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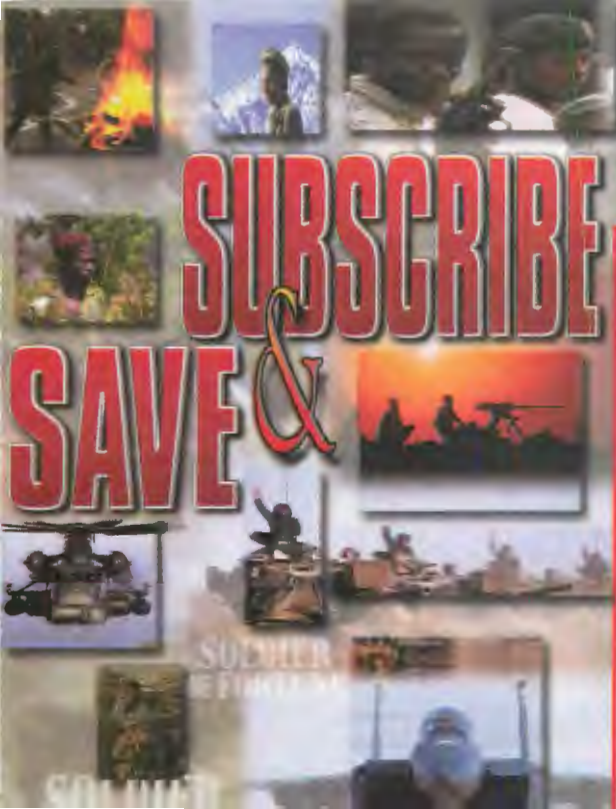
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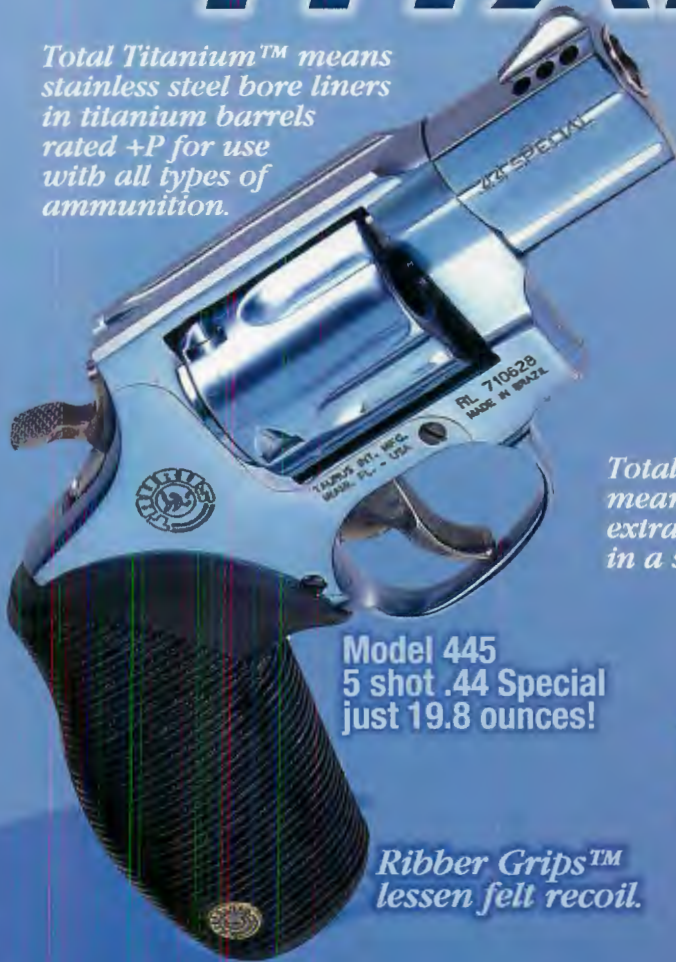
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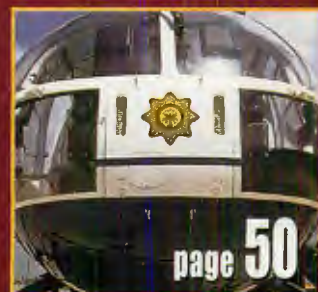
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Close The Breach



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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

When Mercenaries Work

Too many contemporary policy makers use the word "mercenary" as if it were the equivalent of syphilis.

Nonetheless, soldiering for money is an old and noble profession. Mercenary soldiers bring to conflicts experience-honed skills to bring matters to a speedy conclusion. Take, for example, the case of Sierra Leone.

For some time now, that West African country has been a quagmire for conventional international hand-wringers from the UN and various African governments. The problem appeared solved when the Sierra Leone government brought in the South African ex-SpecOps personnel working under the flag of Executive Outcomes.

Executive Outcomes put to work 200 hardened professional soldiers who quickly restored order. As Elizabeth Rubin recently pointed out in *The New York Times*, "... the company was willing to do what the United Nations cannot: take sides, take casualties, deploy overwhelming force and fire preemptively."

As a result, the savagery practiced by rebels ended and 300,000 refugees returned home from international displaced persons camps. Executive Outcomes collected roughly \$1.5 million for halting cannibalism, rape, mutilation and summary executions; and in turn saved the international community the \$60 million it would have spent feeding refugees.

