed at the state of the Department of Defense with respect to Y2K.

If the U.S. is in the midst of a shooting war on New Year's Eve 1999, what happens? If it ain't fixed, the answer for any airman, sailor, marine or soldier in the field may be disaster.

Think about the Gulf War. Then think about pulling the plug on everything electronic — avionics, GPS, you name it.

For a short while, the Gulf War was the greatest show on earth. For much of the world — for those watching the events unfold on their TV screens — the footage from the actual zoom-eye-view of smart-bombs diving to perfect targeting became the symbol of the undeniable superiority of American technology. Bingo! Every time. (Or so it appeared.)

Civilians at home were admiring something other than the skill of pilots. No. In our couch-potato view, there was nothing human about this except the ingenuity that went into the equipment.

The world was marveling at the technological perfection of a bomb — a piece of fantastic hardware ruled by computers, and by the embedded microchip. To the public, it was like watching a basketball game where the skill and grace of a Magic Johnson was rendered meaningless by the unerring swishes of a laser-directed Magic Basketball that never, ever missed.

On a world view, perhaps the most important lessons of the Gulf War were learned by the Soviets. In technology vs. technology, the Soviets and all the other international defense suppliers of Iraq

received a critical blood-free intelligence message that must have scared them to their toes. Their stuff didn't work. Ours did.

Not to take anything away from American personnel or leadership — which were infinitely superior to any Saddam Hussein fielded — but we kicked Iraqi ass with the microchip.

Those talking-heads who referred to this conflagration as the "war of the 21st Century" couldn't have been more wrong.

A Level Battle Field

Y2K, if it isn't fixed, will level the battlefield infinitely. If the bug isn't thoroughly cleansed from weapons systems and military support systems of every kind, the war of the 21st century is likely to be won by the side that possesses the time-proven skills of battle — courage, soldiering, leadership, supply, and the greatest number of troops in the field willing to die. In Iraq, their guys go straight to paradise.

Air support? What if our stuff doesn't fly anymore? Without the microchip, and computers, fly-by-wire aircraft are as air-worthy as boulders. Do we repurchase the surplus prop-driven air force we sold to a host of banana republics? That's a joke, but perhaps not.

Back To The Ground War

Imagine the Gulf War fought again — this time without our technological advantage. Smart bombs are dumb bombs. What good is AWACS if the screens are blank and radio communications are dead?

Without perfectly working computers and embedded chips, what in the inventory does work? And if GPS systems give totally false readings, who can follow a compass course anymore, or read a sextant? How does an Abrams Main Battle Tank stack up to the Russian or Chinese stripped-down "monkey" model armor exported to the Third World? Does the turbine run without embedded microchips? If mechanically their ordnance is the same, and if their tankers can compute relative range, speed and velocity without the aid of the microchip, then what? Our armor is infinitely better, but without all the Buck Rogers whiz-bang computers, can our gunners shoot?

If the really dire predictions over the state of Y2K readiness of our military are correct — the General Accounting Office is handing out "F" grades — then a tin-pot like Sadaam Hussein may take that chance. It's not just that our forces are weakened, with readiness levels reportedly below 1937, he may have the advantage on the battlefield. Without the superiority of the microchip, casualties could be significant. Would we risk it?

Nerds Of Fortune

In the Gulf, our leaders were determined and as able as any in any American war. Our soldiers were as good as any who ever fought under our flag. Our intelligence was superior in every way. But, in reality, the dream team of our war in the Gulf were the nerds who invented and designed the technology.

The Navy — without the assistance of the Y2K bug — has already experienced the thrill of what happens when the power of Nerds is brought down. The *U.S.S. Yorktown* — equipped with what the Navy has labeled "smart ship" technology — was designed to run on a version of Microsoft's NT. The Aegis missile cruiser's computer systems are designed to reduce personnel especially in areas of control. In September '97 (oops, that's 1997) the computer went down because a sailor tried to enter data that asked the microchip to divide by the number zero. The Microsoft program crashed. As a result, the *Yorktown* was without a propulsion system and was towed into Norfolk, where repairs took two days. A Navy engineer said the fatal error and the subsequent necessary tug service back to port occurred several times.

What happened to the *Yorktown* is surely a view of the all-chip U.S. Navy if Y2K is as nasty as predicted and goes unfixed. DOD is testing frantically, and what's not classified doesn't sound good.

Y2Lewinsky

A month before the *Yorktown's* Microsoft game-boy failure, about the time Clinton was enjoying an Oval Office birthday visit from his squeeze in August 1997, the Department of Defense tested its Global Command and Control System by rolling the clocks forward to just

Continued on page 87

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Czech Mates

Continued from page 75

its steel guide rod, and the slide housing to which the barrel is fixed. The ejector is attached to the barrel group. The weight, when installed on a frame, duplicates that of the CZ75B/85B pistols.

In my experience, .22 LR conversion kits, whether they are for a pistol or shoulder-mounted firearm, usually provide only mediocre performance, principally because .22 rimfire ammunition produces more fouling than any other type. Installation of this kit on a CZ75B/85B frame requires some minor fitting (described in detail in the operator's manual) with a Swiss file and a stone. This is, without doubt, the most reliable and accurate .22 conversion kit I have ever tested. I fired over 500 rounds of Remington high-velocity solids without a single stoppage. This is outstanding, but, equally important, the Kadet .22 LR conversion kit is a real tack driver. Its accuracy potential is far superior to the High Standard Supermatic Trophy pistol I used to shoot in competition 35 years ago.

Both of the 9mm Parabellum CZ75Bs that we tested held no surprises for me. This pistol remains one of the most reliable and accurate available. Again, we employed Black Hills ammunition to run the CZ75Bs through their paces: 124-grain FMJ and both 115-grain and 147-grain JHP rounds featuring Hornady's superb XTP bullets. There were no stoppages of any kind, more than enough accuracy for the purposes intended, and almost no perceived recoil (as you would expect from a steel-frame, service-size, large-capacity 9mm Parabellum pistol).

