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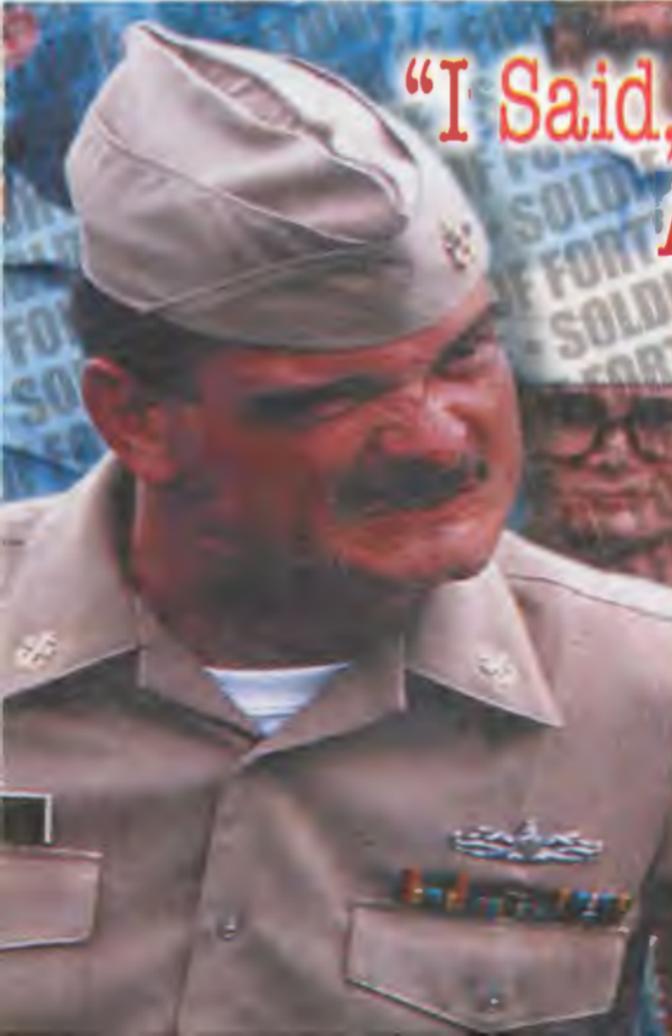


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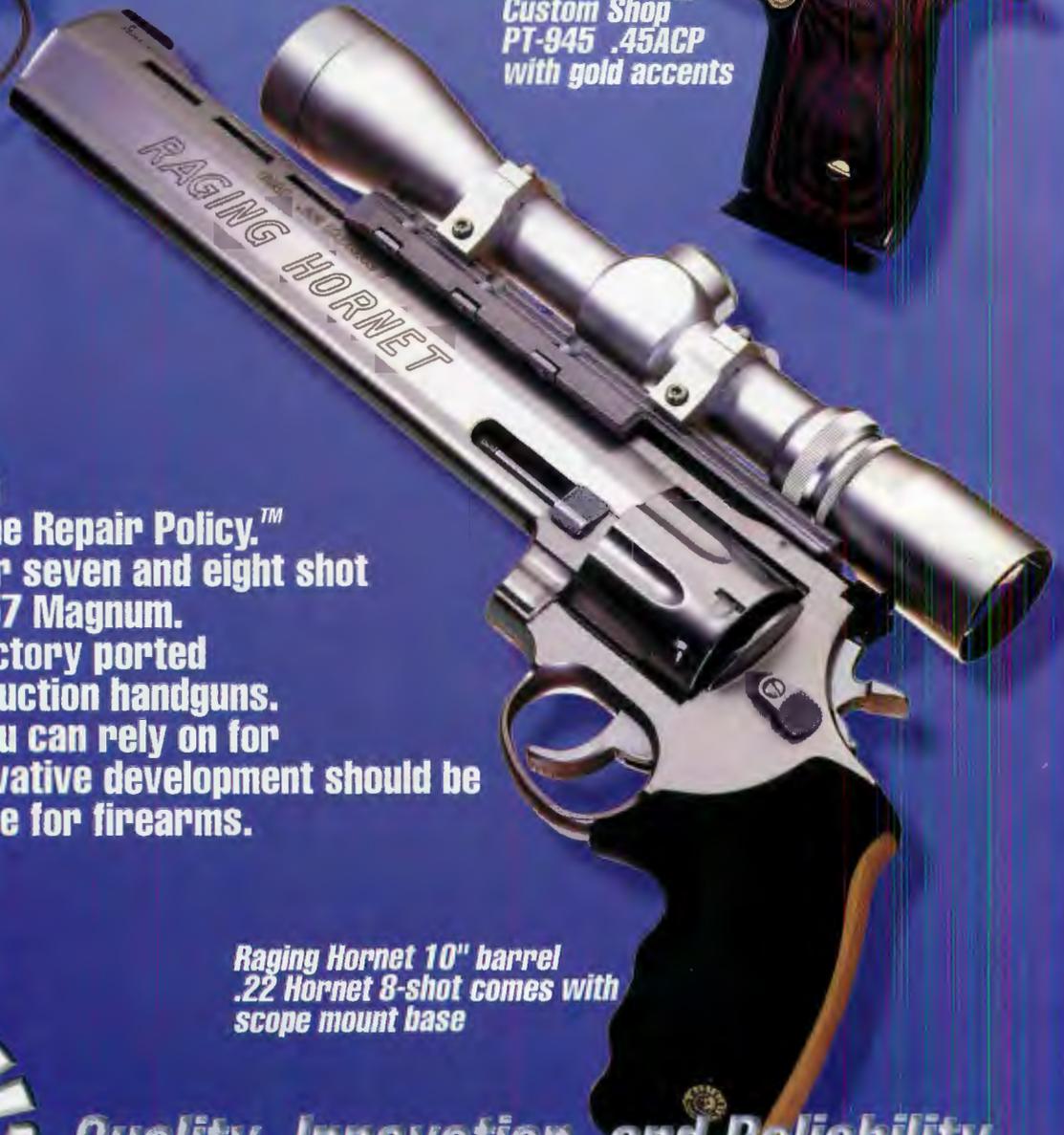
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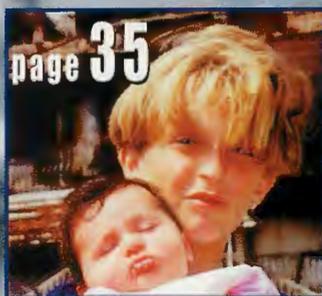
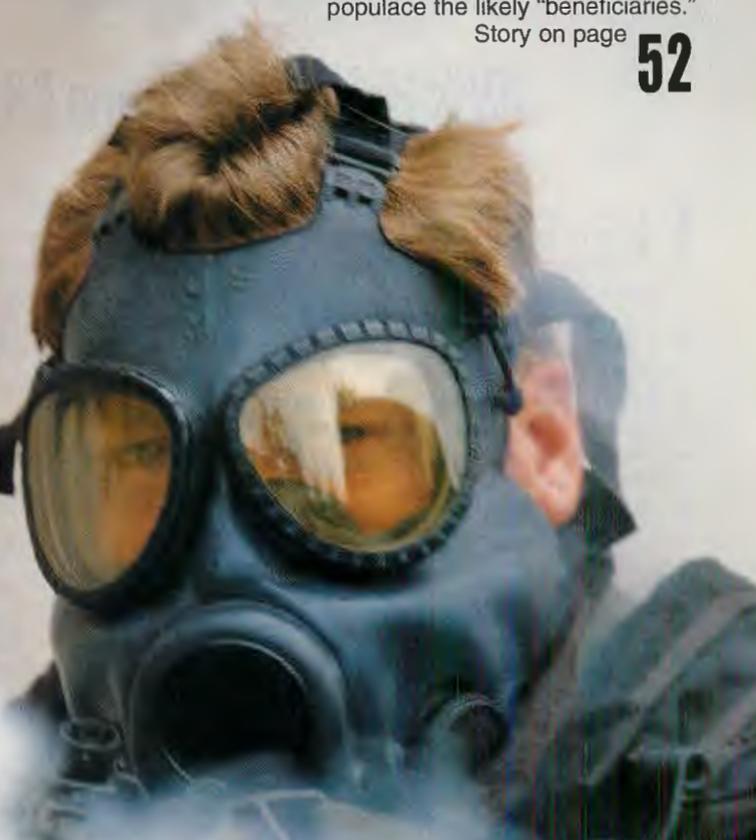
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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

SOF's Picks For A Strong NRA

Once again, the time has come to elect members to the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association of America (NRA). If you're not a member of the NRA, you can stop right here, get out your checkbook and join. I have been a Member of the Board for a good many years, the members of the NRA having re-elected me several times. I have been active, and hopefully somewhat effective in other ways, on gun-rights issues. So I have a pretty good idea of what we need by way of directors in the NRA.

Of course, the NRA isn't perfect; we can't always do everything to everyone's liking, especially for gun owners, shooters, hunters, and gun-rights activists, who are not painted in pastel colors. But it is the largest and most effective gun-rights organization going. It is one of the 10 most powerful political lobbying groups in Washington, D.C. Therefore, the election of board members is not a ho-hum matter. We need competent, responsible, dedicated, active, team-playing, informed gun-rights activists on the board.

In the board election, you are limited by the by-laws to vote for not more than 26 names. This year, after due reflection, I am recommending and urging all eligible voting members of the NRA to support the following:

Dr. Thomas P. Arvas
David E. Bennett, III
Raymond W. Cahen
Allan D. Cors
John L. Cushman
H.T. Davison
Donn C. DiBiasio
Diana Dunigan

Philip Hemphill
Roy Innis
Herbert A. Lanford, Jr.
Dr. David A. Oliver
Ernie Padgette
Dr. Barbara A. Phillips
Peter Jay Printz
Todd J. Rathner
Kayne B. Robinson
Karl T. Rowan, Jr.



Robin L. Sharpless
John C. Sigler
Kirk Stanley
Harry D. Thomas
John J. Thompson
Howard J. Walter
Dave Workman
Michael D. Yacino
Of course, everyone who stands for election deserves consideration, so it is with some regret that I am recommending that I am recommending that you *not* vote for:

Michael J. Beko
Sally Drews Brodbeck
William Dominquez
Howard J. Fezell
Daniel B. Fiora
David M. Gross
Fred E. Gustafson
Robert E. Hodgdon
Michael S. Kindberg
Albert C. Ross
Frank H. Sawberger
Thomas L. Seefeldt
John Trentes
Glen I. Voorhees, Jr.

You will soon be getting your ballot issue of the *American Rifleman*, *American Hunter*, or *American Guardian*, and the time to return your vote is also quite short. The new directors will take office at the upcoming NRA annual meetings in Denver, Colo., 30 April — 4 May 1999. See you there. ✕

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Medal of Honor recipient Master Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez died on 29 November 1998 at Ft. Sam Houston Medical Center, Texas, and was buried at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery on 3 December; 5th SFGA provided the burial detail.

On 2 May 1968, while assigned to the 5th SFGA in Vietnam, then-Staff Sgt. Benavidez volunteered to assist the hot extraction of a 12-man SF team under heavy fire in dense jungle west of Loc Ninh. Benavidez directed the chopper to near wounded and dead team members, and while moving to downed team members he was shot in the right leg, face and head. Benavidez organized remaining team members to provide defensive fire and in spite of his wounds dragged and carried wounded and dead comrades to the chopper. Returning to recover the body of the team leader, Benavidez was again wounded in the back and abdomen; the helicopter pilot was critically wounded and the machine crashed and overturned. Benavidez returned to the chopper and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter as the enemy attack continued.

While rallying the surviving troops Benavidez called in tac air and directed fire from supporting airships. As another rescue chopper neared, Benavidez was again wounded while providing first-aid to a fellow soldier. When that craft arrived Benavidez again dragged and carried the wounded to it; he was clubbed in the head, sustaining additional wounds, and killed his attacker hand-to-hand. On reaching the helicopter with wounded, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers. Bleeding from the many wounds he had received, Benavidez still refused to board the rescue ship until he ensured all wounded men and all classified materials had been recovered. Benavidez's selfless heroism had saved eight lives.

Benavidez was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions that day, which was upgraded to the MOH. He was presented the MOH by President Reagan in 1981 in a ceremony at the Pentagon. Noted Gen. Colin Powell in his biography, "that afternoon marked the changing of the guard for the armed forces. We no longer had to wear civvies. A hero received a hero's due. The military services had been restored to a place of honor."

Sandline International Exonerated

An international arbitration tribunal has ruled that the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) must pay the U.K.-based secu-

rity consultancy Sandline International the last half of the \$36 million contract they entered into with the firm, plus interest and costs. Sandline had been hired by the PNG government to provide technical assistance and military equipment during the PNG's COIN ops against Bougainville rebels, but the government in Port Moresby cut short the deal under criticism for "hiring mercenaries" before the contract was completed.

In a related development as we go to press, the South African merc-work firm of Executive Outcomes (Pty.), Ltd., at a 2 December meeting of shareholders and directors, it was resolved to terminate the company and to wind up its affairs from 1 January 1999.

The company's hail and farewell press release noted, "Over the past two years the majority of governments in Africa have endeavored to secure and maintain law and order. The nature of these efforts does not justify EO's involvement. However, EO welcomes the efforts and commitments of these governments to achieve and maintain peace and stability in Africa. EO trusts that they will be rewarded with the required measure of success ... The management of Executive Outcomes looks back with pride on the successful contribution towards the peace processes especially in Angola and Sierra Leone."

EO was established in 1989, in South Africa, and although they often came under fire from critics who couldn't swallow the fact that some countries needed to hire outside professionals, the company enjoyed an enviable reputation for competence, successfully completing virtually all contracts for professional military advisory services. Formed at the right time and near to the market for their services, EO drew largely upon former South African and Rhodesian special forces personnel. During their decade of existence, EO operated in support of armed forces, law enforcement agencies and private corporations in Southern Africa, West Africa, South America and the Far East.

G.I.s Training In Africa

The Army's 3rd SFGA from Ft. Bragg has deployed 60 personnel to Benin to train a battalion-size unit in peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance. The deployment is part of the American African Crisis-Response Initiative, which is intended to create an African peacekeeping force. Since 1997, G.I.s have trained similar African units from Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Senegal and Uganda.

Rent A Rebel?

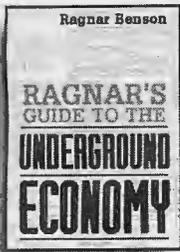
Former chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, retired Gen. Lisandro Abadia, has told a Philippine Senate hearing that the military-controlled Retirement and Separation Benefits System paid nearly four million pesos (U.S. \$91,324) to communist New People's Army rebels in 1996, to ensure rebel forces did not interfere with construction of an army housing project in Pampanga province.

Border Contingency Plans For Latin America Exodus

Latin America's instability is forcing the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to plan for rapid construction of detention compounds near the U.S.-Mexico border that temporarily could house as many as 50,000 undocumented aliens.

Up to 10 of the military-style compounds could be constructed

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RAGNAR'S GUIDE TO THE UNDERGROUND ECONOMY

by Ragnar Benson

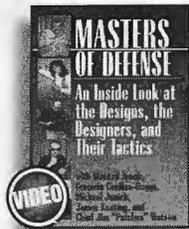
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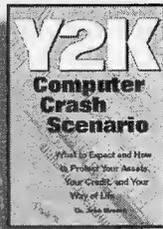
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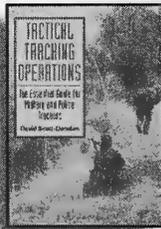
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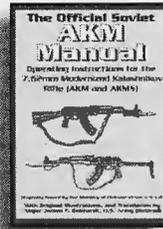
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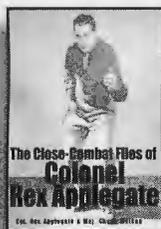
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Translation by Maj. James F. Gebhardt (Ret.)

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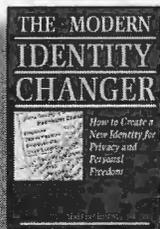
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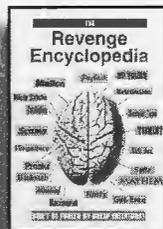
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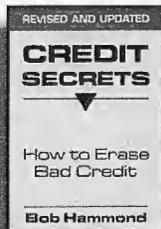


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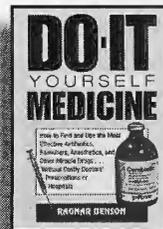


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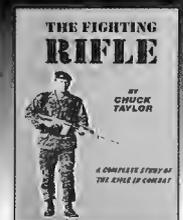
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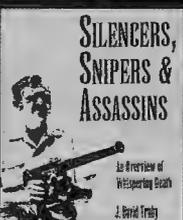
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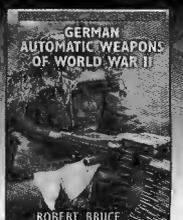
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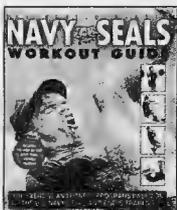
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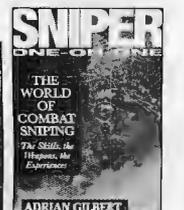
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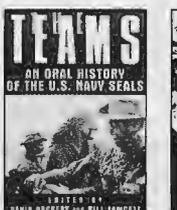
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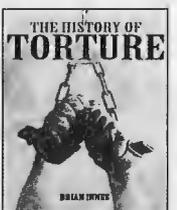


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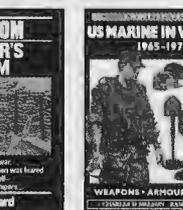
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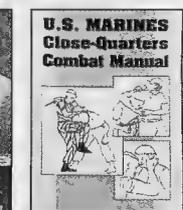
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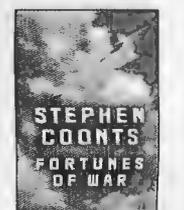
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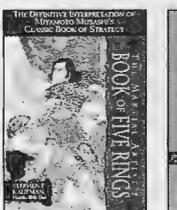
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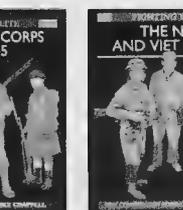
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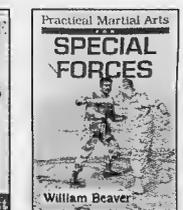
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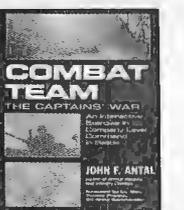
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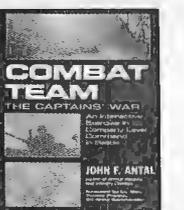
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to provide tent housing, basic services, and recreation for detainees while their immigration status is checked, according to December news reports. The compounds' locations reportedly have not yet been selected.

Federal officials cited the recent influx of several thousand refugees from hurricane-ravaged Central America, as well as economic stress and past civil wars in Latin America, as reasons for preparation. One INS spokesman referred to the mass-exodus scenario as "an immigration emergency situation," according to the *San Antonio Express-News*. A Justice Department spokesman likened this program to the disaster-preparedness planning of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Two such detention compounds were built in 1995 during a federal exercise in southern Arizona and Texas. Each was surrounded with a chain-link fence with controlled access.

The border area with Mexico, spanning Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California, is patrolled by thousands of law enforcement and U.S. military personnel. Complicating all efforts to control illegal immigration is the border's status as the primary route for drug trafficking into the United States.

—Marty Kufus

Cyber-Spies Attack

According to a report released 15 December by the Center for Strategic and International Studies entitled *Cybercrime, Cyber Terrorism, Cyberwarfare: Averting an Electronic Waterloo*, hackers from more than 20 nations — most of them our "friends" — have penetrated American information systems. On 10 December, one of the report's researchers, Stephanie Lanz, said the computer network intrusions have included attacks on Department of Defense systems, as well as industrial espionage attempts by hackers in the employ of foreign parties.

In addition to France, which tops the list, the report exposes as

major offenders hackers from Israel, Taiwan, Japan, Russia and China.

Pre-Browsed Net Sites

Media Research Center: <http://www.mediaresearch.org> (media watchdogs worth monitoring, and sponsors of the following site).

Conservative News Service: <http://www.conservativenews.org> (an alternative to what many of us deem to be the heavily filtered news available from the mass media).

My Generation: <http://members.aol.com/rhrongstad/history/military/mygeneration.htm> (letter from Robert Grady to President Clinton, as read on radio by Charlton Heston).

Clinton's Pentagon Shrine: <http://www.accessone.com/~rivero/POLITICS/ARCHIVE/item.html> (tie on your barf bag before you browse this old *Washington Times* story).

House Committee on National Security: <http://www.house.gov/nsc> (U.S. House of Representatives)

Socialists in Congress: <http://www.conservativenews.org/indepth/archive/IND19981111c.html> (impacting U.S. military policies and readiness).

The Truth About Tailwind: <http://www.greenberet.net/tailwind/index.html>

David Hackworth: <http://www.hackworth.com>

National Defense Council Foundation: <http://www.ndcf.org> (Maj. Andy Messing, et al.)

Soldiers For The Truth: <http://www.sftt.org> (Seeks return of the draft and restoration of sane U.S. military policy based on veterans' experience rather than dreams of politically motivated policy wonks).

Center for Military Readiness: <http://www.cmrlink.org> (Elaine Donnelly focuses on U.S. unit cohesion problems fomented by gender equity activists).

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF): <http://www.atf.treas.gov> (Brady Law info plus statistics from Arson and Explosives (AEXIS) National Repository available to the public).

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FM-50G \$14.95 *

Includes weapons field manuals, plus operational manuals for such weapons as SKS, M1 Garand, MK19, AK-47, Sten, Lee Enfield, M16, M14, MAC, M60, FN-FAL, P38, Model 1917 .30 Cal US Rifle, M24 Sniper Rifle, 90 mm Recoilless Rifle, M9 Pistol, .45 Cal Pistol and more. A total of 50 manuals.

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

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

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

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

You Fight Like You Train

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

"Ultimate Fighting"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why You Must Know How To Kill With Your Hands

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Global Organized Crime Project: <http://www.csis.org/goc> (Missing nukes, terrorists playing with germs, criminal destabilization of Columbia, Mexico, Russia, Japan).

David Sherlaw's Seawaves: <http://www.seawaves.com> (Ship homeport info. for USN, USCG, Royal Australian Navy, Canadian Navy and Coast Guard, Royal Navy (UK), NATO, also port visits, reunions).

Fred's Place: <http://www.fredsplace.org> (Not a saloon, but tie up here for a load of USCG links and info).

Canonesa, Convoy HX72 & U-100: <http://cw.orangenet.co.uk/canonesa> (Well-organized web site about a doomed WWII convoy is a beauty).

The Wars For Viet Nam: <http://students.vassar.edu/~vietnam> (Run by male professor at historic women's college).

Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense: <http://www.mnd.go.kr> (Mostly Hangul, Defense White Papers, Weapons Acquisition in English).

Army Lessons Learned Centre (Canada): <http://www.allc.com> (Including operations in former Republic of Yugoslavia and ... uh-oh (!) "Leadership in a Mixed Gender Environment").

Flags Of The World: <http://www.flagcentre.com.au/fotw/flags> (Web site devoted to vexillology. You know what that means. Sure you do. Site claims "more than 1,800 pages with more than 3,300 images about flags." Includes flag glossary).

CounterSpy: <http://www.spycounterspy.com> (guaranteed politically *incorrect* and fun reading no matter what your political orientation).

(Compiled by Richard Rongstad: rrongstad@aol.com)



Tom Fleisinger

Grant von Letkemann, president of the Boulder, Colo., Rifle Club, presents SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown a service award for his outstanding long-term support of the BRC and all shooting sports.

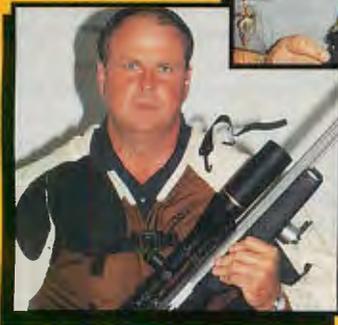
observers younger than 25 years to serve in peacekeeping operations." Troops in national armies who are seconded to the U.N. for peacekeeping would preferably be 21, but not less than 18.

Human Rights Watch hailed the change as a "significant step towards a new international consensus to end the use of child soldiers." A representative of the U.N. Children's Fund said the decision would lend momentum to amend the Convention on the Rights of the Child, raising to 18 the minimum age for "children's" recruitment in armed forces and their participation in hostilities. ✕

U.N. Sets Minimum Age For Peacekeepers

The U.N. has mandated minimum-age provisions for peacekeepers provided by the 185 member states. Said Bernard Miyet, U.N. Undersecretary-General for Peacekeeping, "we are asking contributing governments not to send civilian police and military

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I Was There

by Arthur Wiknik, Jr.

In May 1969, I had just completed my first month in Vietnam as a squad leader with the 101st Airborne's Company A 2/506th Infantry when we were informed of our new assignment. Our company commander simply told us that "some of our buddies have run into a problem in the A Shau valley and we're going in to help." The A Shau was a 35-mile fertile valley paralleling the mountainous western South Vietnam frontier less than two miles from the Laotian border.

Beginning on 10 May, four companies from the 3/187th Infantry had engaged the enemy for eight straight days on and around Dong Ap Bia Mountain, Hill 937 on military maps. Artillery and tactical air strikes pounded away at the hill, pulverizing the terrain, but not enough to soften the enemy so the hill could be taken. As each successive ground assault met fiercer resistance, there was no question the NVA were on the hill in formidable numbers and had no intention of leaving without a fight. By the time our company arrived, several assaults, countless snipers, and dozens of ambushed patrols left an estimated 50 G.I.s dead, 15 missing and presumed dead and almost 300 wounded.

On 18 May we landed by helicopter about one-half mile from the mountain that was oddly brown against the otherwise green backdrop, its limbless trees standing like twisted telephone poles after a violent storm.

At least 300 other GIs also assembled in the same area, making me realize we were in the middle of something big.

As darkness approached, the NVA on the mountain came out of their tunnels and bunkers to light dozens of small cooking fires. They kept them burning through the night as if to taunt us.

At sunrise we loaded ourselves with extra ammunition and attached bayonets to our rifles. We carried no food to weigh us down.

We moved out in single file following a ridge trail toward the base of the hill where we came upon the men of the 3/187th. It was from this location that they had been launching their attacks. All the ground vegetation was trampled down to the dirt, military equipment was strewn everywhere, and the area stunk of human waste. The GIs were unnaturally quiet as we approached; filthy, unshaven, and exhausted. Many had that "thousand-mile stare,"

as if they had seen the gates of hell.

We moved out again, this time cutting our own trail along a finger-like ridge just inside the tree line. As we slowly advanced, I caught glimpses of the barren hill through the vegetation.

By the time we got into our attack location it was late afternoon. Early the next morning, enemy small-arms fire cracked over the hillside. In response, air strikes were called in which stopped the shooting. Between the bombing runs, the NVA dropped random mortar rounds near the hill base to harass us as well.

Small-arms fire crackled again, but this time it was M-16s, as men from my company killed another enemy soldier. Not carrying a weapon, a lone NVA had walked directly toward one of our positions as if to surrender. When he got closer, someone noticed a Chicom grenade in his left hand. He was immediately gunned down.

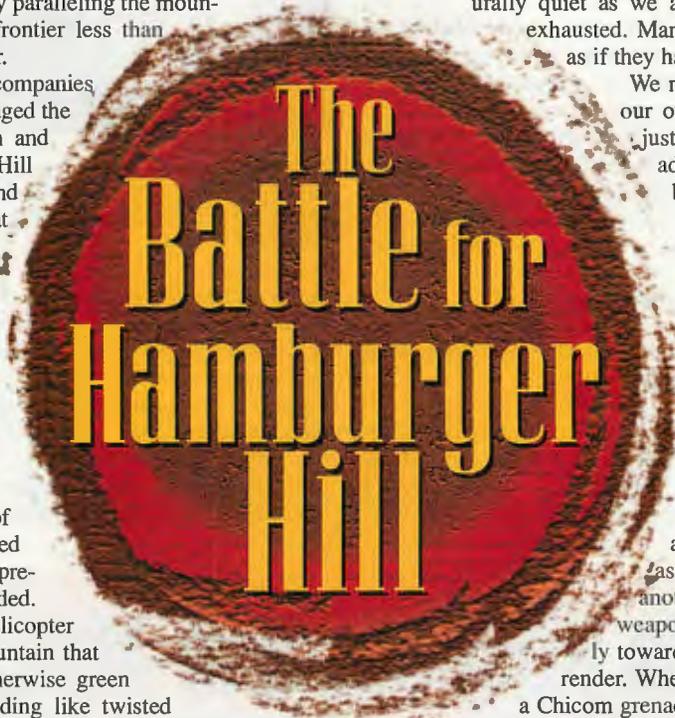
Shortly after 0900, the hill was bombarded with a final barrage of artillery so intense that there was hardly a moment without an explosion. All the firebases in the A Shau fired with such incredible accuracy that the rounds impacted nearly every square yard of the battle area for nearly an hour. The mountain was being raked by so much shrapnel that some of it struck the tall trees above us, knocking down branches. When this final barrage ceased, Ap Bia Mountain had endured a total of 155 air strikes and 20,000 artillery rounds.

At exactly 1000, we were given the command to assault. Everyone moved out from the vegetation cover, forming a long skirmish line. The hill was monstrous and, despite the fact that it was completely denuded from all the pounding, would still be a formidable obstacle to climb. Loose dirt, splintered logs, stumps with exposed roots, and massive bomb craters made the terrain look like the aftermath of a nuclear explosion.

Ten minutes into the assault, units on our far right met light resistance. It was estimated that several hundred NVA continued to occupy the hill.

As we worked past a bunker complex, a squad of NVA poured from a trench, attacking an element of the beleaguered 3/187th. The NVA had survived the 10-day pounding by hunkering down inside

Aftermath of battle: "Hamburger Hill. Was it worth it?" A Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism was awarded to 21 units that took part in the battle. The entire operation claimed 60 American lives and 480 wounded. Another 25 were missing and presumed dead. The 29th NVA Regiment lost an estimated 600 killed. Though we didn't know it at the time, Hill 937 was not regarded as a piece of real estate worth keeping and, within a few days, it was deserted by American troops.



courtesy author

deep bunkers and tunnels. Although eight or nine men were initially wounded, all the GIs in that area rallied to wipe out the enemy squad. Directly above that spot more NVA appeared, and a pitched battle of RPGs, hand grenades, and small-arms fire began. Then, as if on cue, the knoll in front of my position suddenly erupted with more of the same. Then bullets hit the ground to my front and I dashed and crashed into a nearby bomb crater. The shooting intensified and again the dirt erupted around me.

Our machine gunner finally got into a position from which he promptly laid down what seemed a murderous 500-round burst that sprayed an area the size of a football field which gave our troops the chance to advance.

I wormed up to the edge of a crater and, holding my rifle high over my head, sprayed two magazines at the hill. When I peeked above the mound for an E&E route, something blinded me! When I reached up to protect by stinging eyes, a bullet slammed into my chest, throwing me backward.

An NVA bullet hitting the ground in front of me had blasted dirt into my eyes. A second slug, apparently a tracer, lodged in the bandoleers of ammo draped across my chest. The impact knocked me to the ground and the tracer caught my shirt on fire. I should have been dead.

I yanked the destroyed magazine out of the bandoleer and, forgetting that it had saved my life, cast it aside. I tried to decide what to do next but all I could think of was self-preservation. I jumped out of the hole and ran at full speed toward a tree-covered ridge. I held my weapon like a pistol, firing at the hill as enemy bullets nipped at my heels. As I flew past crawling GIs they yelled for me to get down but my adrenaline drove me to the tree line. I looked back once yelling, "This way!"

The sparse cover thickened as I advanced up the hill, jumping over logs and recklessly pushing bushes aside. I don't know what drove me to move at such a dangerous pace, but before I knew it, I was on the summit watching the action below me. "Below me?" I screamed silently. I had run past the left flank of our attacking force! I turned around to tell the others but no one was there. They hadn't followed me. I was alone. I thought about going back down but realized I would risk our guys shooting me, so I stayed.

Thirty paralyzing minutes passed during which my buddies made tremendous progress, killing the enemy in their bunkers where many had chosen to stay and die.

Scores of the NVA ran off the western slope toward the Laotian border. The fleeing enemy could easily be seen from the air where our helicopters directed a wall of artillery, mortars, air strikes, and automatic-weapons fire on top of them.

As GIs swept past me, I stood up to be identified as one of their own. The fighting quickly dwindled to sporadic rifle fire and an occasional grenade explosion as our infantry

Continued on page 83



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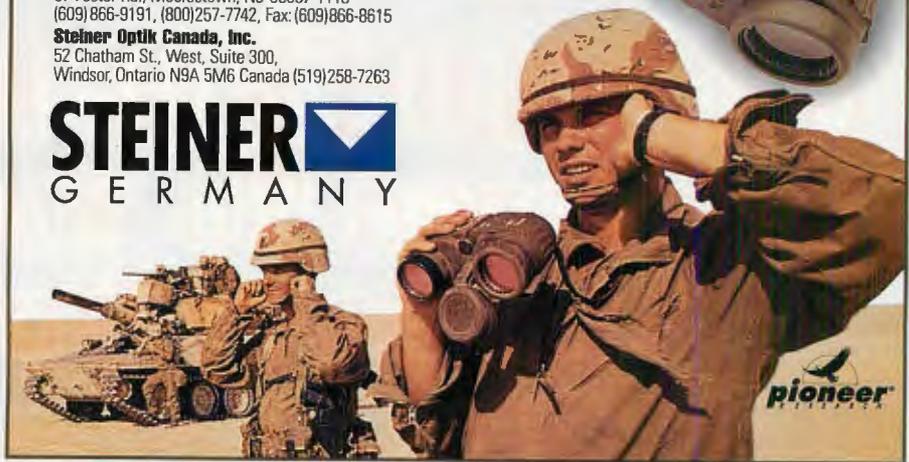
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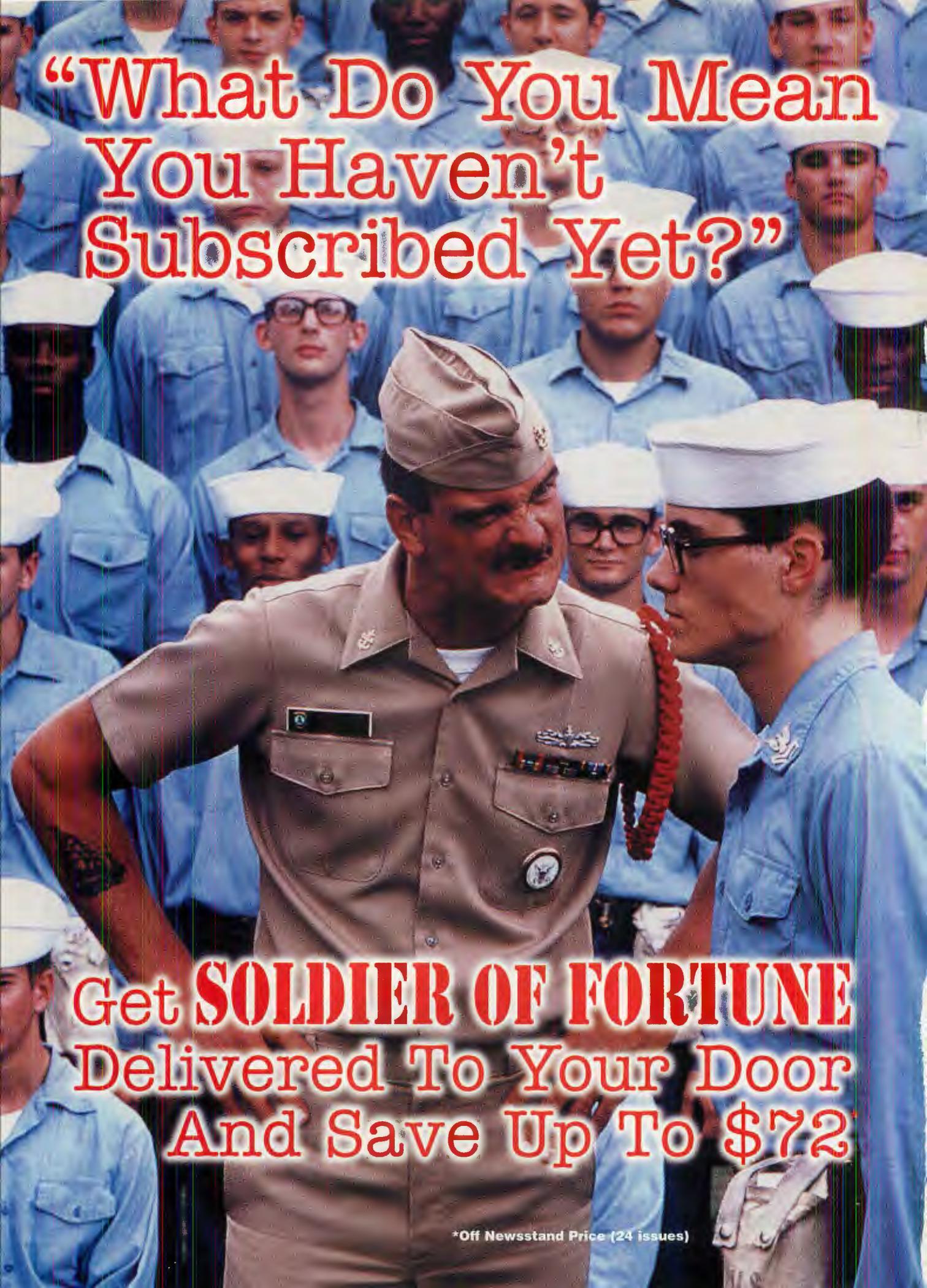


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We Be Stupid And Absurd?

I would like you to know I am very disappointed with this year's TV program *Special Ops Force*.

The addition of basketball's tattooed and pierced freak, Dennis Rodman, is the first blunder conceived by the producers of the show. Changing the format from last year's *Soldier Of Fortune*, professional and realistic, to this year's format, stupid and absurd, is the second blunder of the show.

The third blunder of the show is getting rid of two of the five original actors, Réal Andrews and Mark A. Sheppard.

I hope this magazine no longer supports or acknowledges this bastardized version of the show's original concept.

I do not watch this program any longer even though they retained three of the five original characters, that being Brad Johnson, Melinda Clarke, and Tim Abell.

Sincerely,

Andy Wirth
Austin, Texas

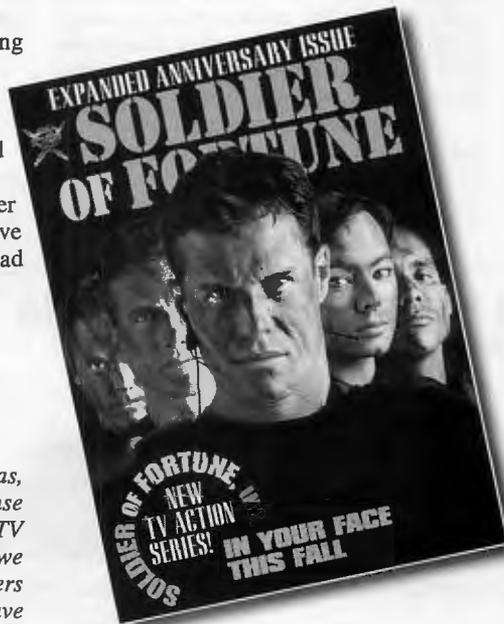
Yeh, we liked it better the way it was, too. When we were approached to license the name Soldier Of Fortune for the TV show, we offered to be of any assistance we could, but so far the producers and writers have seen no reason to ask. Thus we have had no input whatsoever as to cast selection, format, story line or character development. Sorry you no longer watch the show, though. We still watch it as we all have a crush on Melinda Clarke.

Butt-Ugly Bride of Frankenstein?

In the last week of your show *Soldier Of Fortune* you announced that the show would change its name to *SOF: Special Ops Forces*. This week the local Denver UPN station scheduled it for 1:00 AM. They obviously knew how just-bad the show would be. When I watched my videotape of the show, I was aghast. You replaced two believable characters with, as the character Bennie Ray aptly called him, LT. Bozo, aka Dennis "cross-dresser" Rodman. You are obviously trying to appeal to the losers in the audience. How many special forces personnel have you seen with every fold of

their body pierced? His character was described as a chopper pilot. Oh, sure, there were "lots" of chopper pilots standing at 6'8" or whatever Mr. Madonna's height is. Great touch of realism. I watched just about every show of the first season, but I won't be watching any more. Not even drop-dead gorgeous Melinda Clarke can make up for the butt-ugly bride of Frankenstein.

Pete
via e-mail



Oh, so you have a crush on Melinda, too. Out of consideration for the editorial staff at SOF, we have to be very careful about how we toss around the term "ugly." We've sat with Bulls fans and cheered, as Rodman's a good basketball player and an accomplished showman — but it would seem hard to cammie up a troop with orange hair, or get stealthy when nose rings are clanking about. All the SpecOps dudes we know go to great lengths to avoid body piercing, especially by the other guy's FMJ ball. Maybe they're trying to appeal to the largest segment of the audience.

Lost It ... It Sucks?

The first season of *Soldier Of Fortune* the TV series, for my money, was "primo." I am retired Air Force and I taped every segment and shared it with my friends who

enjoyed it also. It had personal interest, wit, personality, integrity, humor, valor, honor, discipline, and character, as in fighting the good fight for the right reasons. The photography was excellent, the actors fit the profile ...

I have watched three segments of the new *Special Ops Force* and the program has lost it. The show has gone "Hollywood" and looks like just another cheap two-bit sitcom. It sucks ...

Why change a good thing when you got it going and lower the standards to studs and earrings, broads and bitches, cocktails and an English jerk who can't find his ass with both hands. The new *SOF* program turns me off so I have turned it off ...

Col. "Bud" Burrows, USAF (Ret.)
Christmas Valley, OR

We have no idea why they changed a good thing, and would pass the mea culpa along since the only active role we have had, has been to make sure SOF readers checked out the show.

Say It Isn't So!

I've just been shocked at the promo for the upcoming season for *Soldier Of Fortune, Inc.* Not only has the name been changed (no big deal), but there is a new character, Dennis Rodman.