Numbers like that would impress even the most parsimonious capitalist banker. However, the decision makers at the International Monetary Fund are socialists instead of capitalists. They are in the business of taking hard-earned dollars from taxpayers in developed countries and sending them to the usually shiftless despots in

charge of underdeveloped countries.

Since it is most comfortable dealing with dictators, perhaps the IMF was bothered by the fact that within a year Executive Outcomes created the climate for the first democratic election to be held in Sierra Leone in 28 years. The IMF pressured the international community for the removal of Executive Outcomes. The usually liberal *NYT* published Ms. Rubin's observation that the IMF "thought it unseemly and too costly for the fledgling democracy to be so dependent on mercenaries."

The IMF managed to recreate war and chaos. Not three months passed after the mercenaries departed and things were back to normal in Sierra Leone. A rebel army of doped-up children armed with AKs was again ter-

rorizing the country.

The Nigerians, who would like to see peace in the neighborhood, hired the private British soldiering firm of Sandline, Inc. In fairly short order the elected government was reinstated and the rebels were in retreat. But the policy wonks at the various committee-run internationalist organizations are again trying to reintroduce violence and instability in Sierra Leone. They want to negotiate with the rebels.

The so-called mercenary experience in Sierra Leone has brought the realists in the international community, few though they may be, to consider that it may make good political and economic sense to let soldiers-for-hire deal with some of the world's messier problems. The only thing that really stands between us and the resolution of some long-standing difficulties is the fear among the committees of the IMF and like organizations that soldiers of fortune can do the job more efficiently. ✂



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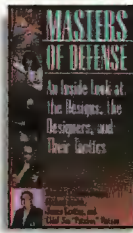
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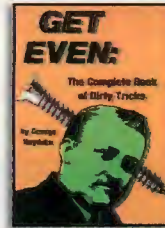
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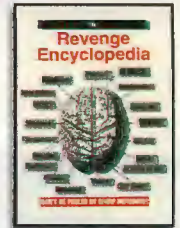


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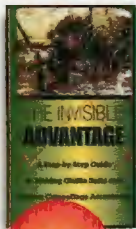
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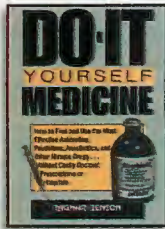
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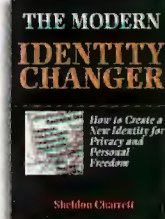


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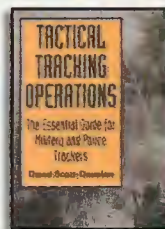
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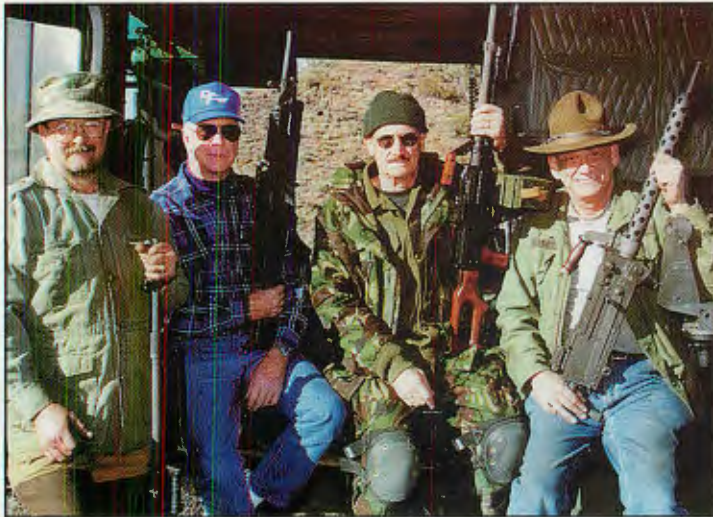
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BULLETIN BOARD



Chris Mayer

Four legends of the machine gun world recently gathered in Bagdad, Arizona for, what else, a machine gun shoot. Left to right: Kent Lomont, the country's most prominent Class 3 dealer, with an FN MAG 58 GPMG; Mike Dillon, in front of whose Huey they are posing, with an FN Minimi M249 SAW; Peter G. Kokalis, *SOF's* technical editor, with Hungarian PKM GPMG; and highly regarded machine gun author, Dolf L. Goldsmith, with South African MG4 BMG. Goldsmith is currently hard at work on his long-anticipated book on Browning machine guns.

Khmer Rouge Leaders Apologize

Khieu Samphan was the nominal Khmer Rouge leader, although viewed as a front man for Pol Pot and others who really held power. Nuon Chea was considered Pol Pot's second in command and chief theorist. Pol Pot recently died of a heart attack. Samphan and Chea recently apologized for the some two million of their countrymen who died under their regime. Having flown to the Cambodian capital under promise of amnesty for crimes against humanity, Chea and Samphan were asked by reporters — many of whom had lost family to his regime — whether they felt remorse for the millions killed. "Yes, sorry. Very sorry," said Samphan. "We would like to apologize and ask our compatriots to forget the past ... let bygones be bygones."

Oh well, if you're truly sorry, Mr. Bormann ...