In addition to all of the above attributes, cost makes the CZ line exceedingly attractive. Depending upon the finish you select, the manufacturer's suggested retail price for the CZ75B ranges from \$440 to \$455. Add about \$60 if you want the pistol chambered for .40 S&W. The CZ97B .45 ACP pistol costs \$599 with a polymer finish (add \$20 for a blued pistol) and the Kadet .22 LR conversion kit is only \$279. Other pistols in this series include the CZ75 Compact, the CZ85B with ambidextrous manual safety and slide stop levers, the CZ85 Combat which has a fully adjustable rear sight, the CZ75/85 long-slide Champion for competition and the CZ100 DAO polymer frame 9mm/.40 S&W pistol. Ceska Zbrojovka also produces a selective-fire machine pistol version of the CZ75 which uses a spare magazine as a foregrip, a series of bolt-action hunting and sniping rifles, superposed shotguns, the Model 61 Scorpion submachine gun and the new Lada series of 5.56x45mm and 5.45x39mm assault rifles.

I have no reservations about recommending any handgun in the CZ series. Ceska Zbrojovka is an integral part of the Czech arms industry, which has been providing the world with battle-proven small arms for eight decades. ☒

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rate sometimes as high as 75 percent. So Pentagon contractors — outside of any previous normal U.S. government oversight, but perhaps with tacit agreement of the White House — began in the mid-'90s to work with Red Chinese engineers to fix major problems in their satellite launch missiles.

The spark for this trouble-shooting assistance was a catastrophic launch which destroyed a \$200-million Loral satellite.

The Failed Launch

On 14 February 1996, at the Xichang Satellite Launching Center in southwest China, China launched its new three-stage Long March 3-B booster rocket on a maiden flight. It was a short one. Only 22 seconds after liftoff, it exploded in a tremendous fireball, raining sheets of fire and flaming wreckage on a nearby village.

Official Chinese government casualty figures, as reported by the *Washington Post*, set the death toll from the explosion and crash at six villagers, with another 57 injured.

Year Of The Rat tells a far grimmer story. The authors cite an Israeli engineer who witnessed the disaster as seeing "thousands of corpses ... loaded into dozens of trucks and buried in mass graves," according to the Timperlake/Triplett book. Although the more catastrophic scope of the explosion and crash, as recounted by the Israeli, was denounced by a COSTIND spokesman as "lies," an American engineer confirmed for the authors the veracity of the Israeli's account.

But the lost lives of oppressed Chinese peasants probably meant less to U.S. contractors than lost profits. Within days, several U.S. contracts for satellite launches in China were canceled. Their insurance underwriters threatened to cancel coverage unless a non-Chinese scientific review board reached the same conclusion on what caused the crash, that it resulted from easily fixed low-tech glitches.

After feigning reluctance for such an outside review of the launch disaster, the PRC agreed, probably barely able to conceal the happiness at their good fortune. Loral's satellite division was designated to lead the review team, which also included a major Loral rival, Hughes Electronics Corp. Oversight of the review process was left to Loral's outside corporate security committee.

A member of that security committee, Stephen Bryen, a former Defense Department undersecretary for trade security policy in the second Reagan term, said the committee advised Loral that a separate U.S. State Department export license needed to be obtained to sanction the work of Loral's review board and any technical or scientific reports it would generate.

Loral's bosses told Bryen they would apply for an additional export license. But they never did, and conducted the trouble-shooting study of China's failed missile launch without State Department permission, Bryen said.

So, after the review board finished its work, on 10 May 1996, Loral transmitted to the communist government of China, via telefax from Loral's office in Beijing, a 25-page scientific analysis on the launch disaster. It included supercomputer data that had not been shared with China's COSTIND scientists earlier. The analysis was supplemented by 200 pages of supporting technical and engineering figures, the minutes of two lengthy review board meetings and other attachments.

Oh, My Stars, We Erred ...

Now, Loral's executives apparently decided, was the time to let the State Department know what was going on. Loral's general counsel, Julie Banerman, called the sages of Foggy Bottom to advise that Loral may have "inadvertently" violated technology export control laws by transmitting the review board report and three other documents of a potentially sensitive national security nature. She said she'd issued a rush order earlier that day to stop Loral from turning over the documents to the Chinese, but her message reached Loral's Beijing office one hour too late.

The Loral scandal has produced two congressional inquiries and a federal grand jury, but no action, much less punishment. The question is whether there was a quid pro quo between the PRC's straw men political donors sending large infusions of cash in one direction to the Democratic National Committee, and the Clinton Administration's largess toward Communist China regarding classified missile technology.

The White House denied that any technology had been transferred that would be of strategic value to the Chinese military. "Adequate security safeguards," Clinton's advisers assured everyone, had been implemented to prevent any improper technology transfers in the future.

In other words, there was absolutely no security breach, and we're not going to let it happen again.

"What happened is that emotions run faster than facts," said Clinton's national security adviser, Samuel R. "Sandy" Berger. "But ultimately, facts catch up with emotion. The facts here are our friends."

Right. If your other "friends" happen to be in the PLA.

Since the failed launch and Loral's overly generous trouble-shooting report, CIA analysts have concluded that 13 of China's 18 long-range CSS-4 nuclear-tipped missiles have been re-aimed at U.S. targets as far as 8,000 miles away. Despite Clinton's optimism that China is our friend, could this suggest that the PRC instead sees the United States as its major enemy?

Yet Bill Clinton continues to believe,

one must conclude from his continued favorable stance towards China, that it is a friend who needs our help. Clinton apparently chooses to ignore China's tyrannical tilt, or it doesn't bother him. He has even referred in a speech to the People's Republic of China as a "former" communist country.