DENNIS RODMAN! HOW COULD YOU? Into a cast of high-and-tight, squared-aways, you (or someone) introduce this orange-haired, nose-ringed goofball?

Please, please tell me it isn't so! If it is, viewership just declined by one. Readership in your magazine, I quickly add, remains the same.

Best
Ross W. Rogers
via e-mail

'Fraid it is so, but it was "someone," not us. We haven't talked to anyone yet who thinks the new characters fit the concept of a realistic show, but those who make decisions about the show must have thought it was a good idea. It certainly is not an example of art imitating life. Perhaps their concept of "high" and "tight" is different than ours.

Do No Dennis?

Where has the show's web site gone? It has been unavailable for some time. Has the show been canceled? It is a great show and I'd love to see it continue.

I'm a former CIA paramilitary branch officer (resigned in the late 90s) and Harry's got the actors' tactics down pretty well. Need to scratch Margo from combat ops, though — she's a case officer. You guys know case officers don't engage in combat. Let her do her intel weenie shit or kill her off.

DO NOT PUT DENNIS RODMAN'S lame, earring-wearing, rebellious ass in that team. It would kill the elite, team-oriented makeup that is so essential to a real group. This wouldn't be believable, guys. He'd get fragged on the first op — sorry Denny ol' boy.

So, back to the first question — why the web site problem and why is *SOF, Inc.* on at zero dark thirty on almost all stations?

Thanks.

William Wallace
via e-mail

1) No idea where their website went, you'd have to ask them.

2) As far as we know, the show has not been canceled.

3) Except for some network shows, scheduling is usually up to local carriers, and their decision is subject to all the variables of their particular market (in other words: we have no idea).

EDITOR'S NOTE: This topic has generated more mail than any other of late. When something is controversial we like to put in well-stated mail, both pro and con. However, in this instance we have received no "pro" mail. Readers' comments relating to Special Operations Force are appreciated. Please forward to: Producers, Special Operations Force, c/o SOF, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303.



Half MOPP?

In the December '98 issue, page 50, the caption reads "soldier in MOPP 1/2." Please, I don't think they (Sudanese) even know what this is or what to do. A simple rag and dust mask is not any kind of MOPP level protection. I know you guys like to put all them fancy acronyms, but in this case it does not apply.

I do not intend to be critical as I do like your magazine. Keep up the good work.

Nathan Kelderman
via e-mail

You're right, of course, a nuisance dust mask is not any level of MOPP protection (although, if it was all we had and the agent was in spore, dust or droplet form we'd sure give it a shot ...). The point we tried to make was exactly that. Saying a fellow was "protected" by "MOPP 1/2" is like saying you stayed at a "1/2-Star Hotel." As in damning with faint praise.



Stolen Kudos

I truly enjoyed "Stolen Valor" by Larry Bailey. I work in D.C., and have seen a number of sobbing showboats at The Wall about whom I have had suspicions. I can't help but think back to a guy in my platoon (1st Inf Div, 1966) who refused a DSC because he didn't think he deserved it. Of course, if anyone deserved it, he did. It is ironic and irritating to see blatant phonies wearing the ribbon. My thanks to Jug Burkett for his persistence and to *SOF* for covering it.

Jim Magner
Burke, VA

The article in the Nov. 98 *SOF* caught my interest, I seldom buy any magazines or newspapers ... however, since the events at Ruby Ridge and Waco, I rely on *SOF* to

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print the whole truth.

This time I must make an exception, you see, I am diagnosed with PTSD ... I was in and out of VA hospitals in the early '70s looking to get my shit together to try and hold a job and finish school out. I completely dropped out in '75 after Peace With Honor, there were no memorials in those days, before the bimbo movies etc. etc. I lived the life now called homeless (hopeless?) and I have a least a hundred thousand railroad miles. I never once stuck my hand out to anyone for money or food ... I picked fruit, hoed weeds and got my food from grocery store dumpsters and generally lived at least 5 miles from anything that you folks in the yuppie shithole in Boulder, Colorado would call civilized: you live in an Ivory White Tower. Jerk [sic] Burkett ... you were Navy, you were a SEAL ... Neat! However, Jerk [sic] Burkett ... you asked for it. I was Army, I did not! So before you come down too hard on Army vets you must understand one important thing, Army DD 214s are not always accurate you see ... in the 4th Inf. Div. anyone could be sent to the field regardless of his MOS in 1968 for minor infractions such as a failure to salute, a fist fight, etc. A mechanic, clerk, cook could well have done time in the bush and never had it appear on Form DD 214. I heard this was also the case with the Marine Corps.

I can relate to the "latter day" Rambos and wannabes since the bimbo movies and comic books started coming out in the 80s,

I've probably met two dozen of them. SOF is their main meat, as you tend to glorify something that was a cruel hoax, the Gulf of Tonkin incident never happened, those people north and south were not the real enemy it was the U.N.

And so Glory Boy Jurkett [sic], do a little more research, try the hobo jungle or under a remote freeway overpass or some remote forestry logging road here in the Northwest. You live in a glory-boy fantasy world in Boulder, Colorado.

Don Rogers, SP4-E4 (Ret.)
Btry C 6 BN 29th Arty Airmobile
'68-'69 4th Inf Div, F.T.A.

Don, thanks for your straight-from-the-heart letter. Glad you count on us to tell the whole truth, as we try. You may have misunderstood what Stolen Valor was saying, for sure misunderstood some particulars, so bear with us while we clarify some points. Regarding us yuppies in Boulder: Only two SOF staffers live in Boulder; no writers do. Boulder regards SOF as a bad case of peccoriosis. Jug Burkett lives in Texas, Larry Bailey in Virginia. Jug was regular Army, Larry was a SEAL. Jug interviewed numerous "homeless vets" and nearly all were not even vets. The point was not that PTSD isn't a real problem with some real combat vets — just the opposite: Point was that phony "vets" never even in the service, or who were but never saw combat, invent stories to

back their phony PTSD to get medical benefits or other assistance, which robs real vets like yourself of what they deserve. These phony "vets" who invent stories to beat people or the system out of help ordinarily reserved for deserving vets — again rob real vets like yourself who could use some deserved help from individuals or institutions. And no-good, lying phonies who claim to have served, rob vets like yourself of appreciation due you because you laid it on the line when called, even if personally not too enthusiastic about the war — thus the title Stolen Valor. Jug was not coming down on Army vets, as he is one himself: He was coming down hard on those who pretend to be Army (or Navy, Marine, Coast Guard, Air Force) vets but are not.

Hang tough, Bro. If you ever ride a coal train through Boulder, drop by and we'll share our personal favorite dumpsters — they're out of town, because in Yuppieville they mostly have automatic mashing machines (as we write this, the company fridge bulges with dumpsterkill; two current staffers are dumpster jumpsters, and one former managing editor was arrested in Boulder for diving. This writer also has some miles in the air-conditioned section of Union Pacific's facilities: Right in your back yard we've also picked fruit, cut ferns, drained pitch pockets, peeled chitum, dug roots and cut a mountain of cordwood and, like you, never asked a handout from any yuppie sonofabitch.). ✂

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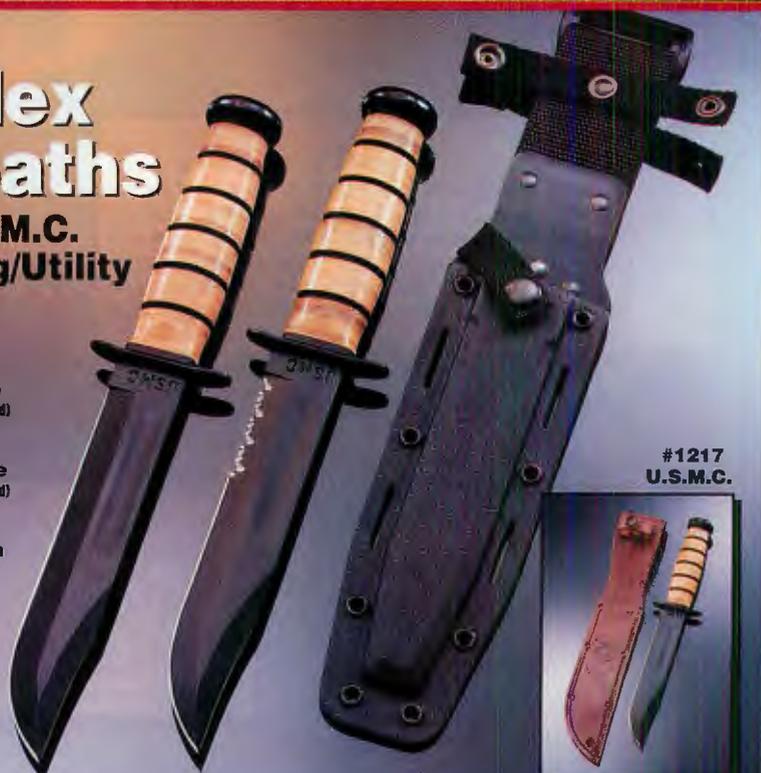
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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Nuke silos destroyed: Air Force to destroy 150 Minuteman silos at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, under Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Last 100 silos at Grand Forks to be retained. • **Heavy Combat save:** Army rejects plans by Joint Staff to convert two heavy combat divisions entirely into support units, as Army is short of support units and has to call up reserves for most deployments. • **Give a dog a fish:** Army helicopters fly 200,000 tons of donated fish to isolated Alaskan villages where the salmon catch was not adequate to feed the sled dogs. Army is using the flights for training. • **Longbow Apaches:** Army opts not to send Longbow Apaches to Bosnia. With forces stretched thin, Army wants to keep its most combat-effective battalions in reserve for quick deployment to any unexpected conflicts. • **Discarded nukes:** Navy discards all nuclear bombs assigned to aircraft carriers and P-3 Orion patrol planes, and retains about 100 nuclear Tomahawk cruise missiles, stored in shore bases for possible wartime use on cruisers and destroyers.

2

RUSSIA

START-2: U.S. Congress orders U.S. nuclear arsenal be no less than 6,000 weapons until Russia ratifies START-2. Russia shows no signs of doing so, forcing U.S. to face expensive refurbishing of weapons it will have to destroy if ratification passes. Cost to U.S. estimated at \$100 million in 1999, and \$1 billion in 2000 because of block obsolescence. • **Welcome back:** Carrier *Kuznetsov* rejoined Northern Fleet after extensive refit. • **Yard Sale:** Russia hints it may sell nuclear-powered battlecruisers, as they could bring "huge revenues" and it has no current need for them. China is a likely buyer for such grandiose vessels.

5

SOUTH AFRICA

Racial charge: President Mandela accuses white political parties of blocking efforts by government to improve the lives of South Africa's people. National Party began contesting voter registration plan in court, saying requirement to use modern bar-coded identification books will disenfranchise millions who do not have them.

1

8

CHILE

First female general: Mireya Perez, of the paramilitary *Carabineros*, becomes first Chilean woman in history to reach rank of general. • **Pinochet:** Thousands of Chileans demonstrate for and against former Chilean dictator Gen. Pinochet, who was found to have no immunity from prosecution by five-judge panel in British House of Lords. France issues warrant for Pinochet's arrest. U.S. refuses to get involved in case.

9

IRAN

Assassination/attack: Daryoush Foruhar, Iranian opposition politician, assassinated near home in Tehran. On same day, mob of Islamic fundamentalists attack group of U.S. tourists in Tehran, accusing them of being spies. • **Weapons of Mass Destruction:** Iran denies it's working on nuclear weapons or that it has produced chemical weapons since 1988. Russia signs pact to help build Iranian reactors. • **Cash crisis:** Iran desperately short on cash due to falling oil prices. • Half million Iranian militia hold "urban maneuvers" in November.

12

10

AFGHANISTAN

bin Laden cleared: Taliban government declares Osama bin Laden cleared of all charges that he masterminded terrorist attacks on U.S. targets, saying U.S. has refused to turn over evidence against bin Laden.

12

COLOMBIA

Bombings: Bombs explode outside eight banks. Car bombs explode in Medellin and Cali. President Pastrana reaffirms that peace talks with rebels will proceed despite continuing rebel attacks and disagreements on prisoner exchanges. ELN rebels announce they will pay \$64,000 to compensate survivors of October pipeline bombing, in which 73 died. Recent skirmishes leave 26 security personnel, 16 rebels, and seven civilians dead.

13

SUDAN

Murder charge: SPLA rebels say Colonel Kerubino Kuanyin Bol (who defected to government and then back to SPLA) tried to murder SPLA leader John Garang. Kerubino denies charge, and vows not to change back to government side.

14

SIERRA LEONE

Mass destruction threat: RUF rebel deputy commander Sam Bockari threatens to "destroy every living thing in the country" if RUF leader Sankoh (sentenced to death for treason) is executed. Nigerian peacekeepers offer rebel and junta leaders safe passage to exile in Nigeria. West African troops continue fighting rebels and Junta troops in eastern portion of country.

3

CHINA

Laser threat: U.S. Pentagon officials express concern China may have operational space weapon similar to U.S. Miracle laser. Weapon could blind U.S. spy satellites and damage other key satellites in seconds, leaving U.S. blind in any conflict with China or its allies. • **New bomber:** Government unveils FBC-1, China's first indigenously-designed fighter bomber, intended as all-weather day and night attack plane for anti-ship missions. It can carry C802 anti-ship missile or Chinese copy of Russian KH3 anti-radiation missile. • **Der Spiegel be gone:** Government expels Juergen Kremb (Beijing correspondent of German magazine *Der Spiegel*), saying he had been in possession of state secrets. Kremb professed ignorance, and Germany protested treatment of Kremb. Chinese newspapers report increased separatist activities among Moslem uighurs in Xinjiang. Marshall Islands establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan, earning rebuke from China.

4

BRITAIN

Tomahawks fired: Submarine *Splendid* fires two unarmed Tomahawk missiles, and one armed Tomahawk, as test in November. The tests, conducted at U.S. Navy range off California, were first of their kind for British submarine. • **More troops:** Britain's new defense plan adds 3,330 troops, mostly to medical and supply units. Of eight tank battalions, six will be kept, with each battalion expanding to 58 tanks each. One battalion will be converted into fourth armored recon battalion, and another into nuclear-biological-chemical defense battalion. • **Raining commandos:** British company Apro developing system whereby commando can climb into \$15,000 stealth pod, be carried over war zone by Harrier fighter, dropped by parachute from 20,000 feet, and land in the ocean. Upon landing, pod is stabilized by airbags and becomes stealth boat, able to move up to 50 miles on small electric motor. Pod is guided by GPS and has computer-controlled television scanners.

6

NORTH KOREA

Long arm to U.S.: Government may deploy Taepo-Dong-2 missile within a year, and sell it abroad within two years. Missile has range of up to 3,700 miles, enough to reach Hawaii or Alaska.

7

ISRAEL

Tank missile: New laser-guided missile can be fired from 105mm (or 120mm) tank cannons. Missile could be guided by tank itself (if fitted with guidance laser) or by separate unit. Israelis marketing the missile as way for old tanks with 105mm guns to suddenly become equal players on today's battlefields. Missile is boosted from cannon by conventional cartridge, then uses its own rocket motor to accelerate all the way into target. Guidance is controlled by four pop-out fins. High Q plan: Recruitment of young people with genius IQs begins for special unit charged with designing new weapons.



11

PHILIPPINES

Rebel reward: Government rewards MILF rebels for arranging release of Italian priest Benedetti with \$2 million to build a dam. Clashes with MILF rebels in Maguindanao province leave 16 rebels, three soldiers and 10 civilians dead. Bomb attacks on two busses and a church prompt Army to send troops to protect religious leaders and churches.

15

SOMALIA

Looming food shortage: Fighting continues for control of Kismayo between local warlord Hersi Morgan and Merehan clansmen linked to south Mogadishu warlord Hussein Aidid. Members of Moalinweyne and Gaadadle sub-clans battle in southern town of Sakow, leaving 25 dead. U.N. warns of looming food shortages.

16

LEBANON

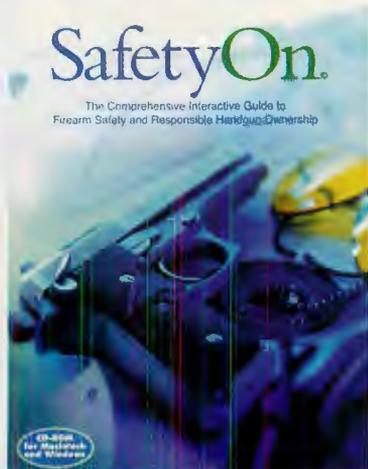
Israeli bombings: Israeli aircraft bomb Toufah Ridge, Sibquine, a valley near Qabrkha, five targets in Western sector, and variety of other targets. Israel powerless, however, to stop new wave of deadly *Hezbollah* attacks.

World Sitrep is compiled in part from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Tiger Publications (P.O. Box 8759, Dept. SOF, Amarillo, Texas 79114-8759); subscriptions are \$77 per year (26 issues), \$81.80 in Texas. Sample issue available for \$3. Those interested in world intel are encouraged to subscribe.

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Available from Red Hat Publishing, Inc., Dept. SOF, Box 721, Stevensville, MD 21666 (692 Genesee St., Annapolis, MD 21401); phone: 800-603-7700; or log on to their website at www.safetyon.com

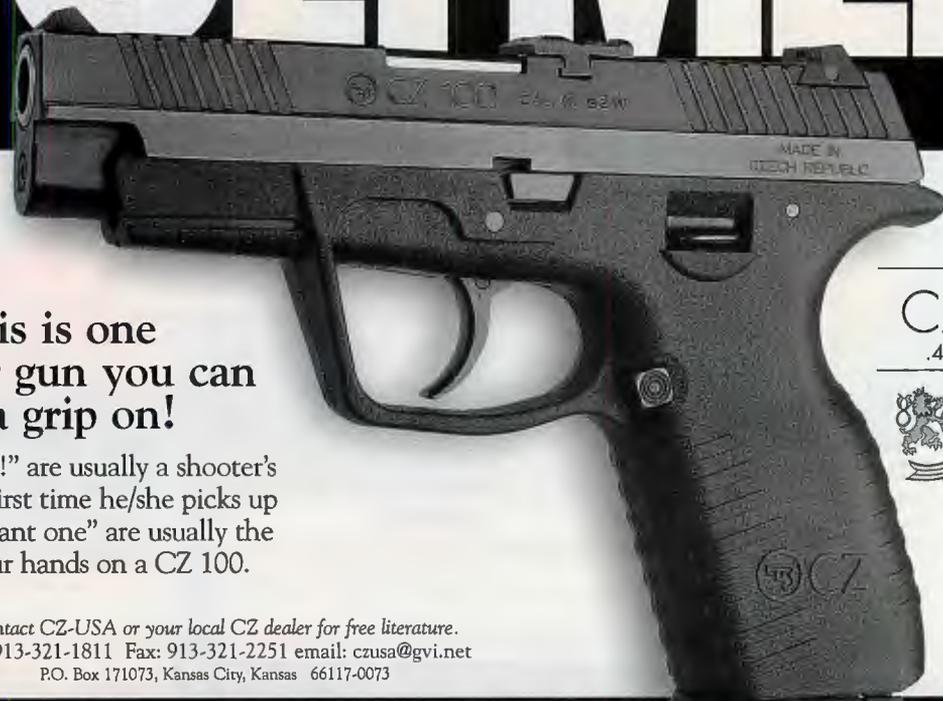
Slugfest

One hundred years ago, Prussian gunmaker, designer, hunter and conservationist Wilhelm Brenneke created a then-radical design for a stabilized shotgun slug that would combine the knock-down power of a 12-gauge with practical accuracy. Brenneke



Continued on page 28

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PIX MODEL 13

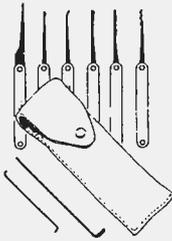
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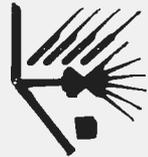
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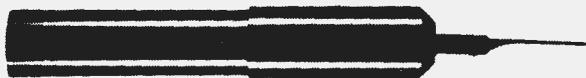


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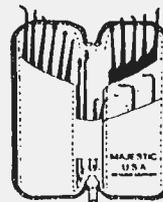
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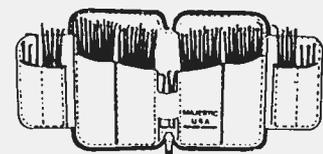
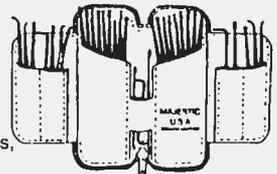


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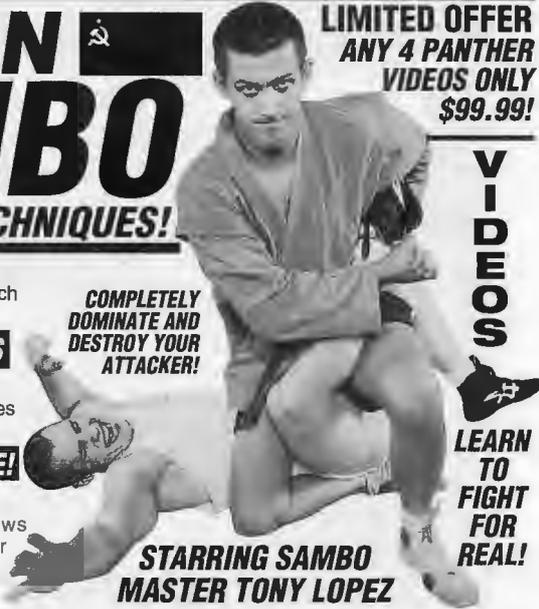
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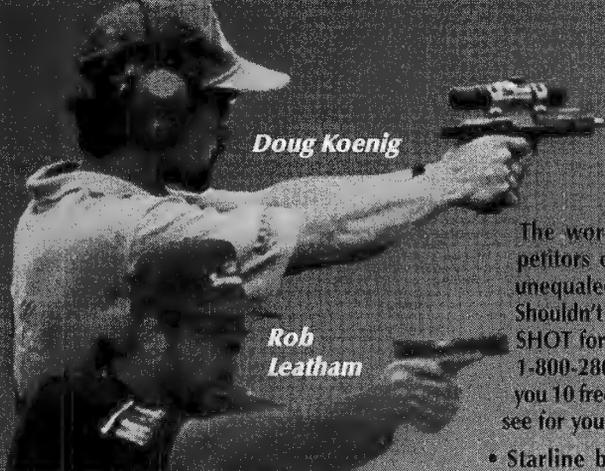
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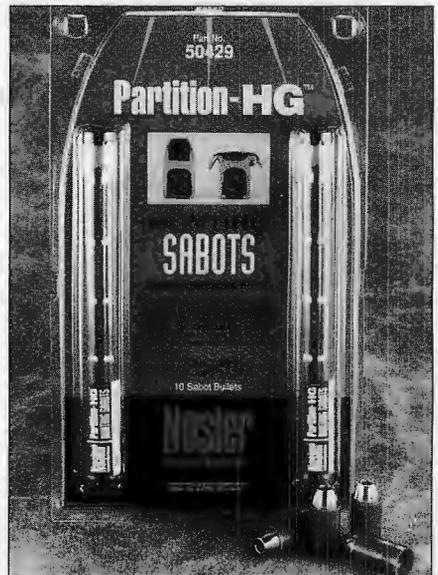
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Fighting In The "Wheel" World

The past two decades have witnessed the almost total transition in American law enforcement from the six-shot double-action revolver to any number of modern self-loaders, most commonly found in 9x19mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP calibers. All of this has led many to believe that using a wheelgun for self-defense is not just a nod toward nostalgia, but more like a gesture of suicidal lunacy.

However, that may not be the case. Revolvers in serious calibers may still be viable tools for the self-defense minded citizen.

Clint Smith, president of Thunder Ranch, acknowledges the limitations surrounding the revolver, but during the first revolver school held at Thunder Ranch he noted their strong points (and there are many) and their weak points.

"The great thing about these guns is you only have to do one thing to make them work," Clint Smith said as he pulled seven concealed revolvers, of all sizes, from under his vest, shirt and jeans.

He feels their simplicity is the strongest advantage revolvers offer anyone interested in a reliable self-defense tool. To operate a revolver all one has to do is just pull the trigger. There are no manual safeties, no slide releases, or no decocking levers. They are simple machines.

But, the biggest weak point, as Smith pointed out repeatedly, is you more or less have to disassemble the gun in order to reload it.

The Thunder Ranch Revolver Course was designed to help develop the skills that only a few short decades ago were routinely

taught at police academies and firing ranges all across America. Was this course of study a trip down memory lane? With so much attention paid to auto-loaders in the past few years, the proper manipulation of a combat revolver in a fight is slowly being forgotten to the point of obscurity and benign neglect.

As always, with any course of instruction offered at Thunder Ranch, Clint Smith opened the course with formal classroom instruction. Hence, the demonstration proving you can conceal just about any revolver easily. His devotion to the subject matter concerning armed self-defense is easily discerned by even the most obtuse observer, but it is his pithy sayings and comments that get the juices in his students flowing.

"Probably more pistol fights have been won by revolvers than auto-pistols," was one of his first comments and the lead-in to the reason why revolvers are still workable defense tools.

Smith stated the purpose of the Thunder Ranch revolver course was threefold: (1) teach marksmanship, (2) improve the shooter's physical manipulation and mechanical skill with a revolver and their corresponding marksmanship, and (3) establish and promote the student's mental conditioning. The last two points are the key areas of the Thunder Ranch revolver course.

According to Clint Smith, "repetition is the mother of skill," so it is easy to understand the course of instruction involved heavy repetition in the care and manipulation of the swing-out-cylinder double-action revolver.

"A revolver is a thinking person's gun. You have to think to fight with this thing," Smith stated in the classroom as he held a S&W Model 19 aloft. To keep a revolver "gassed up" in a fight, it has to have its cylinder removed from the frame, then the shooter must manually remove the fired case or cases (whatever the situation), reload the individual chambers and then replace the now-loaded cylinder back into the frame. Most often while under great stress.

Added to this series of events is the fact that all these movements require fine motor skills on the part of the shooter, when trying to accomplish more or less the same thing with an autoloader requires only gross motor skills.

I remember reading some time ago in a back page editorial by a gun magazine editor who pontificated anyone currently carrying a large frame heavy caliber revolver, à la Elmer Keith, was a little too "retro" for this day and age. Well, count me among them because I took two Smith & Wesson N-frame Model 657 .41 Magnums to the class; one was an ivory-gripped custom 5-inch gun, and the other, a recent acquisition from the Smith & Wesson Performance Center, was a 3-inch square butt model (see "Omega Proving Ground," this issue, for a review of these weapons).

However, among the 18 students in this first class, the vast majority used Smith & Wesson five-, six- and seven-shot small- to medium-size revolvers in .38 Special or .357 Magnum. Among the other large-frame revolver shooters, I noticed two Model 625s in .45 ACP and one Model 610 with a 5-inch barrel in 10mm Auto. Also, there was one lone example each from Colt, a medium-frame .357 Magnum, and Ruger, a small five-shot SP-101, represented as well.

Outside of marksmanship drills, the main emphasis during the first day of training was on keeping the guns "gassed up." By the way, Smith stated for the record, "The proper way to use a double-action



Clint Smith, President of Thunder Ranch, demonstrated a number of strong points associated with double-action swing-out-cylinder revolvers during the first revolver class taught at Thunder Ranch.

revolver is to fire it only with a double-action trigger pull and this reflects the opinion of the management of Thunder Ranch." The double-action trigger pull should be one continuous rearward stroke pulled completely through, then the trigger finger should move forward smoothly so the mechanism can reset.

On the range, our line started out loading one round, yes that's right, one round, firing it and then reloading it with the proper technique. The main thing here is to keep your eyes on the adversary, so naturally, the gun must be reloaded "high." Not down at the belt-buckle level that so many sandlot plinkers do as a normal course of events.

A big thing to remember here as well is you must memorize the direction the cylinder rotates. Smith & Wesson revolvers turn counterclockwise. Colt revolvers turn clockwise. This is vitally important because you want the fired cases at the very top of the cylinder when it opens.

In an effort to force myself to keep the revolver "high," I started looking at the target through the open window of the frame as I turned the gun sideways in my "off" hand; ejected the fired case with the "strong" hand pushing the ejector rod, muzzle vertical; and then turning the revolver muzzle down, reloading the solitary round (again, with my strong hand); closing the cylinder; turning the cylinder till the bolt locked with my off hand thumb while also indexing the cylinder so the single round was first to fire; and then gripping the gun to reacquire the target with a fresh sight picture.

Remember, Smith did say the fighting revolver was the gun of a



To keep a revolver "gassed up" in a fight, it has to have its cylinder removed from the frame, then the shooter must manually remove the fired case or cases, reload the individual chambers and then replace the now-loaded cylinder back into the frame.

thinking man, didn't he?

However, this involved series of manual manipulations soon became natural. After a short while, I found I could reload far faster than imagined.

The instructors noticed my exaggerated mode of operation and at the end of the first day suggested I lower the gun just a tad, so it would be below my line of sight to the target. A good and vital suggestion, but I had exaggerated this at the beginning because I found myself taking my eyes off the target only to fiddle with the mechanism at belt-buckle level. A terrible and potentially fatal habit.

Next, two-round drills were performed, followed by three-round drills.

You might be asking about now, where did the spare ammo come from? Here is where I was surprised. Smith recommends just carrying an ample supply of spare ammo loose in the side pocket of your coat or vest.

Speedloaders certainly weren't ignored, and everyone was amazed by the wide variety of speedloaders demonstrated by Smith and his instructors. Probably the most dreaded of all were the infamous "speed strips." These can be found in both plastic and metal

Continued on page 85

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Operation Free Willie

By now, one fact should be perfectly clear and alarming to American military personnel: President Clinton will risk your lives to save his political ass.

Clinton somehow managed to convince many Americans the Impeachment Eve attack on Iraq was somehow in their vital interest. As time rolls on, it will become more obvious this attack served one purpose only: to stall the impeachment and rally support for a president at war.

Evidence of this began to emerge quickly after the impeachment vote, when Clinton suddenly ended his bizarre warmonger rampage on Iraq. It came from British bomber pilots. Unlike American servicemen, their British counterparts aren't forbidden to criticize Clinton, or British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

So when four British Tornados were recalled from a raid on Republican Guard targets — when Clinton had nothing more to personally gain from the attack — several pilots objected. Had they risked their lives only to help Clinton in a last ditch effort to avoid impeachment?

It sure seemed that way. The pilots were recalled from a holding pattern over the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, preparing to drop 2,000 pound Paveway III laser-guided bombs on the Republican Guard base at Al Koot, 60 miles southeast of Baghdad.

As quoted in London's *Electronic Telegraph*, one pilot asked, "have we really changed anything? A lot of the guys don't think we have. A number of our targets did not seem to have much significance to us. While we may have dented Saddam Hussein, the general feeling is that we have not really changed anything."

He continued, "obviously, we do not have the best picture which is available higher up the chain of command and we do not know what the political objectives really were, but the general feeling among the crews is that we expected the sorties to continue for several more days."

Of course, from a military perspective, ending the mission made no sense at all. From Clinton's view, it made perfect sense. That's because Operation Desert Fox wasn't a military objective at all. It was a bold-faced Hail Mary play by Clinton, who has placed his own political survival above the welfare of his country.

Clinton wasted hundreds of millions of dollars almost attacking

Iraq throughout most of his presidency. Never before was it urgent to drop bombs. It wasn't urgent in December, and it probably never would have been.

In Operation Desert Storm, allied troops obliterated much of Iraq's arsenal and still failed to persuade Saddam Hussein. By now, Clinton and his military advisers know Saddam does not respond to fear, threats or military defeat. Our continued involvement in Iraqi affairs only makes Saddam stronger, while weakening America's relationship throughout the rest of the Middle East. Clinton knows this, yet he holds onto Iraq as a trump card for changing the subject when he's in turmoil.

"The behavior of the United States in the Gulf is akin to someone who goes about striking hornets' nests with a stick. He should hardly be surprised if he gets stung one day," wrote Ted Galen Carpenter, president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute.

Clinton said the attack was needed because of mounting evidence that suggests Saddam is building chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Unpleasant as that is, Iraq is hardly alone. U.S. intelligence agencies know of some two dozen nations that possess or are acquiring chemical weapons, and at least a dozen that may soon possess biological weapons.

"After the tests by India and Pakistan, it is clear that eight nations are now nuclear weapons states, and several others are little more than a screwdriver's turn away from that status," Carpenter writes. "That raises the question of how many wars of nonproliferation the United States is willing to fight."

Arguably, Iraq is no more a threat the United States than any other nation with weapons of mass destruction. Currently, there's no evidence Saddam is even close to having the intercontinental ballistic missiles needed to reach the US.

"The more probable danger is that a free lance terrorist group might decide to detonate a weapon of mass destruction in the United States," Carpenter writes. "But Washington's coercion of Iraq makes such an incident — and the prospect of tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of casualties — more rather than less likely."

A cynic can look at the whole foreign policy toward Iraq as a dog on standby for Clinton to wag at will. And why give the president any benefit of the doubt. He's a well-known liar. He's lied under oath, and he's lied on live TV in front of millions of Americans. Clinton has told the kind of lies that have landed other Americans in prison.

"Clinton was impeached for conspiring to prevent a young woman, Paula Jones, from establishing in court that she had been summoned from her place of work by the Arkansas State Police and escorted like a slave girl to the



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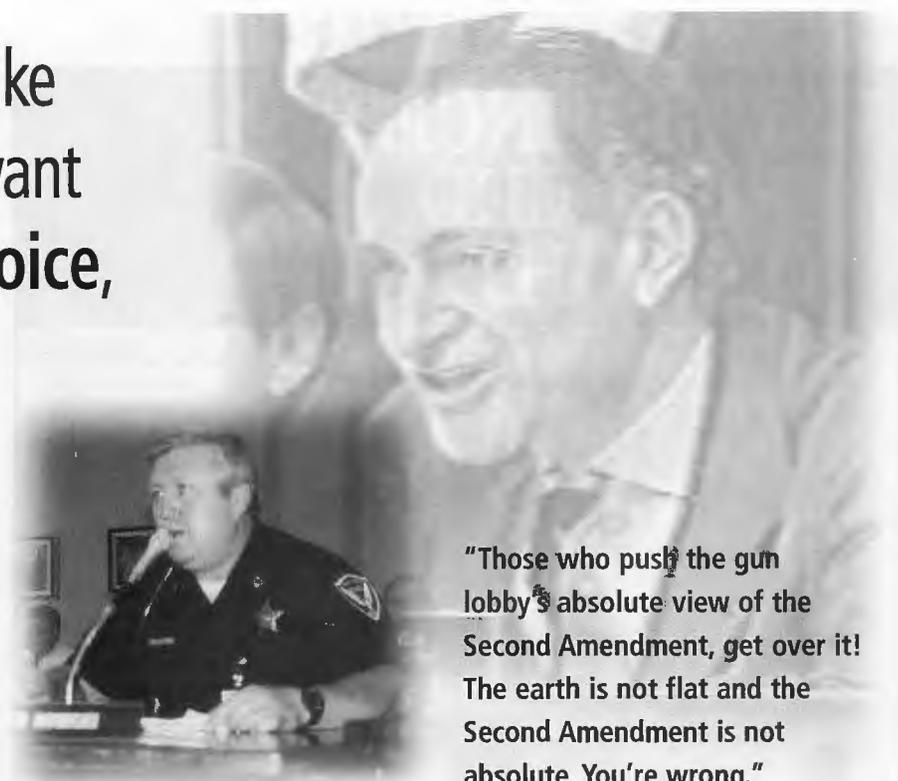
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The Lyin' King

It's fascinating how concerned Clinton's defenders suddenly are regarding what they call "sexual McCarthyism" and the "politics of personal destruction," following Slick Willie's impeachment. James Carville has promised to make House Republicans "pay for what they did."

So it's more important than ever to brush up on history, and keep in mind that the same liberals now defending Clinton are those who invented so-called sexual McCarthyism. Many of the same Democrats defending the president engineered the Anita Hill smear against Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who was merely accused of sexual harassment in the work place. Never was he caught lying under oath. Never were his actions confirmed by DNA from a semen-stained dress. Never did he tell a bold-faced lie to the American public, then change the story as evidence unravelled.

Many of the modern McCarthyites are the same folks who forced the resignation of Oregon Sen. Bob Packwood, who was suspected of lying to the Senate Ethics Committee about unwanted sexual advances toward staff member in his office.

These same Democrats, who heralded the alleged "victims" of Packwood, Thomas and other Republicans, have consistently derided Clinton's accusers, calling Paula Jones "trailer trash," and portraying Monica Lewinsky as a "stalker."

Now the pro-Clinton Democrats have reportedly directed private investigators Terry Lensner and Jack Palladino to find and hold accountable anyone in the House or Senate who may have had past sexual indiscretions. Certainly they will comprise a long list. It's unlikely, however, they'll find someone who repeatedly lied about it, under oath, and in front of a TV audience of millions.

Liberal Democrats invented sexual McCarthyism, and it backfired on their king. But Clinton is guilty of far more than sex. He's a sexual predator, of sorts, who lies unmercifully even after getting caught. Any private citizen in the same circumstances would be in prison by now. ☒

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AP/Wide World

Pride, Prejudice And Pathos

Kosovo: The Myth And The Reality

by Don North

The conflict in Yugoslavia began with Kosovo, and will end in Kosovo." It may be the one thing all the warring factions in today's Kosovo seem to agree upon. There is little else.

As a journalist covering the Balkans since the brutal shelling of Sarajevo by Serb forces in 1993, I heard a lot of talk about "ancient ethnic hatreds." It was usually traced back to a 600-year-old battle — in Kosovo, where the Serbs lost to invading Muslim armies. But Bosnia proved to be a much more modern conflict, created not from simmering ethnic hatreds, but by politicians like Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic, fanning the old flames and directing his armies into battle.

Now the killing fields have shifted from Bosnia to Kosovo, but again Slobodan Milosevic, the Belgrade dictator, is responsible for initiating the conflict. While Bosnia was raging, Milosevic and the Albanians kept the lid on violence in Kosovo. Milosevic wanted to avoid war on a second front and the Albanians knew their

grievances would not be heard against the louder clash of arms in Bosnia.

Now the Kosovo conflict can no longer be contained and the enmities run deeper here than in Bosnia. Serbs in Bosnia were a third of the population. In Kosovo Milosevic has unleashed his military against an astonishing 90 to 95% of Kosovo's population which is ethnic Albanian, a classic colonial oppression. Unlike Bosnia there is no tradition of multi-ethnic tolerance or even a common language. In Kosovo, Serbs and Albanians have been at each other's throats for a century.

If Kosovo is the founding myth for all Serbs and the historic heart of Serbia's glorious medieval kingdom and the religious seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church, then ground zero is the old battlefield at Kosovo Polje, in Serbian "the Field of Blackbirds," 3 miles west of the capital, Pristina. About 30 acres of overgrown farmland is reputed to be the site of the Battle of Kosovo, on St. Vitus Day, 28 June 1389. A massive 100-foot tower was built in 1945 to com-

memorate the battle. The Serbs acknowledge it was a defeat and the beginning of the Turks' sweep into Europe that brought them up against the walls of Vienna a hundred years later. Every Serbian child can recite the story.

The Founding Myth

Before the battle, King Lazar was confronted by a giant gray falcon who asked him if he would embrace the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of this world. After consulting God for advice, the Serbian King chose a heavenly kingdom. When the Turks attacked, the King and his knights charged and were near victory until a traitorous Knight Vuk Brankovic, the King's son-in-law, betrayed him and joined the Sultan's forces. So the King was killed and along with him 77,000 Serb martyrs. All was holy, all was honorable and the will of God was fulfilled. "It is better to die in battle than to live in shame," King Lazar said before riding into battle. It is a story told beside the winter fires to wide-eyed Serb children for



By late fall, KLA fighters (top) were showing signs of training, as these troops near Glogovac, as Albanian expats experienced in war returned from all over Europe, and in particular the fighting in Bosnia. (above, left) Troops evidently from same unit exhibit certain professional attributes: Note lead man with light anti-tank weapon, designated marks-



man/sniper (sixth man from front) and general soldierly demeanor. (above, right) Field of Blackbirds, Polje, Kosovo: Serbs trace roots of their identity as a nation to the battle of Kosovo in the mid-1300s, where they suffered a resounding defeat at the hands of invading Turks. This monument was erected in 1945.

the last 600 years. It embraces all the elements that Serbs see in their history and in their present dilemma in the world: heroism, faith, glory, devotion, disunity, betrayal, predestination and victimization.

By transforming the national defeat into a metaphor for survival, the story of Kosovo served a double function, saving wounded pride and presenting a radical program for the future. It was a myth seized upon by a rising Communist politician named Slobodan Milosevic at the same ancient battlefield in 1987. In a powerful speech that was broadcast over and over again by Radio-Television Belgrade, Milosevic evoked the sacred historical rights of the Serbs, became a national hero and took over the Communist Party. By

1989 he forced the Serbian parliament to abolish Kosovo's political autonomy, removed its Albanian leadership and closed the schools. From a largely autonomous province of Yugoslavia set up by Marshall Broz Tito, Kosovo became a colony of nationalist Serbia and the worst human rights problem in Europe. It also became the foundation of a political credo for Milosevic and a symbolic way to re-fight the battle of Kosovo and win.

Today, the blackbirds still fly over the old battlefield and every summer bright red poppies bloom, supposedly symbolizing the blood of fallen Christian heroes. Serbs celebrate the battle on June 28th, which ironically is the same day in history that a Serb nationalist, Garvilo Principe, assassinated

the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand in Sarajevo and kicked off World War I. Today only off-duty Serb Police and soldiers visit the battlefield shrine. I found it difficult to take a photo at this site without enraging a Serb soldier objecting to a foreign journalist including them in the photo.

The Founding Reality

King Lazar's remains are entombed at a monastery in Ravenica, near Belgrade. The victor of Kosovo, Sultan Murat, lies in a mosque not far from the battlefield.