German Firm To Distribute VC/NVA Films

Berlin-based *Progress Film-Verleih GmbH*, which rose from the ashes of the communist former East German state film production company, has signed a deal with Vietnam to be the sole worldwide distributor of that country's film archives. Alexander van Dulmen, managing director of *Progress Film-Verleih*, said the deal would give his firm access to all state-owned Vietnamese film archives, which then could be sold to broadcasters and filmmakers. The deal with the official Vietnam Film Institute would make available footage which has never been seen before. There are a number of large official archives in Vietnam, including those owned by the military and Communist party. According to van Dulmen, the former North Vietnam had more than 130 cameramen working the front during the war. "There are many people in [Vietnam's] film industry who studied in

East Germany, and they have many links," Dulmen added.

Well, good. If Jane gets tired of raising buffalo, maybe she can find work as an actress again.

New Battle At Lexington And Concord

More than two centuries ago, smoldering American resentment under British Colonial rule was fanned to a flame when the British tried to disarm upstart colonists at Lexington and Concord. Now, the history buffs who would portray His Majesty's troops are threatening to call off the largest reenactment ever, because of growing controversy over a new Massachusetts law that requires childproof trigger locks on all guns — even antiques and replicas of antiques as would be used by the reenactors. Musket owners who don't have the locks could face 10 years in the slam and a \$10,000 fine. Paul O'Shaughnessy, who portrays the commander of the British 10th Regiment of Foot, notes, "I've had people who say 'I'm not coming over if there is any chance of me being arrested over this.' We can't in good conscience invite people here with the threat hanging over their heads.

"I'm getting pounded with calls and email from units saying, 'Hey, what are you doing over there?'" said Skip Hayward, president of the Lexington Historical Society, which is organizing an even larger reenactment of the 1775 battle for its 225th anniversary in 2000.

Sponsors of Massachusetts' new gun law appear miffed about the fuss over their new bit of social engineering. "We've got confirmation from law enforcement officials that they don't intend to arrest reenactors," said an aide to Rep. Paul Casey, who helped write the ill-advised law. State Sen. Susan Fargo, whose district includes Lexington and Concord, was advised by the Senate counsel that collectors and even museums with muskets could be in violation of the law. Fargo, who voted for the gun law, has submitted legislation to exempt replicas of guns made before 1899. "It's a question of respecting the history and heritage of Massachusetts," she said.

Here's an idea on how to show respect for American history and legal tradition: Only write good laws, and make them apply to everyone.

Memorial Day Concert

The 10th annual Memorial Day tribute to Americans who have given their lives for freedom will be held on Sunday, 30 May 1999, between 2000-2130 hours, broadcast live from the West Lawn of the Capitol building (check your local NPR, PBS and AFN listings).

The holiday special will feature distinguished guest artists in performance with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of conductor Erich Kunzel. The program will have a unique blend of musical performances, dramatic readings and archival footage. Segments will include the Battle of Okinawa and a special tribute to friendships forged during the Vietnam War. The event is being co-produced by Jerry Colbert for Capital Concerts and WETA, Washington, D.C.

Continued on page 11

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

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

Want More Credibility?

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

You Know The 'Little Men'

Ever since 1993, self-proclaimed military 'gurus' and some street-fighters have been **following Jerry** making clever claims, *if you read between the lines there's nothing but ambiguous claims and self-given titles*. Have you noticed nobody produces any official paperwork?

Jerry Peterson Is Absolutely For Real

This is what you'll find out. Don't wait. Let go of the past and learn the science of Lethal Combat. This is the first and only original Navy SEAL System. **YOUR LIFE WILL DEPEND ON IT!** Sorry, I'm jumping ahead let me explain why the martial arts can't and won't get the official documentation. First the system has to be universal to all men. This means that 100 men go in. One-hundred men come out 100% efficient in all aspects of CQB (close quarters battle). To prove that the government must test, and test SCARS they did, for over five years in real field conditions, on all terrains, including water with real weapons and in real conflicts. I'm not going to get into all the government testing, that will take forever. Plus there are some we can't talk about. But in all those years SCARS never failed EVER!! And that's why it's still the standard.

In Fact SCARS Set "New Standards"... for hand to hand, knife fighting, rifle combat, and much more. SCARS is also taking the Law Enforcement community by

storm. The summer Olympics Special Security team was required to take our IQS-1 Series just to qualify to get on the team and **YOU** can have that same knowledge and training. This is your once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become **undefeatable** (with or without a weapon) with the **SCARS Professional Fighting System**. Why?

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

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

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

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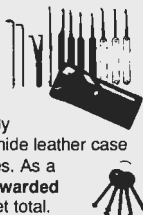
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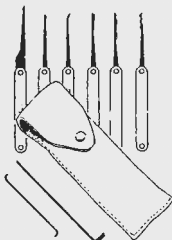
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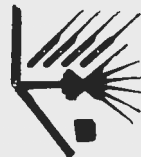
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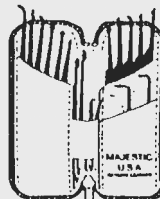


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This tool was designed to decode the exact combination of a sesame padlock without damaging the lock. Detailed instruction included.



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MD16

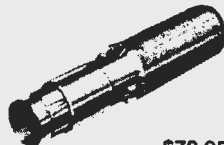
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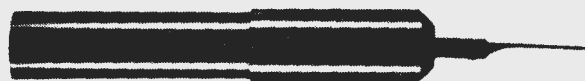


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The most fantastic tool you will ever use. This set consists of two base keys and pick. Complete instructions included.