Clinton has also said repeatedly that there are no nuclear missiles in China aimed at the United States. How does he know this? His "friends" in the "former" communist government told him so during his visit to Beijing in July. During that state visit by Clinton, China's military test-fired a DF-31 rocket engine. Might there be a hidden message here?

"Trust Us"

Then, before Clinton left, China promised that it would no longer aim the ICBMs (that Clinton said had never been aimed at U.S. targets) at U.S. targets. As if to soothe any lingering doubts of their sincerest best wishes, within five months of Clinton's visit, the Chinese conducted a test launch of the DF-31 ICBM, coincident with free elections on nearby tiny Taiwan in December. Again, whether one is talking about Clinton's personal life, or China's geopolitical intentions, should one judge by word or deed?

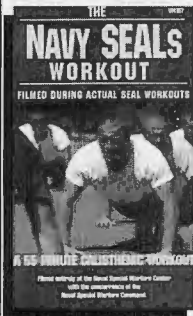
Until China developed the DF-31, scheduled for full deployment by 2002, Russia was the only country that had road-mobile ICBMs, the SS-25s. Launched from semi-truck trailers, the SS-25 and the DF-31 are difficult to defend against because they can be moved easily and quickly, making it almost impossible to target them for destruction before launch. Both missiles have solid-fuel engines, reducing preparation time from hours to minutes.

The DF-31, which can carry a 500-kiloton nuclear warhead, "will give China a major strike capability that will be difficult to counterattack at any stage of its operation, from pre-flight mobile operations through terminal flight phases," according to a classified report prepared by the U.S. Air Force National Air Intelligence Center in 1996.

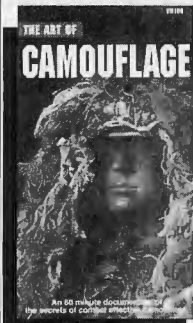
So, as a result of the Clinton/Gore China policy, defense contractors are doing landmark business with a cruel dictatorship, raking in the profits. The promise from China's communist leadership that they will no longer target American cities is questionable, given the history of PRC pledges. In the real world of disarmament, treaty obligations with the former Soviet Union took years to negotiate, and succeeded only through hard-fought guarantees for mutual on-site verification. Nothing like that exists with China.

All we have to go on is China's promise. And Comrade Clinton's word. The same word he gave the American people, when he shook his finger at the television camera, leveled his gaze intently at the U.S. public and said, "I'm not going to say this again. I never had sex with that woman. ..." ❧

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Empty Saddles

Continued from page 57

hours," and could easily swing into the right seat of any wide-body jetliner in the commercial fleet.

Being the wife of an airline pilot with all of its perks sounds wonderful, but Danyel Darger has some reservations. "They're gone 10 or 15 days out of the month. That's half a year, and if my husband were to get out of the Air Force, he'd get out for something that wouldn't take him away from home so often," says Darger. "Yes, you do make more money, but that's not the issue right now. Our issue is to be together."

Gordon and Chris Gunterman are staff sergeants in the 8th Fighter Squadron. They represent the 70% of the military who are now married. "I think the biggest problem is the children," said Gunterman, who arms stealth fighters in his squadron, "because they change so quickly, and when you come back from a deployment, it's a whole different world."

"You have to prepare the children after dad's gone, or after mom's gone," said Chris Gunterman. Fortunately for their nine-year-old son, Ryan, neither Gordon nor Chris Gunterman have had to deploy at the same time. "If a military member deploys, we want to make sure the family is taken care of," said Technical Sergeant Susan Hunter at the Family Support Center.

But as good a support system as Holloman has, not every family survives the deployments to Kuwait and other countries in Southwest Asia. "We didn't fire a shot over there, but we had casualties," said Jim Dunaway, first sergeant at the 8th FS. After spending eight of the past 12 months at Al Jaber Airfield in Kuwait, where a dozen Nighthawks were parked on Saddam Hussein's back door, Dunaway and his wife recently divorced.

"There's always somebody within the squadron getting divorced, and I honestly believe these deployments take a toll on that," said Lieutenant Colonel Doug Tracy, commander of the 48th Rescue Squadron, at Holloman. Normal rotation for the "Nightriders" is supposed to be 90 days in Southwest Asia, 180 days at home, and then back to the sandbox for another 90 days. But the time between deployments to Kuwait earlier this year and the current deployment to Turkey in support of the Northern No Fly Zone over Iraq was cut in half.

Before Tracy left Holloman, he wondered how long his men would continue to pay such a heavy price. "You know a family can go through a couple of these deployments, but when you start doing it for three or four years, it begins to tear at the fabric of the family," said Tracy, who when he is stateside, only sees his wife and children on weekends.

Enlisted members of Tracy's squadron feel the same way about deployments. "Basically, you can't count on me," said

Staff Sergeant T.P. Smith, "because I don't know what I'm doing one day to the next." For that reason, Smith's wife, Debbie, also a staff sergeant, is getting out of the Air Force after nine years in uniform. "I just think we need one stable person in the family," said Smith who got tired of having to farm out her two-year-old daughter with neighbors when she deployed with the 48th RS.

Even veterans, like Master Sergeant Robert Bartee, a flight engineer in the 48th Rescue Squadron, are thinking about getting out so he can spend more time with his wife and four children, one of whom lost interest in school during dad's last deployment to Kuwait.

Bartee says the Air Force is losing flight engineers as fast as they can be trained. Three of his flight engineer friends are getting out. The price of freedom we enjoy as Americans has never been cheap, but some men and women in uniform are beginning to feel the price is too high for them.

War On The Home Front

"I knew marrying a military guy ... that he was going to be gone, but you don't know what it's like until he's actually gone," said Sonya Regaller, whose husband is a helicopter pilot in the 48th RS.

Regaller and other wives in the squadron feel they are losing what they call "The War On The Home Front."