Most historians agree the Battle of Kosovo was not the epic struggle of the myth or even the decisive battle against the Turks. Ironically, Muslim Albanians, Christian Bosnians and Catholic Croats also

fought on the side of King Lazar and as the myth reports, some Serb forces even joined the Turks. The shifting alliances of the Balkans were confusing even in those days.

It also appears that King Lazar had a difficult time recruiting a willing force to face the Sultan's superior forces. Carved into the battlefield monument is the King's curse on those slow to take up arms. "Let their fields go barren of golden wheat, and let their vineyards remain without vines or grapes." In today's Kosovo, Slobodan Milosevic is having similar problems keeping Serb residents from leaving the troubled province or recruiting police and soldiers necessary to carry out his scorched-earth policy toward the rebel forces and ethnic Albanians of Kosovo.

A wave of kidnapping and terror in the past four months, which human rights workers say is part of the strategy of the Kosovo Liberation Army, has caused many Serbian families to flee. More than 80 Serb civilians are missing and believed dead. The *New York Times* quoted a Serbian official, who asked not to be identified, as saying, "the official estimate that Serbs make up 10% of Kosovo is probably wrong by about half."

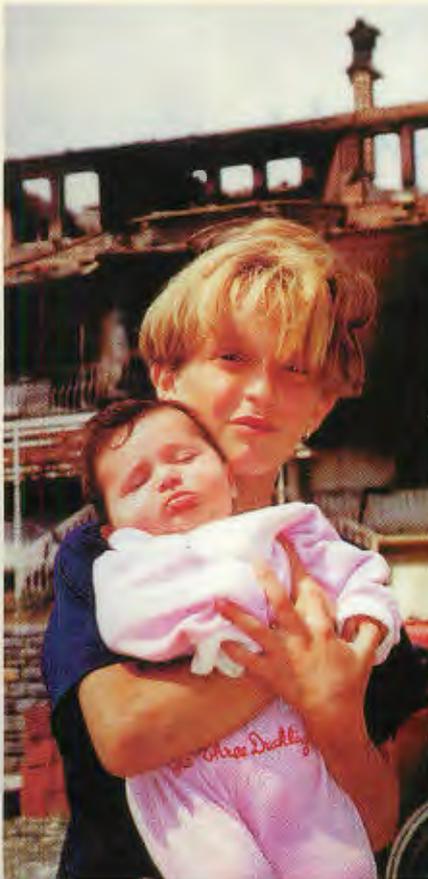
The tight control of information in Kosovo has masked the extent of the Serbian exodus in recent months. The Serbs who flee face hardship. In the broken economy of today's Yugoslavia there are few jobs available, and refugees live in fear of being discovered and sent back to Kosovo. Vesna Pajevic, a councilwoman in the city of Kragujevac said, "Oh, they certainly must hide. If the regime decides that too many are leaving, it would round them up like cattle and send them back to Kosovo." Each Serb departure diminishes the governments' claim, and the myth by which all Serbs were raised, that Kosovo would always be Serbian.

The Continuing Agony

In Belgrade, the unemployment rate is 45%. It is a city filled with unemployed Serbs of previously lost wars in Croatia and Bosnia. Serbian Kosovars choose to compete in this dreary crime-ridden capital rather than risk another Serb defeat at home in Kosovo. Meanwhile, the West's only response to Kosovo is more sanctions against Serbia. It has succeeded only in further destroying the economy and creating criminals who deal in the black market and in turn enrich Milosevic and his pals.

Belgraders of all political shades seem to have come to terms with the loss of Kosovo. Another Serb defeat, and not the first in Kosovo, is widely considered inevitable.

During three months of the bitter 1997-98 winter, I watched thousands of Belgrade students marching in the streets every day and enduring frequent beatings by police to protest the policies of Slobodan Milosevic. "Milosevic has been a disaster for Serbia," said one student. "Were it not for him, Serbia would be part of the West now."



Refugee Albanian girl and baby sister in front of what used to be their home in Barane, Kosovo. Serbs say they were there first, which is true. Ethnic Albanians say they are 90% of the current population, which is true. Each side can point to atrocities by the other to justify further atrocities on their part — and the ultimate victim is always the next generation. As the great American philosopher Rodney King asked, "Can't we all just get along?" (below) As tenuous ceasefire held late last fall, professional-appearing KLA fighters were in evidence, such as these troops watching Serb position near Malisevo. Note well-maintained Chinese and Yugoslav rifles, binos, cell phone and uniforms that fit.



The demonstrators said they wanted to show the world they were not warmongers and wanted Serbia to become the democratic society being built in other former communist countries. Milosevic finally gave in and allowed the opposition candidates their rightful place on municipal councils. Then came the classic betrayal. The opposition fell apart, with its leaders quarreling and proving themselves as corrupt as the Milosevic supporters they had replaced. Out of the disorder a fascist madman, Vojislav Seselj, who makes Milosevic look like a moderate, became Deputy Prime Minister and heir apparent. Most of the students who marched last winter believe protest is now a waste of time.

In May, Montenegro voted against Milosevic's party and in Kosovo the KLA guerrillas took control of major highways. But there was little of that bad news reported on Belgrade TV. In August, watching CNN in my hotel room, a privilege for foreigners only, the lead story was burning villages in Kosovo. On Belgrade TV the lead story was Milosevic greeting executives of a French cement factory.

Unpopular Angst

Kosovo is only four hours drive from Belgrade, but for TV news viewers it might as well be in Africa.

The Milosevic stranglehold on the Yugoslav media is showing strains. Independents like Radio B92 are struggling to report the truth and are constantly under threat of being closed down.

Recently, mothers of new Army recruits took to the Belgrade streets to march against their sons being sent to Kosovo. There is now a soldiers' mothers' movement in Serbia similar to the one that went to Chechnya when Russian casualties were mounting.

In June, one hundred Serb policemen in Belgrade lost their jobs for refusing combat

Continued on page 82

Warrior: The Legend of Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen

Reviewed by John Hogan

Peter Capstick was probably one of the last hard-edged individualists to hunt African dangerous game, in the same style and with what must have been the same spirit that Robert Ruark and Ernest Hemingway had shown before him. In the process he proved himself to be one of the nearly extinct breed of action writers who live for the kind of adrenaline rush that only comes from matching wits and skills against the strong forces of the grim reaper. And it was Capstick's own unique eye and ability to capture and colorfully portray rugged individualists like himself, that led him to write his final book: *Warrior: The Legend of Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen*.

Although you've likely never heard of Richard Meinertzhagen, you certainly should have. His experiences as a hunter, soldier and spy are legendary in both the history of Africa and Great Britain. In fact, scholars of British spycraft have written that it was his effective intelligence work in Africa before and during WWI which gave Churchill the example he needed to found the Special Operations Executive in WWII.

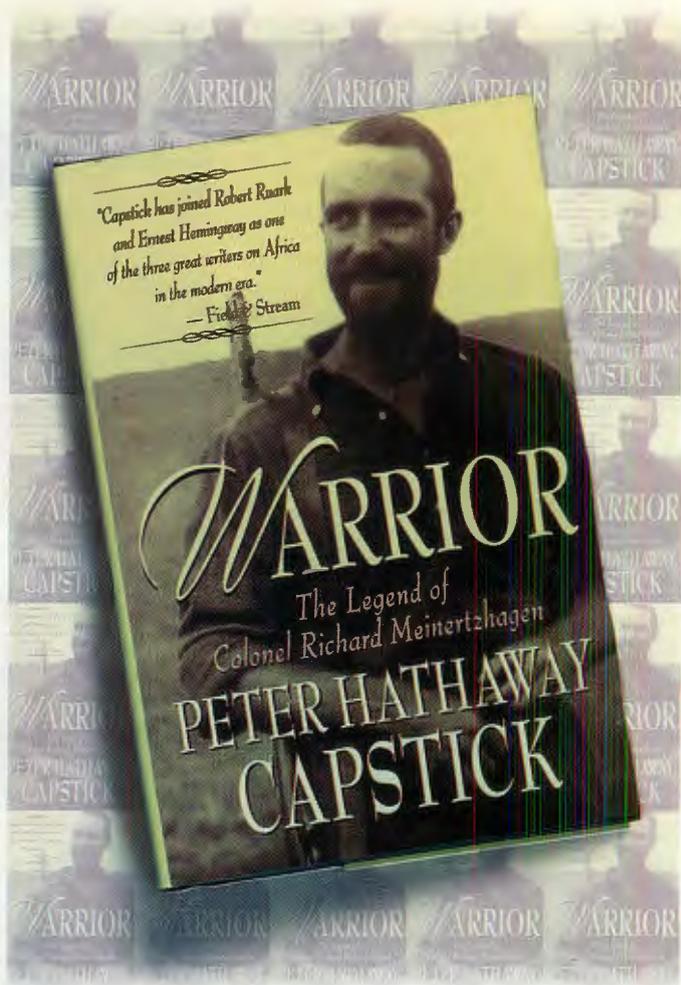
Meinertzhagen, was an Oxford trained ornithologist. Like many of the esoteric scholars in the intelligence business he was a high-risk operator whose off-center personality was far better suited to spying and unorthodox warfare than it was to behaving in a manner that would get him promoted to the general officer ranks in the British army.

In fact the only really bothersome part of Capstick's appraisal of his subject is when he insists on dwelling on Meinertzhagen's bonafides as a nicely realized homicidal. Early in the introduction Capstick notes another author's handtwisting characterization of Meinertzhagen's "bloodlust" both in hunting and in war. So what? To focus on this fellow's bloodlust ignores a very great deal and is similar to characterizing the most notable feature of Winston Churchill's life as speechmaking. The record shows that Meinertzhagen was good at killing, but he was really great as an intelligence officer. He was a master spy during a time when the intelligence business was considered at best a not-too-gentlemanly side job for soldiers. Meinertzhagen's intelligence coups are comparable to the very best of Fitzroy Maclean, Markus Wolfe or James Jesus Angleton.

But then that is one of the fascinating aspects of the book. In reality it was written by two authors. This book was only little more than half done when Peter Capstick's heart gave out on him. It was finished by Peter's wife, Fiona Capstick.

The portrait drawn by Peter Capstick early in the book is one that emphasizes the hunting and outdoor experiences of a privileged child of the English upper classes.

The most interesting parts of the early chapters have to do with young Meinertzhagen's almost single-handed responsibility for keeping order in a district of Kenya "... inhabited by half a million well-armed savages who have only quite recently come



into touch with the white man. ... "

During that period Meinertzhagen conducted what we termed village-clearing operations in Vietnam, and in the process of burning several Kikuyu towns and killing most of the male inhabitants started a war between her majesty's forces and most of the native population. During the conflict the Kikuyu creatively murdered a few British citizens but the intrepid Meinertzhagen got revenge.

He set an ambush for them in which he used a bayonet while his 15 Masai troops used spears to close with some 50 Kikuyu warriors. Apparently, all of the Kikuyu ended up dead, skewered by cold steel in the hand-to-hand fighting. Eventually, Meinertzhagen's tactics worked so effectively against the Kikuyu and their cousins that there were no further native uprisings in East Africa until the Mau Mau incidents of the late forties and fifties.

Spy vs. Spy

That was Meinertzhagen the big-game hunter and British colonial officer, aspects of his life that Peter Capstick well understood. By contrast the portrait which begins to emerge after Mrs. Capstick takes over in chapter five and which continues on through the rest of the book, is that of Meinertzhagen, the field intelligence officer, who becomes a master spy. It is that aspect of his life that is most fascinating, and the reason we have that view is probably due in no small part to the fact that Fiona Capstick is a spy of considerable experience herself.

Mrs. Capstick was the first woman ever put into the spy business by South African military intelligence. For a number of years during the cold war she worked among the big dogs on the sharp end of intelligence-gathering where tradecraft really works only with a generous application of smarts and good instincts.

When South Africa was playing hardball with Nelson Mandela's Soviet-sponsored-and-equipped African National Congress, Mrs. Capstick went up against the KGB and their clients in various parts of Africa.

So, it is through the trained eye and hard edged analysis of an intelligence professional as well as the pen of a skilled author that we are privileged to watch Meinertzhagen's suborn exploits unfold in Africa, the middle east and even in Berlin just before WWII.

Around 1905, when it was noticed that Queen Victoria's cousin Kaiser Wilhelm and his Austro Hungarian allies, were probably looking for a good reason to go to war with everyone else, the British high command in Nairobi noted the need for some information on military movements just across the border in German East Africa. This became Meinertzhagen's first espionage mission.

He traveled alone in civilian clothes by train and once across the border found lodging at an Imperial German army fort. Although he revealed himself to be a British army officer, the Germans apparently answered his questions, asked a lot of their own about the British army and even let him view a German company conducting maneuvers, as well as inspect their weaponry. Meinertzhagen appraised their light artillery marksmanship as "vile". He noted that only one projectile among the two dozen 37mm rounds fired at an 8- by 12-foot target actually hit its mark at 800 yards.

The Germans, suspecting that they had been probed, sent their own man posing as a geologist over to the British side. Getting wind of all of this, Meinertzhagen got some of the locals to invite the German over for dinner and in his absence got his black staff marched off to the police station for alien registration. Alone in the German camp, the Englishman purloined a set of maps and two dispatch cases and then burned the camp to the ground. The detailed maps gave the British War Office a significant leg-up on guessing German tactical intentions should a war break out. The powers that be in London gave Meinertzhagen credit for the intelligence coup and a career was launched.

Not long after, when the Russians began to fortify the Northern entrance to Sevastopol Harbor, and the British naval attaché at St. Petersburg was unable to penetrate the cloak of secrecy, the War Office dispatched Meinertzhagen to determine what was up. Of course it was a deniable mission and they told him that if he was caught he was on his own.

Of course he did get caught. He was off the road having a look at the harbor defenses when he saw two Russian soldiers running toward them. Thinking fast, he dropped his pants, and thus managing to convince them that he was only a tourist with a case of the trots, he was allowed to leave.

The next day Meinertzhagen returned to the harbor defenses carrying a flower press which he filled with crocuses until the guards grabbed him. Escorted into the commandant's office, the spy managed to use his French language skills to convince the Russian that his interests were in birds and flowers. That being the case the commandant gave him a detailed tour of the fortress and all its defenses before turning him loose. But, before he could leave Russia he had a close scrape with the Czar's counterintelligence people in which he was nearly killed.

The Sevastopol Harbor defenses product earned him the praise of the British director of naval intelligence and a place in the British intelligence establishment.

When World War I came to Africa, the Germans were infinitely better prepared than the British in all ways including their intelligence gathering ability. As Mrs. Capstick notes the Germans "... had a more homogenous force which greatly aided command, control and morale."

Upon his return to Africa at the war's onset Meinertzhagen found that there was no coherent British field intelligence system and he set

about creating one. By reorganizing some earlier efforts and adding some of his own ideas, Meinertzhagen recruited his own network of black Swahili-speaking agents who could move freely throughout the German-controlled areas.

Papers, Please

Meinertzhagen reasoned that since toilet paper was obviously in short supply in Africa, the Germans and their native troops would likely be wiping themselves with any paper at hand, particularly waste paper from offices. He set his agents to work mining for bits of paper in the German outhouses. He referred to this as the "dirty paper method" of intelligence gathering and it proved bountiful. Apparently, it turned up the enciphering and deciphering codes, messages and notes from among the German high command and figures on troop strengths and weaknesses. And the beauty of it was that the Germans had no idea that the Brits were *privy* to that kind of information.

He also successfully employed the dirty paper method again, this time using a network of desert Arabs and Jews who could openly pass through enemy lines. It was probably here, in 1917, that Meinertzhagen became a champion of the cause of Jewish nationalism. It was during this time period when he became fast friends with Chaim Weizmann, who 30 years later, in 1948, would become Israel's first head of state in modern times.

The mass murder of Jews in Hitler's extermination camps weighed heavily on Meinertzhagen's conscience for most of his life. The way he saw it, he had two, perhaps three, chances to murder Hitler and thought that if he had, the suffering and death during WWII in Europe might have been avoided.

Working in Berlin for the War Office under the cover of ornithological research, Meinertzhagen met personally with Hitler in 1934. He wrote in his diary that when he entered a massive room, Hitler walked toward him, raising his hand and barking "Heil Hitler." The British spy, thinking this was no doubt some new German method of protocol, raised his hand and barked: "Heil Meinertzhagen."

During their conversation, Hitler bluntly admitted to being an anti-Semite and ranted on about Jews being the principal organizers of the German communist party.

The next year, in 1935, Chaim Weizmann told him of the growing persecution of German Jews and of the fears he had for their future. He implored Meinertzhagen to use his influence where he could to try to better the lot of Jews. In the summer of that year he met Hitler again, but the German leader flew into a tirade and slammed the table with his fists when Meinertzhagen raised the Jewish question.

Four years later, in 1939, when Meinertzhagen was in Berlin under the cover of visiting a cousin, Hitler requested a meeting with him. Before he left the Hotel for the meeting, Meinertzhagen placed a loaded automatic pistol in his pocket, "... so that I could prove opportunity to kill the man," he wrote in his diary. Having had an opportunity for long observation of the man, he knew that Hitler was actively seeking war and was certainly up to no good regarding the Jewish question.

Meinertzhagen's noted that Hitler subjected him to a long diatribe about British obstruction of German ambitions, but he does not say why he failed to do the deed. He had the motive, the means, and the opportunity, so why didn't he pull the trigger? Probably sanity, and the realization that being 61 years old wasn't quite old enough. He ended up outliving Hitler and almost all of his generation. ☒



The late Peter Capstick (left) deep in conversation with Robert K. Brown during the latter's final meeting with the legendary hunter. (below) Brown with Fiona Capstick, who took over her late husband's work on the book and lent her vast espionage expertise to the life and times of a great spy.



omega PROViNG ground

by Don McLean



S&W Performance Center 3-inch Model 657

Gunwriter Tom Ferguson was a retired San Antonio, Texas, police officer who knew weapons and cops intimately. In an interview two years before his death, he reported how the San Antonio PD got along with the .41 Magnum revolvers they adopted in the mid-1960s. He stated it wasn't a problem-free experience, but one thing became readily apparent, the .41 Magnum quickly developed a superior reputation for stopping power.

In the first year after adopting the .41 Magnum, the San Antonio department had 12 officer-involved shootings. The scenario according to Ferguson went as follows: Bad guy pulled gun and shot at police officer. Police officer pulled .41 Magnum from holster. Officer aimed and fired .41 Magnum. Bad guy dropped gun, fell down.

The last sequence proved somewhat optional because Ferguson said they had two instances where the officer fired his .41 Magnum and the resulting roar, report and ball of fire scared the be'jesus out of the bad guy so much that they dropped their guns and surrendered peaceably out of a strong sense of survival.

He went on to relate the problems his department experienced with the .41 Magnum revolvers they were issued and the ammunition supplied at that time, but he gave nothing but praise for the round itself.

For those who appreciate a well made .41 Magnum revolver the Smith & Wesson Performance Center is making what any expert



(top) The Smith & Wesson Performance Center performed a custom-trigger job, smoothed and contoured the trigger face, and replaced the serrated ramp stainless steel front sight with a black McGivern gold bead front sight to further customize an already semi-custom revolver. (inset) Matt Del Fatti, a working law enforcement professional, made this top quality strong side concealed-carry holster for the 3-inch Model 657 the author received from the Smith & Wesson Performance Center. Del Fatti is currently producing some of the best concealed carry leather available anywhere and the fit and finish of his products is the equal of any. This S&W 3-inch Model 657 when loaded with 175 gr Winchester Silvertip provides ample protection to any who appreciate big bore defensive revolvers.

will recognize as a best-quality wheelgun in this powerful cartridge. Normally, the Performance Center specializes in revolvers designed for hunting, but this past year the Smith & Wesson Performance Center has been producing a limited edition version of the Model 657 — a stainless steel version with a square butt frame and a short,

easy to conceal 3-inch barrel. I saw my first example during a hog and goat hunt in Tennessee with the Performance Center's head man, Tom Kelly, a year ago.

Unlike the 3-inch Model 657s built during the 1980s, these guns all feature square butt frames — a feature traditionalists like myself find far more attractive than the currently offered round butt models. With a properly shaped grip it is no more difficult to conceal a square-butt revolver, even a large N-frame model, than it is to conceal the marginally smaller round-butt version.

As supplied from the Performance Center the gun comes with large finger-groove grips. They are a poor choice for a concealment handgun, but one of the great advantages of any revolver is the ability to change the grip size to fit a specific hand.

The Performance Center 3-inch Model 657 normally comes with a serrated ramp stainless steel front sight with the now traditional rectangular piece of red plastic. I requested on the gun I ordered a McGivern gold bead front sight. The advantages of the McGivern gold bead outweigh even those seen with tritium powered sight inserts. Unlike tritium, gold does not have a half-life and it works equally well at reflecting light in both bright daylight and in low-light or cloudy overcast conditions. The primary advantage of the McGivern gold bead is the eye just naturally picks it up when the gun is raised to eye level. Older eyes find it much easier to track a front sight featuring a bright spot of gold, as I can testify.

In terms of ammunition, the situation, even though limited in comparison to other big bore calibers, is far improved over those

early days in the 1960s that Ferguson experienced. For self-defense applications in .41 Magnum, it is hard to beat Winchester's 175-grain Silvertip in terms of penetration, expansion and accuracy. Out of the 3-inch barrel of the sample revolver, Winchester Silvertip averages just under 1,200 fps and six rounds will easily stay within 2½ inches at 50 feet.

To carry this semi-custom revolver, Matt Del Fatti, Del Fatti Leather, Dept. SOF, 637 S. Main St., Greenwood, WI 54437; phone: 715-267-6420 (6 to 10 PM), made a premium quality strong side hip holster along with a speedloader carrier of his own design that compliments the revolver in both taste, quality and reliable function. Del Fatti, a working law enforcement professional, is currently making some of the best quality concealed carry leather available anywhere. A key characteristic of all his work is the perfect fit between his holsters and the specific gun for which it was made.

Revolvers are, in the minds of many, old-hat and obsolete, but superior performance will never be obsolete. The .41 Magnum as a cartridge can be criticized for shortcomings, but seldom has it ever experienced a failure to stop an armed aggressor. For those armed professionals who still appreciate big bore revolvers it's hard to argue against this semi-custom 3-inch Model 657 from the Smith & Wesson Performance Center.

For further information, contact: Tom Kelly, Smith & Wesson Performance Center, Dept. SOF, 2100 Roosevelt Ave., P.O. Box 2208, Springfield, MA 01102-2208; phone: 413-747-3471; fax: 413-747-3382.
— Frank W. James

Mission's MPK: Top Knife For On The Bottom ... Or Anywhere

It will probably surprise readers that anyone at *SOF* was ever actually schooled in a legitimate trade, but when he wore a younger man's canvas suit, this writer was a hard-hat diver. The technology of diving, especially the array of excellent commercial purpose-built suits, gear and tools now available, has made quantum leaps in the past three decades. But some things will always remain a constant for those who work on the bottom: visibility will be from poor to non-existent, and the objects upon which you work will either be covered with or buried beneath deep water flora, slime, oily waste or sewage. The environs where you work will be a hazmat engineer's dream of unseen sharp objects from broken glass to rusty steel bands and fish-hooked old steel cable, with junk automobiles, foul chemicals and biohazards all tangled together in the mud or bottom slime. Contrary to what you may see on magazine covers, there never is clear water, warm water, shiny gear, or a bikini on your diving gear.

A commercial diver usually is occupied with civilian pursuits in these environs, such as pipefitting, construction or repair such as welding and cutting, pouring concrete, inspection, harvesting mollusks and sponges, or the sundry aspects of salvage. Military divers, however, and our SEALs, are good examples, and are usually engaged in work that would be hazardous even on the surface — let alone at depth and in darkness. Such tasks as defuzing or disas-



(above) The MPK's serrated edge is as good as it gets in the business, and their diamond hone is the implement that keeps it rope-slicing sharp.

sembling rotting old explosive ordnance take the balls of a buffalo and the hands of a neurosurgeon. *And the right tools.*

One of the single most important tools for a working diver is his knife, because it is used for many primary tasks and myriad incidentals; such as cutting, scraping, probing, prying — and for G.I. divers, fighting. Many commercial divers get by with modified, cheap butcher knives, for the same reason they buy discount-bin oriental wrenches: Buy cheap if there's a good chance you'll lose it in the drink or in the bottom slime, and few things will cut line like the rusty edge of a rusty butcher knife. But for a military diver whose life may depend on his tools and in particular on his knife, trying to go on the cheap is like a professional

bodyguard buying a Saturday-night special.

Producing the optimum knife for our SEAL teams has received a great deal of attention, and generated a great deal of controversy. The controversy, of course, came from far outside the circle of SEALs or various engineers working with them to produce the optimum, practical tool. Perhaps the controversy stemmed from the aura of romance surrounding the SEALs (as opposed to their well-deserved aura of excellence), and the fact that some people get really worked up over knives — probably because the common knife has few if any moving parts and those who can understand damn little else think they can understand a knife, and attach to it a great deal of juju. At any rate, after many announcements by knife makers that “they” had “the” SEAL knife, one particular knife has come to the fore, and from any standpoint it is gear that is unequivocally good to go.

SEAL requirements for a knife are somewhat specialized. As any working knife, it must be *strong*, and take and hold a good edge. For UDT use it should be non-corrosive. For EOD use it should be nonmagnetic, so as not to trigger magnetic mines. Since chopping underwater is a marginally fruitful undertaking due to the water’s resistance to fast motion, and because poor visibility makes chopping an imprecise task, light weight is not a negative. This fairly well defines the optimum *material* of the knife as titanium, but leaves the classic consideration of how form will follow function. The MPK SEAL knife by Mission Knives is a good case study in how to do something right.



been evolved through many iterations with input from end-users. The combination of shape and texture provide a good grip in muddy water, mud, oil, grease or soapy water, even with wet leather gloves, yet without being hard on water-softened hands.

The blade itself is made from a proprietary beta titanium alloy. Beta alloys of titanium are analogous to alloys of iron with other metals designed to impart particular properties, in this case increased strength and the ability to be hardened. Titanium is the most noble of the light metals, and its strength is roughly equivalent to steel, while its weight for a given dimension is slightly more than aluminum: in essence, the best of both worlds. Its corrosion resistance exceeds most “stainless” alloys, immune to the effects of sea water or any other natural environment. Mission soaked one in sea water for *four years*, and the metal and synthetic handle both came out like factory-new. The MPK is robustly dimensioned, and well engineered for strength. With its ¼-inch-thick full tang, and a minimum tensile strength of 225,000 PSI, we can’t imagine what you could do to break it. We tried.

Hardenability is important because without it a knife will not hold an edge. As knife hardnesses go, the MPK is on the lower end of the scale — about 46-47 on the Rockwell C scale, whereas high-carbon steel knives are typically in the 50s — but this is about the hardness of the cheap butcher knives that po’ boy hardhat men used to favor for diving, and the tradeoff is a good one. Like the butcher knives we used to touch up with a chainsaw file, the MPK is almost instantly brought to “factory” sharpness with a tapered diamond hone that is available from Mission. This is difficult to quantify, but for its hardness, the MPK certainly took a better edge and held it longer than a steel blade of equivalent hard-

ness. I’ve seen in print that one must use a diamond hone to sharpen a titanium knife, and this, of course, is bull. You can sharpen any metal blade made on a *terra cotta* brick or flower pot if that’s all you have — but for speed and finess of the edge, I know of no hand tool that will sharpen knives as well as a diamond stick, although on the bench a power Japanese water stone comes close.

(left) Mission’s MPK titanium knife as designed for the Navy SEALs is gear that’s good to go. (inset) An optional but worthwhile accessory is Mission’s non-magnetic diamond hone.

The excellent tapered diamond hone that Mission sells

Ergonomics and comfort become highly important when a diver spends long shifts in the water. Your hands get as soft and mushy as a knife-writer’s, and rough or sticky textures or angular features will abrade or gouge soft callouses and expose flesh to the hostile, polluted environs. Even if the water starts crystal clear and you’re shallow and have light, as soon as you start to work on the bottom your activity stirs up the sediment so you can always count on working in poor visibility. In poor visibility, the shape of a knife — or other tool — should be angular enough that its position in the hand can be learned by feel, and angular enough to provide a secure grip and perform its function — but not so angular as to prove a detriment to softened hands. I would have to characterize the human engineering of the MPK as optimum. Knives are a highly individual item, and were someone designing a similar purpose knife from scratch, it might end up slightly different in some respects in response to individual tastes — but I don’t see how it could end up any better.

The MPK is 11½ inches overall, with a 7 ⅝-inch blade having a full tang and the textured handle molded from Kevlar-fiber-filled Hytrel. The spine and tang of the blade are a full ¼-inch thick. Longitudinal grooves in the handle help secure the hand without being rude. The thong hole in the butt will just pass a piece of 550 cord, which is good because this is one knife you do not want to lose. The bottom-front of the grip is formed to a thick hilt effectively ¾” long, comfortably yet securely to keep your hand off the blade. There is a slight depression just aft of this hilt, which in effect gives a slight belly to the grip: It is a very secure and comfortable grip, and due to the shape of the hilt and the drop at the butt there is no way to grip it without knowing which way is up. Excellent ergonomics — too perfect not to have

does a superb job on the rope-cutting serrations at the rear of the blade, and these serrations, in turn, did a whale of a job on nylon, polyethylene/dacron, polypropylene, sisal and manila lines. Plus on some innocent multistrand MTW copper wire that happened by. Nylon, cotton, and vinyl (Herculite) canvas all but melted ahead of the sharpened blade. Scraps of aircraft aluminum, leather, fiberboard and annealed iron wire readily yielded, and had no effect on the blade that could not be corrected with a few careful strokes of the diamond hone.

The blade has a long clip point with a false edge, and a pronounced belly. I like the shape, as the belly has an excellent radius for precise cutting. There was no game available when this was written, and the only administrative assistant in sight ran off on my approach, but I would expect the sweeping radius of the blade will make it a very good Skinner, and its light weight will make it an easy carry.

Since one of the things divers routinely do is scrape rust and barnacles to expose their work, we tried that. Blue iron oxide, the inside layer of rust, is very hard and very abrasive, but the knife held up as well as any steel scraper I’ve used. Another common abuse of a knife underwater is to use it as a prybar. The MPK is not shaped like an ab iron, but I bet you could use it for one from the strength standpoint. For its hardness, it shows surprising flex, but an excellent memory: We could flex, but never bend, the MPK. And at the hardness of the MPK, it would be my guess that if you did manage to bend it, it would not break as would a very hard, and thus sometimes brittle, steel blade.

The “balance” and “heft” of a knife are somewhat subjective considerations, but we give the MPK high marks in both regards. A

steel knife of the same configuration might tend to feel a little "muzzle heavy" for a cutter, but the MPK hangs in the hand with an impression rather like a Luger or P. 38, as opposed to a GI M1911. As long as our feet work, we do not fight with knives, but the MPK is well-shaped and balanced for executing the fluid, arm's-length movements of a trained knife fighter.

Starting with laser-cut blanks, the MPK is fabricated with the most advanced manufacturing techniques and is utterly flawless in execution — as in, not a single tool mark nor blemish on it. That alone is an accomplishment, as all titanium alloys are a pain to machine, and the beta alloys are probably the meanest and most expensive of the lot — but in this case worth it.

The sheath is not your Daddy's leather scabbard. Also from tough, flexible Kevlar-fiber-filled Hytrel, injection molded then ultrasonically welded together, the scabbard and its accompanying straps may be used to carry the knife on a pistol belt, LBE, on your arm or leg or about any other mission-specific location. This scabbard holds the knife very securely in any position and the release is smooth and quiet. The sheath is suitable for field, SCUBA and jump ops.

The old Navy-issue hard-hat dive knife was a straightforward spear-point blade that rode in an odd, round metal scabbard hanging

from the horsehide weight belt. There were various iterations over the years, most having cylindrical bronze handles that made it difficult to keep track of the blade's position in bad light. Simple to the point of looking like a "Knife, Generic, Mk I" this was a strong and capable tool, but not too popular outside the service. Most old commercial hard-hat divers used some modification of surplus Navy Mark V helmets and other gear, but I never saw any Navy-surplus dive knives in use outside waterfront gin mills. It's a safe bet, however, that commercial divers will take to Mission's new MPK. And topside, on deck or in the bush, for work, military use or sport, it's the most knife for the weight we've yet seen (a scant 9-1/2 ounces!).

SEALS, EOD, SF, DEA, SWAT plus other hands-on acronyms and spooks from NATO, SEATO and other allied countries have hard-tested the MPK and purchased them by the thousands. In design, materials and execution, it's going to be very hard to top the MPK. We give this tool two thumbs-up, and that's all the thumbs we have.

The folks at Mission Knives are titanium-knife specialists, as good as it gets at what they do. Contact them at Mission Knives, Dept. SOF, 22971 Triton Way, Suite C, Laguna Hills, CA 92653; phone: 949-951-3879; fax: 949-598-0258; or check out their website at: www.missionknives.com

The M1907 Military Rifle Sling

Most military snipers throughout the world, and law enforcement selected marksmen in this country, rely far too heavily on the bipod. While it is today an item of *de rigueur* in the sniper's kit, U.S. Marine Corps snipers, who do not use bipods, know that the Model 1907 U.S. military sling can provide the required stability in a much wider range of shooting positions. A bipod limits the sniper to the prone position or firing from a ledge upon which the bipod can be placed. Thus, when forced by the environment to fire from the sitting or kneeling positions most snipers must do so without the stability provided by a high-power-match-type sling. Many police selected marksmen are completely unaware that slings which enhance stability are even available.

They are, and the very best ones are made by Turner Saddlery (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 120, Clay, AL 35048-0120; phone: 205-680-9377). A Turner Police Tactical rifle sling has been attached to our DVC Tactical Rifle. More high-power competitors use Turner Saddlery slings than any other make by far. The M1907 U.S. military sling is the finest piece of equipment of its type ever devised for enhancing the stability required to shoot a large-caliber rifle accurately. No other sling has ever been designed or fielded by any army in the world that can even remotely be compared to the U.S. M1907 sling. It remains forever a symbol that we were indeed once a nation of riflemen above all others in the world.

Richard L. Turner is a retired Gunnery Sergeant of the USMCR. Three of his slings are of particular interest to snipers and high-power competitors: the M1907, National Match Service and Police Tactical rifle slings. The later two are variants of the M1907. All are made as they were in 1907, just a little thicker and a little longer. Turner's Randall harness stitching machines, made in 1910 and 1915, respectively, are the same model used by the U.S. Government in 1907. The Randall machine that applies the creases on the edges of the sling was made in 1890. The sling hooks are hand riveted with a rivet hammer and anvil, exactly as they were in 1907.

The short strap on these slings is stitched with bonded nylon thread. The keepers are hand-stitched with beeswax linen thread. Competition-grade heavy keepers are available for \$8 per pair extra. They are made from 8-ounce strap leather, 7/8-inch wide.

Turner slings are made from premium-grade English bridal leather.



When the rifle cannot be deployed from a bipod, high-power-match-type slings can stabilize shooting positions, such as the sitting, to a significant extent.

The hardware is parkerized steel. Original-type brass World-War-I hardware is available for only \$4 extra. The M1907 sling is tan and duplicates the famous World-War-II version. It costs just \$39.95 plus postage. The tan National Match Service sling and the black Police Tactical sling feature numbered adjustment holes and a 50-inch strap. Either of these slings cost \$41.95. All of these slings are 1-1/4-inch in width, which is standard for the U.S. military. Additional sling lengths in 2-inch increments are available for \$1 per inch extra. Turner also makes the M1887 sling for the .45-70 Trapdoor Springfield and .30-40 Krag (\$37.95); M1903 and M1905 experimental slings (\$37.95), used briefly on the .30-40 Krag, .30 Enfield and 1903 Springfield; and the M1918A2 BAR three-hook sling (\$48.95).

The adjustment holes on the sling are numbered from "1" to "12." While sling adjustment may be the same for both the sitting and kneeling positions, the sling invariably must be longer for shooting from the prone. The numbers permit the operator to make note of the adjustment required for each position in his sniper's log book. Remember, "no pain, no gain." If you're not in some pain when you assume a firing position with an M1907-type sling, it almost always means it has not been adjusted tightly enough.

I have Turner-made M1907 military rifle slings on all of my M14 and M1A rifles and his Police Tactical rifle sling on all of my many sniper rifles. Reasonably priced and the very best available, these slings provide enough stability, if adjusted correctly, to significantly enhance the operator's accuracy potential. — Peter G. Kokalis ✕

Peering into a cloudless sky, Dave Penney raised a hand to shade his eyes from the oppressive midday Cambodian sun. Even after two weeks in the Battambang area, his body still had not acclimated to the heat and humidity. But then, the doctor was a long way from his busy veterinary practice in San Francisco. Ahead of Dave, cattle trod submissively behind their owner to fresh pasture. A rustling sound made by the herd pushing through thick brush brought the veterinarian's attention back to his job of livestock parasite research.

There was a shout from the cattleman as he motioned Dave forward. With his invitation accepted, the Cambodian turned away, placed his right foot on recently disturbed soil, and disappeared in a blinding flash. The explosion's concussion slammed Dr. Penney to the ground. Its deafening crack was instantaneously followed by a series of thunder claps as stampeding cows detonated additional Khmer Rouge land mines.

pelled by real world experience, are no mere sales-pitch hyperbole. Land mines and unexploded ordnance currently plague more than 65 nations that have suffered years of war and civil disturbance. *Environmental Engineering News*, issued by Purdue University's School of Civil Engineering, states that up to 100 million live land mines lie in unknown places around the world with an additional 5,479 being planted worldwide each day. These anonymous killers are not predominately a combatant's problem: Of one million people killed or maimed by land mines over the past 20 years, 80% were civilians.

A Global Tragedy

The medical cost incurred by the local populace is the most obvious result of land mine warfare. However, the often overlooked loss of land (it is estimated that as

Egyptian lives every year. Although London and Bonn have provided maps of the minefields, plus equipment, training and personnel, the various parties disagree on the scope of the problem and the cost of removing the mines. Egyptian estimates run as high as 23 million mines, including those laid in the Sinai during the 1948, 1958, 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars. German and British estimates are of 2-3 million mines. In any case, Egyptian cost estimates are that it would take \$142 million to completely clear the mines. European authorities consider a 100% level as unrealistic. According to Western diplomats in Cairo, Germany and Britain are focusing on providing financial support to U.N. efforts to

courtesy Mission Knife and Tool



With the last geysers of dirt raining down, Dave's blurred vision could barely make out the trigger of an OZM-3 bounding land mine inches from his nose.

From missionary to mercenary — if you are headed to a war torn Third-World country, you'd better be up to speed on land mines and unexploded ordnance. Of course, you might be lucky and never stumble into a mined area, but given that land mines can't discriminate between the pure of heart and the wickedly motivated, knowledge is the deciding factor between life and death." Billy Poe, owner of Explosive Service International (ESI), is quick to respond to my question about who and why someone would benefit from attending his premier Counter-Land Mine Course.

Poe's words, spoken with a force tempered just enough not to bruise but pro-

much as 35% of land in Afghanistan and Cambodia is unusable) to unmapped and unknown minefields is equally debilitating to agrarian-based economies. The long-term hazards of land mines are considerable. World War II desert battlefields in North Africa still conceal lethal leftovers, and the growing use of plastics in modern land mines means their active life is almost indefinite — and these plastic mines are nearly undetectable by many currently used detectors.

Eradication of land mines is a daunting task for financially strapped countries. Cairo, for instance, is pushing Britain and Germany to provide more assistance in removing millions of WW II-era mines in Egypt's western desert in such areas as the epic tank battle of El Alamein, where mines are obstructing development and claim

resolve the mine problem worldwide. U.N. estimates are that Iran has 16 million land mines, Iraq and Afghanistan 10 million each, and Cambodia some 6 million.

Mines in the desert Middle East are a particular problem because of their long life in desert climates, and the fact that over the past 50 years metal, wooden and plastic mines have been sewn, all requiring different techniques for detection and pacification.

Estimates are that it would take two years to clear Cambodia of its land mines if the income of all of its people were spent only on that work; this casts little hope for Cambodia's future. No wonder then, that when international financiers consider the cost of rebuilding a war-ravaged country,

VENGEANCE IS MINES

Louisiana Company Trains Men Who Must Walk Dangerous Paths

by Hugh L. Coffee

the expense of land-mine removal is a factor. Tragically, most Third-World countries will see their land-mine fields cleared one arm and one leg at a time.

Sitting on the tailgate of a Chevy truck, Billy Poe and I watch three students, a mine sweeper, his assistant, and a team leader, clear a trail on Poe's explosives range in rural northern Louisiana. An occasional breeze carries the sounds of hammers and power saws down the dirt road that ends to our left. A log cabin-style hunting lodge/classroom is nearing completion. The enlarged on-site classroom space is expected to reduce dependence on the Louisiana State Police Training Academy in Baton Rouge, where portions of the Counter Land-Mine Course had been given earlier in the week.

Billy's weathered, camouflaged baseball cap with a subdued Louisiana State Police patch affixed is the only hint this unassuming man gives to the fact that his name carries the same recognition in the EOD/Special Operations world as Carlos Hathcock does to sniping. After obtaining his B.S. in Agricultural Business from

LSU, Poe had every intention of farming for a living. It was not to be. Before retiring as commander from the Louisiana State Police, he served as department head over the Hazardous Materials, Explosives Ordnance and Disposal, Crime Lab, and SWAT sections simultaneously.