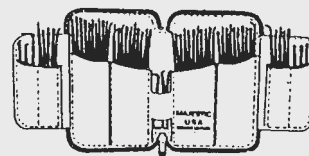
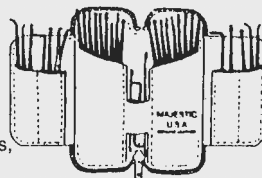
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Ask A Con About Crime

Professors James Wright and Peter Rossi conducted a study for the Justice Department, which indicated that arming the good guys is a good deterrent to crime. Wright and Rossi interviewed some 1,800 felons and discovered that:

—81% agreed that the “smart criminal” will try and find out if a potential victim is armed

—74% felt burglars avoided occupied dwellings for fear of being shot

—80% of “handgun predators” had encountered armed citizens

—40% had not committed a specific crime for fear the victim was armed

—34% of “handgun predators” had been scared off or shot at by armed victims

—57% felt the typical criminal was more afraid of being shot by citizens than by the police

Surprise, surprise, surprise!

Flaming Car-Jackers

Car-jacking has nothing to do with changing a tire, and flaming in this context has nothing to do with messing with somebody's email. South Africa, long known for innovative solutions to ordnance questions is now a crime-ridden, dangerous place to live. Car-jacking in particular has become rampant, with more than 13,000 in an 11-month period. Inventor Charl Flourie's answer to the problem is The Blaster — a flamethrower you mount on your BMW or Mercedes that sends a man-high ball of fire into the face of whoever has malevolent intent. Flourie states,

“I am the last person to want to burn anyone. But if someone attacks you, they will kill you, they will rape you, and they will maim you.”

The first customer was police superintendent David Walkley, head of criminal intelligence in Johannesburg. Some 800 more units were sold about as fast as Flourie announced their availability.

Inventor Flourie stated the flame will give up to third-degree burns and might blind someone, but it would not be lethal. (*Maybe you'd just have to leave it flaming a little longer.*) It is anticipated the unit will not be available in the United States, due to DOT concern over road rage.

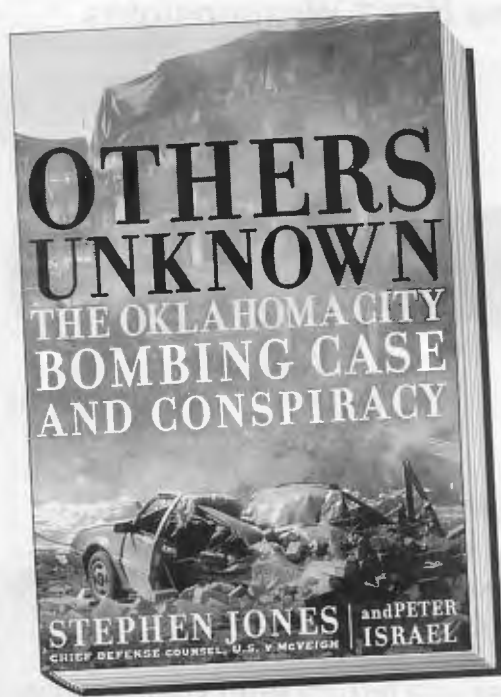
Disbanding The Band

Amid a rash of claims by soldiers of hearing loss, the Irish Army has disbanded one of its four bands. Twenty-six bandsmen have so far been awarded \$584,000 in damages, and there remain another 71 claims to be adjudicated. Bandsmen have claimed hearing loss due to the loud music, and Irish soldiers are filing similar claims for hearing loss associated with live-fire exercises.

NAACP May Join In Suits Of Gunmakers

With the rationale that since crimes committed with guns hit minority communities hard, the NAACP is considering joining the cities that have filed lawsuits against gun manufacturers, asking for millions of dollars in monetary damages on the premise that industry “negligence in marketing and distribution” allowed weapons to flow illegally into states where they are tightly controlled. A federal jury in New York recently returned a \$4 million verdict in favor of plaintiffs who were suing the industry. Following the scent of money after huge tobacco industry settlements, cities such as Chicago, New Orleans, Bridgeport (Conn.) and Atlanta are either

Easy prey for the FBI. False security for America. *The untold truth about the Oklahoma City bombing.*



Two lone drifters. The government would have us believe that they—and they alone—are behind the most devastating terrorist act ever committed on American soil. Now, the court-appointed defender of Timothy McVeigh reveals the real story behind the case. With a skilled legal eye, Stephen Jones uncloaks a preponderance of shocking evidence from one of the most exhaustive investigations in law enforcement history: Evidence that implicates the government in a rush to justice designed to lead us astray while the real terrorists were left at large.

“Jones has written the closing argument he never got to deliver.” —*Newsweek*

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suing or considering suing the firearms industry.

According to the Springfield, Mo., *News Leader*, NAACP president Kweisi Mfume said, "We represent a significant constituency that is disproportionately affected by gun violence. The time has come for us to look at the proliferation of handguns." At the association's annual meeting in February, Mfume said he would present the Board of Directors with several options, ranging from voicing concern about guns to joining suits filed by cities; the NAACP could file a separate suit, he said.

Tangled Web Or Safety Net?