"The last time he left, the first night at dinner, we were setting the table. My daughter set four plates. I said we only needed three. And she burst into tears." Major Rick Regaller thinks the leadership in now becoming aware of the pain being inflicted on families like his, but he has no plans to resign his commission.

Chaplains also deploy with the troops, and they're human also. "We go through the same emotion about being separated from family, and that creates some very deep feelings," confessed Air Force Captain Effson Bryant, Jr., who felt helpless recently when he was in Saudi Arabia and one of his small children required surgery at Holloman.

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Woltering, who led a record-setting flight of stealth aircraft from the 8th Fighter Squadron to Kuwait, has spent more than half of the past 18 months in that country keeping an eye on Saddam Hussein. Woltering is keenly aware of the "War On The Home Front," and the toll it's taking among military families.

"Families become independent during these long deployments, and the longer we're away, the more difficult it is to meld the family back together." Woltering's wife, Jodie, says sometimes all a military wife can do is "Salute smartly, and send your man off and hope they come back safely."

Veteran journalist Dale B. Cooper has been a frequent contributor to SOF beginning with the Gulf War, and now brings insight to troop deployment and readiness issues. ✕

Desert Storm

Continued from page 47

M82A1 rifle is in use by various United States military units and numerous others around the world.

The Model 96 Expeditionary Rifle, from ZDF Import Export was fired during the manufacturers' demo as was their VEPR. The VEPR 308 is a Kalashnikov-based design imported from Russia and is available in both a rifle and carbine form, fitted with checkered walnut furniture, in caliber 7.62x51mm. The M96 Expeditionary Rifle shows an external similarity to the well-known Stoner 63 system of weapons, however, it utilizes a different operating mechanism. Look for a future test article by *SOF's* technical editor Peter Kokalis on the M96. ZDF also offers original P-08 Lugers and P-38 pistols of various manufacturers.

Don Bell, from Omega Weapons Systems, in Tucson, Arizona, put the prototype SPS-12 shotgun through its paces. The SPS-12 is a Chinese-made, gas-operated, semi-automatic 12-gauge shotgun fed by either 5- or 8-round box magazines. Importation is expected to commence in December 1998.

Firepower Demo

One of the most eagerly awaited events is the yearly Firepower Demo.

With even more exotic and rare machine guns than in past years, Peter G. Kokalis led the "Arizona Emma Gees" in their traditional demonstration of death and destruction. The selection of weapons ran from the world's best light machine gun, the Bren, to the world's worst, the *Chauchat*.

Kent Lomont, with his twin Mag 58s, displayed his usual fire control and discipline by unleashing a sustained 1,000 round burst while the large crowd erupted in cheers.

The .50-caliber "Ma Deuce," the venerable Vickers, 1917 and 1919 Brownings, the antique Marlin 1914 "Digger" and BSA-made Lewis gun, the rare Czech ZB-26, and the formidable M-60 rattled away until no single stick of dynamite or incendiary was left intact. The "terrorist" van that was the focus of their attention resembled a kitchen sieve when the dust and smoke cleared.

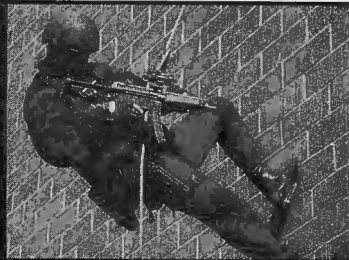
Always a favorite with spectators and conventioners, this years Firepower Demo was no disappointment and was deemed "the very best of the best."

Inside The Expo Hall

With exhibitors, large and small, the 1998 Expo showed some of the most recent developments in weapons, counterterrorist equipment, accessories, militaria, and gear available today.

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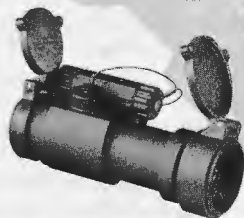


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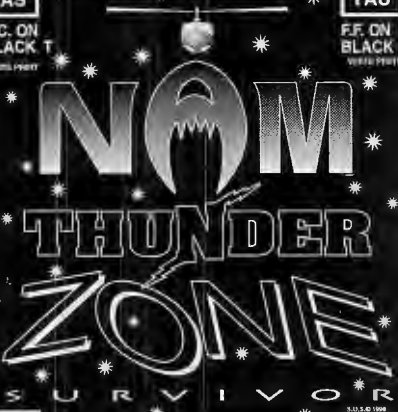
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visit. Both took time out from her official NRA appearance over at the Rio to spend several hours meeting Expo attendees.

Ruger, Smith & Wesson, Mossberg and UZI, Taurus, Barrett, Bushmaster, Olympic, B-Square, Al Mar, G.G.&G., H-S Precision, Ed Brown, and Les Baer were just some of the exhibitors that were there to show their goods.

For the AR-15 aficionado, Armalite, Bushmaster/Quality Parts, Olympic Arms, and Lone Star displayed their selection of weapons, parts, and accessories.

If precision rifle shooting is your bag, then Autauga Arms, Dakota Arms, GSI, H-S Precision, and G.G.&G. could provide you with complete weapons systems or the components to satisfy your needs.

If you needed to do it quietly, with a suppressor, you could talk to Philip Dater, from Gemtech, G.G.&G, or D.A.W. Firearms.

In order to feed all of this high-tech weaponry, Navy Arms, Dillion Precision, Hornady, and Cor-Bon could have helped you out.

Shooters Choice showed every manner of cleaning gear and Brownells could provide whatever you might need for repair.

For reading or video, either current training materials or historical books, Harris Publications, *Shotgun News*, Lancer Militaria, Phillips Publications, John Ross with *Unintended Consequences*, Randy and Sara Weaver with their book, *The Federal Siege At Ruby Ridge*, or MGA Entertainment, with *Waco: The Final Prophecy*, would have filled the bill.