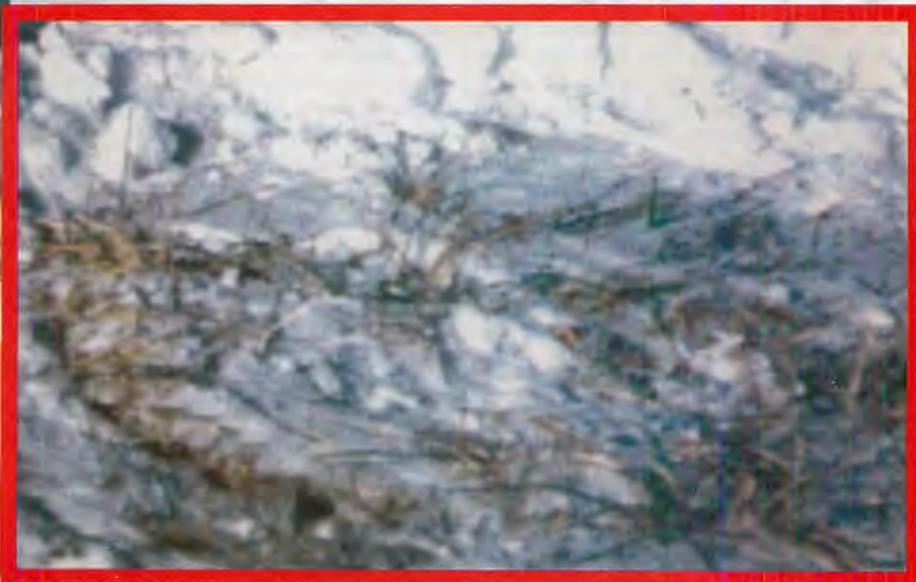
His EOD work for the State Department carried him from Northern Ireland to Latin America, and somewhere along the way, while developing explosives courses, conducting explosives research and development, and advising congress on explosives security, Poe's path crossed that of Dick Marcinko and his Seal Team 6. The working relationship that developed between Poe and Marcinko's team was born out of the recognition of Poe's expertise in oil-platform security and the use of cutting and breaching explosives — a skill that led to proprietary techniques in the offshore oil salvage industry.

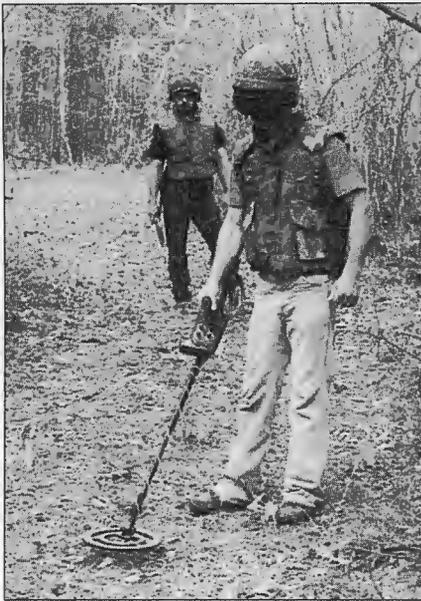
Everybody's Problem

"From missionary to mercenary?" I press Poe for clarification.



Deminer in Bosnia carefully probes antitank mine with non-magnetic titanium probe from Mission Knife and Tool (see Omega Proving Ground, this issue, on Mission's titanium products).





ESI student checks his metal detector's sensitivity in safety of cleared lane. Assistant stands ready to extend cleared lane with marker tape as sweeper moves forward. Note yellow tape boundaries. (right) PMN anti-personnel mine exposed and ready to be "BIP" with dynamite. Here, previous ESI classes in explosives safety and usage converge with land-mine detection and ID classes, to bring "positive solution" to problem of indiscriminate land-mine warfare. (below) With TMN-46 anti-tank mine exposed, it is ready to be remotely lifted from ground by field-expedient means. "Remote lift" technique will activate mine's anti-handling devices and destroy it — good alternative to blowing in place (BIP), as this saves demolition explosives.



courtesy Pete Hegge



courtesy Sid Harper



"The emergence of land mines as weapons of terror has catapulted them to the level of one of the world's worst man-made disasters. The same humanitarians who years ago stood in the gap during floods, famine and disease are now forced to secure counter land-mine training. Who else is going to clear the path to the well dug a week ago or the field now ready to be harvested? In a best-case scenario a trained EOD technician — but realistically, there are not enough to meet the demand, nor money or political will to deploy them to low-profile arenas."

The exacting motions of the student mine sweeper, combined with the burden of body armor and a hot August sun, has caused the team leader, positioned at a safe distance, to restrict the sweeper's rotation to 15 minutes. As the sweeper's assistant rolls out yellow crime-scene tape to mark the "clear lane," Rex Shipp, retired Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician and now ESI cadre, inches toward the sweeper to give advice that only comes from years of field experience.

An electronic squeal from the mine detector pulsates around the team, causing heart

rates to kick into overdrive. The mine sweeper, a heavy machine operator from Indiana with hopes of assisting those trying to right the wrongs in the killing fields of Asia, has just brushed the detector's head across the metal eyelets of his right boot. The self-check procedure complete, he moves the detector's head over ankle-high grass to avoid above-ground triggers. He then covers his previous swathe with the head pressed against the ground. Earlier classes taught him that worn-out detector heads can be replaced, whereas a foot cannot.

Sucking a deep breath, the Hoosier looks suspiciously at a bottleneck in the trail before him. He knows that to be effective at counter land-mine operations, you must think like the mine layer. The mentality of sending a thief to catch a thief typifies ESI's instructors. No criticism is given the sweeper as he resumes his forward progress at a creeping pace. After all, one person can only be expected to clear 20-50 square meters of land per day.

The portable radio between Billy and me crackles. The assistant sweeper is heard telling the team leader that probing is about

to start, due to a faint signal from the mine detector. Following a sip of tepid Gatorade, I ask Poe what a student should expect to learn from his training.

Pragmatic Riddance

"First, I want it clearly understood that ESI is not in the business of turning out EOD technicians. We do not teach 'render safe' techniques. Instead, the scope of the Counter-Land Mine Course is that of locating the land mine, identifying its type, and then blowing it in place (BIP). Therefore, the curriculum for this course is essentially the same, regardless if our students are civilians of a humanitarian bent or approaching us from the special operations community. The bottom line is, people are being thrown into harm's way and I want these people returning to their families."

"Isn't BIP too rudimentary a concept for special operations personnel?"

"What both our military and those I'm working with internationally want is an opportunity for their personnel to gain hands-on training with commercial explosives and detection equipment that are not normally carried in their inventories but are more often than not the tools of the trade used by the paramilitary units they interact with. Also, for logistics reasons, it is proving more cost effective for special operations units to have ESI pull together the instructors, equipment, and explosives."

I ask, "Is the blow-in-place curriculum, a stop, drop, and roll approach for the individual thrown into a hazardous situation?"

Poe nods contemplatively and with a smile concedes in some measure to my fire-fighting analogy, but not to the over-simplification of his course. Nor should he. The Counter-Land Mine Course is taught by instructors who possess extensive field



AP/Wide World

As some 80% of mine victims are non-combatants, victim is likely to be a helpful innocent. This Red Cross vehicle fell victim to mine on Donje Obriga-Likovac road in Kosovo. One doctor was killed, three others injured: The next week five Serb policemen were killed nearby.

operations experience in the international theater of clearance and training operations, as well as UN/UNHCR-accepted training credentials. Having pulled together EOD technicians with impeccable credentials from both law enforcement and the military, not to mention Poe's own recognized specialties, ESI students are systematically taken through a comprehensive,

realistic curriculum simply unavailable outside government-sponsored programs.

Know The Enemy

Before the student dons body armor and enters the practice minefield, he has completed ESI's prerequisite Explosive Handler Safety Course, which is taught as an independent three-and-a-half-day course or as an integral module of the three-day Counter-Land Mine Course. The explosives training, with hands-on live-fire emphasized, provides the student with the proper training needed for safe application of the firing systems (non-electric, electric and shock tube) and explosives (TNT, C-4, etc.), necessary for minefield clearance. The theory behind, and proper field use of, conical and linear shape charges, PBX (Plastic Bonded Explosives), fracture charges, and binary liquid explo-

sives are also thoroughly covered.

With proficiency in explosive usage achieved, instruction then turns to identification by type: anti-tank and anti-personnel mines, dropped munitions (bombs and submunitions), projected munitions (mortars, rockets, RPGs), grenades, booby traps and improvised explosive devices. Item-specific safety precautions complete this section of education. Once able to identify the threat, students receive instruction in the proper use of electronic mine/ordnance detection equipment and manual mine probing techniques.



Some studies indicate Russian PFM-1 antipersonnel mines, similar to this practice version, have wounded more children than any of 630-odd types now poisoning the planet, partly because of its attractive demeanor — and partly because an estimated 15 million of them have been deployed.

Progressing hand-in-hand with this section of training, students learn to mark minefield boundaries, clear lanes and to map the minefield by traditional means and GPS units. Upon detection and identification of the mine type, students must demonstrate effective disposal of the mine either by remote lifting or blowing in place (BIP).

"They found the PMN-2 mine." Billy says as he watches the mine-clearing team begin to back out along the clear lane. He is obviously pleased and lets the team know it as they approach the truck and begin to prepare their explosive charge, consisting of commercial friction time-fuse igniter, time fuse, blasting cap, detonating cord and a stick of dynamite.

A light banter among the team members is oriented towards constructive criticism as Rex Shipp counsels a student to remember, "Keep it simple, because simple is fast, and fast is good." The learning curve during the course has been steep, but with their skills improving after each evolution, the mine clearing team proves to be a quick study in the art of mine-detector usage, minefield/ clear lane marking, probing, and mine recognition. Shortly, the shouts of, "Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole!" will echo back from the team, and an anti-personnel mine, that could have just as easily been planted in a Mozambique schoolyard, will cease to exist.

And the fate of the veterinarian we left stranded in the Cambodian minefield? Well, the account is fictional, but Dr. Dave Penney is not. However, since he is a bona fide graduate of the Counter-Land Mine Course, I feel with just a touch of artistic license, that it is fair to say that our intrepid Dr. Penney probed safely clear of the minefield.

For the dates of an upcoming Counter Land-Mine Course or Explosive Handler Safety Course, contact William T. Poe at:

Explosive Service International, Ltd.
P.O. Box 45742
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

Phone: 504-275-2152
Fax: 504-273-2029

Author of *Ditch Medicine: Advanced Field Procedures For Emergencies* (Paladin Press) and magazine articles on medical techniques, Hugh L. Coffee attended ESI after serving in a medical capacity in the minefields of Guatemala. ☒

UN/DPI Photo by John Isaac



Mine problem is epidemic and worldwide, victims usually unwary kids or people tilling soil by hand. (above) Young girl who lost hand during 1991 civil war in northern Iraq; eight-year-old Nicaraguan boy stands in yard where AP mine claimed his arm, leg and eye (estimated 100,000 mines remain from Nicaraguan civil war); late Princess of Wales, Diana, high-profile opponent of land mines, talks with young Angolan girl who lost leg working soil in Saurimo; Salvadoran government poster child lost foot to FMLN mine in El Salvador — while other kids lost theirs to government mines.



AP/Wide World

AP/Wide World



Stepping off the plane in Ayacucho, nothing at first feels particularly different. The altitude (approximately 9,000 feet A.S.L.) still leads to brutal headaches and nausea within 24 hours. The security forces are still very much in evidence. And the plainclothesmen zero in on a stranger within moments of arrival and ask for identification.

Formalities over, however, it is evident that the town and its population have entered a new era. Capital of the department of Ayacucho — 600,000-plus souls in a craggy land twice the size of El Salvador — its roads are now filled with transport. The main square booms with business. Money changers quickly and efficiently snap up dollars at three New Sols to one U.S. dollar, a rate better than anything to be had in Lima, the national center. The buzz is that the drug trade drives the demand for greenbacks, but everywhere the legal economy seems at last to be on the rise.

And the soldiers wear no ski masks. It is a telling indicator. When last I was here, every patrol — particularly in the slums which cluster about the fairy-tale square, with its colonial churches and arches — had covered faces. Those were faces taut with tension. Black masks covered black pull-over sweaters, even in garrison.

Now soldiers mingle easily with the populace, and are even in parades each Sunday in normal military uniform. Civic groups join in. Markets burst with goods, and the order of the day is to make money.

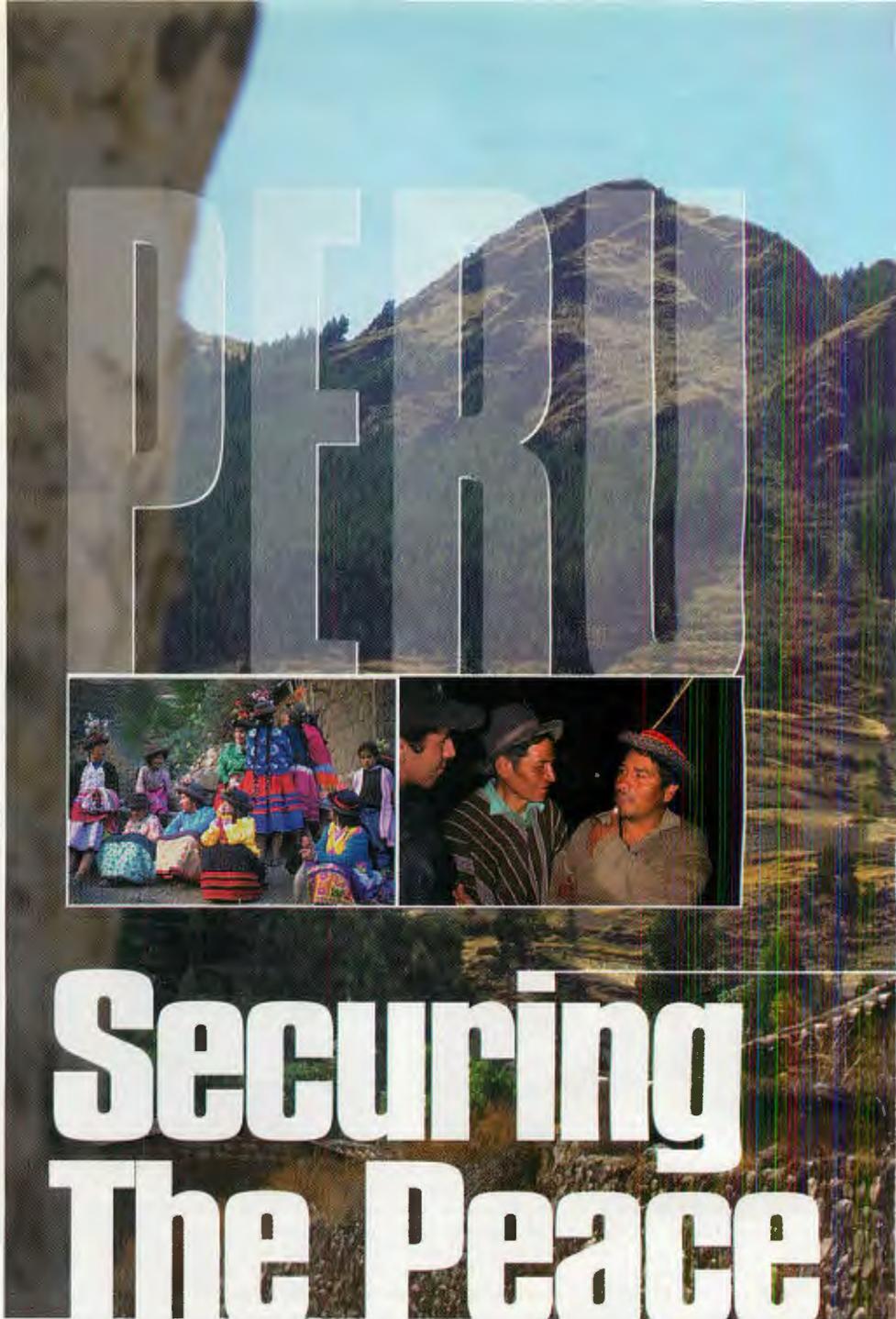
The national currency is even accepted. In late 1989 and early 1990, when the absurd economic policies of the Alan Garcia presidency had devastated the country, people would do anything to get their hands on foreign money. The Inti, as the coin of the realm was called then, had plunged from 3,300:U.S. \$1 to a million to one! It was, for all practical purposes, worthless. Stamps were not being printed, because their face value could not keep up with the pace of hyperinflation.

And in such an environment, Peru was attempting to fight a war against one of the most ruthless insurgent movements then in existence, *Sendero Luminoso*, or Shining Path. It all seemed hopeless. Yet there I was recently amidst relative stability and prosperity.

I write “relative,” since Peru still has problems aplenty; but clearly the tide has turned. What happened?

Background to Chaos

It was in Ayacucho itself that Sendero Luminoso was born. The brainchild of a university professor, Abiel Guzman Reynoso, it had begun as an offshoot of the more orthodox, though Maoist, Communist Party of Peru (PCP-Bandera Roja). Ironically, when posted in 1963 as a professor of educational philosophy to the newly reopened University of Huamanga — the main offices of which, then as now, were located on the town square in Ayacucho — he found him-



Securing The Peace

How The Right To Bear Arms Brought Democracy To Peru

self sharing an office with an American Peace Corps worker, former Dartmouth athletic standout David Scott Palmer.

Palmer's healthy influence did not rub off. To the contrary, Guzman used the tiny Peace Corps presence to engineer his initial organizational victory, their expulsion. In one of history's lighter asides, the university, in the loss of Palmer, was faced with a disaster of some magnitude. He was not only coach of the university basketball team — but its star player.

A delegation, which included the local left, appeared at his door and pointed out that athletics and politics were not necessarily the same thing — could he please stay in his athletic capacity? He did. The school won the national title, and Palmer went on to become one of the world's leading experts not only of Peru, but of Sendero!

Guzman himself went on to a decade of patient organizing before ordering the switch to open violence. On 17 May 1980, during the national election which saw



fairly short order by the local authorities. Yet in doing so, they displayed a brutality which only confirmed the propaganda tenets espoused by the young Maoist militants. Security forces dispatched by national authorities, first the police, later the army, went even further in their depredations.

This cycle of repression, imparting impetus to that which it seeks to suppress, is so common as to scarcely need comment. In this case, though, the organization which took root, Sendero Luminoso, appeared at a time when Peru was attempting the delicate return to democracy after more than a decade of military rule (1968-80).



Soldiers today mingle easily with the populace and the masks have come off. They march in Sunday parades, wearing normal military uniforms. Civic groups join in. How Peru's imperfect but functioning democracy adjusts will in large part determine the future of the historically war torn country. The war against Sendero Luminoso appears to be won. But the people who fought in it are just beginning to secure the peace.



Text & Photos by Dr. Tom Marks

Fernando Belaunde Terry emerge victorious, Sendero cadre seized the ballot box at Chuschi, a district capital a day's drive southwest of Ayacucho. For good measure, they set fire to the town hall as well. There followed a rash of such incidents, and soon Peru had an insurgency on its hands.

What Guzman had done was to follow the organizational template of Maoist insurgency. Contrary to the view in general circulation now concerning communist activities in China, neither Mao nor his predecessors started their campaigns in the countryside. Instead, they initiated their struggles wherever they could. In Mao's case, this was in the rural school where he was teaching. He had organized the faculty and students.

This Guzman did, as well, using the expulsion of the Peace Corps workers as his first step. Soon, he was to work his way up

the ladder of the university hierarchy so that he could place his own people in key positions. The students, particularly those training to be rural teachers, became his cadre. Back in their villages — there were some 600 Indian communities in Ayacucho — they recruited a peasant following.

During the decade of organizational work, Sendero showed a flexibility and empathy which won it a substantial following. Its plan was to create a Maoist "people's new democracy," or *Republica Popular de Nueva Democracia* (RPND), and it behaved as such. With the onset of violence, however, a new Sendero reared its head, a beast which became ever more committed to terror as the first rather than last resort.

Official response only played into the movement's hands. The business at Chuschi, for instance, was wrapped up in

Consequently, the response of Lima was even more haphazard than might have been the case in other circumstances.

Further, severe economic problems, exacerbated in many ways by the populist programs carried out in the early years of the military regime, occasioned still more populist measures once Alan Garcia was elected in 1985. His foolish moves included a suspension of all servicing of foreign debt, additional attempts at nationalization (finally, to include even the banking sector), and the printing of money. In a vicious cycle, the result was further economic decline at the very moment the outbreak of insurgency called for an influx of resources. In the event, this proved impossible.

So desperate was the populace that in the 1990 elections it turned to Alberto Fujimori — a complete political neophyte and agronomist with only academic training for the rough and tumble of leadership. Speaking accented Spanish, this Japanese-Peruvian ran and won on

the improbable campaign slogan, "A Peruvian Like You."

Era of Fujimori

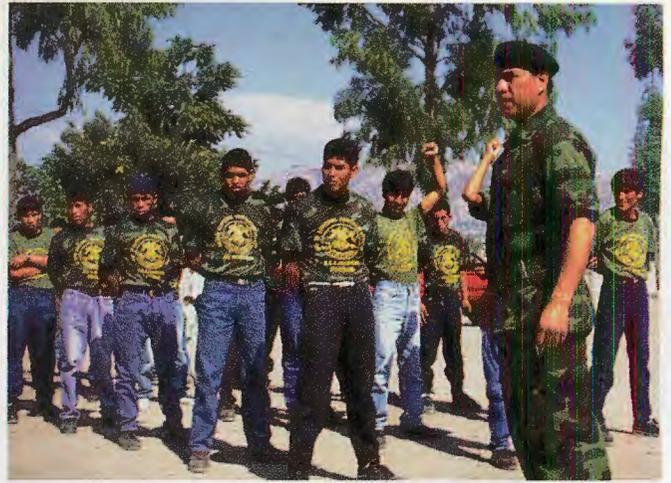
Fujimori's initial steps did not inspire confidence and, necessarily, seemed only to make matters worse. Yet by April 1992, hyperinflation had ended, foreign debt was being repaid, the United States had committed to \$86 million (mostly military aid), and major plans were in the works for huge assistant loans. Yet when Fujimori administered an autogolpe (self-coup) against his own government in April 1992, which sparked a cutoff in U.S. aid, it seemed Peru was down for the mandatory eight-count. Not so.

What followed was a general housecleaning. Personnel were shuffled and replaced; new procedures were set in place; the economy was revitalized. So sweeping was the effort that the telephone system even began to work — and pay phones were installed on the streets.

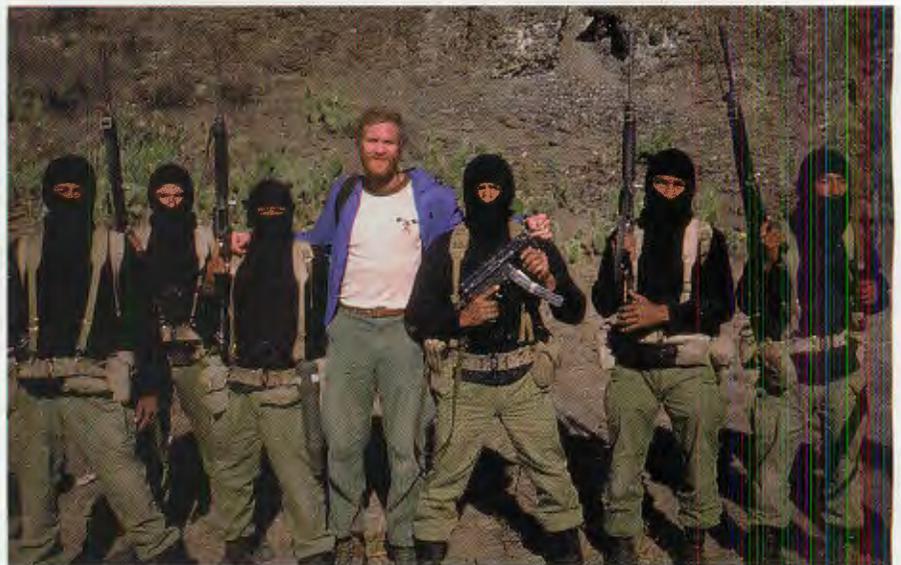
More to the heart of the matter, in a stroke of luck for Fujimori, sound police work by the Special Intelligence Group (*Grupo Especial de Inteligencia* or GEIN), a subordinate body of the National Agency Against Terrorism (*Dirección Nacional Contra el Terrorismo* or DINCOTE), paid off in September 1992 with the capture of Guzman and a good portion of the Sendero leadership. Sendero staggered; incidents dropped dramatically.

Then, on 22 April 1996, Peru's "other" insurgent group, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA), was for all practical purposes knocked off the playing field. In a successful operation conducted 126 days after MRTA had taken 72 hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, Peruvian special operations forces carried off a virtually flawless rescue and eliminated all the "delinquent terrorists," as they were termed in one army publication.

All of this has become fairly well known. Well known, too, is the fact that little Fujimori did was without political cost. In many circles his administration was regarded as only a thinly disguised dictatorship. Indeed, many of the steps he took, though perhaps necessary to wage a successful counterinsurgency — so terrible had national conditions become — might in ret-



The army provides training and administrative support. It provides expertise for civic action projects. Most important of all, it provides the reaction forces for reinforcement. (below) Past soldiers in Ayacucho wore ski masks, covering faces taut with tension.



respect be labeled as hardly in the best interests of a smooth transition of power at some point further down the road.

Yet, ironically, the one thing Fujimori did that was fundamental to his success was to open up the political system to the proverbial "little people." It was the headline-grabbing episodes above which made the news, but in the countryside, in Sendero's heartland, it was a simple, democratic approach that turned the tide. Fujimori ordered that the people be armed.

Axiomatic this might appear. Yet it had not been done. Indeed, there had been considerable resistance from the military to passing out weapons, for it was felt these would invariably fall into the hands of the insurgents.

The objections were overridden, and in 1991 10,000 Winchester Model 1300 shotguns were distributed. Officials conducted ceremonies where priests blessed the arms. A 1992 change in law recognized the people's right to self-defense.

In summer 1993 a massive parade of militia — *rondas campesinas* — was held in Lima. Units came from throughout the country. Critics charged that it was all a massive publicity stunt. Sendero, though, knew better. The militia had put the spike through the vampire's heart. Nowhere was this more visible than in Ayacucho, Sendero's former heartland.

Populace Reclaims Ayacucho

"Time and results have shown that President Fujimori's decision to arm us was correct," opines Susano Mendoza Paresa. At just 39 years, Paresa is the General Coordinator for the Committees of Self-Defense (*Coordinador General de los Comites*

de Auto Defensa) of the Departments of Ayacucho and Huancavelica. Elected four times mayor (Acalde) of diminutive Quinua District (5,300 people), northeast of Ayacucho, he has under him some 142,000 militiamen, or rondos, armed with approximately 7,000 weapons.

"I became involved with the rondas in 1991, when they were officially formed here," says Mendoza. "I became Coordinator General in 1995. We did not have much violence here [in my town], but elsewhere things were very bad. This we have been able to end by defending ourselves.

"You might think we're like paramilitaries in a country such as Colombia, outside the law. But we're not like that at all. We work with the authorities. Our most important weapon is our patriotism. We are not hired guns. We do not even have implements of war — only hunting equipment.

"Of course, we have attempted to get heavier arms, but our requests have not been accepted. So for now our spirit remains our key weapon.

"What has happened here is quite different than your experience in Vietnam. You spent billions and sent hundreds of thousands of men. We spend little money and defend ourselves."

Around him cluster militia leaders and men who have come into the headquarters of 2d Infantry Division in Ayacucho — to their own militia headquarters within the compound — for a meeting with military authorities. They represent a new breed and a startling development. The 2d Division representative, Major Cesar Vasquez Guevara, is the uniformed delegate of combat power centered in five infantry (and one armor) battalions. The roughly-clad peasants who deal with him are the delegates of not just 142,000 militia but of nearly a million people living in more than 2,700 communities in Ayacucho and neighboring Huancavelica. The relationship between the two sides is not one of command but of mutual negotiation and benefit. For neither could exist without the other.

Rondas campesinas, in fact, had not functioned particularly well in Peru until this fact was realized. Rondas had first come into existence autonomously in the early 1980s as a response to local security, especially as a counter to cattle rustling. When Sendero Luminoso became a factor, the military built upon them to set up security units. Compelling participation, however, had not brought solid results.

This was unfortunate, because Sendero's behavior quickly became so atrocious that the peasants could no longer take it. Instances were recorded of entire communities seizing whatever they could, from knives to sharpened stakes to bricks, and attacking Sendero columns which entered

their villages. Still, Lima would not act in a consistent or coordinated fashion. Certainly it had no thought of arming the peasants.

To his credit, Alan Garcia did recognize that such a situation had to change. For one thing, it simply was undemocratic to deny the people the right and the means to defend themselves. For another, they had begun to do it anyway.

In a highly publicized gesture, Garcia in December 1989 presented his own pistol to "Commandante Huayhuaco," who on his own had been organizing rondas. On the right, the military resisted not only out of concern that the weapons would fall into the wrong hands but also because it thought many peasants would take advantage of the situation to settle old scores.

And on the left, so-called populists feared "militarization," that "thugs" would hold sway and keep the "people's will" from being realized. Elected as a representative of the left-wing, Garcia simply could not buy such a line.

Positive results from the reinvigorated rondas policy began to be felt in early 1990. Under Fujimori, the push was dramatically

accelerated. By mid-1993 there were 4,205 Committees of Self-Defense (*Comites de Autodefensa*), or rondas, spread throughout the country. They totaled 235,465 individuals and had 16,196 weapons.

Ayacucho, even then, had a plurality of the nationwide count: 61,450 men in 1,564 rondas. Everywhere they were deployed, they made a significant difference in the situation on the ground. They became the multiplication of force necessary for any state engaged in counterinsurgency.

"We are not required to do this," says Susano. "But lack of participation of the population [in a counterinsurgency] is a major drawback. You can't just rely on the army and the police. The people must participate. Peru is the best example of what a difference that makes.

"We have long experience in this fight. In the most extreme cases, even the women fight at the sides of their men."

Mechanics of Self-Defense

Actually, though there were numerous cases of women and youngsters joining their men to fight, rondas campesinas have remained largely a male exercise.

The basic concept is simple: organize the men of a village or hamlet into shifts, stand guard, carry out patrols, notify the authorities of anything suspicious, call for help if faced with overwhelming guerrilla strength. To make sure bureaucratic procedure does not inadvertently rob a ronda of its cutting edge, a change in the national service law has allowed young men to become militiamen instead of going off to the military.

The army provides training and administrative support. It provides expertise for civic action projects. Most important of all, it provides the reaction forces for reinforcement.

Of course, as with most things in Peru, the basic tools invariably are in short supply. Weapons and radios, for instance,

have never been available in the quantities needed. Sheer numbers of eyes and ears, however, have had a pronounced effect on the ground.

For Sendero Luminoso has remained throughout its existence the classic guerrilla force, divided into the standard main, regional, and local forces called the principal, local, and base forces, respectively. No battalions or even companies threaten the *campesinos* (peasants). Instead, Sendero "columns" engage in armed propaganda and attempt to seize control of areas where there simply is no effective government counter.

At the height of the insurgency, the Sendero Ayacucho principal and local forces, according to captured documents



There was considerable resistance from the military to passing out weapons, for fear they might end up in the hands of insurgents. But the objections were overridden, and 10,000 Winchester Model 1300 shot-guns were distributed to the proverbial "little people" Fujimori championed. Sendero's rebellion began. (below) "Time and results have shown that President Fujimori's decision to arm us was correct," says Susano Mendoza Paresa (left, with guard), who is general coordinator for the Committees of Self Defense of the Departments of Ayacucho and Huancavelica.



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The Thin Blurry Line

If Zeke Hernandez watched "Sesame Street" — before a new-age cop blew him away — he knew the jingle well: "The policeman is a person in your neighborhood ... he's a person who you meet each day."

In other words, Zeke, a policeman is your friend. The children's show jingle reflected a long-standing truth in America: Police dress in blue, wear octagonal hats, arrest bad guys, and carry guns as a last-ditch defensive measure.

But the role of police today has blurred, along with that of the military. Today, personnel from all branches of military are acting as police on foreign and domestic soil. And police — representing local, state and federal departments — are acting more as highly trained specops military units, complete with black Ninja suits and automatic weapons.

"Since the late '80s we've been seeing the militarization of police, and the policization of military," says Peter Kraska, a professor of police studies at Eastern Kentucky University, who has studied the militarization of police for more than a decade. "These are converging forces. Soldiers are told to be cops, both domestically and on foreign soil, and cops are becoming more like soldiers, working in elite SWAT-style units."

On a recent morning in Detroit, residents of Cass Corridor awoke to the sounds of explosives and massive gunfire. Those who didn't hide looked outside to find an 80-member "special forces" team from the Detroit Police Department engaged in a practice assault on a vacant four-story building. Such drills are performed routinely throughout the country in conjunction with the U.S. Army and other federal agencies.

In peaceful Chapel Hill, N.C., a local SWAT team recently conducted a large-scale, paramilitary crack raid on an entire block of a predominantly African-American neighborhood. The raid resulted in the detention and search of nearly 100 people, mostly black, and nobody was found with drugs.

"The collapse of the Soviet Union has, unfortunately, led many military officials to seek out a new enemy to justify continued funding," writes David Kopel, a New York University law professor and author of *No More Wacos*. "The North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) admits that it is no longer capable of protecting Americans from incoming nuclear missiles. Yet NORAD enjoys hundreds of millions of dollars in annual funding, as part

of a \$1.8 billion systems upgrade, having convinced congress to assign NORAD the mission of tracking planes and ships that might be carrying drugs."

The United States Marshals Service recently established a 100-man Special Operations Group which is "ready to go anywhere in the world at a moment's notice. The SOG is located at the William F. Degan Memorial Special Operations Center in Louisiana, which is named after one of the men involved in the senseless shootout at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, in which 14-year-old Sammy Weaver was shot in the back and killed.

New special squads have popped up in the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms in the past decade, making the federal vice cops more of a violent military response agency. Some include, the Tactical Response Teams, High-Risk Warrant Teams, Forced Entry Teams, Entry Control Teams, and Special Response Teams (SRTs).

On the state and local level it's no different. The federal government is actively working to militarize local law enforcement with grants. Mark Lonsdale, director of the federal government's Special Tactical Training Unit, informs local law enforcement of an array of grants available specifically for training and marijuana control. "The thrust of this training is toward developing more of a military approach to tactics," Lonsdale writes in his brochure "A Tactical Guide to High Risk Warrant Service."

Kraska says his research has found that in small town America — towns of 25,000-50,000 — two of every 10 policemen serve on a department paramilitary unit. Throughout America, 11% of police departments have armored personnel carriers. Of all the country's elite paramilitary police units, 20% are used for routine patrol work, and 85% of their calls are to carry out no-knock warrants for drug raids. In 1986, the nation had 3,000 deployments of paramilitary police units. In 1996, it rose to 30,000.

Black Helicopters

The war on drugs, and the blur between police and military duties, is responsible for the widespread conspiracy theories among "Patriot" groups regarding black helicopters and a secret war on the public. The helicopters, writes Kopel, "are part of the National Guard's marijuana eradication program. They are flying over rural property as a result of 1981 and 1989 congressional amendments which created a partial drug exception to the Posse Comitatus Act."

Justice Department statistics showed an increase of uniformed domestic police up 19% from 1992 to 1996. Nearly all police departments at the federal, local and state levels have elaborate SWAT units, which first emerged in Los Angeles to counter hostage situations. Today, such units are normally sent out with no-knock warrants whenever suspects may have weapons.

These days, it's not just the radical fringe types who warn of a police state. Rather, it is quickly becoming a mainstream concern.



Raymond J. Malace



The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which created clear delineation between police and soldiers, has been gutted by Congress in order to fight the war on drugs. In the old days, anything that made law enforcement seem militarized was un-American. Today, it's as American as baseball and apple pie to see SWAT teams kick down doors and confront suspects with the business ends of high-powered weapons.

When Cops And Soldiers Are One-And-The-Same

by Wayne Laugesen

Photos by L. O'Shaughnessy



Raymond J. Mallice

Many of today's SWAT team members at the local, federal and state levels have extensive military backgrounds. They typically wear camouflage or black Ninja clothing. They are trained killers, not trained investigators, says law professor David Kopel.



"Once the military is used for local police activity, however minor initially, the march toward martial law with centralized police using military troops as an adjunct force becomes irresistible," said Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, addressing the United States Congress.

History is replete with stories of governments and societies toppling in the wake of martial law. When the Mexican Government ignored the Mexican Constitution in the 1830s and used military to enforce civil law in Texas, the Texas settlers would have no part of it. Their objection and resistance to military policing led to the Battle of San Jacinto. Military law in the colonies led to a similar result, and an oppressed citizenry overthrew its government. The reign of Hitler began with a mixing of police and military roles.

Cops Aren't Soldiers

Although both carry guns and enforce government order, the substantive roles of police and soldiers are supposed to be dif-



Local police officer in New England fires an UZI during routine training session. With increased frequency, police departments are hiring soldiers retired from special forces units of the U.S. military. SWAT teams and special police drug units receive training from Navy SEALs and Marines.

ferent, say historians and legal scholars.

"Modern societies are characterized by a rather neat separation between police and military forces: each maintaining very different principles of recruitment, training and organizational functioning and operating under completely different frameworks of legal rules and political supervision," writes Prof. Hans Geser, of the University of Zurich's Institute of Sociology, in a study of United Nations international policing.

Police, Geser's study says, fill the role of reacting quickly to any type of disturbing event, at any unpredictable points in space and time. A policeman's targeted enemy, a suspect, is always innocent until proven guilty by a complex legal system that gives

him benefit of the doubt. The policeman, in essence, is historically more social worker than warrior, as described by Geser.

"A bottom-up organization is installed where the lowest ranking members are burdened with the responsibility of scanning the environment, taking notice of relevant events, deciding immediately on the spot whether and in what way intervention shall occur, and whether it is necessary to mobilize higher levels of organization ... police work is heavily dependent on the capabilities of lower level policemen: on their moral integrity, sound judgment and personal authority as well as on various professional skills."

By contrast, the study says, the traditional role of military soldiers has been considerably less complex. Historically, military soldiers are told of a group that's the enemy. The goal is simple: defeat the group.

"The major concern of armies," Geser's report states, "is to focus huge amounts of resources for decisive violent actions against enemy forces or other clearly defined targets."



Police perform routine drug bust on boat. Scholars and pundits say nothing has done more to bring about "militarization" of police than the war on drugs, which has led to wide-scale lifting of traditional limitations of police powers.

The goals of military soldiers, unlike police, Geser explains, can be obtained only through a top-down organizational structure, involving adequate strategic and operational planning, well-coordinated supply systems and highly elaborated systems of centralized leadership and hierarchical controls.

"Compared to policemen, soldiers occupy much more specialized and precisely prestructured roles, and their behavior is far more shaped by intra-organizational structures and processes than by autonomous perceptions, judgments and external interactions."

In other words, all hell may break loose in military and domestic populations as the delineating lines continue blurring between the roles of cops and soldiers.

It's already painfully evident on American soil and overseas. In the United States, politicians and pundits blame the "militarization" of police for deadly episodes at Ruby Ridge, Idaho, and Waco, Texas, in which federal agents killed innocent women and children — while focusing huge amounts of resources for decisive violent actions against clearly defined targets. In the old days, suspected crimes at Ruby Ridge and the Waco compound would have been local problems for a county mountie to solve.

"Law enforcement must serve persons largely friendly, who are guaranteed presumptions of innocence and rights not appropriate when dealing with an enemy during times of war," Kopel writes. "Our citizens are not supposed to perceive themselves as subjects of an occupying force."

In the Sesame Street world, a policeman would have knocked on the door at Mount Carmel and handcuffed Mr. Koresh for the welfare of the children and society. Mr. Koresh would have been charged with a crime, tried and imprisoned if found guilty.



A policeman's targeted enemy, a suspect, is always innocent until proven guilty by a complex legal system that gives the bad guy the benefit of the doubt. Soldiers, by contrast, are trained to kill enemies.

Under militarization, federal police identified a target (Mount Carmel) and an enemy (Koresh and his adult followers) and planned a strategic attack — a small-scale imitation of military soldiers protecting American sovereignty from a foreign enemy. When it was over, most who were part of the enemy group died, and the attack was akin to a military success. Had it been an actual military function, on foreign turf, there would have been ticker tape parades.

"The declared justification for military intervention at Mount Carmel, although never substantiated, was that the Branch Davidians were manufacturing amphetamines," Rep. Paul said. "This provided the legal cover for the Army tanks to use the

poisonous gas which apparently resulted in the devastating fire in what was a military operation to enforce the law, something which in ordinary times would have been strictly a local law enforcement matter."

No evidence of illegal drugs was ever found.

It Started With Drugs

By the accounts of most academic studies, the militarization of American cops began when former President Ronald Reagan declared a "war on drugs" in the 1980s. Before the war on drugs, in fact, it was a criminal offense — under the Posse Comitatus Act — for active duty military troops to engage in domestic law enforcement without an official declaration of martial law.

"A series of drug war amendments to Posse Comitatus during the 1980s under Presidents Reagan and Bush, has changed that and placed Marines on patrol at home," says Kevin B. Zeese, president of Common Sense for Drug Policy, explaining why Marines who shot Zeke Hernandez were patrolling the Texas/Mexico border in the first place.

A recent drug war update to the U.S. Code, in fact, names the Department of Defense as the lead agency for drug interdiction on American soil. (U.S. Code Annotated Title 10, Sect. 124)

So it's little wonder the law enforcer who killed Zeke Hernandez differs dramatically from the stereotypical American cop. The "cop" who killed Zeke was a Marine corporal. The Marine was part of a team on drug patrol in Redford, Texas, on 20 May 1997, doing work traditionally left to cops.

Unlike a cop, the Marine's career isn't founded on two fundamental rules: assumption of innocence and Miranda rights.

"Our soldiers are not trained to make arrests, Mirandize and bring to justice. They are trained to kill," says Mr. Zeese.

Zeke Hernandez was herding goats that day, armed with a single shot .22-caliber rifle passed down by his grandfather. The Marines claim Zeke fired two shots in their direction. They followed him for 20 minutes. They claim Zeke raised his rifle again, prompting the corporal to fire a fatal shot from his M16.

Zeke, a United States citizen — by all accounts an exemplary high school student with a promising future — slowly bled to death before help arrived.

Had Zeke been shot by a traditional cop, there would be hell to pay. Police are supposed to make arrests, and let society decide the suspect's fate.

When forced to kill, a cop is scrutinized by a system of checks and balances that forces him to prove the killing was a legitimate means of self-defense or done in to protect another would-be victim in immediate danger.

Marines are supposed to kill. Forget official policy statements and PR poppycock. Ask any Marine what he learned in basic, and he'll say "to kill."