FEMA into the breach: Is this the dawn of a paramilitary century? Military planners have been increasingly challenged by civilian leaders to provide military responses to domestic and international crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, civil defense, natural disasters, peacekeeping, civil unrest — even possible problems associated with the Y2K bug. This month's web gleanings include official and private sites bearing on this phenomenon:

FEMA: Background — Terrorism:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/terror.htm>

National Guard Bureau: <http://www.ngb.dtic.mil/>

FEMA: FEMA and the Year 2000 Initiative:

<http://www.fema.gov/y2k/>

Global Organized Crime Task Force on Terrorism:

<http://www.csis.org/goc/taskterr.html>

Global Terrorism Decoded: <http://www.globalterrorism.com/>

The Counter-Terrorism Page: <http://www.terrorism.net/home.asp>

The Terrorism Research Center: <http://www.terrorism.com/>

The International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism:

<http://www.ict.org.il/>

Islamic Groups: the International Connection:

http://www.ict.org.il/articles/isl_conv.htm

ICT Spotlight: Terrorism:

[newshttp://www.ict.org.il/spotlight/main.cfm](http://www.ict.org.il/spotlight/main.cfm)

PTD: Political Terrorism Database:

<http://www.mindspring.com/~mastrapa/ptd.html>

PREEMPT Medical Counter-Terrorism, Inc.:

<http://home.eznet.net/~kenberry/>

Patricia E. Gibbons, Acting Chief Communications Technician, City of San Jose tells about NGB OPLAN 99-1/Y2K:

<http://ww2.altavista.com/cgi-bin/news?msg@4564@alt%2epolitics%2eorg%2ebatf%26Re+FEMA+Y2K+drill+calls+out+National+Guard> (Did that web address give you a headache? Then try taking this with two aspirin, email me in the morning) <http://members.aol.com/rhrongstad/private/mlinknew.htm>

FEMA to Mobilize All National Guard in Y2K Drill (according to self-described "professional paranoid" H. Michael Sweeney:

<http://www.proparanoid.com/milex.html>

San Francisco Chronicle, 28 Jan 1999, "Military Seeks Authority for Civil Defense"; "Leader could direct response to terrorism":

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/1999/01/28/MN77611>.

San Francisco Chronicle, 30 Jan 1999, "Marines Scuttle Attack On Presidio, Baker Beach"; DTL "progressive politics enclave spared urban war game, Gorby Foundation here": <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/1999/01/30/MN48432>.

San Francisco Chronicle, 5 Feb 1999, "East Bay Gung Ho for Marines"; "Mock assault set for Alameda, Oakland Sites" DTL "but Mayor 'Governor Moonbeam' Jerry Brown gives thumbs up": <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/1999/02/05/MN77544>.

San Francisco Chronicle, 9 Feb 1999, "Operation Urban Warrior" (liberal newspaper scolds citizens for turning down Marines): <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/1999/02/09/ED38580>

Marines Shoot and Kill Civilian Goat Herder:

<http://www.cnet.com/~suntzu75/marfa.htm>

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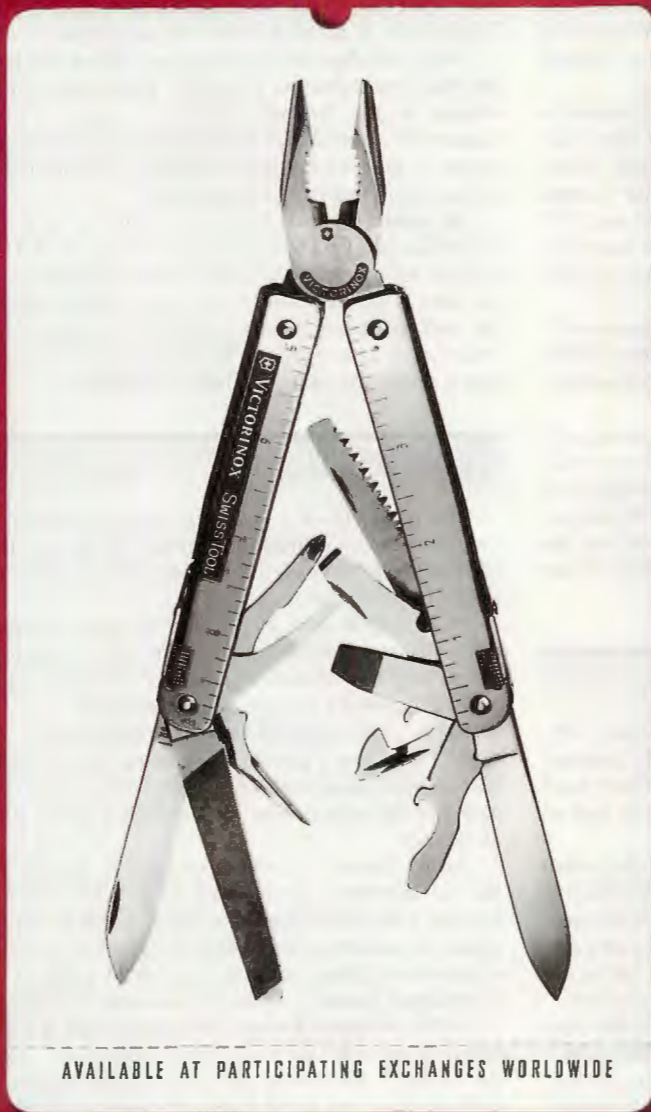
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The Military Gap

It's no mystery why so many military personnel have bitter feelings toward their commander-in-chief, President Bill Clinton. The elaborate Vietnam draft-dodger has committed dozens of egregious sex violations, including adultery and affairs with subordinates, any one of which would have left any enlisted man or woman or officer high and dry.