If training is what you sought, Global Studies Group Inc., the HALO Group, Team Delta, and the NRA Whittington Center offered that. If a more extensive training course was of interest, the U.S. Army and Marine Corps were on hand to offer "long-term" courses.

To carry all of this gear, Eagle Industries, Shooting Systems, Blade-Tech, and several others, could have provided a means to transport it.

Al Mar, Bagwell, Emerson, Gerber, Ka-Bar, Cold Steel, and numerous others, could furnish that blade for the last line of defense.

And, finally, if you just wanted to get out of town, Global Adventures was there to send you off on a safari to Africa or to the South Pacific.

If you hankered to jump from the door of a perfectly good airplane, SOF's Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott and his company, Military Parachuting Tours, Inc., could arrange for your PLF in Russia, Albania, or some other faroff DZ.

I have attended every SOF Convention and Expo since the initial Las Vegas show and have always looked forward to seeing old friends, attending the seminars and fire-power demo — and spending my very last dime with the exhibitors.

Chris Mayer is a 30-year law-enforcement officer and long-time firearms instructor who resides in Southern California. ✕

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Taliban Turnaround

Continued from page 39

ic local had reported seeing the processed film from Tuesday's fighting in Mazar.

By the morning of Wednesday, 28 May, the surviving Taliban had been driven out of Mazar, and the Uzbeks and Shi'ites were back in control of this northern capital. The badly shaken expatriate community was, of course, scrambling to get out at first light, and the United Nations had organized an evacuation in a road convoy to the Afghan town of Hiraton on the banks of the Amu Darya River, the official crossing point by bridge to the town of Termez in neighboring Uzbekistan. The bungled and blatant nature of this evacuation contributed greatly to the subsequent looting of the U.N.; instead of discreetly assembling all expats inside their compound, the U.N. had parked a long line of jeeps and other vehicles on the street outside, where already distressed locals became even more frustrated and bitter as they watched the bulk of the foreign community — their erstwhile supporters — prepare to leave.

Summary Execution

An attempt to instill some order into the chaos of Mazar was witnessed by the BBC team, which had also been looted of all their kit during the Taliban collapse. In response to the BBC appeal for help, a senior Uzbek

general dispatched a team of soldiers, who caught one of the thieves red-handed with booty. In front of the BBC and others, the general ordered the thief's summary execution and he was shot dead on the spot — despite BBC protests.

Within days, Malik's commanders had regained control in Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul and Faryab provinces, and the northwestern frontline with Taliban fighters was re-established in their old positions around the Morghab River in Badghis province.

From their Kandahar headquarters in southern Afghanistan, the Taliban leadership blustered that the Mazar fighting had all been "a misunderstanding" and balked at commenting on whether their alliance with Malik was bust.

Ahmad Shah Masood reacted quickly, taking advantage of the fluid situation in the north by pitching commando strike squads at the Taliban based in the twin town of Gulbahar and Jabul Siraj, which were overrun and captured in a pre-dawn attack on Thursday, 29 May. By retaking Gulbahar, Masood broke the nearly five-month long Taliban siege to the mouth of his native Panjshir Valley, and the capture of adjacent Jabul Siraj cut off the religious militia forces still in the nearby Salang Valley from any retreat to Kabul. From Jabul Siraj, 77 kilometers (48 miles) north of Kabul, Masood then marched his men 12 kilometers south toward the Parwan provincial capital of Charikar, where they locked in

fighting with the Taliban.

News broadcasts from Radio Shariat in Kabul denied the fall of Jabul Siraj, announcing that "an offensive by the forces of evil and corruption" had been defeated there. However, the Taliban leadership in Kandahar soon conceded the fall of Jabul Siraj, saying their retreat was only a "tactical withdrawal" to reinforce Charikar.

A Catastrophic Defeat

This was how the so-called Islamic warriors won, and lost, in northern Afghanistan. It was a catastrophic defeat that depleted the Taliban not only of a major part of its experienced fighting force but also of its senior leadership.

It seemed as though the Moslem movement had been gutted, that this military debacle had robbed them of any viable presence in northern Afghanistan. But that was not the case. In the typically unpredictable way that the power advantage swings from faction to faction in Afghanistan, the Taliban did manage to resurface in the north, in a different province and with different allies.

Jake Border is a freelance journalist based in Indonesia. See Part 2 of his Taliban coverage in our next issue to read how the Taliban established themselves in a buffer zone of two provinces sandwiched between Junbish turf to the west and Masood's domain to the east. ✕

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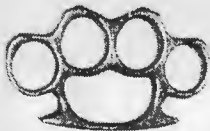
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Head Games

Continued from page 61

ed to drive out and investigate the reported massacre of upwards of 200 ethnic Albanian civilians during a mid-July offensive by Serb security forces.

At that time an *SOF* team, led by editor/publisher Robert K. Brown, had been only miles away, on the Albanian side of the border, working on a story showing how the KLA got their weapons.

Strong evidence emerged after the KLA's defeat in Orahovac that Serbian police shot and killed civilians during their mop-up operations. International relief workers we had spoken with in Pristina said the Orahovac massacre ranks as the worst in the months of violence in Kosovo.

According to the relief workers, after three days of fighting on the outskirts of Orahovac between the KLA and the police, up to a thousand people took refuge in a Moslem sanctuary in the center of the town on the morning of 20 July.

The police ordered them out and when they did they were mowed down in a hail of bullets.

One group of survivors reached a factory on the edge of Orahovac where police opened fire again. One man, according to the relief workers, who managed to return to the sanctuary the next day found an elderly Muslim cleric, the leading Muslim figure in the town, shot dead in the back. Police burned houses attached to the sanctuary, shooting six or seven more people, and shot a number of other residents at various locations in the town.

The Serbian police said that 58 people died during fighting in Orahovac and all were KLA guerrillas. A Serb police colonel who took journalists to a supposed mass grave site on the edge of the Muslim cemetery told them 40 bodies were buried there, all in individual graves. Another 18 bodies had been buried in the nearby town of Prizren.