So when the local district attorney

brought evidence of the shooting before a grand jury, the Department of Defense went on the defensive. Department spokesperson Navy Lieutenant Commander Scott Campbell told *USA Today* it was "not fair to the members of our armed forces," to investigate potential criminal wrongdoing in a deadly shooting. In other words, someone asked for a Marine to patrol for drugs — not a cop. They got Marines, and Marines are paid to kill.

Defense Secretary William Cohen went so far as to suggest border states sign agreements to provide immunity to local criminal laws, similar to the "status of forces agreements" the department has with foreign governments.

Imagine a world in which police are immune from criminal laws. Because these Marines were acting as police, and Cohen boldly made such a request, it's not a big stretch.

"Secretary Cohen should have said it was a shame Zeke had to die in order for us to be reminded that military enforcement of



Forget about policemen in blue hats with revolvers. These days, some police are soldiers who keep the peace with M16s.

civilian law is wrong," Mr. Zeese says.

Local authorities investigated the shooting, but a grand jury handed up no indictment. Several Texans complain they heard only one shot — the shot that killed Zeke — which would indicate the young man did not shoot toward the Marines. Several Redford residents have continued protesting the killing, and say the district attorney failed to tell grand jurors about witnesses who heard only one shot.

Technology Fuels "Militarization"

Although many of the freedoms and rights enjoyed by Americans are written into the U.S. Constitution, they have largely been upheld by the sheer inability of law enforcement to know what individuals are doing. The habitual drunk driver who never crosses a center line, never runs a red light

or never crashes a car is likely to get away with his crime for life.

Without "articulable suspicion," as defined in the supreme court's Terry vs. Ohio opinion, a cop can't even stop a motorist. With constant advancements in technology, however, police are becoming more capable each day of finding crimes — and therefore articulable suspicion — that would otherwise go undetected. A new computer program can tell users whether they should fear someone as the potential perpetrator of a violent crime.

Attorney Dennis Blewitt, who has practiced federal criminal law in 30 states, says technology is fueling the trend of police militarization. No longer, he says, do police have to catch an individual committing a crime. Rather, he says, police departments can find groups of people committing crimes, such as drunk drivers on a grid of streets or highways, and target the group in military fashion. He says today's low-tech sting operations, such as drunk driver check points, will be tomorrow's high tech police department spy missions.

"For an army to have a war, it has to gather intelligence and find out whatever it can about the enemy," Blewitt says. "That's what police are able to do with technology today. They are able to gather information about groups of citizens — just as our National Security Agency collects enemy signals — and create groups of suspects, who then become enemies of the state. Random enforcement is becoming a thing of the past. Today's police are like small armies that target groups in the name of social reform. Now and in the future, you'll have to watch out who your friends are. You can be targeted for who you associate with."

The federal fiasco at Ruby Ridge, says Blewitt, provides one such example. That episode, he says, resembled a military-style intelligence operation from the start.

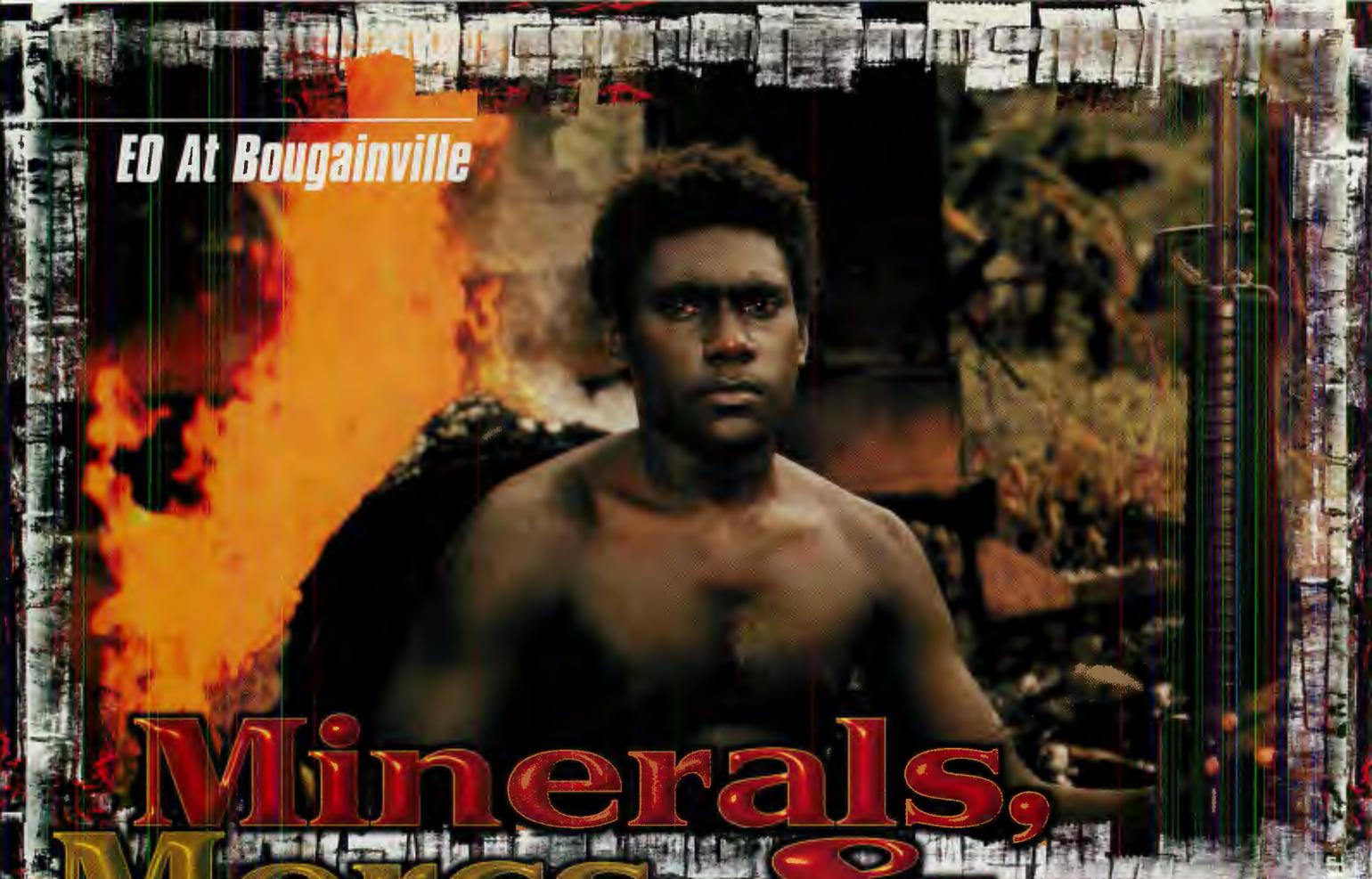
"Federal agents set out to target and vilify an organization of people," Blewitt says. "They found out Randy Weaver knew some white supremacists in the Aryan Nations. They wanted to go after that group, so they set Weaver up to commit a weapons violation because they wanted to arrest him and get him to talk. It was very similar to the way our CIA has traditionally tried to manipulate things to the disadvantage of foreign enemies, only this was the federal government working against an American citizen who had yet to commit a crime."

Crowd Control Tactics

A new software program popping up in some American police departments is known as the Close Action Environment program, designed for control of demonstrations. The program provides a "virtual reality" setting to train officers for close combat and fighting in built-up areas. It allows geographical information to be input, recreating real towns and locations on the screen.

The virtual towns can be populated by

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EO At Bougainville

Minerals, Mercs & Mayhem

Subterfuge In
A South Pacific Insurgency

Bougainville, an island in the South Pacific 800 kilometers from the Papua New Guinea “mainland,” is virtually unknown to most Americans. Ethnically akin to their Solomon Island neighbors and speaking 19 different languages, Bougainville islanders are known as the blackest-skinned people in the world. Bougainville and Buka (the other main island), along with a scattering of smaller islands and atolls, make up Papua New Guinea’s North Solomons province. Bougainville is about 200 kilometers long and roughly half that in width, with two mountain ranges covered in dense, impenetrable jungle. It is a verdant green hell, pestilential and malarial. Life is hard. It’s the land time forgot.

It’s also the scene of a nasty revolt — what most people would call a war. A war over a fairly mundane commodity: copper.

by Rob Krott

Millions of dollars worth of copper. In 1964 copper was discovered at Panguna and millions were invested in the development of a mine, including building roads, a town, a port, and a power station by Bougainville Copper Limited, a subsidiary of Australia’s Conzinc Rio Tinto (CRA) mining company. CRA, the 53% shareholder, is itself a subsidiary of a British company, Rio Tinto Zinc. Commercial production began in 1972 when Papua New Guinea (PNG) gained its independence from Australia. Since then it has produced 3 million tons of copper, almost 800 tons of silver, and 300 tons of gold. Contributing about 41% of export earnings and about 20% of the GDP, the Panguna mine was PNG’s greatest

source of income next to the Australian taxpayer (Australia bankrolls PNG to the tune of AUS \$300 million a year). Bougainville Copper Limited produced 165,956 tons of copper and 445,700 ounces of gold in 1988 — its last full year of production before sabotage and fighting closed the mine.

No one knows the true origins of Bougainville’s inhabitants, but it’s thought that the dark-skinned Melanesians arrived as long as 30,000 years ago. They are more closely related to their neighbors in the Solomons than to the highland tribes of Papua New Guinea. Papua New Guinea was virtually the last inhabited place on earth explored by Europeans and the island of Bougainville was named after French explorer Louis Antoine de Bougainville who sailed up the east coast in 1768. The island was part of the Solomons group, a British possession, until traded to Germany in 1898. The actual

(left) Joana, age 18, armed with an M16, started fighting for the BRA at the age of 10. Ethnically akin to their Solomon Island neighbors and speaking 19 different languages, Bougainville islanders are known as the blackest-skinned people in the world. (right) Rebels of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army patrol the jungle. The BRA was formed in 1988, after years of dissatisfaction among Bougainville islanders who were tired of receiving no royalties from the island's profitable copper mines. Rather, most of the profits went directly to the Papua New Guinea government.



Sygma

border between the Solomons and Papua New Guinea was set by an Anglo-German colonial treaty. The Australians captured German New Guinea in the beginning days of WWI and it was assigned to Australia as a League of Nations Trust Territory after the war. The Japanese invaded in 1942 and held Bougainville until the end of the war. Australian coastwatchers hiding out on Bougainville were of strategic importance during the war, especially during the battle for Guadalcanal. In November 1943, American troops landed at the west coast port of Torokina and in 1944 Australian forces fought their way south to Buin. The war ended before they engaged the main Japanese force on Bougainville. Of the 80,000 Japanese soldiers garrisoning the island, only 23,000 surrendered; 20,000 were killed in action, and the remaining 37,000 died of disease and starvation in the jungle.

Peace returned to Bougainville, but only temporarily. Because despite the wealth from mining, the native islanders were co-opted out of their largess as most of the work was done by laborers brought in from PNG and from abroad. The natives, desiring their cut of the mine's \$1.3 billion in mineral riches, felt exploited and disenfranchised. There was also outrage over the ecological destruction caused by the huge open-cut Panguna mine. And festering below all the complaints was the desire for an independent Bougainville.

Prior to Papua New Guinea's independence, many on Bougainville campaigned for recognition as an independent state in the Bismarck Archipelago. In 1975, these secessionists began making themselves, and their aims, known. As an appeasement the North Solomons was granted a provincial government. Mining continued at Panguna. While certain landowners and the PNG government received large royalties, little was done for Bougainville islanders. Dissatisfaction with the government and the mining companies grew.

In 1987, Pepetua Sereo and Francis Ona, a former truck driver and mine surveyor, formed the Panguna Landowner's Association and demanded compensation of U.S. \$10 billion, increased environmental protection, and payment on past profits. These demands were of course ignored and in 1988 the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) with Ona as president of its political wing, the Bougainville Interim Government (BIG), initiated a campaign of sabotage, blowing up power pylons.

An Insurgency Begins

In 1988, the isolated incidents of sabotage directed against mine equipment quickly progressed to guerrilla warfare as islanders opposing the government and the mining companies flocked to the BRA. The vast open-cut mine (one of the world's largest) surrounded by steep ridges covered in jungle growth covered several square kilometers. The perimeter was indefensible. Attacks on mine workers caused the mine to

close in 1989, striking a serious blow to the PNG economy. As the BRA targeted PNG government offices and attacked foreigners, the PNG Riot Squad Police were deployed in December 1988, followed by three companies of PNGDF infantry in March 1989. A state of emergency was declared and more Papua New Guinea Defence Force (PNGDF troops) were deployed, spreading the conflict throughout the island. PNGDF tactics included forcible relocation accompanied by burnt villages. Reports of rapes



and massacres filtered out. The PNG government found itself embroiled in a full-scale revolt.

Because PNG and Indonesia had recently signed an agreement to conduct joint border military exercises, Francis Ona claimed that up to 400 Indonesian troops would assist a PNGDF invasion of the island. Ona promised that any such invasion of Bougainville would be wiped out. The government withdrew all of its troops and blockaded the island, leaving the people without medical care or any government services for nearly 10 years (the embargo was only recently lifted). Troops were stationed on nearby islands and gradually infiltrated back onto Bougainville in the PNGDF counter-insurgency campaign, capitalizing on long-standing rivalries on the island and the need for modern services. Although the PNGDF imposed a trade blockade on Bougainville, Fauro Island in the Shortland Islands group of the Solomons became a supply point for the BRA.

A year later nine died (six BRA; three BLF) in a firefight on nearby Buka Island between the BRA and the pro-government Buka Liberation Front (BLF) and one PNGDF soldier was wounded "in the crossfire." Unconfirmed reports indicated that a BRA force had infiltrated Buka to assassinate Sam Tulo, the government-appointed administrator on Buka. Inter-island fighting continued to escalate, spilling over into the nearby Solomons when on 12 September 1992 PNGDF "commandos" raided Komalia village, on Fauro Island, killed two villagers, and blew up a fuel dump which was supplying gasoline to the BRA. Three motorized canoes ferried the PNGDF troops to the island where they killed the owner of the fuel dump and his sister and then shot her three-year-old son. The Solomons government quickly asked for a multi-national peacekeeping force and a United Nations representative. Meanwhile, negotiations were underway with certain elements within the Bougainville Interim Government (BIG) who sought autonomy rather than outright secession.

Thousands have died in the secessionist conflict. It's a case of an indigenous people's desire for autonomy versus global economic and political realities. PNG could not afford to lose the mine. PNG, at independence needed an annual economic growth of 7% to provide jobs for its growing population. With an annual growth of only 0.8%, the economy

is in trouble and crime is widespread. In 1989 the Panguna mine was generating about 15% of PNG's revenue and 40% of its foreign exchange earnings — making it very important to the economic well being of Papua New Guinea. When BRA attacks closed the Panguna mine in 1989 and the initial development of the CRA's Mt. Kare alluvial gold mine was suspended following an attack in January 1992, the PNG's economy felt the impact. The government adopted two contradictory policies: negotiation and repression. Neither fared well.

Death In The Green Hell

PNGDF troops have not done well on Bougainville. With troops clad in woodland camouflage, wearing G.I. steel pots, armed with M16s and M60s, the war almost looks like a replay of Vietnam with the BRA playing the part of the Viet Cong. Poorly equipped with Vietnam-era equipment (much of it unsuited for a counterinsurgency war in the jungle) and numbering only 2,000 men (comprising essentially two infantry battalions), the PNGDF is consistently the loser in the frequent jungle ambushes. While tough living makes for tough soldiers, many are lowly paid and unmotivated city boys from the shantytowns and slums of Port Moresby, a generation or more removed from jungle living. The Bougainville revolt is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of PNGDF troops, but the locals have paid a higher price — as many as 10,000 islanders out of a total population of about 160,000 have been killed. About 40% of the island's population, roughly 70,000 to 80,000 people,

live in 49 PNG government controlled "displaced persons camps." Bougainville civilians attempting to flee the island or receive relief supplies seem to be the main target of PNGDF operations which usually turn into "massacres." Indeed, the current PNGDF commander, Brigadier General Leo Nuia, is nicknamed the "Butcher of Bougainville." That's not to say that the BRA is comprised of choirboys; one Australian journalist refers to the BRA as "a mere reactionary, murderous gang that itself has no program beyond return to an imagined pre-colonial nirvana."

In the first few years of the revolt the armaments of the BRA were old WWII weapons — dug up and repaired — or family heirlooms. One photo of Francis Ona posing with his barefoot troops shows him holding a battered Japanese Samurai sword. There's supposedly a good supply of Japanese Arisakas. Single-shot .12 gauges and bolt-action .22s abound as well as several examples of improvised weaponry involving rusting .50 caliber barrels, a roofing nail, a wood tripod, and rubber bands cut from inner tubes which posed as great a danger to the firer as the enemy. Now increasingly upgunned with M60s, M16s, M203 grenade launchers, and Australian L1A1 SLR (FN-FAL) 7.62mm rifles captured from PNGDF troops and the BRA guerrillas have taken the fight to the enemy.

Despite a dearth of modern weapons and equipment, they are adept at ambushes, small unit patrolling, sabotage, and hit-and-run jungle tactics. BRA insurgents have become proficient in guerrilla warfare. As early as 1989, the rebels on Bougainville



Sygnat photos



The Bougainville revolt is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Papua New Guinea Defence Force troops, but the locals have paid a higher price, with as many as 10,000 islanders out of a total population of about 160,000 having been killed. Here, a BRA rebel brandishes his M60 7.62mm GPMG. (left) This handmade knife is typical of the crude supply of weapons the BRA depend upon. With troops clad in woodland camouflage, wearing G.I. steel pots, armed with M16s and M60s, the war almost looks like a replay of Vietnam, with the BRA playing the role of Viet Cong.

were undergoing training by about 10 PNGDF veterans using PNGDF manuals (stolen copies were among documents recovered when government troops captured a strategic fortified position near Guava village, the home of BRA leader Francis Ona). Government troops taking the position were also surprised to find an extensive trench and bunker system, a number of weapons, explosives, and an M16 rifle pilfered from a PNGDF armory. The PNGDF has a bad track record of weapons accountability. Brigadier General Jerry Singirok, the former commander of the PNGDF, admitted that an alarming number of weapons were sold outright from PNGDF armories to resistance fighters and Port Moresby bandit gangs known as *raskols*.

A simple analysis of the PNGDF's capabilities versus the BRA's abilities makes it plainly obvious that Papua New Guinea simply does not have the means to mount aggressive military operations capable of defeating the Bougainville insurrection. The vicious and bloody, yet little known war has been going on for nearly 10 years and could very well continue for another decade.

The Sandline Affair

In September 1994, Sir Julius Chan became PNG's prime minister and made two promises: end the war on Bougainville, and overhaul PNG's struggling economy. On the economic front Chan had a reputation for fiscal common sense and the confidence of PNG's business community. But unfortunately, the BRA refused to negotiate with Chan's administration. With an impasse on his primary platform Chan ordered the PNGDF to defeat the rebels. What he got was an ill-fated offensive in Bougainville's dense jungles. Chan, faced with an upcoming re-election, needed to produce. Unable to put down the Bougainville revolt with the meager resources and limited abilities of the PNGDF, he looked for outside help. In the past the PNG had looked into hiring former SAS officers from Defence Systems, Ltd. (DSL) to provide specialists in security, police operations, and counter insurgency to train and equip an elite tactical unit within the PNG police force to carry out tactical operations such as hostage rescues, armed raids, surveillance, and VIP protection.

This time trainers weren't going to be enough. With a need for direct action military forces to end the debacle on Bougainville, Chan decided to contract Executive Outcomes, the Pretoria-based "military contracting firm" to provide troops, advisors, and military support through London's Sandline International, Executive Outcome's parent company. Sandline's U.S. \$36 million contract called for the South African mercenaries to: train the State's Special Forces Unit (SFU) in tactical skills specific to the objective; gather intelligence to support effective deployment and operations; and conduct offensive operations in Bougainville in conjunction with PNG defense forces to render the BRA military



No one knows the true origins of Bougainville's inhabitants, but it's thought that the dark-skinned Melanesians arrived as long as 30,000 years ago. They are more closely related to their neighbors in the Solomons than to the highland tribes of Papua New Guinea. (below) British-based mercenary boss Tim Spicer, 44, leaves a Port Moresby lawyer's office with a police guard on his way to court in Papua New Guinea. Spicer was charged with firearms violations and for his involvement in Papua New Guinea hiring his mercenary company, Sandline International.



ineffective and repossess the Panguna mine.

Most of the money was to be spent on aircraft. An equipment inventory appended to the contract listed two Mi-24 and two Mi-17 helicopters which were to be fitted with six 57mm rocket launchers for ground support. The 70 men of the Executive Outcomes unit were to carry credentials identifying them as constables in the PNG police force. Colonel Timothy Spicer, the operations officer, revealed one aspect of the mercenaries' campaign. "Operation Oyster" was to wage a psychological operations campaign against the BRA with a light aircraft and public address system: "It has a tape recorder and a speak-

er system that is an incredibly powerful system and can broadcast from the aircraft to the ground." Sandline also trained PNG special forces in the use of high-tech infrared heat-seeking sensors and electronic surveillance equipment which was to be mounted on the helicopters. This equipment would then pinpoint BRA troop locations, allowing EO direct action air assault missions to destroy the guerrillas.

In order to finance the costly contract the PNG government approached RTZ-CRA to buy its majority shareholding (53.6%) in Bougainville Copper Mine (illegally trading the near defunct Bougainville Copper Ltd. shares on the Australian Stock Exchange) as part of its deal with Executive Outcomes. But hiring the mercs was the last straw. The Australian Government, with its annual payout of about U.S. \$236 million and long-standing proprietary neo-colonial interest, said that the use of mercenaries was "totally unacceptable." The World Bank said it would review its loans because of the mercenaries. Hiring mercenaries ... what was Chan thinking?

Worse yet, the monthly contract alone equaled a third of the annual PNG defense budget. This was considered an insult by PNGDF leaders. Chan sacked Singirok after he denounced the contract with Sandline, arguing that the money would be better spent on his own troops who were desperately underpaid and ill equipped. Riots ensued after soldiers loyal to Singirok led protests and were joined by at least 2,000 civilians. The soldiers arrested and deported a number of mercenaries sparking a popular demand for Chan to resign. Although not a coup, it clearly demonstrated the divisive effect of the Bougainville crisis on PNG democracy.

Singirok later testified that PNG's commitment to paying Sandline U.S. \$120 million a year would have effectively mortgaged the Panguna mine to the mercenaries. He also said that there could be no military solution to the Bougainville crisis. But the army revolt preempted the whole plan and the mercenaries hired by the Sandline International left Port Moresby on a chartered jet for Hong Kong. Four Australian Vietnam veterans were involved. One former officer claimed it was a legitimate operation, that PNG had no choice because Australia had failed to help, and then predicted an offensive by Sandlines trained PNG special forces. According to the anonymous officer, "if the Australian government had done its job and provided personnel to train them, they would not have needed to go to a private, pro-active security company." Either way Executive Outcomes was out of the picture and the PNGDF was once again on its own with no chance of beating the BRA without foreign assistance.

SAS and Gunships

But there has been foreign assistance — from both the United States and Australia.

Continued on page 88

"White flags, the symbol of the Taliban Islamic movement, have been erected in Kunduz airport in northern Afghanistan." — Pakistani English-language newspaper report on 18 June 1997.

The only sure bet in Afghanistan is to expect the unexpected. This maxim especially holds true for the fighting fortunes of the Afghan factions. After being gutted on one field of battle, a crippled, if not thoroughly defeated, faction can sometimes, against all reasonable odds, rise to power again and score a stunning victory on a completely new front.

Like the mythical phoenix, the *Taliban* — Afghanistan's puritanical Muslim militia — came to life again in the north of the country when the pundits thought they were down and out. Just three weeks after suffering a major military catastrophe in Mazar-i-Sharif, the

assisted by the treachery of the local commander Basir Salangi, a senior lieutenant of Dostam's ethnic Tajik ally Ahmad Shah Masood. These joyous Taliban, predominantly ethnic Pushtun, some of whom had commandeered taxis to make the overland journey to Mazar, were seen by journalists distributing their trademark turbans to Masood's defecting troops. "We want to get ourselves quickly to the north to implement a purely Islamic government and save the people from tyrants," said one commander.

They didn't quite make it. Soon after they crossed the Salang, Mazar-i-Sharif fell to the anti-Taliban forces and Masood broke the Taliban siege of his native Panjshir Valley and pushed the religious militants back down the plains toward Kabul. In doing so, he cut off the line of retreat for the Taliban reinforcements who had successfully crossed the Hindu Kush, and they were obliged to regroup in the Baghlan provincial center of Pul-i-Khumri. Moreover, after

TALIBAN



TURNAROUND

Taliban resurfaced as a potent fighting force a little farther to the east, where with the help of local sympathizers they not only survived in an enclave surrounded on all sides by opposition forces, but broke out of isolation and took over an important and highly strategic provincial capital, Kunduz city.

How It Happened

In the last week of May 1997, the righteously bearded Islamic militants had seized Mazar-i-Sharif, the northern headquarters of ethnic Uzbek warlord, General Abdul Rashid Dostam, only to be thrown out after just four days of occupation (see Part 1). Dostam was defeated due to the treachery of his own foreign affairs minister, General Abdul Malik, who had mutinied and allied himself with the Taliban; a spirited uprising by Dostam's *Shia* allies was largely responsible for the bloody fighting which cleared Mazar of the chauvinistic and fiercely fundamentalist Taliban. The survivors of this decimated religious militia were either imprisoned or escaped into the hills.

But all was not lost. Just before the Taliban were routed in Mazar, an armored column of reinforcements from Kabul had poured through the Salang Pass in the Hindu Kush mountains,

PART II

The Rise And Fall Of The Islamic Militia

Text & Photos by
Jake Border

Masood's successful breakout from the Panjshir, Basir Salangi switched sides again to rejoin his Tajik brothers. Masood's personal secretary applied the spin: "His defection was a tactic. He provided us with information of Taliban movements." Yeah, right.

Rock 'N' Roll Militia Man

Pul-i-Khumri sits at the crossroads of two national highways: the northwest-bound road which runs to Mazar and the northeast-bound road which connects to Kunduz via the provincial capital of Baghlan city. Pul-i-Khumri, with its cement factory, textile mill, coal mines, hydroelectric power station, vibrant bazaar and rich farmlands, had eclipsed Baghlan as the major provincial center. It was also popular with visiting foreigners because here — like in Mazar — you could openly buy alcohol (Dutch beer and Russian vodka) in the bazaar and at certain hotels. Pul-i-Khumri had been under the control of a militia force loyal to Dostam which, despite boasts of bravery, had fled before the advancing Taliban without putting up any fight at all. This was the former pro-communist Kayan militia led by Sayyed Jaffar Naderi, a highly likable clean-shaven chubby young man, with a well-cultivated taste for rock 'n'



(above) On the frontlines of Kabul, this young Taliban fighter from Kandahar, wearing leather sandals, poses with an AK-47 that was customized by removal of its wooden stock. (right) A bodyguard to Masood, armed with a Heckler & Koch MP5 submachine gun, a Soviet Officer's leather belt and U.S. military-style cargo pants. (below) Ahmad Shah Masood (former Afghan Defense minister, now leading opposition military commander fighting Taliban) in Taloqan. Massood earned the sobriquet "Lion of the Panjshir" for valor in fighting the Soviets from 1979-89.



roll, who owed his command to nepotism rather than military prowess. His father was the hereditary leader of an Afghan minority Shia religious sect called the *Ismaelia* (whose worldwide leader is the Aga Khan), who live in and around Pul-i-Khumri and remote communities in the northeast of Afghanistan.

Actually, the Kayan militia had retreated from Pul-i-Khumri (and two smaller townships, Doshi and Khenjan, to the immediate north of the Salang) under pressure from his long-term rivals in Baghlan, a Pushtun *Hezb-i-Islami mujahideen* group who were sympathetic to the Taliban and who jumped at the chance to knife Jaffar in the back.

So the Taliban — some 2,000-strong — took over Khenjan, Doshi and Pul-i-Khumri, and had ethnic allies on their northeastern front in Baghlan city. In Samangan province to the northwest of Baghlan, there was still a showing of Taliban support, probably from local Pushtun mujahideen groups. On 1 June, the Taliban mouthpiece Radio Shariat in Kabul broadcast a "tooth-breaking blow" had been given to "the defeated militia and elements of evil and corruption" (i.e., the anti-Taliban alliance) who reportedly attacked the religious militia in Samangan.

But effectively the Taliban were now cut off from Kabul, stranded north of the Hindu Kush in potentially hostile territory. This expeditionary force was under the command of *Mullah* Amir Khan Muttaqi, none other than the Minister for Information and Culture ... and the bloke who gave journalists their official press briefings in Kabul! Muttaqi was known to have been associated with Yunis Khalis' *Hezb-i-Islami mujahideen* group during the *jihād*, but he was not renowned for front-line exploits.

On 2 June, Jaffar finally got into gear, emerged from hiding in the family stronghold in the hidden Kayan Valley west of Doshi, recaptured Doshi and Khenjan and established a new frontline at the former Soviet military depot called Kelagai, a short drive to the south of Pul-i-Khumri. Under pressure from the resurgent Uzbeks, the Taliban and their supporters in Samangan retreated 20 kilometers down the road, closer to Pul-i-Khumri. The net was drawing tighter and it looked like the Taliban were trapped. So it seemed, were the Kabul-based BBC and Reuters correspondents, who together with their Afghan interpreters and drivers had joined Muttaqi's reinforcement column in their drive to the north. They reported calm and no looting in Pul-i-Khumri, where there was still a small expatriate community of aid workers — and the road was open to Baghlan city.

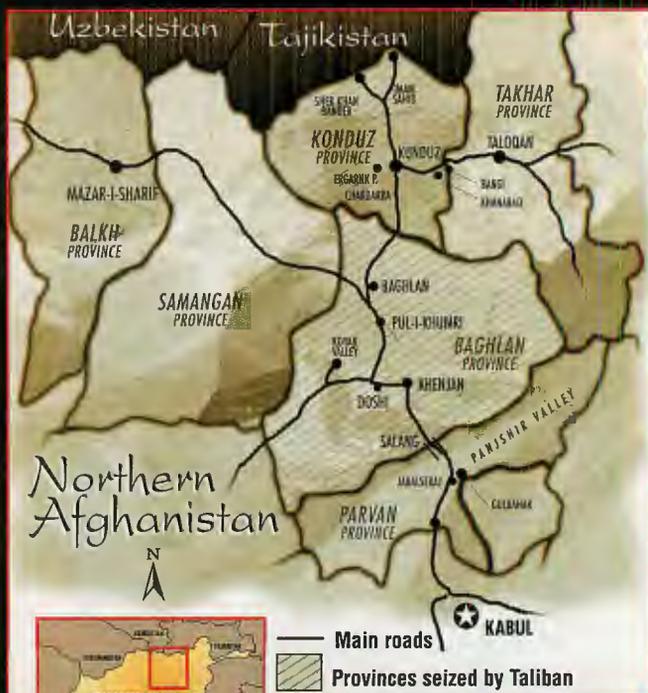
What would Muttaqi do next? How long could his stranded force survive? And what would Masood's next move be? The recapture of Mazar by the Uzbeks and Shia forces was a reprieve to the so-called "Lion of the Panjshir" (a well-earned sobriquet from fighting the former occupation Red army) but a real test of his current generalship — and survival — was still certain to come. How would he deal with an enemy force camped on his back doorstep, that threatened like a cancer to spread unless excised?

Curiously, Masood waited.

In the meantime Muttaqi (like the small units of Taliban cut off in the Salang Valley) was receiving re-supply from Kabul by Mi-17 helicopter flights, and there was sufficient fuel in the Pul-i-Khumri bazaar to keep the Taliban's fleet of Toyota pickups on the road. Taking advantage of the calm, the BBC and Reuters correspondents quit town and headed for Kunduz, from where they miraculously made it to Mazar-i-Sharif without being robbed along the way. With a view to keeping Masood preoccupied elsewhere, the Taliban launched an offensive against the small town of Gulbahar, which controls access to the Panjshir Valley; it fizzled and Masood claimed the capture of 450 religious militants and huge quantities of ammunition. The neighboring district center of Jabulseraj, which sits on the Salang highway at the foothills of the Hindu Kush, was firmly in Masood's control; the Tajiks had partially blown-up a bridge on the highway south of Jabulseraj that blocked an armored approach, but the Taliban had brought up Soviet army bridging equipment and were preparing an alternative access route.

Northern Exposure

At the same time there was a strange development in the north. A spokesman for the reconstituted anti-Taliban alliance of Uzbeks, Shia and Masood's Tajiks — with the ludicrous name the United Islamic Front for Salvation of Afghanistan (UIFSA) — called for peace talks with the Taliban, and announced that Muttaqi's stranded force was free to evacuate Pul-i-Khumri if they could organize an airlift back to Kabul! Either UIFSA was seriously rattled by the Taliban incursion into their heartland, or they thought they were buying time. Probably both. Either way they were burying their heads in the sand and hoping the Taliban would go away. They wouldn't.



About the only airlifting going on at that time was Masood ferrying ammunition to the Panjshir — from his secret base across the Amu Darya River in Tajikistan. The story came to light with the startling defection of Mi-17 helicopter number 353 and its crew of three, all Tajiks. The crew told journalists they had defected to the Taliban in protest against unspecified "crimes" committed by the mujahideen; more likely their families were being held hostage in return for their cooperation. They said they had flown from a Russian and Tajik military base called Kolyab (close to the international frontier with Takhar and Badakhshan provinces, both under Masood's control) with a load of 400 RPG-7 rocket-propelled grenades on board, which they dropped off in the Panjshir, where they collected explosives they then transported to Masood's men based in the Salang. "The explosives were for blowing up the Salang Tunnel," alleged the pilot. After delivering the explosives, the crew defected to Kabul, where their Mi-17 was seen parked on the tarmac alongside Taliban Mig-21s and Sukhoi Su-22s loaded with bombs and air-to-air missiles.

The defecting pilot's declaration that Masood also used his own Kolyab-based fleet of Antonov An-12s to ferry military supplies to Tajikistan from Mashad city in Iran, fueled Taliban denunciations of foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. In Kabul, Taliban deputy Foreign Minister Sher Mohammad Stanekzai was particularly scathing in his condemnation of Iran while denying opposition accusations that the religious movement was supported by Pakistan. "Too poor," he argued.

If Masood was embarrassed by the public disclosure about his foreign backers or Stanekzai's charge that the Taliban were "fighting against the remains of Russian communism," he wasn't letting on. Masood's personal spokesman said he had "no information" regarding the Mi-17 defection. Yeah, right.

From their base in the provincial capital Charikar, 64 kilometers north of Kabul, an estimated 4,000 Taliban had massed for a series of offensives against Jabulseraj and Gulbahar in an attempt to break open the Salang route, but Masood held them off, and did not counter-attack. His priority was dealing with Muttaqi's force in Pul-i-Khumri, which finally succumbed to opposition infantry pressure (supported by lots of jet and artillery bombardment) from two fronts. But Muttaqi did not surrender. He still had another card to play.

Late on the night of Tuesday, 10 June, the Taliban evacuated Pul-

At the Khanabad arms bazaar, in Kunduz Province, locals sell some basic requirements for defense, including 82mm mortar bombs, Soviet RPD LMG, and an assortment of ammo. Other shops stock RPG-7s and AK-47/74s with ammunition.

i-Khumri for sanctuary with Hezb-i-Islami commander Bashir in the neighboring old city of Baghlan, just 25 kilometers up the road, landmarked by the hulking but derelict sugar factory.

In Baghlan, the game quickly turned to farce, with UIFSA catching a load of egg on its collective face. They announced that Bashir, to whom they magnanimously offered the post of provincial governor, had "for sure disarmed the retreating Taliban soldiers" which, although it was not clear at the time, was patent bullshit. Bashir had done no such thing, nor probably could he, even if lured by the blatant governorship bribe. Some days later, the Taliban acting Interior Minister Mullah Khairullah Khair Khwa accurately summed up the state of affairs in Baghlan by saying: "Bashir is loyal to us."

Air Raid On Kabul

Around mid June UIFSA sent a reminder to Kabul that even though the front lines were far off, they were still able to threaten the security of the capital: Just before midnight one Friday a jet swooped low over the airport and dropped at least one powerful bomb. This was the first air raid on Kabul in more than six months. More than pin-pricking jet strikes on the Afghan capital would be needed to subdue the Taliban, yet the opposition continued to dither, favoring fatuous political reforms rather than concerted military action. On 15 June, UIFSA announced the formation of a "new" anti-Taliban "government" which they naively hoped would attract the support of expatriate Afghan "intellectuals and technocrats" — a declaration made all the more absurd when the very next day Malik's mob in Mazar announced that Afghan women in the north would be banned from working with foreign organizations. This was clearly a political issue, not one of gender; Malik was sucking up to his own mullahs as much as the Taliban, but this kind of gutless appeasement was very quickly forgotten — a serious storm was brewing in Kunduz.

The 80-odd kilometer road between the new city of Baghlan and Kunduz is a nasty piece of work, about three to four hours drive owing to the many landmine craters and general dilapidation, but neither distance nor hardship of travel is a guarantee of immunity from war. Besides, the Taliban were busy doing what they did best — undermining the will of the opposition to resist. Kunduz was a stronghold of the forces of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his ally Rasool Sayyaf, chief of the mujahideen *Itihad-i-Islami* faction, and ruled by a mixed *shoora* (committee) of military commanders. This *shoora* was dominated by ethnic Pushtuns, and it was to these leaders who's secret Taliban emissaries appealed to for support.

Kunduz was Masood's Achilles' Heel. Even Dostam had laid claim to this strategic and rich provincial capital 340 kilometers north of Kabul, capturing it twice from Masood. Although Uzbeks, Tajiks and some Turkomans were the original natives of the province, Pushtuns became numerous after the government forced many dissident tribes to migrate there in the late 19th century (voluntary migrations continued after World War II). Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the controversial head of Hezb-i-Islami, was born in a district of Kunduz province.

Doubtless there were many "suitcase handshakes" (bribes) involved, but kinship was a compelling motivation for the Pushtuns of the Kunduz *shoora* to switch sides and join the Baghlan-based Taliban. The first sign of rebellion in Kunduz was on 17 June with the raising of white flags over Kunduz airport, which is situated several kilometers southeast of the city. Next came reports of scattered gunfire in Kunduz itself, as local factions for and against the Taliban fought each other. In these clashes Masood's one remaining loyal commander, Mir Alam, was driven out of the provincial capital.

The next day Muttaqi's boys moved in, and joined forces with the principal local rebels, Arif Khan (of *Jamiat-i-Islami*, formerly loyal to Rabbani) and Ghulam of *Itihad-i-Islami*, both Pushtuns. This was a grim setback for Masood. Both psychologically and militarily the religious militia had scored a major victory, their first since the debacle in Mazar-i-Sharif in May. It was an incredible feat.

Taliban move T-55 battle tank across river on Russian bridging equipment after Masood fighters had partially destroyed bridge on main road.



General Sayyed Jaffar Naderi (without hat) heads the Kayan militia, otherwise known as the 80th Infantry Division. The Mercedes-Benz limo is just one of many perks that go with the job.

The Taliban had rebounded from defeat in one alien northern capital to the capture of another. Baghlan, where the religious militia were "being treated as guests" by the local Hezb-i-Islami groups, could now also be counted as a Taliban triumph. And all of this achieved by a mobile group that had arrived by chance.

Masood's Achilles' Heel

When the opposition finally conceded the loss of Kunduz and Baghlan, they vowed to win them back. "We cannot tolerate the presence of Taliban in these two provinces under any circumstances," declared Masood's spokesman. He also told journalists that the defections by Arif Khan and Ghulam were equivocal and that they were negotiating with them for another change of allegiance. "We are sure they will remain loyal," countered Taliban Interior Minister Khair Khwa in Kabul. This time he was half right. And far from seeing Muttaqi's isolated force as a lost cause, the Taliban vowed it would be strengthened "so that this caravan can gradually penetrate other northern provinces," Khair Khwa noted.

The religious militia's challenge was perfectly clear. They weren't going to back off. They were very much *mullahs* on a mission from God.

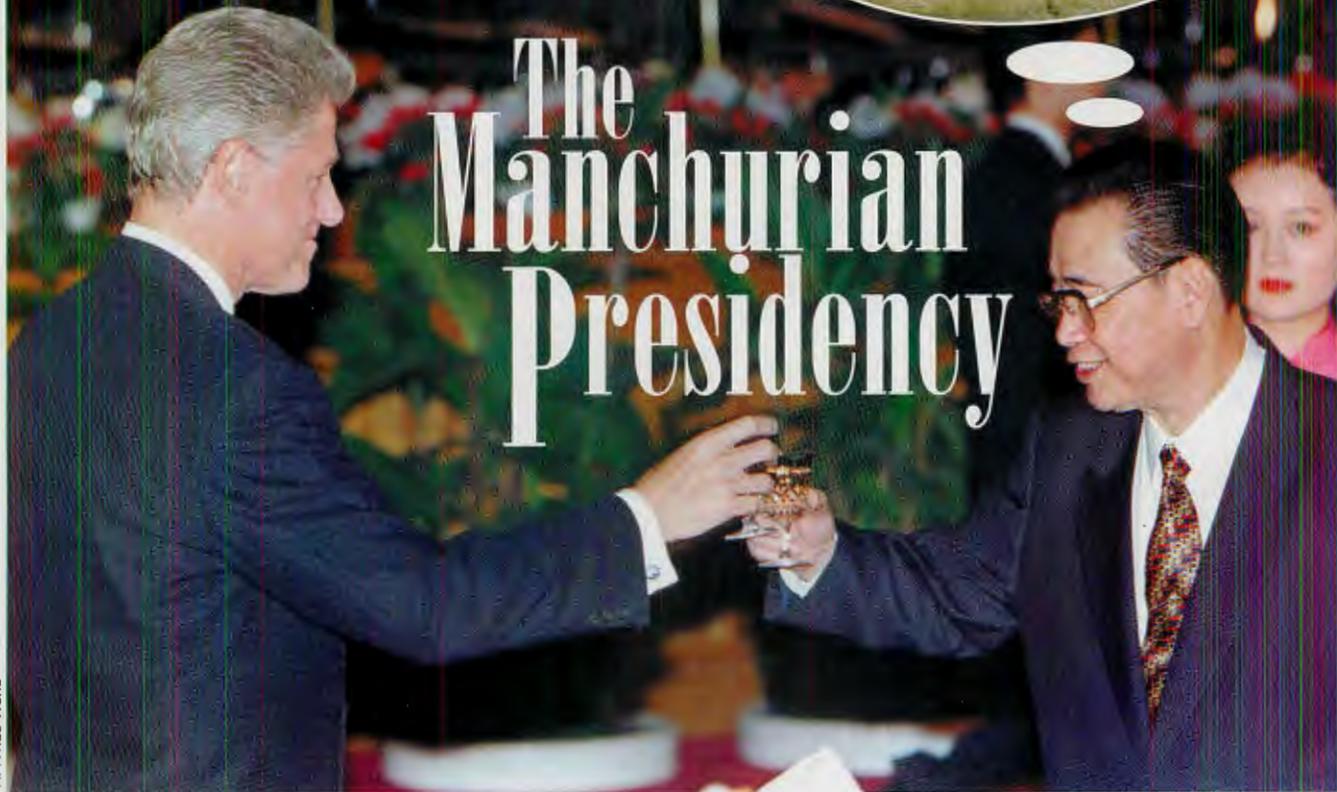
A week after they captured Kunduz, the Taliban went to bat and bombed Taloqan, the provincial capital of neighboring Takhar province situated 70 kilometers to the east. A lone Taliban jet, an Su-22 flying from Kabul, swooped on this picturesque rural town and dropped four bombs on the central city *maidan*, where Masood usually parked his helicopters. No casualties or damage were reported, yet it was effective if symbolic aggression: After being ousted from Kabul by the Taliban in September 1996, Rabbani and his government chose to retreat to Taloqan and establish their new headquarters there.