Clinton's leadership, unfortunately, has done more than just put a wedge between the presidency and United States soldiers. With his mass appointments of life-long civilians to military leadership roles, Clinton has contributed significantly to what's being described as a dangerous gap between military and American civilians and leadership.

"I share deeply the concern that we are living through a period when the gap between the American people and their military is getting wider," said General John Shalikashvili, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in an interview with *National Journal* magazine. "It's not just a matter of fewer and fewer congressmen and senators having military experience. The same phenomenon exists in any roomful of bankers, or college presidents, or other opinion shapers."

Secretary of Defense William Cohen has, himself, lamented a broadening disconnect between civilians and soldiers. Cohen, like most of Clinton's top advisers, has no military background; nor do Secretary of State Madeleine Albright or CIA Director George Tenet. In Congress, veterans make up 43% of the Senate and 31% of the House, down from 60% and 41% respectively four years earlier. Of all nine congressional leadership positions, four are filled by politicians with military backgrounds.

It's a far cry from the days when military service was almost a prerequisite for political service. Of all 11 presidents since WWII, only two — Clinton and Franklin Roosevelt — have lacked military service.

"What you do see is a kind of buried disgruntlement among military leaders about having non-veterans in senior defense positions," said military sociologist Charles Moskos, of Northwestern University, in an interview with the Associated Press. "When you are asking people to put lives on the line you need more than the legalized rules of subordination to the commander in chief. There has to be some faith in his judgment."

Presidential Rape?

We've all heard how it's no big deal Clinton lied under oath, and lied on TV to all Americans. After all, the lie really centered around sex, which is a personal matter. And if our culture were less prudish, and more sophisticated like other countries, and so on, and so forth.

The problem with lies is that they undermine credibility when one might need it most. Most Americans and the press would give an American president the benefit of the doubt if a woman few people know started talking about a rape by the president 21 years ago. But this is Clinton. Any denials of this are clouded by the fact he has lied under oath and he routinely lies about matters involving sex.

So don't be too surprised if the story of Jane Doe #5 in the independent counsel's report — a woman known as Juanita Broaddrick — someday becomes irrefutable. Broaddrick has, for years, told her friends in Arkansas that Bill Clinton, while state attorney general, brutally raped her in a Little Rock hotel room after she had enlisted

to work in his first gubernatorial campaign. On 28 March 1998, the story broke nationally on NBC, ABC and MSNBC's website. Four witnesses told NBC that Broaddrick revealed the rape to them. One was a nurse who told NBC she tended to Broaddrick after the assault, applying ice to the victim's bruised face and swollen lips.

The story was quickly dropped before most Americans had time to let it sink in. That's because just days after the story broke, Judge Susan Webber Wright dismissed the Paula Jones case, which was instrumental in uncovering the story. White House spinmasters successfully convinced most reporters the story wasn't true, using a sworn denial by Broaddrick. (It should be noted that leading feminists have traditionally taught us to ignore rape denials, because victims falsely rescind their stories out of fear and inability to confront a traumatic past experience.)

The story resurfaced briefly in early February of this year, on Fox News Channel, after White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart warned a Fox White House correspondent not to run the story. The Internet's *Drudge Report* quoted Lockhart telling Fox: "You guys will regret this. Clinton-haters have been putting this story out for a decade now, as far back as the '92 campaign."

Some members of the mainstream press still believe it, such as the *Wall Street Journal's* Dorothy Rabinowitz. In the 19 February edition of the *Journal*, Rabinowitz wrote: "To encounter this woman (Broaddrick), to hear the details of her story and the statements of the corroborating witnesses, was to understand that this was an event that in fact took place."

We won't be so bold as to say this story is true, or that the American people should blindly believe it. But with every new Clinton sex scandal, it has taken on more potential credibility. What we can say with sincere conviction is that any denial by Clinton or his staff, regarding sexual misconduct charges, holds no meaning whatsoever. This story can no longer be brushed off as an extreme attack on the president, too bizarre to be true.

They're Not All Crazy

The president of a Northern Virginia chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW) says its the national feminist leaders have been too easy on President Bill Clinton over his alleged sexual improprieties.

Marie Jose-Ragab, president of the Dulles chapter of NOW, told CNN it is unacceptable for NOW President Patricia Ireland and others to say the relationship between Clinton and former intern Monica Lewinsky is not sexual harassment.

"This is the ultimate in sexual harassment," Jose-Ragab told CNN. "We have a pattern of standing up for issues having to do with sexual harassment, now we're being selective. This is not the nature of our organization. We're above partisan politics, we defend all women."

At the chapter's executive committee meeting in mid February, the six members agreed after long debate they would vote to become a dissident chapter of NOW, publicly expressing their disapproval, until there is a modification in the leadership. "They have to step down if they can't stand up for the rights of all women," said Jose-Ragab, speaking of the top national leadership.