A mainstream British journalist told *SOF*, however, that three Muslim groups in Orahovac had compiled a list of 215 dead.

"The only time you'll be able to identify any of the killers," said Asman Rrustemi, 29, a former resident of Orahovac and now a refugee, "is when you're on your back with a gun pointed at your face like my uncle. He knew the policeman who killed him. I guess if you were an Albanian you'd know your killer too."

Whatever the outcome of this latest Balkans conflict, it is almost certain to end up as a test bed for the newly created International War Crimes Tribunal. There is no doubt that the hangman's noose awaits many of the Serb security force grunts and KLA guerrillas *SOF* ran across during the summer of 1998.

Mark H. Milstein is *SOF's* senior foreign correspondent. ✕



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Deadline Of Doom

Continued from page 79

before the 00 magic hour. At the arrival of the double-00, major components of the system crashed or froze. Command and control, down and out. Now, that is a frightening prospect. The event occurred at the closing moments of the yearly Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstration and was reported by *Government Computer News*. The major news media snoozed past it.

At least the *Boston Globe* wasn't asleep in recently reporting that among the first tests of any major computer system in the U.S. was a 1993 simulation conducted by the North American Air Defense Command. When computer scientists moved the clock forward to 00, the screens in NORAD's hardshell Cheyenne Mountain deep bunker went dead. As the *Globe* described the event, "... everything froze — the screens that monitored the early-warning satellites and radars and other communications systems that would detect a flock of missiles or bombers coming our way."

Steady defense system testing has been carried out on a piecemeal basis with mostly alarming results.

And while the commander-in-chief is putting American forces on the brink or over the brink, what is he doing about the war on Y2K?

Clinton appointed a Czar — a businessman named John Kostinen — an individual who everybody at the core of the fight considers a nice guy. But who has ever heard of him or of his four-person office in the White House? That's right, four people — two interns (that's two more than the president is allowed these days) and a secretary — to provide leadership for a \$200-billion dollar worldwide mobilization.

A check of the White House Web, of all presidential public documents filed since the first day of the Clinton Administration, showed but 14 entries.

Y2K is a huge fear among large sectors of upper management and among the worker-bees (the information systems people) — of government, industry, finance, banking, you name it — but it doesn't rate anything from the man from Hope, Arkansas, at least up front.

Rock, Paper and Scissors

The physical rules of war are still like the ancient game of rock, paper and scissors. To paraphrase that child's game of hands (let's hope they still play it): The spear beats the broken ray gun every time.

And that's where we may be at 2400.00.00 hours, 31 December 1999. But Bill Clinton has other plans for the U.S. military.

James Norell is a freelance writer who resides in central Pennsylvania. Look for part II of his Y2K coverage in an upcoming issue, which will address martial law and "consequence management." ✕



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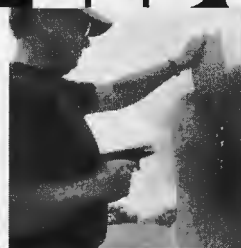
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Iraq's UNSCOM Follies

Continued from page 65

The Israel Factor

Ritter's contacts with Israel are pivotal to the investigation that has been launched into his role in UNSCOM by the U.S. government. By his own admission, while Washington tended to treat the Iraqi affair as an academic exercise, "I thought that Israel regarded it as a matter of life and death ... so we came to Israel," Ritter says. Whatever was done, he stresses, was sanctioned by the Chairman of UNSCOM (first Rolf Ekeus and then his successor, Australian Ambassador Richard Butler).

"At the same time, every aspect was approved by Washington ... all the way up the line to the top," Ritter said in a statement to *JIR*. He added: "I am not a spy for the United States, nor for Israel or any other country. Let us be quite clear about that. I was in charge when I went to Israel and Israel responded.

Israel did not control the special commission in any way, nor did it try to."

Ritter has always maintained that Israel was a fair player in the matter. "It was extremely responsible," he declared.

Asked how often he went to Israel, Ritter would only say "it was a lot" from 1994 until the time he left in 1998.

Toward the end of 1994, Ritter was leading regular delegations to Tel Aviv for meetings with Major General Uri Saguy (then chief of Israeli military intelligence) as well as with panels of analysts from other Israeli security agencies. There were also meetings with representatives of the Jerusalem government in New York, usually held in basements or obscure bars scattered throughout the city. Sometimes he met with Amidror, Saguy's deputy.

Part of the reason for this work, he disclosed was that the time had come that UNSCOM needed some new methodologies that they weren't getting from the United States. "So we took them from Israel instead," he says.

What did Ritter think of the Israelis that he met? He's candid. "First, they are a remarkably professional bunch. They worked their asses off. In Washington, in contrast, you have to cope with the 9-to-5 mentality. But the Israelis would have none of it. If we weren't finished at the end of the day, we'd go on, well into the night.

U.S. Bureaucrat Mentality

Ritter was also critical of what he termed Washington bureaucrats "thinking out of the box;" implying that everything was done according to the book. There was no latitude for flexibility, he felt.

"The Israelis are different," he said. "If they come up against something, they say, 'OK, we can't do it this way, so how else?' Alternatives are a natural progression. They look for solutions. A problem is just another

obstacle that needs to be overcome ... they are not afraid of having ideas shot down within a think-tank context. In this they were remarkably courageous and innovative in terms of putting forward new ideas."

By the time it was over, he reckoned, they had become a formidable team.

In an interview with Israel's *Ha'aretz* (29 September 1998) Ritter provided first hand information about the Iraqi concealment program. It was run by Abed Hamid Mahmoud, probably the most powerful man in the country after the president. Like Saddam, he is a Tikriti who hails from the same village. Its members make up the majority of his closest bodyguards because they are regarded as "family."