Continued on page 80





The Manchurian Presidency



AP/Wide World

Clinton's Year Of The "Dirty" Rat

by James L. Pate and Jim Norell

At a meeting in Beijing last June, President Bill Clinton, whose secret executive order sealed the fate of those besieged at Waco, toasts former Chinese Premier Li Peng, who signed the order for martial law that led to the massacre at Tiananmen Square in 1989.

April 19, 1993: Seventeen American children, their mothers and scores of other devotees to an eccentric religious sect — besieged by hundreds of federal agents and a squad of highly trained U.S. Army commandos — die in a raging fire outside Waco, Texas. It's the culmination of a reckless, poorly planned federal raid almost two months before, a standoff that began with a shootout in which four agents and six residents died.

The script for that fateful day was signed by Attorney General Janet Reno, who made her decision after consulting with commanders of the Army's super-secret antiterrorism unit, Delta Regiment. Then she telephoned President Bill Clinton for final approval. The grand finale begins that

morning, as U.S. military armor raze much of a two-story frame building, a longtime headquarters for an obscure branch of Seventh-Day Adventists.

With walls, ceilings and staircases collapsing around them, already saturated with CS, a potentially lethal riot control chemical, the women and children huddle for protection inside an old masonry-walled refrigeration room. As the fire closes in, it becomes a grisly oven. A few men try to escape out the rear of the building, not visible to news photographers. They are shot dead by Delta operators, the bodies bulldozed back into the burning rubble. The only survivors are the ones who flee the flames in full view of the press.

"FBI agents never fired a shot" during

the 53-day standoff, bureau bosses would later repeatedly vow. What they will not admit, though, is that they had the Army there to do their dirty work for them, authorized under a classified executive order signed by President Clinton. The irony in the accuracy of the FBI's denial is one which must have been appreciated by Clinton, himself an expert at plausible deniability, artfully wording "technically true" statements.

Glad Y'all Could Come To The BBQ

No doubt that was a busy day at the White House. The Situation Room was on full alert. Television networks interrupted regular programming to provide live coverage of the tragic conflagration; eerie images

of American armor, deployed against civilian women and children, speeding starkly before a curtain of roiling flames. What was Clinton thinking about as he watched?

Money, that's what. Campaign cash. One man with Clinton on the day Waco burned was James Riady, a shadowy Chinese banker from Indonesia who, with his wife, gave \$450,000 to help elect Clinton to his first presidential term in 1992, making Riady the campaign's largest contributor. Federal investigators also believe Riady may have been a spy for the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Clinton watched Waco's conflagration while chatting with two top political contributors in his private study off the Oval Office. It is the same inner sanctum to which he would retreat with Monica Lewinsky, where she would genuflect before Clinton, favoring him with oral endearments as he took phone calls from congressmen, and as foreign diplomats cooled their heels in the Rose Garden.

On that fateful day, though, it was financial, not fellatious, favors that Clinton apparently sought, according to *Year of the Rat*, a book by two former congressional investigators whose "thesis is simple: The Clinton administration has made a series of Faustian bargains and policy blunders that have allowed a hostile power to further its aims in Washington. In the main, Bill Clinton and Al Gore did it for money.

"The hostile power," Ed Timperlake and Bill Triplett write in their book, "is the People's Republic of China." They chose the book's name, they explained, because in the animist calendar of ancient Chinese belief, 1996 — the year Clinton and Gore were re-elected — was the Year of the Rat.

Spies Among Friends

There is strong suspicion — and no small amount of circumstantial evidence — that two of the three people with whom Clinton spent the first hours after the Waco disaster were actually covert intelligence assets for China's communist regime. Given the bloody ruthlessness with which Chinese Communist Party officials snuffed out the pro-democracy rally in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989, they probably were favorably impressed with the style of iron-fisted, bloody law enforcement evidenced by Clinton and Reno at Waco.

"It was simply classic espionage," the book said. "The Riadys were in a position to satisfy their Chinese intelligence allies and help themselves at the same time ...

"In Jakarta," Timperlake and Triplett revealed for the first time in their book, "James Riady likes to brag about where he was on the afternoon of April 19, 1993 ... The president was preoccupied. Clinton was not too distracted, however, to chat with his leading contributors ...

"Riady later told Indonesian diplomats that, during their chat, a television in the corner showed the Waco compound burning over and over as CNN repeated its coverage," the book says. "Clinton even took

some time to show his visitors the White House Situation Room, then on full alert."

So while Waco burned, Bill Clinton was chumming around with his biggest campaign donor, according to the CIA probably a communist spy, and then gave him a personally guided tour of what, arguably, is the White House's single most security-sensitive facility.

James Riady's friendship with Bill Clinton dates to 1977, when Clinton was attorney general in Arkansas and Riady had come to Little Rock from Jakarta, Indonesia. They were introduced by a Clinton friend, Jackson Stephens, who was a broker in a deal in which Riady's father, Mochtar Riady, had failed in an attempt to buy the National Bank of Georgia.

When the Georgia deal fell through, Stephens offered the elder Riady a chance to invest in Stephens, Inc., a private investment bank, one of the biggest outside Wall Street, according to the Timperlake/Triplett book. Riady accepted and his 20-year-old son, James, arrived to intern at Stephens.

Riady On The Firing Line

Thus began Clinton's long and financially lucrative friendship with the Chinese family. They had been part of a postwar wave of emigration from China to Indonesia, a poor country where ethnic Chinese make up 5% of the population, but control 75% of the wealth, a major factor in the riotous downfall last year of President Suharto.

The Riady family's global financial empire stems from an Indonesian-based industrial and financial conglomerate named Lippo Group. Lippo is a Chinese

word meaning "energy." Lippo Group controls far-flung businesses that include securities, insurance, commercial and residential real estate development, textiles, electronics and mining. According to *Moody's International*, Lippo has 17 of its 138 subsidiaries and 13 of its 30 affiliates incorporated in the PRC. Almost all of these are joint ventures with local, regional and central governments in China, all controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

As the father has aged, his second son, James, has emerged as head of business operations in Indonesia and the United States, while the youngest son, Stephen, is in charge of family operations in Hong Kong and China, according to Central Intelligence Agency briefings for U.S. Sen. Fred Thompson, chairman of the U.S. Senate's Governmental Affairs Committee, which held hearings on Clinton's political fund raising last year.

According to CIA information provided to Thompson's committee, James Riady, and his father, Mochtar, "have had a long-term relationship with a Chinese intelligence agency," the six-volume hearing report states.

The Riadys' link with China's communist regime "is based on mutual benefit, with the Riadys receiving assistance in finding business opportunities ..." states the Thompson committee report. "The Chinese intelligence agency seeks to locate and develop relationships with information collectors, particularly [those] with close association to the U.S. government."

The report reveals efforts by the People's Republic of China (PRC) over the



VP Al Gore attends a 1996 reception with Democratic fund-raiser Maria Hsia (left, now under indictment on charges of attempting to hide illegal campaign contributions), Master Hsing Yun (center, whose nuns admitted to Senate Government Affairs Committee that their temple illegally reimbursed donors after a fund-raiser for Gore, later destroyed or altered records to avoid "embarrassment"), and at right Los Angeles publisher and major Democratic contributor Dr. Ted Sieng, (who, according to the CIA, is a Chinese agent). At rear between secret service agents stands John Huang (former Lippo Group executive who the Riadys tell associates at home in Jakarta is "our man in the American government," former commerce department official and now DNC fundraiser). Quite a crew.

years to talent-scout and cultivate promising young U.S. politicians and thus "increase China's influence over the U.S. political process ..."

China's political subversion operation included, the committee report said, "a broad array of ... efforts designed to influence U.S. policies and elections through, among other means, financing election campaigns. The committee has identified specific steps taken in furtherance of these plans ... illegal under U.S. law. Among these efforts were ... a seeding strategy of developing viable candidates sympathetic to the PRC for future federal elections ... and PRC officials discussing financing [U.S.] elections through covert means."

Spies, Spies, Spies

There can be little doubt about the Riady family's allegiance to China's communist elite for financial, if not ideological, reasons. When one of the Riadys' key properties, LippoBank, got in financial trouble over the financing of a faltering retail and office project in Wangfujing, the heart of Beijing's most prominent commercial and shopping district, the family's main Chinese business partner, China Resources, Inc., purchased five percent of the bank's stock, a capital infusion just big enough to save the bank.

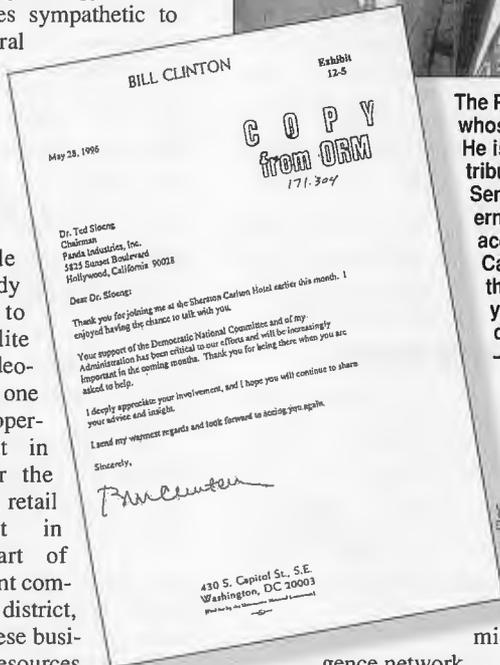
China Resources is a corporate front for China's military intelligence agency, according to U.S. intelligence reports, and is a major player in a lease deal in which China takes over control of the Panama Canal next year. The Riadys' other chief



photos: author's files



The President and Vice President grip 'n' grin with San Won "Ted" Sioeng, whose organization pumped about \$600,000 into U.S. politics in 1994-96. He is owner of pro-communist *International Daily News*, which also distributes *Won Wie Po*, Hong Kong-based paper of PRC. According to Senate investigation report, Sioeng "has close ties to the Chinese government." Sioeng's business partner in Cambodia is Theng Bunma, according to Interpol, a highly influential drug trafficker who gave Cambodian government \$3 billion. (below, left) "...thank you for being there when you are asked to help ... I hope you will continue to share your advice and insight ..." Advice on what? How to find a major dope dealer for a partner?



business partner in Hong Kong is the China Travel Service, identified in *Year of the Rat* as another arm of China's military intelligence network.

The Riady family is the nexus of a group of Asians, most of Chinese ancestry, who played key roles at critical times in financing Clinton's presidential aspirations. *Year of the Rat* reveals a loose-knit collection of "Chinese arms dealers, spies, narcotics traffickers, gangsters, pimps, accomplices to mass murder, communist agents and other undesirables ... all associated in one way or another with the White House and money."

Among other key contributors to the Clinton-Gore campaign are Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie, a longtime Little Rock restaurant owner with childhood ties to a Chinese triad, or organized crime syndicate; recently convicted California businessman Johnny Chung, who has acknowledged being a conduit for cash donations to Clinton's campaign from a PRC intelligence agent; and two mysterious leaders of reputed Asian crime syndicates, San Won "Ted" Sioeng and Ng Lapseng, both fugitives.

By far the most influential member of this Asian circle, one who became a key focus of subsequent and still ongoing investigations, is John

Huang, a one-time Lippo executive who rose to prominence as a campaign donor, later became an assistant commerce secretary and finally went to work as a key fund raiser at the Democratic National Committee, where he was working when the fund-raising scandal first became public.

"My Man In The American Government"

Huang accompanied James Riady to see Clinton in the White House on 19 April 1993. It's even possible that this visit, made so soon after Clinton's election, was an initial effort by Riady to lobby for a job in the executive branch for Huang. Among friends and business associates in Jakarta, Riady would later refer to Huang as "my man in the American government."

The Thompson committee reported, based on a CIA briefing, that "John Huang himself may possibly have had a direct financial relationship with the PRC government."

U.S. Rep. Gerald Solomon, chairman of the House Rules Committee, was more specific. "I have received reports from government sources that say there are electronic intercepts which provide evidence confirming that John Huang committed economic espionage and breached our national security by passing classified information to his former employer, the Lippo Group."

Yet in December, after a preliminary probe by the FBI, headed by Justice Department prosecutor Charles LaBella, Attorney General Reno ignored recommendations by LaBella and FBI Director Louis Freeh, refusing to appoint a special prosecutor to officially investigate Clinton's fund-raising efforts for his re-election campaign of 1996. A few weeks earlier, she also refused to appoint a special prosecutor to look into persistent allegations of illegal fund raising by Gore.

As impeachment hearings headed



President and Mrs. Clinton with major Democratic contributor Ng Lapseng — member of Macau criminal syndicate and pimp, "who advises the Chinese government," according to Senate report. Was Ng bagman in conspiracy between White House, DNC and James Riady to pay for convicted Clinton justice official Hubbell's continued silence? Photo: courtesy House Government Reform and Oversight Committee

toward a climax in the House Judiciary Committee, Reno announced that there are "no reasonable grounds to believe that further investigation is warranted" against Clinton.

But FBI Director Freeh had told Reno more than a year earlier that a special prosecutor was needed. In a 27-page confidential report to Reno in November 1997, Freeh advised the attorney general that she was obliged under both the mandatory and discretionary provisions of the Independent Counsel Statute to appoint a special prosecutor.

Compelling Evidence

Freeh's report to Reno, as quoted in *The Washington Times*, said agents investigating allegations of illegal campaign fundraising were led "to the highest levels of the White House, including the vice president and president." Freeh advised Reno that it was "difficult to imagine a more compelling situation for appointing an independent counsel."

Indeed. Just based on the available public record, there are enough facts established concerning Clinton and his longtime association with wealthy Asian donors to raise questions in the minds of many reasonable people about how such personal and financial indebtedness over such a long period could not help but influence a person's actions and decision-making.

The Riady family is a case in point. In 1984, seven years after arriving in Little Rock, James Riady, in partnership with Clinton pal Jackson Stephens, bought the biggest bank in Arkansas, the Worthen Bank. Riady became CEO. Other Chinese employees of Lippo came to Little Rock from Indonesia to take over management at Worthen. Clinton by then was governor.

Based largely on his friendship with Stephens and James Riady, Clinton signed off on a deal in which the Arkansas state pension funds were used by Worthen in a high-risk, out-of-state investment scheme which lost tens of millions of dollars. Such a loss could have spelled political doom for Bill Clinton. Although the bank legally could have passed along the loss to the state, Riady and Stephens decided to take the hit.

According to *Year of the Rat*, "Stephens wrote a personal check for \$32 million to bail out the bank — and Clinton."

This and other questionable banking practices, such as siphoning off \$7 million in numerous increments of less than \$10,000 each to a Lippo-controlled bank in Hong King, eventually forced James Riady out of the business in Arkansas.

Follow The Dirty Money

By the late 1980s, though, James Riady was a permanent U.S. resident and he could legally contribute to political campaigns. His financial generosity to Clinton at critical junctures in Clinton's



AP/Wide World

Johnny Chung, left, poses with first couple and Chinese beer company officials at 1994 White House Christmas party. Chung gave \$366,000 to Democrats, later returned by DNC on suspicion it came from foreign sources. Recently convicted, Chung is a cooperating witness in ongoing Justice Department investigation. Chung admitted cash for donations came from Ms. Liu Chaoying, lieutenant colonel in People's Liberation Army and Chinese intelligence officer.

political path to the presidency is significant. Three examples:

- Spring 1992: Clinton's campaign for the presidency, still considered by many at the time to be a longshot, faced the dismal prospect of going into the crucial New York primary almost penniless. Enter James Riady, who persuaded Worthen Bank to issue letters of credit to the campaign worth \$3.5 million.

- Mid-August 1992: According to the Timperlake/Triplett book, Clinton and James Riady took a long limousine ride



AP/Wide World

Indonesia's Mochtar Riady and son James, who with his wife donated \$450,000 in 1992 election. Long-time friend and contributor to Clinton, James was in White House as Waco burned, given access even to situation room — according to CIA, probably a spy for communist China. Riady family controls Lippo Group — far-flung businesses including securities, insurance, real estate development, textiles, electronics and mining. According to "Moody's," Lippo has 17 of 138 subsidiaries and 13 of 30 affiliates incorporated in PRC — almost all joint ventures with governments in China, all controlled by Chinese Communist Party.

together for private conversation. "Soon thereafter, a cascade of Riady money, nearly \$600,000, made its way to the DNC and to a number of Democratic state parties where the election was considered a toss-up. Undeniably, Riady's funding played a key role in Clinton's election to the presidency: The Clinton-Gore ticket ... won five out of the six state races where Riady money played a factor."

- Mid-January 1993: Clinton had overcome long odds and sometimes critically short campaign budgets to win election. But the Democrats

took over the White House with virtually empty coffers to finance an inauguration gala. James Riady donated \$100,000. John Huang had come over from Indonesia to be Riady's second-in-command for a Lippo acquisition in the Chinatown section of Los Angeles, the Bank of Trade, renamed LippoBank. Huang also chipped in \$100,000.

Starting To Get The Huang Of It

If the scandal has a public face, it is that of John Huang. His U.S. government and security forms indicate he was born in Fujian Province, the same part of mainland China that is home to the Riady family, located just across the Formosa Straits from Taiwan. But other sources list his birthplace as Zhejiang Province. On forms submitted for his job at the Department of Commerce, he listed his birth date as 14 April 1945, but on visa applications, he listed a birth date in 1941.

Despite uncertainties about where John Huang was born, or even when, President Clinton intervened directly to waive security background checks so John Huang could get the top-secret security clearance necessary for him to become deputy assistant secretary of commerce for international economic policy in 1993.

While at commerce, Huang received classified briefings from the CIA on matters concerning China and other Asian countries. Investigators also learned that Huang used an office maintained by the Stephens firm, just across the street from the Department of Commerce, to get mail and send and receive telefaxes to his old bosses at Lippo. The contents of those exchanges remain unknown, just as Huang's exact duties at LippoBank, the Commerce Department, and later the Democratic National Committee, remain shrouded in mystery.

Huang's father, an army officer with the nationalist forces opposing China's takeover by the communists, was forced to flee with his family to Taiwan in 1949. The family was not socially or politically prominent, though, and Huang's education was inauspicious. He attended Tatung University, a technical school sponsored by an electric-fan manufacturer.

By 1969, Huang had completed a hitch in Taiwan's air force and enrolled in a work-

study program at the University of Connecticut to get a master's degree in business administration. He got his U.S. citizenship in 1977, while working an entry-level job at the American Security Bank in Washington, D.C. His polished manners, excellence in reading, writing and speaking English, plus his command of five Chinese dialects, made him an ideal choice as the bank's point man for business dealings with China, which at the time did not have an embassy, but maintained a liaison office in Washington.

While attending a business seminar in Little Rock in 1980, Huang met Mochtar and James Riady. Soon thereafter, he switched jobs, moving to the Union Planters Bank in Memphis, Tenn., which had a working relationship with LippoBank and other Riady-controlled businesses. Union Planters sent Huang to Hong Kong to run a branch office in 1983. When the branch closed a year later, the Riady family hired him to work for Lippo.

"Huang's colleagues at LippoBank — where he served as president and director — never understood his corporate duties," the Senate report states. They described Huang, the Senate report said, as "a mystery man."

Phantom Bureaucrat

Huang's exact duties at the Commerce Department were "as perplexing to his colleagues at the Commerce Department as ... to his associates at LippoBank," the report said. "During the 18 months that Huang worked at the department, he left virtually no mark; many of his colleagues found themselves wholly at a loss to explain what he did."

But when the Clinton administration took over the White House in 1992, and Huang was, according to the Thompson committee, placed on a high-priority list of candidates for political appointment, Democratic Party activist Maeley Tom had no trouble describing Huang's usefulness in a letter of recommendation to John Emerson, the new White House deputy director of presidential personnel.

Huang was, Tom wrote to Emerson, "the political power that advises the Riady family on issues and where to make contributions. [The Riadys] invested heavily in the Clinton campaign. John is the Riady family's top priority for placement because he is like one of their own."

What senate and house investigators found out about Huang's activities while at the Commerce Department is cause for concern with just about everyone except Janet Reno.

Huang's bosses at commerce testified that, for the most part, Huang was "walled off" from government matters pertaining to China, but senate investigators learned that "without his superiors' knowledge, Huang received 37 intelligence briefings, viewing 10 to 15 intelligence reports at each session

— a total of 370 to 500 items of 'raw intelligence' during his tenure.

Who Do You Work For, Really?

"Also unbeknownst to his superiors, Huang made multiple visits and telephone calls to the Chinese Embassy while at Commerce," the Senate report said. "And despite Huang's status as only a mid-level official at

scope and import of Huang's activities while at Commerce may never be known: He has invoked the Fifth Amendment and refused to cooperate with the Committee, Riady has left the country and many of his former LippoBank colleagues have returned to Indonesia."

But Huang's apparent fund-raising ability was missed by the Clinton campaign, which — panicked by the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994 — subsequently raised three times as much money for his re-election in 1996, as for his first presidential bid in 1992. Huang left his Commerce Department job for the Democratic National Committee.

Worth His Weight In Donations

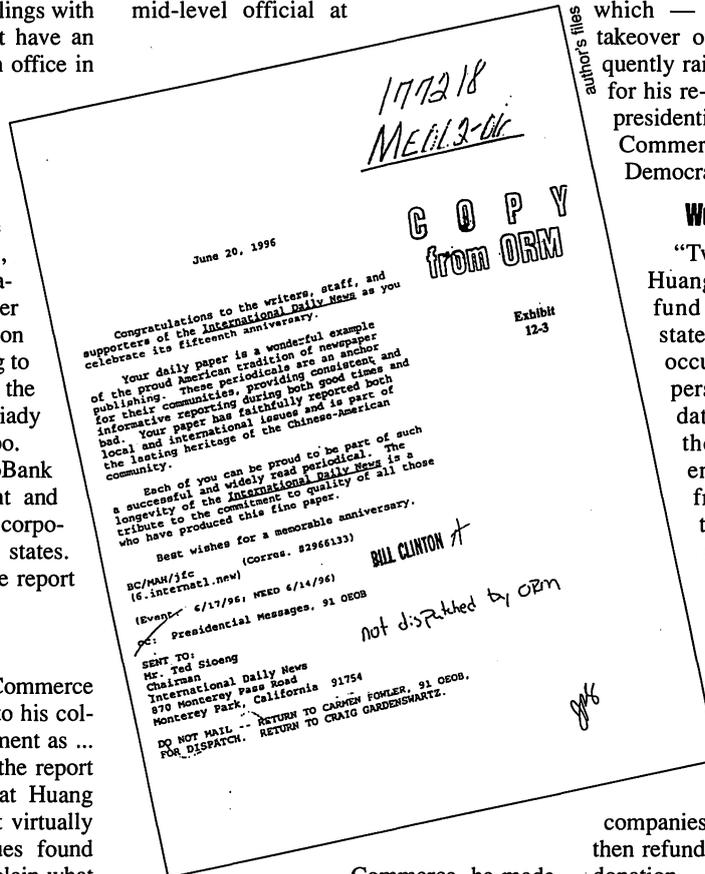
"Two things are clear about Huang's obtaining a job as a DNC fund raiser," the Senate report states. "First, it would not have occurred but for the president's personal interest and recommendation. Second, it took place even though Huang had already engaged in illegal fund raising from foreign sources while at the Commerce Department, and despite the DNC's awareness of clear indications that Huang would continue to raise funds illegally as the DNC's Vice Chairman for Finance."

Much of the illegal foreign millions that Huang raised for donation to the DNC came through shell companies owned by Lippo, which would then refund the "contributor" for the proxy donation.

In this "mercenary" process, the Senate report concluded, "the Democratic Party dismantled its own internal vetting procedures, no longer caring, in effect, where its money came from and who was supplying it ... Their campaign eviscerated federal fund-raising laws and ... [led to] political corruption and unprecedented amounts of illegal foreign contributions making their way into Democratic coffers ..."

Little is known about exactly what Huang did at the DNC before the scandal forced his departure because "much remains missing," the *New York Times* reported. "Mr. Huang's Democratic National Committee telephone logs, most of his outgoing correspondence, his travel records, details of visits to the White House and Clinton-Gore campaign headquarters, and accounts of business he conducted from locations other than his office" have all vanished.

But we do know some of the other people whom Huang brought into contact with Clinton, Gore and other high-level White House officials through his fund-raising efforts. His first official fund raiser as a DNC vice chairman, on 19 February 1996, was at the posh Hay-Adams Hotel, just a few blocks from the White House.



Commerce, he made at least 67 visits to the White House, often meeting with top officials and receiving briefings on trade policy.

"Equally mysterious were the over 400 contacts Huang had with Lippo officials while he worked at Commerce: 237 phone calls to LippoBank and affiliated entities in the United States, 29 calls and fax transmissions to Lippo's Indonesian headquarters and an additional 107 calls to such countries as China, Indonesia, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

"Huang may have made more such calls from the Washington office of Stephens, Inc. ... partly owned by the Riady family, which had extended loans to help finance President Clinton's 1992 campaign — located across the street from the Commerce Department," said the final report by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. "Huang secretly used this Stephens office two or three times a week to make calls, pick up or deliver faxes and send packages.

"Jeffrey Garten, Huang's superior at commerce, and John Dickeson, the CIA liaison to commerce who provided Huang numerous classified briefings, were unaware of Huang's continuing contacts with Lippo," the report said. "The full

Oops, Got Caught, So Sorry

A month later, DNC officials returned two checks of \$12,500 each which were donated at the first Hay-Adams event, because they were written by two men who live in the PRC and run an international trading group based in Beijing. Another \$25,000 pledged at the event was later laundered through donations of third-party straw donors from the Hsi Lai Temple near Los Angeles, investigators later learned.

Seated next to Clinton at Huang's first official fund-raiser at the Hay-Adams was Sioeng San Wong, also known as Ted Sioeng, a foreign businessman who owns a pro-communist Chinese-language newspaper in California and who, according to the Senate investigation report, "has close ties to the Chinese government."

The newspaper, the *International Daily News*, once had a strongly pro-Taiwan editorial tilt and was in-your-face anti-communist. After buying it, Sioeng brought in his own editors and changed its editorial stance to favor the PRC, "leading to speculation that the Beijing government was behind it, either directly or indirectly," according to one congressional investigative document obtained by *Soldier Of Fortune*. "The paper now distributes *Won Wie Po*, the Hong Kong-based paper of the People's Republic of China."

In June 1996, as the newspaper celebrated its birthday, President Clinton sent Sioeng a letter, praising the publication for "faithfully" reporting national and international events, citing the pro-communist propaganda sheet as "a wonderful example of the proud American tradition of newspaper publishing."

Clinton-Approved Tobacco And "Assault Rifles"

All told, Sioeng and his organization pumped about \$600,000 into U.S. politics in 1994-96, most of it to the DNC, some of it to Republicans. While the president and vice president have taken a strong stand against *American* tobacco companies, they apparently didn't have a problem with taking money from Sioeng, whose many business interests in the PRC — the manufacturing of beer, cameras and medical equipment — include foreign distribution rights for Red Pagoda Mountain cigarettes.

Perhaps it is the same cynicism with which Clinton visited in the White House with Wang Jun, president of Poly Technologies. The two met only four days after Clinton, the most anti-gun president in history, signed a waiver to his cherished assault rifle ban that allowed the import of 100,000 AKM rifles made by Poly Tech (see "The China Syndrome," October 98).

Normally, people don't get to sit next to

the president at fund raisers unless they are major political players. But as the Senate report noted, when Clinton sat next to Sioeng at the Hay-Adams dinner, "Sioeng was not then a resident of the United States, could not speak English and was ineligible to make political donations ..."

Sioeng, in his 50s, speaks Chinese, but his exact citizenship and place of birth are unknown, one investigative document indicates. His parentage may be a mixture of Indonesian and Indian, but he is believed to have been raised by ethnic



Reuters/Larry Downing/Archive Photos

Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie, member of Chinese triad, gave nearly half-million dollars to Clinton's legal defense fund ... on same day he delivered letter demanding the president change U.S. policy regarding Taiwan.

Chinese foster parents. Investigators believe he is now in Hong Kong, but he apparently travels with a Belize passport. He has other interesting business partners besides the Chinese communists.

Just Say Dough

Sioeng's business partner in Cambodia is Theng Bunma, head of Cambodia's national Chamber of Commerce. He is, according to Interpol, also a highly influential drug trafficker who gave the Cambodian government \$3 billion in no-interest loans for military expenditures in 1994. In May 1995, he picked up the tab for a visit by an official Cambodian People's Party delegation to Washington, where they stayed at the luxurious Willard Hotel. Bunma's fortune also played a major role in financing the overthrow of Cambodia's coalition government in July 1997, when Second Prime Minister Hun Sen took over, liquidated his political opposition and moved Cambodia into a decidedly pro-China diplomatic orbit.

Another donor introduced to Clinton and Gore by John Huang was Johnny Chung, a supposedly successful businessman of

Chinese ancestry in California. He made lavish donations to the Democrats, which were hard to explain when investigators later learned that Chung's financial empire was pretty much a paper tiger. Recently convicted and now a cooperating witness in an ongoing Justice Department investigation, Chung later admitted he got the cash for his donations from a Chinese woman named Liu Chaoying. Turns out she's a lieutenant colonel in the People's Liberation Army, an intelligence officer, matter of fact; and her father is the now-retired commanding general of the entire PLA (see "Techno-Treason: How Clinton Reigned the Cold War," February 99).

One Chinese man close to Clinton who did not need an introduction from James Riady, John Huang or anyone else was Yah Lin "Charlie" Trie. Like the Riadys, though, he just turned up in Little Rock in the late 1970s. And just like the Riadys, there is strong suspicion that Charlie Trie is an agent of the Chinese government, a "sleeper agent" assigned to "swim as a fish in the sea" until activated by his communist spymasters. He is now under indictment for obstructing a federal investigation.

Trie was born in Taiwan in 1949, and came to Little Rock as a young man to live with his sister. He got a job as a busboy in the Fu Lin Chinese Restaurant, near the Arkansas state house, and worked his way up to fry cook and, eventually with his sister, co-owner.

Seduction Of A Political Whore

Trie "began to befriend the young and obviously ambitious politician as soon as he arrived in Little Rock," the Timper-lake/Triplett book states. "The friendship grew. It seems they traveled to Taiwan together when Clinton was governor."

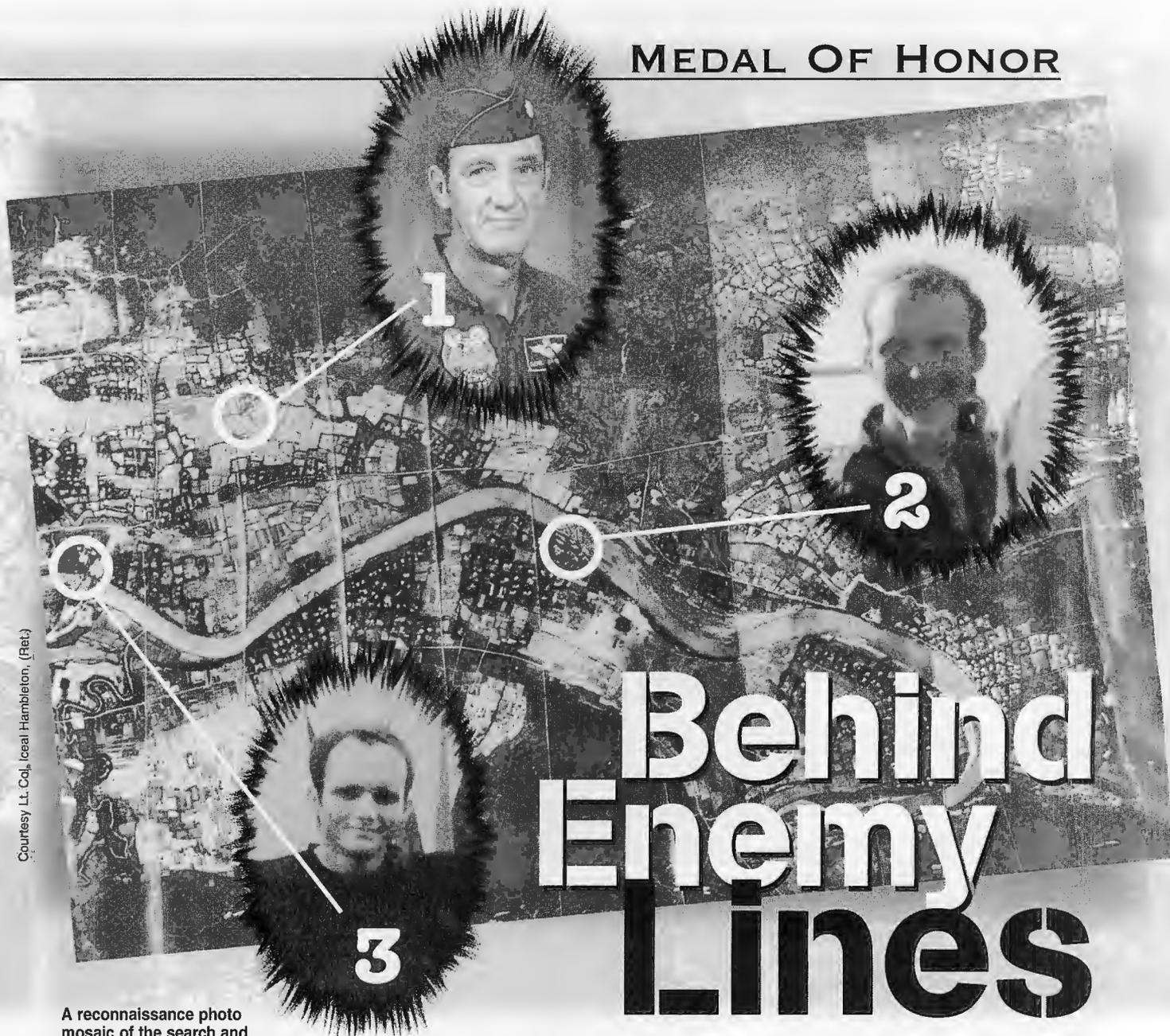
Trie grew up in Taiwan, in a public housing complex known as a haven for young gangsters and other criminals. Trie, according to the book, joined a secret Chinese criminal society, or triad, named the Four Seas gang. Membership in such triads is considered to be a sacred lifetime commitment, pledged on pain of death.

When Clinton won election to the White House, Trie sold his restaurant and moved to Washington, where he opened the Daihatsu International Trading Company.

"Soon thereafter," the Thompson committee reported, "Trie and his wife contributed large sums to the DNC ... From 1994 to 1996, Trie contributed or raised approximately \$645,000 ... In 1994, he contributed \$100,000 ... while earning only approximately \$30,000 as president of Daihatsu."

Daihatsu never made a profit.

Continued on page 84



Courtesy Lt. Col. Icaal Hambleton, (Ret.)

A reconnaissance photo mosaic of the search and rescue area. (1) Bat 21 Bravo. (2) Nail 38 Bravo. (3) Cam Lo bridge and fording points.

Behind Enemy Lines

Daring SEAL Search And Rescue

BY DARREL D. WHITCOMB

U.S. Navy Lieutenant Tom Norris listened carefully to the briefing and did not like what he was hearing. The mission was clear enough: There were three downed American flyers near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which separated North and South Vietnam — and in the path of one of the pincers of the invading North Vietnamese Army. The plan was to slip a five-man team — which he would lead — through the lines and bring them home.

But Tom did not like the details being laid out by U.S. Marine Lieutenant Colonel Andy Anderson, from MACV Headquarters in Saigon. It was too confining and Norris chafed at the limitations being proposed. Inwardly, though, he smiled. The mission would be difficult, but it was doable. What

Anderson briefed, and what Norris would really do, were two distinctly different things. The Navy SEAL was basically a stubborn guy and it was beginning to show.

It was the 8 April 1972. Lieutenant Norris did not yet realize it but he was about to participate in one of the more dramatic events of the Vietnam War, and become the key player in the largest search and rescue (SAR) of that conflict.

Nine days earlier, North Vietnam had launched a major offensive against the South. In the opening gambit, 30,000 troops attacked through the DMZ and out of Laos intent on seizing the northern provinces of South Vietnam and the key cities of Quang Tri and Hue. The 3rd Division of the South Vietnamese Army with attached South Vietnamese marine units met the attack and

for the next several days slowed the NVA advance. U.S. troops, except for advisors, had been almost completely pulled out of the area and sent home. This would almost exclusively be a Vietnamese fight.

But U.S. Air Force and Navy air power were still there to support our allies. As the invasion started, American air units began striking the advancing hordes. Forward Air Controllers (FACs) in their slow spotter aircraft began spotting and tracking the enemy units. On 2 April, a flight of three B-52s was targeted to strike one of the advancing columns.

The NVA protected its attacking divisions with massive numbers of surface to air missile (SAM) units and anti-aircraft artillery (AAA). To protect the B-52s from the SAMs, this flight was escorted by two

EB-66s equipped to detect and jam the radars of the SAM sites.

As the B-52s and their escorts approached their target, they received fire from several SAM sites. One of their missiles struck the lead EB-66 — call sign Bat 21 — and blew it out of the sky. A single crew member, 53-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Icel Hambleton, the navigator, call sign Bat 21 Bravo, ejected.

Hambleton came down near the small village of Cam Lo, just north of the Mieu Giang River, and right in the middle of the ground battle raging between the two armies. For the next four days, U.S. Army and Air Force rescue forces failed in several attempts to rescue him. Nine Americans were killed in the efforts, and another navigator, 1st Lt. Mark Clark, call sign Nail 38 Bravo, was also downed behind enemy lines about 3 kilometers from Hambleton.

Watching this debacle, General Creighton Abrams, the commander of all U.S. forces in Vietnam, directed that there would be no more attempts to extract the two survivors by helicopter.

"Bright Light"

The next day, disaster struck again when another OV-10, call sign Covey 282, was shot down several kilometers north of the two survivors. The crew ejected. The pilot, 1st Lt. Bruce Walker, call sign Covey 282 Alpha, contacted other FACs overhead and went into hiding. His backseater, U.S. Marine 1st Lt. Larry Potts, never came up on his radio and was presumed captured.

Lieutenant Colonel Andy Anderson, USMC, was the commander of the Joint Personnel Recovery Center (JPRC) in Saigon and had been monitoring the rescue efforts. His organization acted as the staff agency and joint coordinating authority within MACV for post SAR personnel recovery operations. His field teams could also be used to recover captured or downed friendly personnel, operations code-named "Bright Light."

On 8 April, Lt. Col. Anderson met with Major General Winton Marshall, the vice commander of 7th Air Force in Saigon, and Colonel Cy Muirhead, commander of the Air Force rescue forces. They were given an intelligence update on the land battle and a detailed briefing on the pick-up attempts. Anderson reviewed the situation and told the general that he felt a team of South Vietnamese sea commandos could possibly use the Mieu Giang River to ingress and recover all three of the survivors. The operation would be tricky and require carefully planned air support, but it was achievable. In fact, Anderson was so enthusiastic about it that he decided to lead the mission himself. General Marshall told him that he could have everything that he needed in direct support.

That afternoon, Anderson flew to Da Nang in Marshall's jet. There, he met with numerous Army, Marine, and Air Force personnel who had been working in the ongoing operation and informed them that he and his small team had been given the mission. Quickly, he laid out the basic plan. He would take his yet-to-be-formed recovery team forward as far as possible through the 3rd ARVN Division's area and attempt to move along the Mieu Giang River to pick up Bat 21 Bravo and Nail 38 Bravo. Covey 282 Alpha would also be moved south to the river for rescue.

Obviously, the survivors could not be told in clear terms on their survival radios how they were to move to and along the river. So the commanders of their parent units were contacted and asked to prepare a message based on each survivor's background which would clearly tell him to move to a specific location but would be understood only by him.

Hambleton was an avid golfer and was given a series of "holes" to play which would move him to the pick-up point. The other two survivors were given messages

based on their past histories.

Bat 21 Bravo began moving to the river. Over the next two days, he would "play" a total of nine "holes" and move through several fields and a village to reach the river.

Covey 282 Alpha's situation was more complicated. He was literally surrounded by constantly moving enemy units and had the farthest to go to the river. But of the three, he was the youngest and in excellent physical condition.

At Da Nang, Lt. Col. Anderson began to plan his small team. It would consist of five Vietnamese commandos and perhaps one other American. He paid a visit to the Naval Advisory Detachment (NAD). Through them, he coordinated for the team of sea commandos, to be commanded by Lt. Tho.