NOW President Patricia Ireland has said if Clinton did have a relationship with Lewinsky, it was consensual. Ireland's critics in the women's movement say there's nothing consensual about sex with the boss, and argue it sets an unfair standard for other women who want to get ahead. ☒

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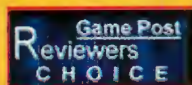
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The More The Merrier

The realities of conflict often dictate that you may be confronted by multiple opponents. Statistics tell us that many law enforcement officers are often confronted by one or more threats at the same time. Going by the theory that “wolves” often travel in packs, we must consider the development of a proper response to these types of multiple threats.

Probably one of the single biggest negative contributing factors to “multiple-threat training” are the thoughts and actions of trainers. I have attended and watched several “simulations” against multiple threats. In these environments trainers ask the students to make a decisive response to simulated threats only to inform the student that their selection of engagement priorities is not correct and that the students were “killed” by the simulator.

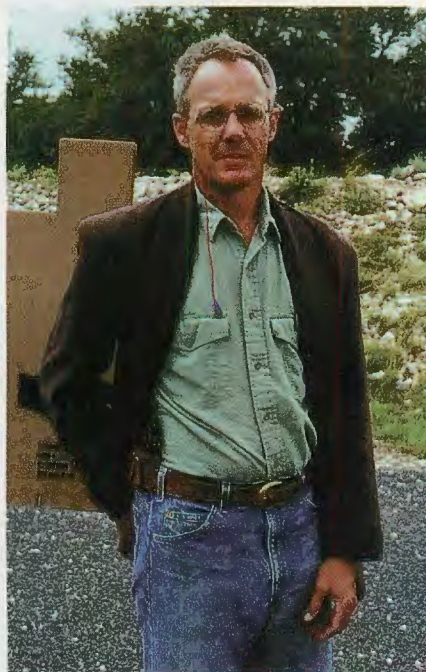
One of the “drills” I ask students to participate in is a series of visual and representative threat simulations. The first describes two threats at 5 to 7 yards away, both armed with handguns. Threat One has the handgun held in his hand hanging beside their leg. Threat Two has a handgun with both hands on the gun held at the centerline of their body pointed in the direction of the student. Which one would they shoot at first? Simulation two has the same threats, number one is the same but number two is now armed with a shotgun held muzzle up with the weapon across the body at high port. Which one would you shoot first? *In a class of 20 people, generally no more than 50% agree on what threat they would shoot first in either scenario.*

I then ask the student body, without looking at their classmates, to shape with their hands the size of the shotgun pattern at that engagement distance. You would be stunned at the response. I am shown representative hand “patterns” from 1-inch in diameter to literally “cover the wall with pellets.” As you the reader know, generally a shotgun at seven yards must be “aimed” because the pattern size is small (approximately 5 to 10 inches) *and you can miss!*

The issue then may be a lack of education as to what weapons are capable of doing. Threat proximity, weapon types and personal knowledge should contribute to what threat out “shooter” engages first. What do they perceive to be more dangerous or more threatening? Proper responses, or any responses, harshly criticized by trainers may



Starting position for each drill was with the handgun covered and the shooter's hands resting at the sides.



in fact cause hesitation or stalling on the part of our student in later “real” world confrontations. If, in the experience of the trainer the selection made by the student is not correct, positive comments and correction supplemented with hands on “show and tell,” may make the student more aware of the threats capabilities. Even dogs are trained by firm correction and positive “good boys” not by “come here you cur so I can beat the stuffing out of you.” Call him again and see if he comes.

There is, in all discussions of multiple threats, the argument of “do I shoot each threat once, then go back and shoot each threat again?” Do I shoot each threat two or three times until the threat complies then move on to the next? Proper student mindset should dictate that our shooter must anticipate that the rounds they fire probably won't work. What will they do next? If the shots fired don't work, and we have already anticipated it, then we should have trained to solve the problem, not stand there stunned by the fact that it didn't. We'll just go ahead with the fight until we win!