The two main organizations involved (the SSO and the SRG) are both presidential forces. Says Ritter: "The Special Security Organization is one of the most secretive groupings anywhere, with a strength of about 5,000 and possibly more. The SRB, in contrast, is the military component. It has four brigades with about 20,000 people in all." It was his job while with UNSCOM to try to break through the almost impenetrable shell that surrounded both bodies.

Ritter continues, "And in the end we did it. We managed to establish what procedures they followed and gradually, because it was a slow process, we came to understand their methodology. I asked Israel to help us formulate analytical models and techniques and to advise on operational issues, which they did.

"Remember it is Israeli cities, not the people of Chicago or New York, that are in the line of fire from any of the WMD that Iraq might produce. They had a vested interest in the outcome."

Abed's influence within Saddam Hussein's "inner sanctum" is remarkable. Even Qusay Hussein, Saddam's son, cannot get to him unless he goes through Abed, the "gatekeeper," who is not only responsible for coordinating the national security policy of Iraq but is responsible for the SSO.

According to Ritter, the entire program runs like the *Mafiosi* with select cells being responsible for specific tasks. One cell never knows what another does. "I think we are talking about hundreds of people; several cells will do chemicals, others biological work and so on. You might be talking about as many as 50 or 60 sites at any one time. Then you have those who monitor UNSCOM; trying to get information about our next step, or what we have been able to discover for ourselves."

Ritter stressed that his people were always being challenged by security obstacles placed in their way by Iraqis, and that the U.N. role needed to be viewed within the context of a regime of terror and control. "They can tap into any resource in the country and they don't need permission to do so."

Al J. Venter has been a regular contributor to Soldier Of Fortune for much of the past quarter-century and resides in Washington state. ✕

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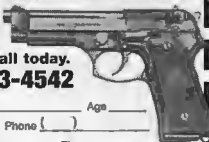


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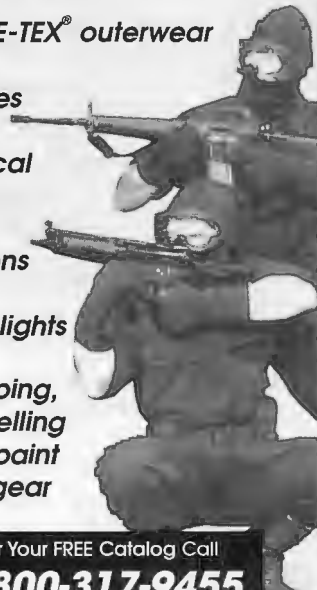
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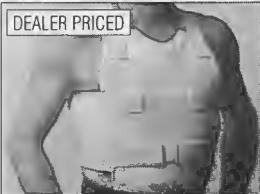
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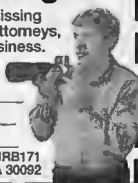
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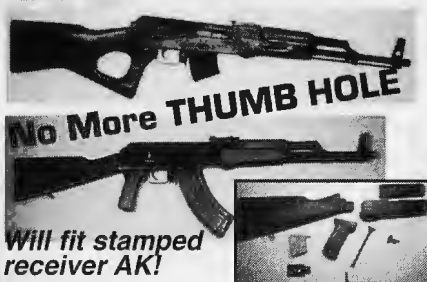
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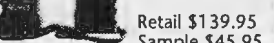
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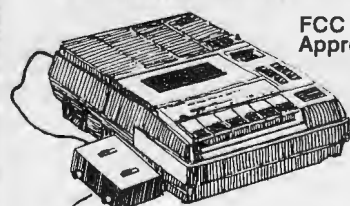
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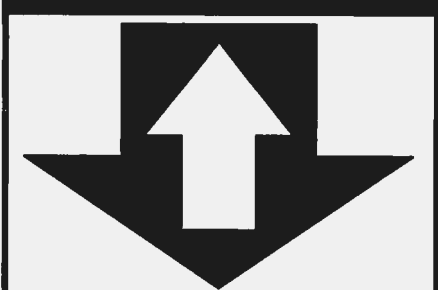
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I saw the body bags and litters, and I learned the battlefield is no place for anything less than perfection.

In 1998, our soft and lost Army seems to have forgotten this absolute. Too many of the kids graduating from Army basic training are walking cannon fodder who will wind up dead before the first battle has ended.

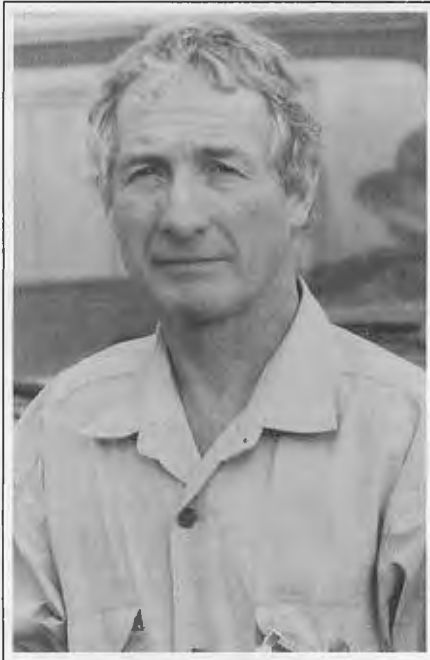
I was taught, as a boy soldier in Italy, by a very tough platoon sergeant who'd slugged it out during World War II with the famous "Bloody Bucket" division. "LEARN IT RIGHT AND YOU WILL DO IT RIGHT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE" and "LEARN IT WRONG AND YOU'LL SPEND THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TRYING TO GET IT RIGHT" were among his favorite chants.

"And in battle," Sergeant Steve Prazenka often thundered, "You meatheads that get it wrong, the rest of your life will be very short!"

After learning from Prazenka and other NCOs who'd witnessed too many peach-faced kids turn into purple mush during their terrible journey from the Kasserine Pass to the Elbe River, I went to war.