From there, he called down to Saigon to the Strategic Technical Directorate Assistance Team (STDAT) 158 and talked to Lieutenant Commander Craig Dorman about an American to accompany the team. Sitting in his office at that exact moment was a young Navy SEAL, Lt. Tom Norris. Norris was currently assigned to STDAT Team 158 and was involved in training the



Lt. Tom Norris, USN (Medically Retired), and Nguyen van Kiet in October 1998, during ceremonies at which the headquarters building was dedicated in Tom's honor by Naval Special Warfare Group Two.

Vietnamese in sea commando operations. Previously, Tom had a tour in South Vietnam with Seal Team Two and spoke some Vietnamese. He had several more months left on his tour.

Norris had grown up in Maryland where he had wrestled on the varsity team at the University of Maryland. Physically, he was as tough as one man could be and had the reflexes of a cat. He was the right man for the job. Anderson knew Norris slightly from some missions run in the Mekong Delta. He and Dorman sensed the match and made their decision. Norris was on the next plane to Da Nang.

That evening, the team gathered and Anderson briefed them on the mission. He carefully covered the enemy threat and the extent of their advance into South Vietnam. As Norris listened, he felt that the mission was doable, and that a small ground team would have a reasonable chance of slipping in and out.

and tell Anderson what he wanted to hear.

Move Out

The next morning, the team moved by helicopter and armored personnel carrier to the forward most South Vietnamese position. It was an old French bunker on top of a small hill overlooking Cam Lo and the river manned by 20 South Vietnamese who were tired and hungry. Wisely, Anderson had brought extra rations for just this contingency. As his team was settling in, Anderson called the FAC overhead and had him tell Bat 21 Bravo and Nail 38 Bravo to plan on a pick-up that night.

By nightfall, they were ready to begin the operation. Anderson contacted the survivors to make sure they were moving. Hambleton was getting weak. Nail 38 Bravo was the closest to the team and would be first. He was instructed to be ready to get in the water and let the current carry him down.

Lieutenant Norris took his team and

him and the cold and tired Mark Clark. Norris could not move. He had to let Clark pass by.

But after the patrol cleared, he could no longer see Clark. So he slipped into the water and attempted to swim after him. But after a few hundred yards, he could not find his target. He got out of the water and proceeded to patrol along the south bank back as far as his team. Still he made no contact. He quickly reported the situation to Anderson.

Anderson immediately called Clark and ordered him to the south shore. He then directed Norris to begin patrolling to the east. Additionally, he requested a situation update from Norris. Norris did not feel like explaining the situation. So he acknowledged Anderson's directive, turned off his radio, and moved out with his team. He got back in the water while the commandos searched the shore. As dawn approached, Norris rounded a bend and noticed movement near a sunken sampan. He knew that it was Clark and called him by name.

Clark did not realize who Norris was. Instinctively, he moved for cover. Norris tells the story:

"He had no idea who I was. I don't even think that he got a good sight of me, he just heard something and went for cover. So I started talking to him. I took off my hat, put my gun behind me, and started telling him who I was. I gave him ... you know, when a

The A-1 airstrike that covered the escape of Norris, Kiet and Hambleton. They are in a sampan just under the smoke.

pilot goes down he has a series of codes that he leaves, something only he or his family would know. That's how you identify who you are when you come on the radio to show him you are not a bad guy. I used that to talk to him and slowly his head came up from behind the sampan and he realized that I was an American. He stood up and there was relief in his eyes."

Norris rendezvoused with the rest of his team. He notified Anderson that Clark had been recovered. Upon arriving back at the bunker, Clark was given some first aid and food and was then flown by helicopter to Da Nang.

At 1015, the 3rd Division sent the following message:

"1st Lt. MARK N. CLARK, USAF, ... 23d TAC Air SPT SQ ... downed Pilot, was recovered by team on night of 10 Apr."

One Down, Two To Go.

Anderson thought that the mission had gone fairly smoothly. Norris did not tell him how far west they had gone or the number of enemy patrols or tanks that they had observed. He also did not mention that for most of the time he had his radio turned off. Norris, when given a mission, liked to do things his way, with minimal supervisory interference. When queried about some missed radio calls, he just said that he was having some problems with his radio.



courtesy Col. Harold Ickle

Because of the intensity of the ongoing ground battle, Anderson stated that they would proceed to the northwestern-most friendly position along the Mieu Giang River, set up an observation position, and wait for Bat 21 Bravo and Nail 38 Bravo to float down to them. Under no circumstances would they move more than 1 kilometer into enemy controlled territory.

Until that moment, Lt. Norris had never directly worked with Lt. Col. Anderson, and he only knew two of the Vietnamese. He listened to the briefing very carefully and chafed at the concept. It was obvious to him that Anderson was not familiar with small team water operations. To Norris, his plan was much too restrictive. He liked to work independently. The SEALs were accustomed to being given a mission and maximum reign to do it. Afterward, Lt. Tho cornered him and asked him what he thought of the plan. Norris told him not to worry, that once they got out on their own, they would do what they needed to do to accomplish the mission

began moving to the river. Movement had to be very precise because Anderson had planned both air strikes and artillery to disrupt enemy forces in the area. Norris pondered the plan and then decided that they would go beyond the 1-kilometer restriction that Anderson had given them.

Norris and his team had to skirt numerous NVA patrols and positions as the moved generally parallel to the river. The team had to move slowly and carefully, because they could not afford to give up the element of surprise.

They traveled about 2 kilometers before they finally set up an observation point on the river and began to wait for Nail 38 Bravo.

As directed by the FAC overhead, Clark had gotten into the water and begun his journey. Sometime between 0200 and 0300, Norris heard and then saw Clark floating down with the current. The water was cold and the survivor was breathing hard. At the same time, an NVA patrol passed between

Anderson next turned his attention to the pick-up of Bat 21 Bravo that night. He gave the FACs targets that he wanted struck in preparation. Then NVA artillery began to fall around their position. The troops quickly scrambled for cover, but the attack did take a toll on the friendly force.

Lieutenant Colonel Anderson was hit. Additionally, Lt. Tho was seriously wounded in the arm and many of the Rangers and one other Sea Commando were killed or wounded.

Lieutenant Colonel Andy Anderson was transferred back down to a hospital in Saigon. But he could not keep his mind off of the mission. He knew that Norris was in a tough position. The next day, he climbed out of the window of his room and talked Gen. Marshall into using his T-39 to fly him back to Da Nang. From there, he intended to return to the site of the operation.

His concern was well placed, for Norris was in dire straits. He only had three commandos, none of whom spoke much English. His original survivor had been out nine days now and was very weak. Norris checked with him. He was making progress to the river — but slowly. He was not going to last much longer.

Throughout the rest of the day, Norris and his team prepared to move out that night and snatch Hambleton. After dark, Norris set out with his team of three. But they could not find the survivor and had to withdraw.

The next day, Norris and his team rested. He had some extra supplies brought for his troops and some paddles for a sampan. He had one of the FACs plot Hambleton's progress. The tired and weak navigator had only moved 50 meters from the night before. Hambleton had to come out soon or he was not going to make it. He simply could not move any farther. Norris sensed this, having monitored the conversations between Hambleton and the FACs. He knew that he would have to go to Hambleton. His original orders were to proceed no more than one kilometer beyond the bunker position and wait for the survivor to come to him. He had already gone well beyond that. Norris thought it all over. He weighed the risks against the possibility of success. The stubborn tenacious wrestler from Maryland decided to go for it. There really was no other choice. He talked it all over with Petty Officer Kiet, the ranking South Vietnamese commando. Kiet would accompany him; the other two would remain behind.

After dark, the two of them set out, dressed as Vietnamese fishermen. They threaded their way to a bombed out village on the river. There, they found a sampan which was not damaged. They jumped in and paddled up stream.

Fortunately, it was a dark night. But they had to advance very cautiously because they could hear enemy troops on both banks of the river. At one point, Norris stopped along

the bank for a map check. Not 10 meters away, he spotted two enemy soldiers sitting in a bunker — sound asleep.

Overhead, the FACs monitored their progress. As they moved up river, Norris constantly passed them targets along both banks. Some of these were very significant. Coming around one bend, they were startled by the sound of many tanks starting up their engines. Apparently, they had stumbled into an armor battalion assembly area.

Just beyond the tanks, they encountered a fog bank which gave them added cover.



Navy Lt. Tom Norris (far right) receiving the Medal of Honor from President Gerald Ford in April 1976.

They cautiously continued west until they began to emerge from the fog but realized that they had gone too far. They quickly did a U-turn and proceeded back downstream.

They slowly paddled back down the river and started a sweep of the shore. And then they found the survivor sitting in a clump of bushes. Hambleton, awake but partly delirious, recognized Norris as an American. Norris quickly checked him over for injuries. He had some minor cuts but was otherwise okay.

He could walk but was very weak. Norris considered spending the day there, and traveling the next night. But there was just too much enemy activity. So he and Kiet laid Hambleton in the sampan, covered him with some bamboo, and notified the FAC that they were coming out.

Dire Straits

They had to get him out quickly because dawn was approaching. Norris also told the FAC to have lots of air strikes available just in case.

The team slipped back into the water and headed downstream. A few hundred yards down, they encountered a patrol which began to shout and run after them. Kiet noted that they spoke with a North Vietnamese accent. He also noticed the white stars on their belt buckles. Norris was becoming concerned. Hambleton was beginning to babble. An American voice would definitely give them away. Additionally, he could not use his radio because this would also have given away their identity. Fortunately, a bend in the

river and heavy foliage along the bank allowed them to separate from the threat.

A little farther on, a soldier on the north bank opened up on them with a heavy machine gun. There was no way around him. So Norris and Kiet paddled to the south bank, hid the boat in some vegetation and called the FAC for an air strike. Dutifully, he radioed for support.

The response was instantaneous. Garfish, a flight of five A-4s from the U.S.S. *Hancock*, answered the call, and destroyed the guns. Norris was impressed and very thankful. He then gave the FAC all of the enemy positions which he had noticed along the river and told him to unload on them too.

Two U.S. A-1s also contacted the FAC. Under his direction, they devastated what enemy positions remained on the north shore. The last things they dropped were their M47 smoke bombs. This created a curtain which Norris could then use for cover, and as the A-1s were finishing, Norris and his crew got back in the boat and made the last dash back to the friendly outpost.

Upon reaching the bunker, Norris gave Hambleton some quick first-aid and then called for an armored personnel carrier to carry the survivor back to the rear. The arrival of the APC was delayed by another mortar and rocket attack on the position. More airstrikes beat off the fire.

After the enemy fire ended, the personnel carrier arrived and carried Hambleton and Norris and the remnants of his team back to Dong Ha. A waiting helicopter lifted them back to Da Nang. There, Hambleton and Norris were accosted by a CBS news team. The weak and dazed survivor was asked by a reporter about all that had been done to rescue him. His answer was terse, "It was a hell of a price to pay for one life," he said. "I'm very sorry."

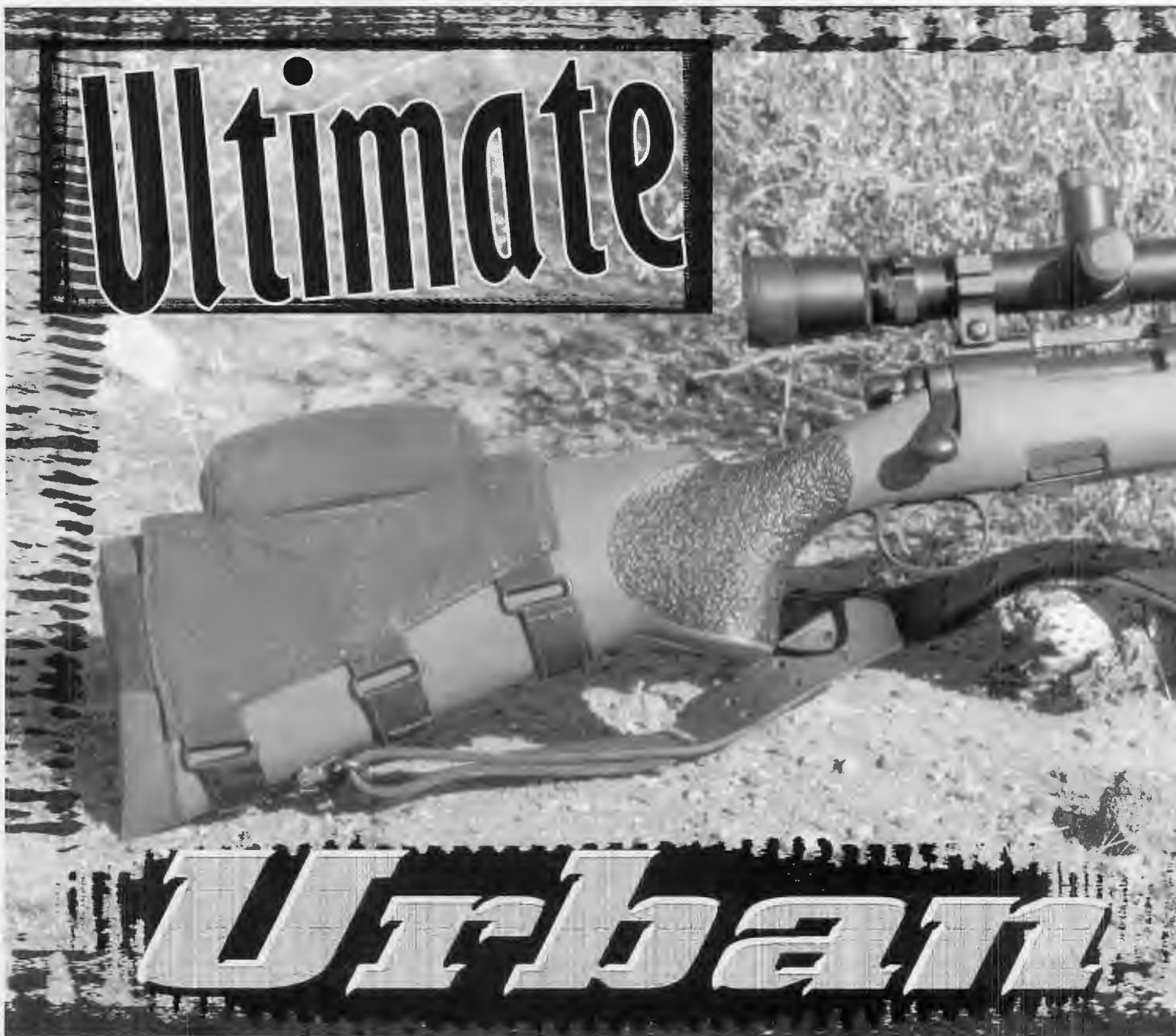
The reporter then turned to Norris and said, "It must have been tough out there. I bet you wouldn't do that again!" The SEAL bristled. Then coldly, he replied, "An American was down in enemy territory. Of course I'd do it again."

Two survivors down, and one to go.

Tom Norris and his team were then driven to Quang Tri. There, they met with officers from the 3rd Division and briefed them on all of the enemy positions which they had observed. While there, they were notified that the third survivor, Covey 282 Alpha, had not been able to move through the enemy units to rendezvous with the team along the river. So Norris and the remnants of his team returned to Da Nang and began the work up an alternative plan to get First Lieutenant Bruce Walker. It would be the toughest part of the rescue.

When Walker could not move south for the pick-up, Norris suggested moving him to the east in segments, under the cover of darkness. Then Norris would go in again

Continued on page 83



DVC's Short and Easy to Use Tactical Rifle

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis

There are tactical environments in which a 1,000-yard, 15-pound sniper weapon system is simply too much gun. In urban settings, law enforcement snipers rarely engage targets beyond 75 yards. And even in the countryside, there will be few occasions when a shot will be taken at a distance beyond 500 yards. With this in mind, a lighter, but equally precise, rifle is sometimes in order. As a consequence, a new term has recently entered the sniper's vocabulary. The so-called "tactical rifle" is supposed to be relatively light, highly accurate and built as a mid-range system.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently provided with a SEU (Short and Easy to Use) Light

Tactical Rifle manufactured by DVC Armaments (Dept. SOF, 3602 42nd Stravenue, Tucson, AZ 85713; phone: 520-748-7167; fax: 520-748-7583; website: <http://www.gggaz.com>) for test and evaluation. Equipped with a Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical Scope and Turner Saddlery Police Tactical sling (see page 43), this rifle weighs 10.5 pounds, empty. The Leupold scope itself weighs 17.5 ounces.

The SEU Light Tactical Rifle has a Remington 700 action which takes four-round, staggered-column, detachable, box-type magazines. The action is highly modified and custom accurizing of the action includes truing the receiver face, surface

grinding the recoil lug, lapping the bolt's locking lugs, truing the bolt face, and lapping the bolt body to the receiver rails. The knurling and serrations on the bolt knob were removed to enhance bolt manipulation. A Shilen trigger was installed and adjusted to a crisp 2.25-pound trigger pull weight.

A caliber .308 Winchester Kreiger chrome moly match-grade barrel was custom-contoured for use on this rifle. DVC Armaments threaded the barrel and cut a match-grade chamber. The barrel has four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches, which is fairly standard for this caliber. The barrel was cut to 20 inches and the muzzle crowned with an 11-degree DVC target-type crown. The barreled action and all other metal parts were given a black Dupont Teflon S finish.

Without doubt, McMillan Fiberglass Stocks, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21421 North 14th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-582-9635; fax: 602-581-3825; website:



<http://www.mcmfamily.com>; e-mail: mfs@indirect.com) manufactures more stocks for military and law enforcement sniper weapon systems than anyone else. Their stocks are the standard by which all others must be judged. A McMillan General Purpose stock was selected for the SEU Light Tactical Rifle principally because it's one of the lightest stocks McMillan makes. This is the same stock which has been used for years by the U.S. Marine Corps on their M40 series sniper rifles. It weighs 2 pounds.

The outer shell of McMillan's General Purpose stock is made by a hand-laminated, pressure-cured process. It is laminated from about 130 pieces of 8-ounce fiberglass cloth, giving a finished shell wall thickness of six to twelve layers. The thickness is greater in high stress areas on the stock and less in other areas to reduce the overall weight. The interior is filled with different fiberglass compounds consisting of engineering-grade epoxy resins, chopped fiberglass strands, micro-balloons and other materials. No polyesters or phenolics (both less expensive than epoxy resins) are used. There are no hollow spaces. All of McMillan's tactical stocks are filled solid. Inletting for the barreled action is done on CNC machinery to tolerances approximating a 0.001-inch. This yields a completed stock which is stable in environmental conditions ranging from -60 degrees F to +240 degrees F and is totally water impervious. DVC Armaments custom textured the pistol grip and forearm of the stock

and then painted it in O.D. green. The black rubber recoil pad was rounded to inhibit snagging. DVC Armaments free-floated the barrel and pillar glass bedded the action as well.

The objective lenses of modern sniper scopes continue to get larger. Mostly in an effort to provide the operator with extended viewing times at dusk and dawn. However, this means the scope must be raised higher and higher above the barreled action. The inevitable result is an inability to assume a proper cheek weld and still see an image through the scope's ocular. As the McMillan General Purpose stock does not have a Monte Carlo comb or adjustable cheek piece as do both their highly regarded A2 and A3 stocks, I had to resort to another method to properly interface the scope with the stock without substantially increasing the overall weight of the system.

The SACC (Strap-on Ambidextrous Cheek Comb) extension pad provides the operator with the buttstock comb height required to use a scope and still maintain a firm and repeatable cheek weld. Fabricated from nylon cordura and foam and using Velcro-type straps to attach the unit to the buttstock and retain the removable pad, the SACC pad system is available with three pad heights to accommodate different buttstock/scope/operator interfaces. Available colors include olive drab, black, dark brown and Real Tree camouflage. Complete with three heights of pad inserts, the cost is \$45.95. With

New Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical Scope

In the United States, Leupold & Stevens (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075; phone: 503-646-9171; fax: 503-526-1475) have an absolute lock on the military and law enforcement scope market. Justifiably so, as their Mark 4 and law enforcement Tactical scopes exhibit superb milspec performance, complete reliability, and unmatched ruggedness and optical excellence. Four other makers, two of which are Austrian (Kahles and Swarovski Habicht) and two of which are German (Hensoldt and Schmidt & Bender) compete at this level. All are excellent, but none can quite match Leupold's technical prominence in optics designed specifically for military and law enforcement applications.

I chose to install a new Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm variable-power Long Range Tactical scope on the DVC Armaments SEU Light Tactical Rifle. The average engagement range for urban law enforcement Selected Marksmen is only 75 yards. At that distance, the field of view of a 10X scope is far too narrow. When set at 4.5X, the field of view at 100 yards for the Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical Scope is 20.8 feet, more than enough to locate and track an urban target. Shooting at 700 yards and more, 14X will provide substantially more precise target definition than a fixed 10X scope. Leupold's variable-power scopes offer law enforcement personnel a power range to accommodate an extreme spread of target environments. The adjustable objective has been replaced on this new model with a side focus turret on the left side that is much easier to adjust than the previous version.

As with Leupold's Mark 4 scope series, the new Vari-X III 3.5-10x40mm M3 and 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical Scopes also feature 30mm-diameter main tubes which are machined from a solid piece of 6061-T aircraft aluminum. A 30mm tube with one-eighth-inch wall thickness still has almost 30% more cross-sectional area inside the tube than most 1-inch tubes with their thinner walls. Once this additional area is available, the erector tube inside the scope body (which carries all lenses except the ocular and objective lenses) and its lenses can be increased in size to transmit more light and thus yield greater resolution and a brighter image. Furthermore, this heavy 30mm housing is more shock-resistant than any 1-inch tube.

All exterior and interior lenses on this scope are treated with Multicoat 4 anti-reflective coating. This, in addition to a computer-designed optical system, results in edge-to-edge sharpness, precise resolution, minimal distortion and optimum low light visibility. All of Leupold's military and law enforcement scopes are 100% waterproof. In addition, all of the scopes in Leupold's Tactical series are economically priced and you can purchase one for almost half the price of a Mark 4 scope, which is the flagship in Leupold's product line.

It was my initial assumption that scopes with an elevation-adjustment system that is used as a BDC (Bullet Drop Compensator), such as the Mark 4 M3-6X and M3-10X, with replaceable elevation dials calibrated for an assortment of bullet types, would be superior to standard elevation adjustment knobs in the high stress environment of combat. My personal experience has demonstrated this to be an invalid hypothesis for several reasons. First of all, bullet designs are evolving rapidly and Leupold does not provide elevation dials for bullets like the 175-grain moly-coated BTHP (although an unmarked elevation dial is avail-

only one removable insert pad the price is \$33.95. Add \$4.95 for shipping and handling.

The SACC pad system is presently in use with the state police in Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Virginia and under evaluation with the U.S. Army Special Forces, U.S. Navy SEALs, the FBI and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's security units. For further information, and to order, contact RJR Enterprises (Dept. SOF, 9 Cedar Drive, Plainview, NY 11803; phone 516-349-7176).

DVC Armaments also installed an aluminum-alloy accessory rail on the McMillan stock to accept a sliding handstop and the superb new Parker-Hale bipod with lightweight aluminum-alloy legs. This is nothing more nor less than a scaled-down version of the excellent Bren LMG MkI bipod. Its adjustable legs permit the command height (the distance from the ground to the center line of the barrel's axis) to be varied from 8.5 to 12 inches. The head can be swiveled and canted approximately 15 degrees in either direction without altering the leg position. The bipod, which has a spring-loaded, heavy-duty catch/release, attaches to a spigot on the front of the handstop.

The Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical scope was attached to our SEU Light Tactical Rifle with light weight, yet rugged, custom-made GG&G titanium rings and base, which were also finished with black Dupont Teflon S. The



Leupold's new Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical scope has both a 30mm diameter main tube and side focusing, in addition to its previous highly regarded features. (right) Both the windage and elevation adjustment knobs have audible and tactile feedback from 1-minute numbered divisions with 1/4-minute click-stops clearly marked between each one-minute division. The ability to make 1/4-minute adjustments is an important attribute.

base has 15 degrees of elevation built into it, so that at long ranges the operator still has elevation "come ups" available on his scope. While this base has Mil Standard 1913 dovetail dimensions, the recoil lug cross slots are designed specifically for use with the Remington 700 action.

Be advised that all of the threaded screws on a match-grade precision rifle are torqued to a specific tension. Both the scope mount base and scope ring cap screws are torqued to 35 inch pounds on the SEU Light Tactical Rifle. The scope ring base screws are torqued to 65 inch pounds and the action (or trigger guard) screws are tightened to 85 inch pounds. Loose action screws can degrade a rifle's accuracy potential by a significant amount. However, tighter is not always better. For action screws the range is usually between 55 to 85 inch pounds. If you need to re-tighten the action screws, you should always tighten the front one first.

Accuracy with a precision rifle involves four variables: the rifle, the scope, the ammunition and the shooter. Compromise on any of the first three and the shooter's skill and experience will go for naught.

I use moly-coated bullets now with all of my sniper weapon

Continued on opposite page

systems. Moly-coated bullets dominate precision high power rifle competition, and are just beginning to make a significant impact in the law enforcement arena. All of my moly-coated ammunition is provided by Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709-3090; phone: 605-348-5150; fax: 605-348-9827 — call for information about purchasing direct at retail if there is no Black Hills distributor near you). Why? Because after extensive testing I have found it to be the most consistent and accurate available. I generally use the heavier 175-grain BTHP (boat-tail hollow-point) moly-coated projectile because of its flatter trajectory at long ranges. This bullet has become the really hot ticket among the high-power rifle crowd.

This process involves impact plating bullets with molybdenum disulphide and a protective coating of wax. Moly-coating



DVC Armaments custom-textured the pistol grip and forearm of the McMillan General Purpose stock.

able for self-calibration). Furthermore, Leupold's Mark 4 M3 scopes have 1/2-minute adjustment increments. In my opinion, this is too coarse for really long range shooting. Remember, 1 MOA is the equivalent of 10 inches at 1,000 yards.

The Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical scope has both windage and elevation adjustment knobs that feature audible and tactile feedback from one-minute numbered divisions with 1/4-minute click-stops clearly marked between each one-minute division. The ability to make 1/4-minute adjustments is an important attribute. Total elevation travel on this scope is 63 minutes and each complete revolution raises or lowers the point of impact by 15 minutes. The elevation knob also has a horizontal scale that is used to keep track of the number of revolutions that the dial has been turned. In addition, there is a built-in anti-backlash system that guarantees repeatable accuracy from click to click, and back again. Most snipers use an elevation adjustment system such as this by zeroing the rifle and scope at specific ranges and writing the elevation adjustment settings on a range card attached to the rifle's buttstock. The setting to which the elevation adjustment knob must be rotated for a specific distance is usually referred to as a "come up" by those who move in this elite loop. The windage-adjustment knob provides approximately 30 minutes of lateral adjustment to both the left and right for a total of 63 minutes.

My Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical Scope is equipped with a mil-dot reticle pattern. Mil-dots were developed by the USMC in the late 1970s to assist Marine Corps snipers in estimating distances. It is now the standard reticle pattern with all branches of the U.S. armed forces. The term "mil-dot" comes from "mil" — a unit of angular measurement used in artillery and machine gunnery and equal to 1/6400 of a complete revolution — and the fact that the dots are spaced in 1-mil increments on the crosshairs. It should be made clear that the dots themselves are not measured in mil increments, but rather in increments of MOA. Premier Reticles (who make these reticles for Leupold & Stevens) uses wire (or "mechanical") crosshairs onto which the dots are applied wet. Because of this, the dots cannot be made circular and are thus oval-shaped (with the long axis oriented in the vertical position on the vertical crosshair and in the horizontal position on the horizontal crosshair). In this particular instance, the dots are actually a 1/4 mil in length (slightly longer than 3/4 MOA). In any event, the distance between the dots is 3/4 mil and the center-to-center distance between them is exactly 1 mil as is the distance from the top (or bottom) of one dot to the top (or bottom) of the dot above or below (or to the right or left). There are also four thick posts at the edges of the field of view. It is important to note that the mil-dot reticle was calibrated to be used at one magnification only. With the new Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical Scope you must use the scope at 14X for accurate results with the mil-dot reticle.

The formula for using the mil-dot system is:

$$\text{(Height or width of target (in yards) X 1,000) / Height or width of target (in mils) = Distance (in yards)}$$

(See the "Mastering the Mil-dot" sidebar for an explanation of an analog calculator that simplifies use of the mil-dot system.)

All of my Leupold scopes are equipped with Butler Creek (Michael's of Oregon Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1690, 1710 Red Soils Court, Oregon City, OR 97045; phone 503-557-0536, ext. 160; fax: 503-655-7546) lens caps. They are the best available. For tactical rifles avoid the see-through types. Butler Creek also has a glint screen system built into a front lens cap that I have installed on the Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14X50mm Tactical scope. The KillFlash system used by Butler Creek is a honeycomb glint-suppressing screen with a highly specialized coating that eliminates the reflection from the surfaces of lenses. The loss of light transmission is only 15%.

On the battlefield, glint kills. Moshe Dayan, the famous Israeli general, lost his eye from the bullet of a sniper who caught the glare of his binoculars. During World War II in the Battle of Stalingrad, Russia's top sniper, Vasili Zaitsev, won his famous three-day duel with Germany's ace, Major Zossen, by looking for, and targeting, the reflection from the German's scope.

— P.G.K.

Mastering The Mil-dot

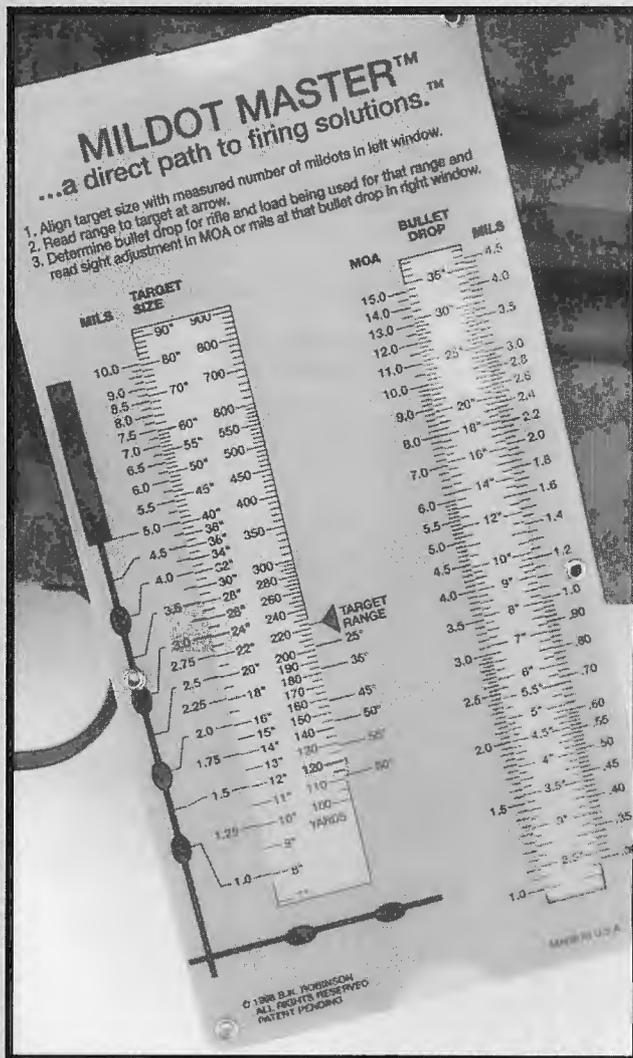
Mil-dot reticle patterns are becoming more and more popular. While the formula for accurately estimating range using the mil-dot system is fairly straightforward (size of the target in yards multiplied by 1,000, divided by the size of the target in mils, equals the range in yards), few can make these calculations in their head under stress. Most often the size of the target is estimated in inches. This further complicates the calculation, as this measurement must then be converted to yards. Some use an electronic calculator for this purpose. In my experience batteries always fail when they are needed most.

For those who have either a BDC-type scope or who have developed "come ups" for their rifle and ammunition combination and use a scope with elevation and windage adjustment knobs calibrated in 1/2- to 1/4-minute increments, an accurate estimation of the distance to the target is sufficient information to insure a hit. For others, the amount of bullet drop or wind drift applicable for the determined range must be applied to the sight picture. Either the sighting point must be "held over" or the scope's elevation knob adjusted.

The Mildot Master is an analog calculator in the form of a slide rule using logarithmic and inverse logarithmic scales designed to determine ranges easily and quickly with mil-dot reticles. It also permits rapid calculation of the compensation required for bullet drop and/or wind drift for a given range in the form of either the MOA elevation adjustment or the "hold over" in mils required. As an added benefit, the Mildot Master also provides for accurate measurement of the angle of fire for uphill or downhill shots (up to 60 degrees above or below the horizontal). The Mildot Master has a working range of 1 to 20 mils for the measurement of target size at distances up to 2,000 yards. Its scale permits the measurement of target size in 1/10th mil increments.

It really works and the Mildot Master has become an essential and permanent component of my sniper weapon systems. Manufactured by Mildot Enterprises (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1535, Los Lunas, NM 87031; phone: 505-565-0760; fax: 505-565-0772; e-mail: bnrobin@flash.net), the Mildot Master costs only \$29.95, including shipping (U.S. \$40 for foreign orders).

—P.G.K.



The Mildot Master is an analog calculator in a slide-rule format that is designed to determine ranges easily and quickly with mil-dot reticles.

Sometimes criticized by those without credentials who write for the popular gun press, the Remington M700 action is the basis for the vast majority of custom sniper rifle systems built in this country. It remains far and away the choice of armed professionals who ply their trade behind the ocular of a long range tactical scope.

There is obviously a reason for this. It was introduced in 1962 and is almost identical to the Model 721/722 actions it replaced. The receiver is machined from round bar stock and has the same dimensions its entire length. The right side of the bridge extends past the magazine well to prevent the bolt from binding. The bolt body is machined from a steel cylinder. The bolt head, with two solid locking lugs, is brazed onto the bolt body. The low-profile bolt handle has also been brazed to the bolt body at the rear. This is one of the safest actions ever designed as the bolt extends about 0.150-inch ahead of the locking lugs and the barrel's breech face is recessed to receive the bolt with minimum clearance around its circumference. Furthermore, the bolt head's face is recessed for the case head.

The extractor, often criticized yet rarely failing, is a thin C-type flat spring which has a lip pressed into its inside curve. It interfaces with a shallow groove in the inside of the rim forming the bolt face recess. The ejector, which is a spring-loaded plunger in a hole along the perimeter of the bolt face recess, is retained by a cross pin. The

ejector prevents the extractor from rotating in its recess. The one-piece firing pin is spring-loaded and attached at its head to the bolt sleeve by a cross-pin. The bolt sleeve threads into the rear of the bolt body. Lock time is very fast, since the firing pin's total length of travel is no more than 0.300-inch. A flat steel stamping under the left

The Remington M700 Action

locking lug raceway serves as the bolt stop. Pushing the bolt-stop release (a bent spring-steel metal strip sliding on the trigger and safety pivot pins) up pivots the bolt stop down so the bolt can be removed from the action.

The trigger and safety group is attached to the underside of the receiver by the bolt-stop and sear pins. The sear, a thin piece of hardened steel located in the top right side of the trigger housing and in the trigger housing opening in the receiver, pivots on the sear pin in front of the housing and is tensioned by a small coil spring. The trigger also pivots on an axis pin. When pulled, it releases the trigger connector. The trigger over-travel screw contacts the trigger connector. The weight of pull adjustment screw is just below this screw. A third screw adjusts trigger-sear engagement.

A bent steel stamping on the right side serves as the safety lever. When the action is cocked, the safety can be pulled all the way back and both the firing pin and bolt are locked. To fire the rifle push the safety all the way forward.

—P.G.K.

produces a protective surface in the barrel with a number of important benefits. Moly-coated bullets will reduce both chamber pressure and muzzle velocity because of the reduction in the coefficient of friction. Increasing the propellant charge weight will bring the muzzle velocity back up. When fired at identical velocities, moly-coated bullets will provide flatter trajectories at long range than un-treated bullets. Accuracy is also significantly enhanced. Many shooters are reporting an improvement of 10-20% with match-grade projectiles. This is partially a consequence of the improved uniformity of muzzle velocity. The standard deviation is normally reduced by about 15%. Especially important is the incredible almost twofold increase in barrel life. Barrels that will normally maintain match-grade accuracy up to 3,000 to 3,500 rounds will last at least 6,000 rounds when moly-coated bullets are fired through them exclusively.

With the proper scope and ammunition the SEU Light Tactical Rifle is capable of 0.5 MOA accuracy any time you're up to it. At the present time, 0.5 MOA capability is the standard by which all modern sniper weapon systems are judged. I have fired numerous 0.5 MOA groups with this rifle at ranges up to 500 yards. It doesn't get any better than this, on a consistent basis.

Quality at this level is never inexpensive. The price of the SEU Light Tactical Rifle varies according to the scope, stock and other options selected. ✕

SEU Light Tactical Rifle SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: 7.62x51mm NATO (.308 Winchester).

Operation: Bolt-action. Two-lug bolt. Two-position safety on the right side of the bolt sleeve.

Weight, empty: 10.5 pounds with scope and sling.

Length, overall: 41 inches.

Barrel: Kreiger chrome moly match-grade; custom contoured; with 11-degree DVC target crown. Four grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches.

Barrel length: 20 inches.

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

Optical sight: Leupold Vari-X III 4.5-14x50mm Long Range Tactical scope with mil-dot reticle pattern.

Furniture: McMillan fiberglass General Purpose stock

Finish: Barrel, receiver and all metal components: black Dupont Teflon S.

Manufacturer: DVC Armaments, Dept. SOF, 3602 42nd Stravenue, Tucson, AZ 85713; phone: 520-748-7167; fax: 520-748-7583; web site: <http://www.gggaz.com>

Scope: Leupold & Stevens, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075; phone: 503-646-9171; fax: 503-526-1475

Scope caps/glint screen: Butler Creek — Michael's of Oregon Co., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1690, 1710 Red Soils Court, Oregon City, OR 97045; phone 503-557-0536, ext. 160; fax: 503-655-7546.

Sling: Turner Saddlery, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 120, Clay, AL 35048-0120; phone: 205-680-9377.

Tri-Lax treatment: Cryo-Accurizing, Dept. SOF, 2101 East Olive, Decatur, IL 62526; phone: 217-423-3070; fax: 217-423-3075.

Mil-dot slide rule: Mildot Enterprises, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1535, Los Lunas, NM 87031; phone: 505-565-0760; fax: 505-565-0772; e-mail: bnrobin@flash.net

T&E summary: Relatively light, highly accurate, mid-range sniper weapon system capable of 0.5 MOA accuracy out to 500 yards and beyond.

Deep Freezing For Accuracy

While to hunters only accurate rifles may be of interest, to snipers they are one of the essential factors in the survival and success equation. Precision marksmen will utilize any technique or process that provides them with an advantage, no matter how slight, over their usually lethal opponents. In an attempt to wring the final nib in accuracy potential out of the DVC Armaments Tactical Rifle, we subjected the barreled action and bolt to a relatively new process called Tri-Lax. The accuracy potential of a rifle barrel is dependent, along with other factors, upon the concept of residual stress. These stresses are present in any piece of cast or forged steel and more are introduced when a barrel is machined, bored, formed and heat treated. As these stresses are uneven, when a barrel is heated or cooled it will warp off the bore's axis. This phenomenon, called "warping an arc," can significantly increase the group dispersion down range.

The Tri-Lax system relieves barrel stresses by means of three processes derived from advanced aerospace, nuclear and metallurgical technologies. Through dry cryogenic tempering, the barrel is brought to an equal temperature — both surface and core — and then cycled through a wide range of temperatures. If the rate of temperature change is maintained at a slow enough pace, thermal compression and expansion occur evenly from the core to the surface and internal stresses are released, resulting in a homogeneously stabilized barrel. The procedure by which this is accomplished takes more than several days as the barrel is taken by precise computer control to -310 degrees F, held for up to 60 hours, then raised to +310 degrees F and slowly brought back to room temperature. Secondly, sonic high-amplitude stress relief establishes specific molecular vibrations to assist in the breaking of predetermined molecular bonds. And, finally, electromagnetic pulse-modified RF manipulation enables alignment of the pre-selected molecular structures. The Tri-Lax system is surprisingly not expensive (only \$49.50 per barrel and \$10 each for the receiver and bolt plus \$9 for shipping and handling).

Barrels subjected to these processes develop a more uniform, refined micro structure with far greater density, as a consequence of carbide fillers precipitated during the processes. These carbides fill interstices in the steel, leaving a much denser, more coherent structure with far greater wear resistance. Thus, in addition to increasing accuracy, the Tri-Lax system can provide barrels with an exceptional increase in durability, with barrel life extended by as much as 300%.

We had this work done by Cryo-Accurizing (Dept. SOF, 2101 East Olive, Decatur, IL 62526; phone: 217-423-3070; fax: 217-423-3075), which offers a 5- to 7-day turnaround. Several years ago I demonstrated to my own satisfaction that deep cryogenic stress relief itself can shrink groups by as much as 0.2 to 0.3 MOA. At longer ranges that's the difference between a successful head shot in the brain cavity and a complete miss. Tri-Lax barrel stress relief will significantly improve the accuracy of an already accurate rifle.

—P.G.K.

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Taliban Turnaround, Pt. 2

Continued from page 63

A few days after that, Masood cut the road linking Kunduz and Baghlan cities, and his spokesman declared the siege of Kunduz was getting tighter. "We are not in a hurry. We will capture Kunduz sooner or later, by force or peacefully," he declared optimistically. The small town of Khanabad on the Kunduz-Taloqan highway, which had also fallen to the Taliban, was recaptured by Masood's men, who then put Kunduz airport under rocket bombardment in an attempt to inhibit night flights by Taliban helicopters ferrying in fresh manpower from Kabul. Interestingly, Masood's commander on the airport front was Basir Salangi, who had sold out to the Taliban in May. Minor territorial gains were also claimed close to Baghlan, where Hezb-i-Islami commander Bashir was fighting on side with the Taliban. Sher Khan Bandar, the Afghan port on the Amu Darya River on the highway north of Kunduz, was under the control of Malik's Uzbeks (and loyal Uzbek mujahideen locals), who had also massed to the west of Kunduz, blocking a small mountain pass and a desert road that lead directly to Mazar-i-Sharif.

Fourth Quarter Rally

Once again, in contemptuous defiance of their foes, they lashed out with a daring offensive at the start of July and struck east against Masood, smashed through his lines and crossed the border into Takhar province and advanced halfway down the road to Taloqan before being stopped and pushed back into Kunduz province. The new front-line eventually came to rest at the Bangi bridge on the actual Kunduz-Takhar provincial border. Masood also claimed the recapture of Khanabad, for the second time. Khanabad was an interesting, if wild, kind of place: The town's biggest industry was the arms bazaar, where you could equally stock up on AK ammo or 82mm mortar bombs.

How did the Taliban gain the initiative and push Masood back so far, so quickly? Treachery, as usual.

Commander Ghulam, of Ittihad-i-Islami, who in mid-June had defected to the Taliban along with Arif Khan, had (after lengthy negotiations) reportedly defected again back to the pro-Rabbani side and taken over a military base just north of Khanabad, near the Takhar border. Then two weeks later, surprise, surprise, he had rejoined his Pushtun brothers in the Taliban, facilitating their push into Takhar province. Also, some Takhari Pushtuns declared for the Taliban, increasing Masood's difficulties, until they were "suppressed," journalists were told.

In the meantime, Malik's Uzbeks and Mir Alam's Tajiks advanced from the Erganank Pass in the west to the district center of Chardarra, right on the doorstep of Kunduz, but failed to break through the Taliban defensive lines.

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For the next two weeks there was a relative stalemate — then the Taliban struck again. By seizing the initiative, the Taliban always seemed to catch their rivals flat-footed. Sure, disharmony among the anti-Taliban alliance was a hindrance to their military efforts, but how could they aspire to run the country when they couldn't even get along with each other? After a pathetic show of resistance, the western front in Chardarra collapsed to a Taliban offensive and the coalition forces of Malik and Masood were even pushed off the strategic Erganank Pass for a time (which controls access to the desert road passing through Samangan province to Mazar-i-Sharif), until this was reclaimed in a counter-attack.

Then, as Masood tried unsuccessfully to break through the Taliban lines west of Kunduz and the United Nations special peace envoy grumbled about the belligerence of the Afghan factions, the religious militia struck again, this time to the north, which brought them right up to the banks of the Amu Darya River and the frontier with the former Soviet Union, now independent Tajikistan. White flags went up in Sher Khan Bandar and reportedly in nearby Imam Sahib town too.

This startling new advance was made with the defection of the local commander, an Uzbek curiously enough, named Amir Latif, who used to belong to Hezb-i-Islami. During the jihad, Latif smuggled hundreds of copies of the Holy Koran — printed in Pakistan and translated into Cyrillic — across the Amu Darya into the former USSR.

The loss of Sher Khan Bandar was a tactical blow to Masood (as he used to ferry supplies of fuel and food across the Amu Darya from Tajikistan), a worry for Russia, and for the newly independent Central Asian republics anxious about the possible spread of Taliban-style fundamentalist Islam into their more secular-oriented states.

But the Taliban were there to stay. That was the situation toward the end of June 1998, and there was no real change in the frontlines after that. Masood had failed to dislodge the Taliban, who in two months had completely turned the tables on the opposition alliance. In grabbing and holding Kunduz, the Taliban had capitalized on the ethnic factor. It is doubtful they would have succeeded without the large resident Pushtun population to support them, a successful collusion which by corollary underscored a basic weakness in the anti-Taliban alliance. Moreover, the Kunduz success was bound to stimulate a lot more support from northern Pushtuns, even if motivated more by the practical benefits of ethnic hegemony than by the spiritual salvation of pure Sharia.

The religious movement was on a roll.

Jake Border is a freelance journalist based in Indonesia. See Part 3, in an upcoming issue of SOF, for the Taliban's second attempt to grab control of Mazar-i-Sharif, when several months later they used Kunduz as a springboard to launch their attack. ✂

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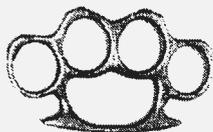
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Pride, Prejudice & Pathos

Continued from page 37

assignments to clear the Prestina-Pec highway. It was widely reported in Serbia.

In the Belgrade daily *Dnevni Telegraph*, journalist Aleksandar Tijanac wrote about the funeral of a young soldier killed in Kosovo. I was given his article in Belgrade on my way to Kosovo. Tijanac reflected the growing despair of many thoughtful Serbians about the state of their nation and the bloody conflict in Kosovo.

"Soldier Dusan Tasic, 20 years old, was killed on May 29th at the border outpost of Morina in Kosovo. We stand beside his coffin, eight million of us Serbs, created in the laboratory of our own apathy toward the supreme authorities. Young boys lying in the dark trenches, clenching their hand grenades, waiting for an attack from who knows where, listening to sounds of distant shooting and hoping it would not come near this time. They are not thinking about sacred Serbian land or negotiations with Rugova (the Albanian leader) or the unity of Serbia. It is only to them, who are inside the gloom of Kosovo, to whom our life looks so good, so precious, so worthwhile. Do these boys maybe have the right to know why they are supposed to die? Or to kill? On the day of his funeral 100 policemen were fired because they did not agree to spend 40 days in Kosovo. Are professional policemen deserting? They are absolutely right if they think it's easier to beat students in Belgrade than to chase Albanians in Drenica. Is it not a shame for the regime to employ people who do not want to sacrifice themselves to the myth part of Serbia. Is it the Serbian experience of dying for nothing several times in this decade?"

"After they died, politicians did what they could have done before they died ... they reached an agreement. Each of these policemen sees his possible death as unnecessary in the foreplay which is supposed to lead to the peaceful mutation of Kosovo into an autonomous province."

Like King Lazar, Milosevic is finding it hard to recruit mothers' sons to die in Kosovo.

Serbs are beginning to understand that Milosevic has brought nothing but disaster to the nation. He was responsible for the Serbs being driven out of Croatia, and the humiliation and rout of Serbs in Bosnia. He destroyed the economy of Yugoslavia and has now caused the exodus of Serbs from Kosovo. Serbs who still cherish the old myths hope that some day soon, like it did for King Lazar, the gray falcon will come for Milosevic.

It will not promise him a heavenly kingdom.

Video and print journalist Don North has been covering the war in the former Yugoslavia since 1993. ☛

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Behind Enemy Lines

Continued from page 73

along one of the streams or over the coast to recover the pilot. That plan was passed to the young pilot. But Bruce Walker had his own plans. Instead of following the guidance given by the rescue forces, he decided to move on his own. During the night on 18 April, he moved well beyond where he was supposed to go and was discovered by local Viet Cong troops. They chased him into the morning hours until they trapped him in a field and shot him dead as frantic FACs and fighters tried to help him from above.

The SARs of April were over. Lieutenant Norris returned to his duties at STDAT 158. But he would participate in a few more missions. One would almost cost him his life. On 31 October, he was a member of a small team which infiltrated behind enemy lines to capture prisoners and gather intelligence. They were supposed to be inserted near the old naval base at the mouth of the Cua Viet River, not far from where he had made the two daring rescues. Instead, they were put ashore 8 kilometers north, near an enemy base camp. They were detected and a gun battle ensued. Norris was grievously wounded in the head. His assistant, Engineman Second Class Michael Thornton, helped him swim for over two hours back to their recovery boat. For his actions, Thornton was awarded the Medal of Honor. Because of the wounds, Norris was medically retired from the Navy.

But in early April 1976 he had occasion to put his uniform back on.

Seems that the President of the United States wanted him to visit the White House for a little ceremony. Tom was also to receive the Medal of Honor for his rescue of Hambleton and Clark. Tom thought it over and decided to show up. As part of the deal, he was told that he could bring four guests to the ceremony. Tom planned accordingly. But just a few days before the big day, a White House aide called him and said that he could only bring three. Tom said that that was impossible, he had made his plans. The aide explained that this was a ceremony involving the president, and some changes had to be made. Tom said that changes were fine, but he was bringing his four guests. The aide insisted, but he did not realize with whom he was dealing. Tom replied that if he could not bring his four guests, he wasn't coming! The aide was flabbergasted. But he had run square into Norris' stubborn streak. When Tom made a decision, he didn't back down from anybody, not the North Vietnamese Army, not the White House.

Reason prevailed, he had four guests at the ceremony.

Darrel D. Whitcomb is the author of the acclaimed book, *The Rescue Of Bat 21*, (Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Md., 1998), from which this article is excerpted. ✕

I Was There

Continued from page 17

continued swarming over the hill. Cobra gunships roamed the skies firing rockets and miniguns into the remaining enemy positions. The battle was ending. We had won. The final assault had lasted nearly six hours.

All shooting had ceased by mid-afternoon but the area remained a flurry of activity.

Misplaced GIs crisscrossed the summit trying to locate their units. Cobra gunships still remained on station to prevent an NVA counter-attack. As the regrouping continued, I helped the walking wounded down the hill for medevacs.

As we headed down, I took a long look at the mountain. I estimated the main battlefield covered almost half a square mile, more if the draws and ridges were included. The easiest route down was through the area where the 3/187th were first hit 10 days earlier. There was no trail to follow, just a desolate ridge lined with a dozen body bags, each containing the remains of a slain GI. The dead NVA, and pieces of them, were scattered on either side of the ridge. They were uncovered and some had begun decomposing. The stench of decaying flesh, the shriveled NVA corpses, the silent body bags, and the massive destruction would be my lasting memory of that hill.

When I returned to the top, so much brass were stumbling around it looked like the Pentagon had opened a branch office. There was also a square cardboard sign pinned with a bayonet to a blackened tree trunk reading, "HAMBURGER HILL." A weary soldier trudged over and attached a note to the bottom that read, "Was it worth it?" I stood staring at the sign, contemplating the question, when an officer tore the note off.

The next morning, our company was extracted off the hill. As each chopper rose above the disfigured mountain, the survivors glanced down to a nightmare that had come to life. A Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism was awarded to 21 units that took part in the battle. The units included infantry, medical, artillery, and aviation. The entire operation claimed 60 American lives and 480 wounded. Another 25 were missing and presumed dead. My company lost one man killed and eight wounded. The 29th NVA Regiment lost an estimated 600 killed. Though we didn't know it at the time, Hill 937 was not regarded as a piece of real estate worth keeping and, within a few days, it was deserted by American troops.

Ironically, one month after the battle, NVA forces were reported moving back — onto Hamburger Hill.

[Ed. note: This article was adapted from Mr. Wiknik's forthcoming book.]

Arthur Wiknik's articles have appeared in *Grit*, *Heading Out*, *Rural New England* and *North American Whitetail* magazines. ✕

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Manchurian Presidency

Continued from page 69

"In reality, most of Trie's money came from his Asian business partner, Ng Lap Seng, a hotel tycoon in Macau with reputed links to organized crime who advises the Chinese government," said the Senate report. "Ng transferred approximately \$1.4 million to Trie from 1994 to 1996, with many of these transfers arriving through the Bank of China."

Year of the Rat documents Ng's arrival in the United States from Macau, clearing U.S. Customs with \$175,000 in cash, on 20 June 1994. The same day, a prison-bound Webster Hubbell, recently resigned as associate attorney general — one of the main decision-makers on Waco — was meeting with a former law partner from Arkansas named Hillary Clinton.

Hubbell was nearly broke, with staggering legal bills, and the pressure was on to cooperate with Independent Counsel Ken Starr. The *Rat* book, written by two men who personally investigated the subject-matter for congress, essentially accuses Ng of being a bag man in a conspiracy among the White House, the DNC and James Riady to pay for Hubbell's continued silence.

Hush, Plush Money

The day after Ng's arrival in the U.S., Riady and John Huang visit Mark Middleton, a "special assistant" to Clinton. A day later, on 22 June, Ng and Trie have lunch with Middleton at the White House. Riady and Huang drop by later that afternoon. Trie and Ng sit with Clinton that night at a fund raiser at the Washington Hilton.

On Thursday, 23 June, Riady meets with Hubbell for breakfast, then again for lunch. Riady and Huang make three visits to the White House that day, and twice on Friday. On Saturday, they are videotaped as visitors in the Oval Office while Clinton delivers his weekly radio address. Seen in the video both before and after the presidential talk, Riady's change of clothing raised a question as to whether he had spent the night in the White House.

On Monday, 27 June, the Lippo-controlled Hong Kong Chinese Bank wired from a Riady company account \$100,000 to Webster Hubbell.

"Hubbell has refused to tell federal investigators what services he rendered for the Riadys," the book said. "On the same day, Huang received a memo from the Lippo Group in Jakarta congratulating him on his new position at the Commerce Department and telling him that his sever-

ance package would be \$468,125 ..."

Hubbell, Huang and Trie are among 35 people subpoenaed who declined to answer questions based on their Fifth Amendment right. Among that number was Mark Middleton, the only former White House aide to admit that his testimony might be self-incriminating. Riady and Ng are among a couple of dozen potential witnesses who fled the country rather than visit the grand jury. Trie took off for his apartment in Beijing, but returned several months later and faces trial for obstructing a congressional investigation.

Many questions remain about China's alleged espionage campaign to subvert the democratic process and thus secretly influence U.S. policy in ways to benefit the PRC. No other administration before Clinton's has bestowed upon Beijing's communist regime such lavish amounts of commerce, technology and diplomatic deference.

Housecleaning In Order

Maybe it's time for Janet Reno to reflect on the moral courage of a predecessor, former Attorney General Elliot Richardson, and resign rather than see the law perverted by cheap political lust. Maybe it's time to step aside, Madame Attorney General, or call your next case. It's time to lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way.

That was pretty much the message of a federal judge, who rebuked Reno and DNC bosses as this issue went to press. U.S. District Court Judge Manuel L. Real sentenced Johnny Chung to five years of probation for funneling money from a Chinese spy into the political coffers of the Democratic Party. Chung *could* have received a 37-year prison term and a \$1.45-million fine.

Judge Real expressed "surprise" that Reno would continue to refuse the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the entire scope of the fundraising and espionage scandal. He singled out former DNC Chairman Don Fowler and former DNC finance director Richard Sullivan, both of whom had frequent meetings with Chung, but portray themselves as unwitting victims.

"If Mr. Fowler and Mr. Sullivan didn't know what was going on, they're two of the dumbest politicians I've ever seen," Real was quoted by the *Los Angeles Times*. "It's very strange that the giver pleads guilty and the givee gets off free."

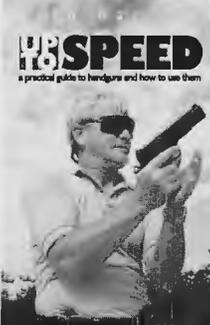
But with Attorney General Reno's apparently slavish loyalty to Clinton, the remaining questions about what has been called the "Manchurian Presidency" may be addressed in another forum — an ultra-secret, specially selected House committee headed by U.S. Rep. Chris Cox, a California Republican.

Maybe Cox's panel can figure out if the transfer of crucial U.S. defense technology to the PRC at the same time Red Chinese campaign dollars flooded into DNC coffers has anything to do with Beijing's most generous benefactor and ardent apologist, William Jefferson Clinton. ✕

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Combat Weaponcraft

Continued from page 31

configurations, the metal ones being best. But everyone quickly decided they were an acquired taste. For me, loose ammo in the pocket worked well as long as no more than three rounds were needed to top off the six-shot cylinder.

The partial reload became a little more complicated when the cylinder was fully loaded, but here a number of old techniques and movements are available. The main detail is to point the muzzle down so you wouldn't dump rounds out of the cylinder, and then bring the ejector back $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch. This will raise the cases in the cylinder, and releasing the ejector rod will allow the loaded and unfired rounds to return while the fired cases should (but not always) stay out.

I found when I indexed the cylinder properly upon opening that it was quick and easy to flick the fired cases out in one motion with one or two fingers, reach for two loose rounds in the side pocket, reload the cylinder, close it and come back on target; all with a smooth easy motion.

The hardest thing for me to soak into my consciousness was learning to dump, literally throw away, good live rounds when I elected to use a speedloader after firing four or five rounds in the six-shot cylinder. It's a tough decision but one faced at some point by every revolver shooter. Which is more important: the speed of the reload, or the total number of rounds you will need to win the fight? A partial solution is to simply carry as much ammunition as possible.

A couple of the students worked totally with small-frame five-shot snub-nose revolvers, and here the reload was complicated by the gun's small size. One stalwart student worked exclusively with speed strips — a brave soul — but nonetheless he proved capable of the task. All of these shooters were training with the tools they carried on a daily basis and no one can fault their logic or commitment.

No realist would expect the self-defense world to return to revolvers, but as Smith stated early on, you don't know where you will be when the threat materializes, nor do you know what it will look like, nor do you have any idea what it will take to win the fight. It could be that your only choice of weapon will be a revolver someone else brought to the fight.

To that end our last drill was one where everyone on the line worked round-robin shooting the revolvers of the other students. It was a remarkably clear demonstration of the need to understand and know how to fight with a revolver and a brilliant exercise in demonstrating why certain techniques were taught in the manner they were at Thunder Ranch.

I don't always carry a revolver for licensed concealed carry, but after taking the Thunder Ranch revolver course I don't feel underdressed or intimidated when I do. ❧

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Securing The Peace

Continued from page 51

and prisoner interrogations, numbered just 250 individuals each, while the base force was 750. Nationwide, computer disks captured with Guzman put the principal force at just 816, the local force at 4,674, and the base force at 17,940.

It was not Sendero's raw strength, then, which was impressive. Rather, it was what the organization did that made it a force that by mid-1992 seemed certain to topple the government. Over its first 10 years, 1980-90, it killed some 12,000 people, most through terror (a good bit of it in the most hideous fashion), and caused economic destruction estimated at a figure equivalent to one-third to one-half of the gross national product (GNP).

From the beginning of "people's war" in 1980 until Guzman's capture in 1992, 502 political figures were murdered. By 1989, one-quarter of all local justices of the peace were empty positions; 35% of all mayorships were vacant, as citizens were too frightened to fill them.

In a typical operation, as the November 1989 municipal elections approached, 120 mayoral candidates were struck down. Consequently, more than 400 others resigned in fear. In Ayacucho, 85% of the populace did not vote.

Terror, in other words, had made the country come apart. Special annihilation squads, normally seven individuals led by a woman, had appeared, going after not the top but the base of society — after individuals who stood in the way.

Bearing the brunt of this macabre approach were the peasants, the very folks who finally said, "Enough!" Their counter was to join the militia. They were not supposed to fight, said doctrine, but fight they did if necessary. More commonly, they served as an early warning net and first line of defense until heavier forces could respond.

Tiny Sarhua District, with just 3,113 people — a little more than 1,000 of those in the town of Sarhua itself — is typical. Southeast of Ayacucho city, perhaps seven hours via "highway" and foot path, the district borders Chuschi (to its south), where Sendero's rebellion began.

Certainly there was no military in the area in the early 1980s. Thus, Sarhua was a natural target for the insurgents. Though the Sendero operatives who came reportedly numbered no more than 50, this was a more substantial concentration than anything the campesinos could stand against. Once they were in charge, the Maoists established their own organization, named officials, recruited youth, and generally exercised tight control over all aspects of life.

Eventually, the army came to the area in 1986. There were some disappearances as it endeavored, using local informants to uncover the insurgent infrastructure. Security force misbehavior still turns up on

the colorful tabla, folk paintings on wood, for which Sarhua is renowned.

In this environment, where no force held total sway, villagers tried to get along as best they could. Even during the worst of times, 1983-87, most stayed. By sleeping in caves, they were able to avoid significant damage. Still, several dozen villagers were killed. Only in 1993 was a ronda formed.

Important in this process was the return of roughly 150 families who had fled during the fighting and now wished to hold onto what they had. Indeed, 10% of the entire district population numbered in the ronda when I visited in summer of 1998.

They performed local security duties, a mirror image of sorts to the insurgent organization. They were the government's "base force." Linked by radio to 2d Division, they could call for assistance if such became necessary. Meantime, their daily chore was to watch for anything out of the ordinary.

How this was accomplished was simple — the villagers knew the area and moved about in it. A ronda has no formal organization. That of Sarhua consisted of 16 groups of 10 to 20 men each. Fifteen of the groups were comprised of Catholics, the remaining group of evangelical Protestants. They had but 15 weapons between them, the heaviest being a shotgun.

Led by Amricano Berrocal, a 23-year old who had completed his army national service, the ronda functioned in the fashion of any neighborhood watch in the US. Some men performed guard duty, others went on patrols.

Those days, however, appear to be gone. Deprived of its freedom of movement and unchallenged access, never able to take on an army reaction force summoned if necessary, Sendero has been driven out.

When I arrived, the town was on the last day of its annual Feast of the Virgin. Hence, the populace in general was thoroughly inebriated and just returning from the blessing of the waters at the nearby river. I and several friends had hiked in (and would hike out) via a path which had been completely out of bounds the last time I was in the area. Other travelers passed on the trail, moving to and from the festival. There was no tension.

Ramos, who with several other ronderos had taken no part in the festivities, dutifully rang the church bell to signal the evening muster for the watch. When no one appeared, he looked apologetic and said, "We have had no problems for the past five or six years." The several men who were sober pulled guard duty, and the masses parted on.

Such are the blessings of peace. I spent the night, something that would have been impossible before.

How Peru's imperfect but functioning democracy adjusts will in large part determine the future of the country. For the war against Sendero Luminoso appears to be won. The people who fought in it are just beginning to secure the peace.

Former infantry officer Tom Marks is a senior foreign correspondent for SOF. ✕

computer-generated individuals, who can each be given specific characteristics of behavior by the computer or its operator. The aim of the user is to predict behavior and motivation of crowds, by spotting and understanding the intentions of so-called "ringleaders" who may turn a friendly demonstration into a police-hating mob. Software developer Marcus Warren describes the program as suitable for "anyone involved in conflict operations, rather than outright war."

"There's an unsettling trend among police to view demonstrations as crime scenes," says Blewitt. "Police are beginning to view crowds of demonstrators as enemies of the state, to be controlled, rather than groups of people exercising their constitutional right of demonstration the police should be working to uphold."

Post-Cold War Cops

Ironically, had the Marine who shot Zeke Hernandez been on foreign soil that day, his duties may not have been so different or more logically defined. U.S. military soldiers are bogged down in foreign lands without well-defined goals.

While some legal scholars point to the drug war as the reason American police have adopted military gear and tactics, Prof. Geser says the end of the Cold War is mostly responsible for the blurring of police and military roles in the United States and abroad.

United Nations "peace-keeping" missions, he says, have essentially created a "global police service," and a new type of soldier who is more militaristic than his Cold War counterpart. The whole thing, his research indicates, spills over to influence domestic policing in the United States and other developed countries.

"The end of the Cold War has substituted the single nuclear threat with a multitude of smaller and less predictable international security problems associated with local and regional conflicts all over the world ... On a global scale, it is now understood that the main problem of world peace-keeping is no longer the prevention of wars, but the confinement of many local and regional conflicts going on at the same time ... the conflicts are 'administered' in order to prevent them from escalating."

U.S. military soldiers — traditionally trained to kill common enemies — have been deployed as quasi-police officers on "peacekeeping missions" designed to enforce Western conceptions of government, law and moral order in places including Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Liberia, Angola and Rwanda. No longer is the military soldier's task a simple goal of defending one nation's sovereignty. Today's soldier is a "peace officer," enforcing an elusive definition of morality in places where

no enemy is clearly defined.

Just as Marines may be confused working as police in Texas, so is the modern warrior who's sent to enforce peace.

"Conventional soldiers in combat are rather autonomous to decide when and where to use their guns or other weapons," Geser wrote. "Modern policing soldiers are typically confronted with the much more fundamental problem to decide between the use of force and many other possible courses of action."

Just like traditional American cops.

During the Cold War, conventional soldiers were strongly motivated by feelings of patriotism and a commitment to defend the borders and autonomies of their homelands. In the case of international out-of-area policing missions, such motivation doesn't exist.

During the Cold War era, Geser points out, the doctrine of nuclear response resulted in only a small percentage of military personnel being committed specifically to combat activities. Most others were allocated to a wide variety of technical and administrative military occupations not specific only to military organizations. Thus, the military could make use of personnel bringing occupational skills from the civilian sphere, and military soldiers could use military training in subsequent civilian careers.

By contrast, Geser describes the post-Cold War soldier as a "polyvalent soldier; ideally combining classical combat qualities with capacities for providing protection, humanitarian help and medical treatment with empathy for humans of different cultures ... Like social workers, modern soldiers will rather follow the model of semi-professionals."

When the modern soldier's military career ends, says Geser, he will find his participation in blue helmet missions of little specific value for most civilian careers.

"The spectrum of 'necessary' (or at least 'useful') qualifications is so large that it is likely to be unmatched by any civilian occupation," Geser writes. They will best be qualified to work as cops in modern militarized federal, state, or local police departments.

"A strong professional identity of the 'policing soldiers' may emerge," says Geser, "on the basis of a highly elaborated system of ethical values and rules ... It is evident that global policing missions will function as laboratories where such an encompassing 'global ethic' is worked out and tested."

For the rogue warrior, or would-be mercenary, Geser says, blue helmet U.N. missions offer excellent opportunities for "military entrepreneurs not fitting into the far more institutionalized" traditional military organizations.

Made-for-TV Nightmare

None of the cop/soldier blur is a secret. Rather, it's what a blur is supposed to be — confusing. Night-after-night, American TV audiences are treated to real-life cop shows in which SWAT teams, dressed in camou-

flage or black, break through doors and hold suspects to the floor — with the aid of fully automatic weapons — in order to confiscate cocaine, marijuana or heroine in varying amounts.

In local newspapers and on local TV, police departments show-off new programs in which Navy SEALs train local officers. Police chiefs and sheriffs brag of acquiring helicopters, armored personnel carriers and airplanes from the federal government's post-Cold War military surplus programs.

One World Wide Web site (www.policeguide.com/swat.htm) features links to 50 colorful home pages of local yokel SWAT teams throughout the United States, in Mayberry settings like Ames, Iowa, and Spartanburg, S.C.

"It's all being done out in the open, and many people don't see it as frightening," says defense lawyer Blewitt. "That's because Americans have been conditioned to think it will only affect criminals. They've been convinced society is being destroyed by crime — even though violent crime has steadily decreased in recent years — and these military-style police are our only hope. What they should worry about is an emerging police state that threatens the very fabric of free society."

In the United States, says Zeese, of Common Sense for Drug Policy, police will continue to resemble military special forces units until the war on drugs is stopped.

"We have come a long way, in less than two decades, from prohibition of military involvement (Posse Comitatus Act) to discussions of immunity for fatal shootings," Zeese writes, referring to Cohen's request after the fatal shooting of a Texas teenager.

While Blewitt says Americans should fear for their civil liberties, Prof. Geser suggests it goes deeper than that. International policing in the name of human rights, minority rights, human welfare and ecological protection, he says, will ultimately threaten those very values around the globe.

"Compared to 'classical' international law, which allowed war only in cases of foreign aggressions, such multidimensional value systems are dangerous because they provide limitless opportunities for legitimizing almost any kind of violent action," Geser writes. "Are we no longer aware of the fundamental merits of classical international law, which has painfully evolved out of centuries of fruitless war in order to limit intergovernmental aggression? Don't we recognize that the traditional principle of respecting national sovereignty was particularly apt to preserve the security of small and weaker countries, which nowadays are becoming the preferred targets of international policing missions?"

Who knows? What's certain is this: a policeman is a person in your neighborhood. And he just might be a U.S. Marine or a SEAL-trained, Ninja-clad SWAT member riding in a tank.

Wayne Laugesen is assistant editor of *Soldier Of Fortune*. ☒

The U.S. involvement in the conflict is minimal. Medical and engineer specialists from the 426th Civil Affairs Battalion (Foreign Internal Defense/Unconventional Warfare) recently conducted humanitarian training missions in Papua New Guinea. U.S. Army medic, Sergeant Marcus Surjopolos, taught a combat lifesaving course to PNG infantrymen as part of round-robin training by an active duty Special Forces "A-team." Surjopolos told *Army Reserve* magazine, "The PNG soldiers have a real-world mission and are serious learners." Not surprisingly as several of his students had already pulled two or three combat tours in the Bougainville jungle.

The real players in this war are the Australians. During the early stages of the PNGDF's counter-insurgency Australia provided covert support against the rebels. The Australian attorney general was even asked to change the Crimes Act (Foreign Incursions and Recruitment) to allow PNG recruitment of pilots for Australian-supplied helicopters supporting PNGDF operations on Bougainville. Also involved were Australian SAS instructors training a platoon of troops in reconnaissance and patrolling techniques, a tactical communications package, and discounts of 50% on an AUS \$1.8 million arms and ammunition deal. Australians have been involved in training PNG special police commando units. Price Waterhouse, an Australian firm, fielded as many as 40 advisors in PNG to administer an Australian government program "to improve operational capabilities and efficiency of the police." This includes training in weapons, tactics, small unit and helicopter operations. From a traditional police role the PNG police units trained by Price-Waterhouse advisors transitioned into SWAT type units: Rapid Response Squads (RRS), Police Mobile Squads (PMS), and Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). Known as "blackshirts," because they wear black combat uniforms (the RRS supposedly comprises the elite), they are armed with M16s, L1A1 SLRs (FN-FALs), GPMG M60s, .12 gauge pump shotguns, H&K MP5 submachine guns, and even old .303 Enfields. The RRS promptly adopted a "combat swagger" after seeing action on Bougainville.

Most of the advisors are Australian police but a Vietnam veteran and current serving member of the Australian Defence Forces, known as Captain "Tex" Howarth, was also involved. Howarth provided helicopter-operations training to the unit prior to a village raid on Bougainville. Howarth, who accompanied the raid carrying an H&K MP5 submachine gun despite Price-Waterhouse assertions to the contrary, reportedly told observers, "They'll never know what fucking hit them." Another advisor, Danny Elliot, was involved in a shootout in Papua New Guinea when he blew

away a *raskol* gang leader with an AR-15.

When Australian Defence Forces headquarters supported a May 1989 PNG plan to ferry troops to Bougainville via an RAAF C-130 aircraft, civilian officials were forced to shoot down the request. In 1990 two Bell Iroquois UH-1H (Huey) helicopters were used as gunships to kill rebels on Bougainville as plantations were burned and PNGDF forces attempted to evacuate plantation workers from the island. The helicopters were from the four supplied by Australia. They were flown by ex-military and Vietnam veteran pilots from Australia and New Zealand employed by Heli Niugini, a privately owned aviation services company. The Australian government had said they were not for use as gunships and had assurances from the PNG Minister of Defence, Paul Tohian, that the choppers would not be used in an offensive role. The helicopters were supplied without door-gun mounts but the PNG aircrews used an old tried-and-true field expedient and simply suspended their Australian supplied M60 machine guns in the open doors with ropes and bungee cords. Brigadier General Rochus Lokinap, the PNGDF commander at the time, claimed that the weapons were merely fastened to the helicopter to keep them from falling off. This was after the aforementioned "Butcher of Bougainville" Colonel Leo Nui (now a Brigadier and current PNGDF commander) admitted the Hueys were used as gunships.

An Australian civilian pilot, John Henson, was wounded when his Huey received groundfire over Bougainville. One of the helicopters was later used in June 1992 to fire on two supply boats heading for Bougainville. The boats were in Solomon Islands waters. Onboard one of the boats was Rosemarie Gillespie, an Australian human rights lawyer and aging hippie left-winger-turned Bougainville-Activist. She later provided Amnesty International with a report documenting PNGDF human rights abuses on Bougainville. One of the helicopters was used again in December 1992 to attack a boat load of 12 refugees, mostly women and children, with M16 and grenade fire. The whole helicopter fiasco caused a furor in Australia, putting Australian government policy in the spotlight.

Despite this controversy, Australia continues to support the PNGDF training and operations. Fifty-five Australian Defence Force personnel currently serve on station in PNG as trainers and advisers and Australia supplies PNG with about AUS \$30 million in defense aid every year in operations and management, military skills training, and assisting in the leadership and discipline of the PNGDF.

New Ceasefire Deal

After the Sandline scandal, Chan was voted out in an upset election in June 1997 and replaced by Prime Minister Bill Skate. In August 1997, Skate agreed to attend the next round of peace talks with the rebels in what was seen by many to be a major break-

through in ending the war. Possibly because some in the PNG government feared a widening of the war with BRA bringing the fight to the mainland and carrying out an assassination and terrorist campaign. It was also felt that renewed offensive actions by the PNGDF would merely force more people to join the BRA.

The talks were held on 1 October 1997 at New Zealand's Burnham Army base, near Christchurch. The talks led to a ceasefire and the introduction a month later of a peace-monitoring group, the International Truce Monitoring Group (easily identified by their yellow arm brassards and yellow floppy hats) made up of 136 New Zealand troops, 92 Australians, and a small contingent from Fiji, Tonga, and Vanuatu. Building on the interim truce signed at Burnham, leaders of all parties involved agreed to implement the irrevocable ceasefire on 30 April 1998. Including a request for the United Nations Security Council to endorse an extended ceasefire monitoring operation, the five-page agreement calls for the signees to renounce violence and settle disagreement through negotiation. Most importantly it calls for the phased withdrawal of PNGDF soldiers from Bougainville subject to the restoration of civilian authority. Most islanders want an end to the fighting, but that doesn't mean they will give up their goal of self-determination.

The agreement is not recognized by all the Bougainville leaders. "General" Sam Kauona, leader of the BRA military wing, has in the past scoffed at negotiations and paraphrased Mao saying, "Politicians are nothing. Power comes from the end of a gun." This is probably because in previous talks the PNG government has always ruled out any discussion of independence, asserting that Bougainville is an integral part of PNG. Kauona has also threatened to execute PNGDF POWs if the army doesn't capitulate and leave.

The ceasefire rules out sovereignty. Reclusive Francis Ona refused to attend the Burnham Truce talks and remains opposed to anything short of outright unilateral independence for Bougainville. Ona reportedly issued a "shoot-to-kill" order on the peacekeepers in May 1998. Some BRA leaders then disavowed Francis as the symbolic head of the movement. While "representatives" of the BRA may have cut their own dirty deals with Port Moresby, the people follow Ona's lead. If Ona and the BRA won't support the ceasefire then it's nothing more than a peace of paper and this ugly little insurgency could drag on. Another problem is that the BRA will lose face if it signs off on anything short of full independence: the people of Bougainville have suffered too much for too long for the cause. And that's one thing both sides can agree upon.

Rob Krott is an SOF senior foreign correspondent who recently tried to enter Bougainville (see "Bougainville's Heart of Darkness," Jan. 99). ✕



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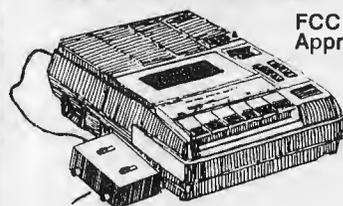
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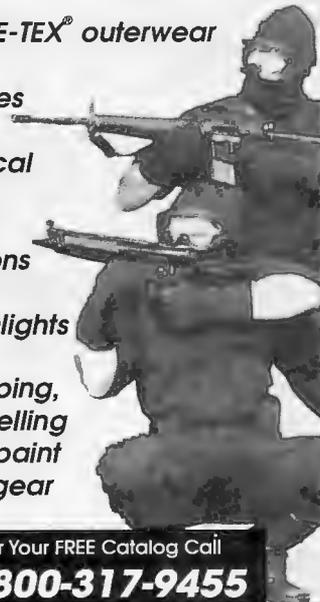
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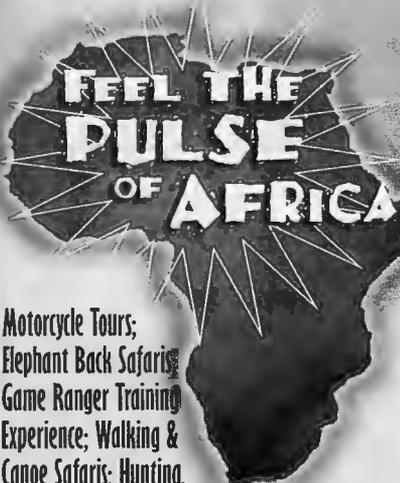


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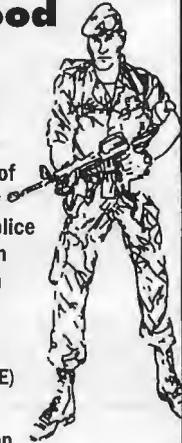
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The November 1998 issue of *SOF* published a review of B.G. Burkett's excellent work *Stolen Valor*; a book resulting from many years of research by Burkett into a long list of persons he determined to be fake war heroes and phony vets. Included in the article were two photographs of Frank Dux (rhymes with *kooks*), one of the individuals profiled in Burkett's book. Dux is the author of a book called *The Secret Man*, in which he claims many marvelous adventures as a "covert operative" working directly for then-director of Central Intelligence William Casey. One of the photos of Dux shows him posing with a large martial arts trophy. The other depicts him in a Marine Corps uniform with an array of ribbons and navy jump wings.

Documentation obtained by *Soldier Of Fortune*, under the Freedom Of Information Act, confirms that Dux served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1975 to 1981, including a five-month active duty tour at the San Diego USMC Recruit Depot. The remainder of his enlistment (sorry, fans) was apparently spent as a "lineman for the country" — wireman, specifically — with the artillery regiment of the 4th (Reserve) Marine Division. His military records somehow fail to substantiate any of his awards or jump wings worn by him in the previously mentioned photo.

Mr. Dux, seemingly, is a well-known martial arts instructor and competitor. He was an advisor for the film *Bloodsport* starring Jean-Claude Van Damme. Dux recently sued Van Damme in the Los Angeles County Superior Court on a contract claim arising from another film pro-

ject. The jury returned a verdict in that action against Dux. Dux is appealing that verdict.

But Dux is not stopping there: He is now suing *SOF* in that same court claiming unspecified damages, for alleged defamation as a result of his pictures being published in conjunction with the review of Burkett's book in the November 1998 issue of *SOF*. As we found in the past, even wholly meritless cases like this one can still cost tens of thousands of dollars to defend.

Several years back, I established the Omega First Amendment Legal Fund, with Mark Carson, a respected lawyer, CPA and USMC Vietnam veteran, as trustee. Once again, I am forced to ask for your immediate financial assistance in joining *Soldier Of Fortune* in defense of our First Amendment right of free speech — and, more importantly, to fight and defeat those who desecrate the uniforms and service of American military veterans.

Please, send whatever amount you can. I need your help.



Omega First Amendment Legal Fund

c/o Mark Carson & Associates, P.C.
1790 30th Street
Suite 418
Boulder, CO 80301

Your check is not tax-deductible so, therefore, will be all the more appreciated by me, as well as my staff.

Most gratefully yours,

Robert K. Brown
Editor & Publisher ✕

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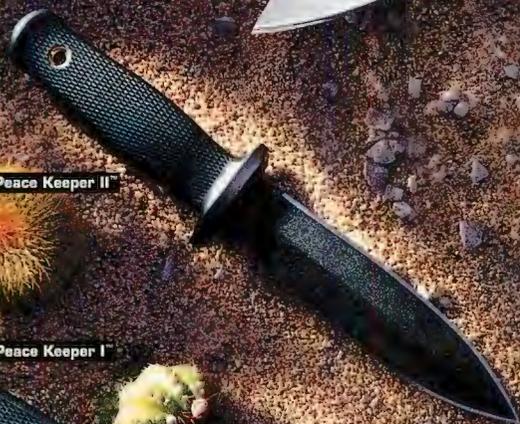
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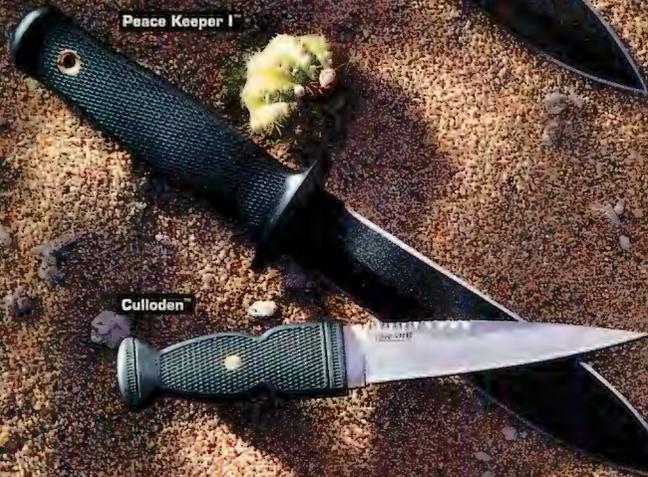
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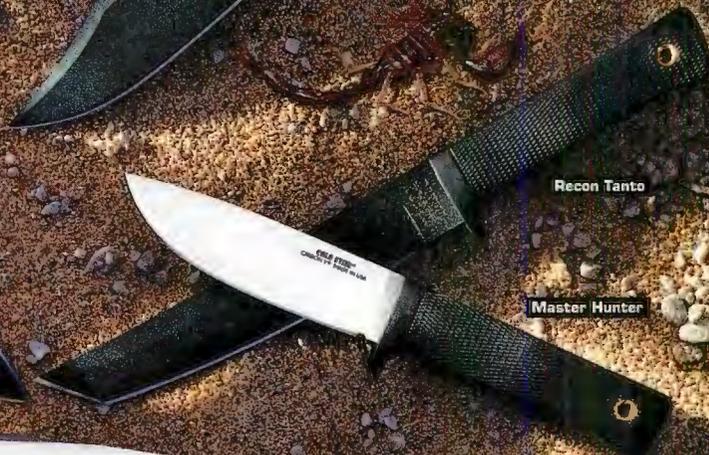
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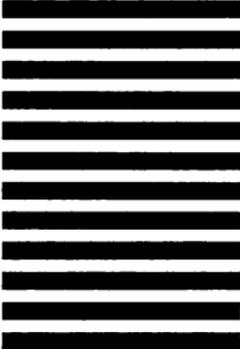




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