In Korea, I saw hundreds of soldiers killed or wounded because they hadn't been prepared. Somewhere along the way, I understood Prazenka's dedication about getting it right. I became exactly like him and most other combat leaders who'd tangoed with terror.

Maybe it was when I saw a new replacement, O'Toole, die his first day with my squad. No one in basic training told him not to pick up an enemy grenade. Maybe it was when replacement Davis drowned in his own blood from a minor wound. No one had taught him basic first aid. Or, it could have been when new guy Bell thought a wooden door was good cover. A burst of machine-gun



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.

fire ripped right through it, tearing out his guts and ending his young life.

I could recite hundreds of incidents from 12 hot conflicts from Osan, in Korea, to Vietnam's Mekong Delta, to Sarajevo, in Bosnia, of kids who zipped when they should have zagged because they hadn't had a Sergeant Prazenka to show them the right way to make it through the nightmare.

I wouldn't let my two sons join today's Army. The initial entry training has been too watered down; made too politically correct to accommodate women and to give the recruits that warm, fuzzy, Boy Scout summer camp feeling.

A Fort Benning drill sergeant says, "A private can tell a drill to "— off' and be told, "The private's having a bad day, leave him alone." No more Article 15s (Unit punishment) — way too many in the brigade this month. If a gung-ho private squares away a dirtbag, it's the drill sergeant's fault, so relieve him. My battalion sergeant major's favorite saying is 'This is a business. We are putting out a product. Don't take too much pride in the product because the soldiers going to graduate whether you're here to train them or not.'"

A rifle company commander doesn't think much of the product that Fort Benning's pushing out. "The troops coming out are in terrible physical condition. They're weak with a rifle — most can't

zero in under 18 rounds and usually just squeak out Marksman. In my estimation, if a guy isn't with us for at least three months and two field problems, he would be a casualty in the first five minutes of battle."

If I were king, I'd close Army entry training and send all future infantry grunts to the Marines. The Corps still produces trained and disciplined soldiers who know how to make it on a killing field. Even Sergeant Prazenka would think they're ready to face the bear.

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

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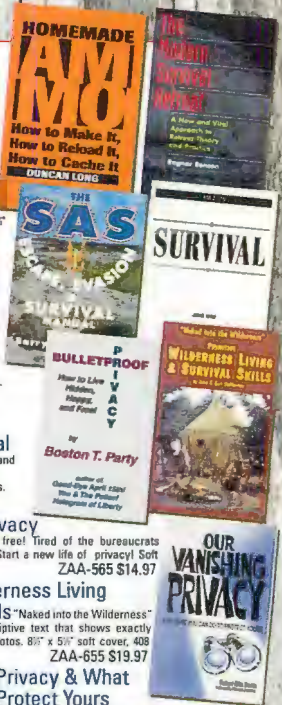
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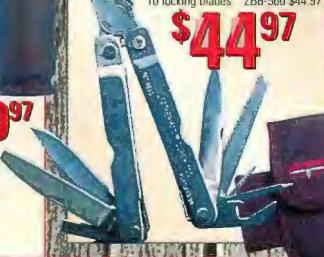
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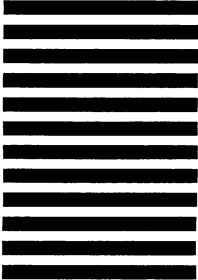
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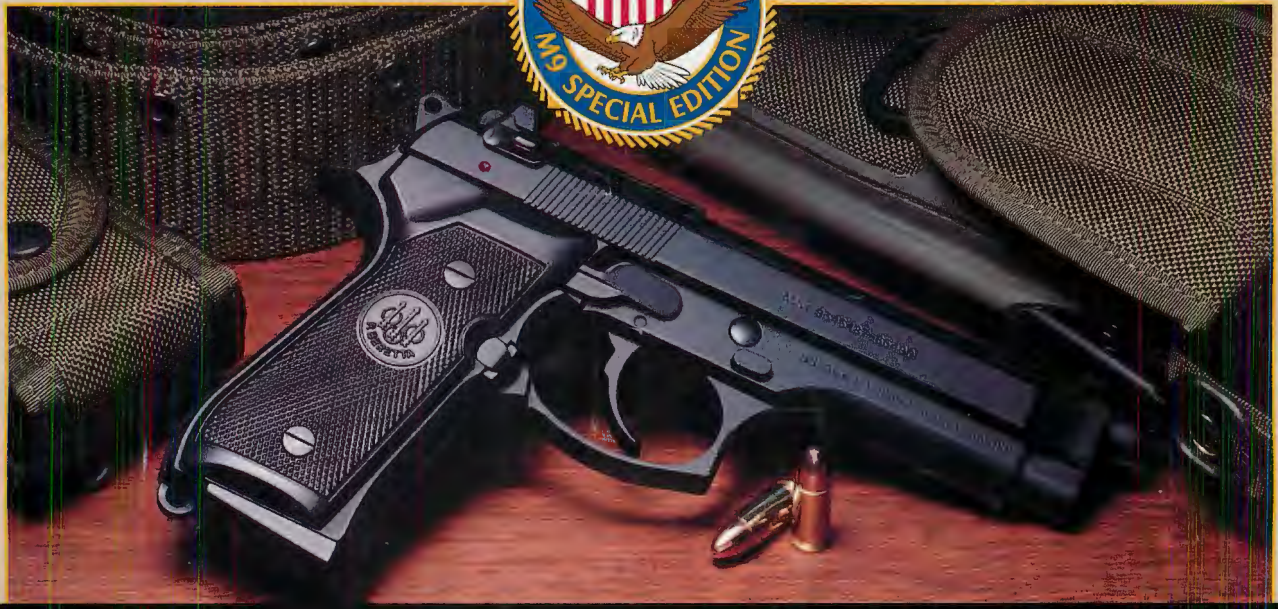


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