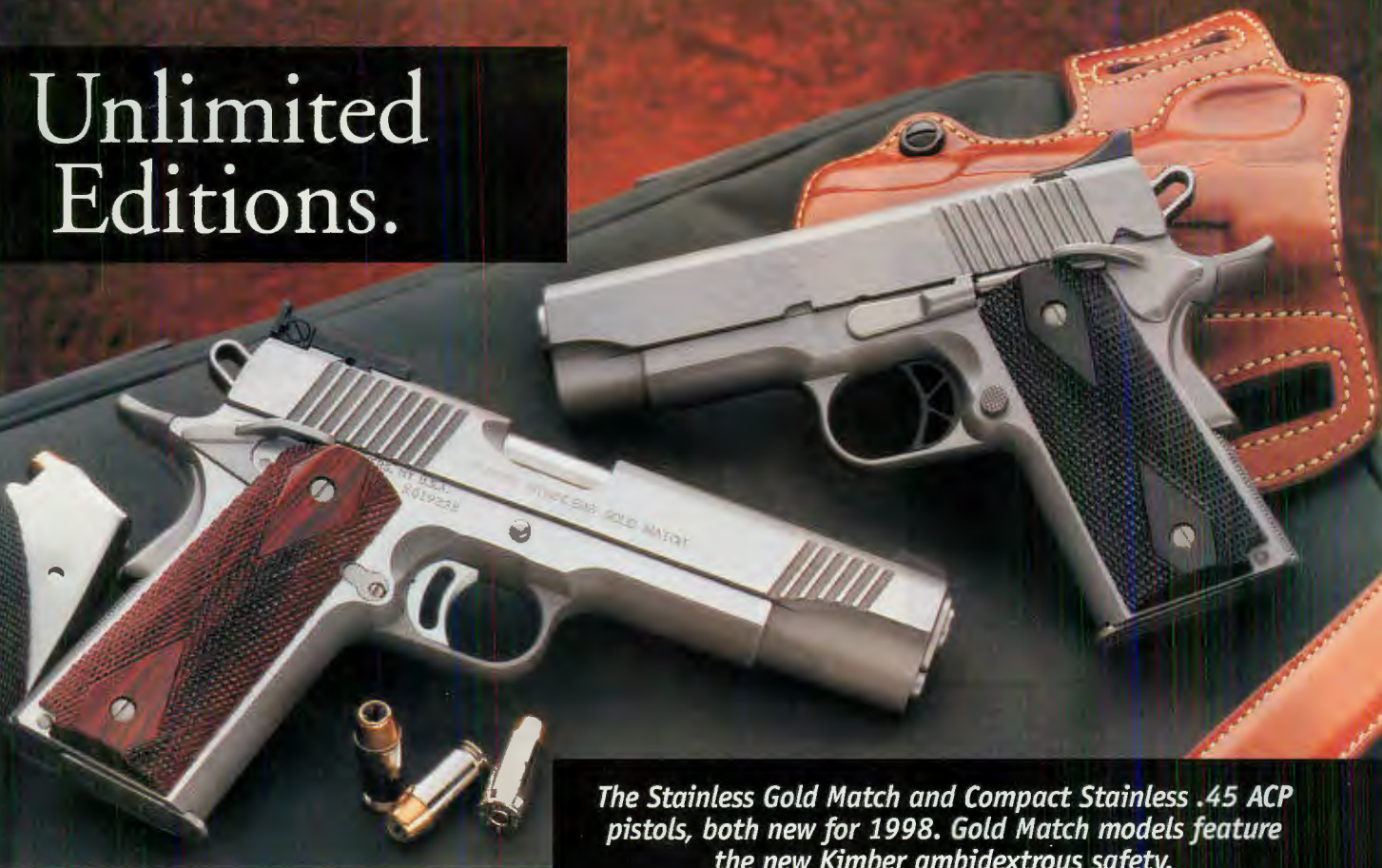
A solution is to conduct training efforts to include the use of lateral movement to “stack” the threats in order to narrow our field of fire and muzzle traverse. This minimizes muzzle off-target time. There is another benefit. The same principals apply to multiple threats that apply to fighting in doorways, halls and stairwells. The threats funneled by our lateral movement now experience limited fields of supporting fire for each other. This works especially well with rifles as through-and-through projectiles and debris may pass through the first threat and into the “stacked” or following threat.

The issue of “time on target” and how many shots to fire at each threat is not an easy and fast answer. In many respects it is a function of the shooter's experience, ammunition availability, and whether or not our student is working to stop the threat. All of these factors affect the number of rounds fired per threat.

To get a general idea of what may work, we can create scenarios that place paper non-responding threats in environments that our shooter can engage for the purpose of hitting them with effective gunfire. What

Continued on page 87

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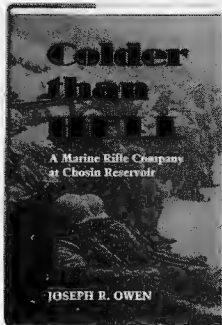
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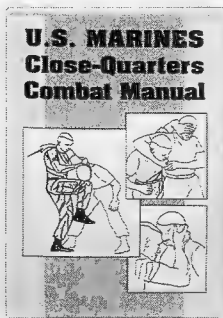
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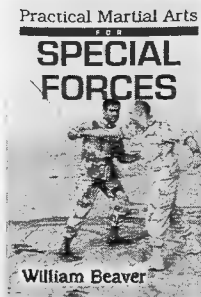
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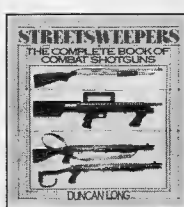
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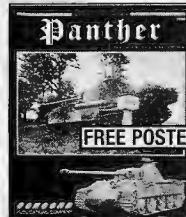
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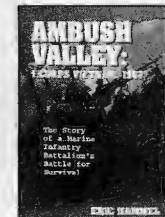
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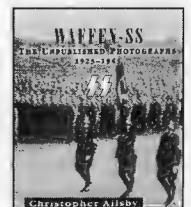
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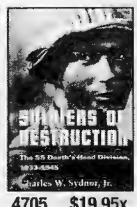
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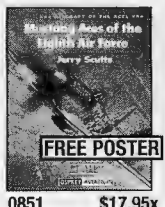
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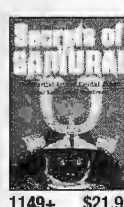
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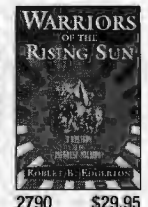
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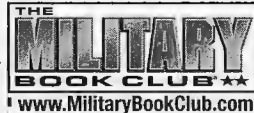


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I Was There

Text & Photos by Frank Bergmaier

Imposed Curfew

(El Toque De Queda Sigue)

Awakening to the sound of confusion, I could hear the panicked thumps of many running feet and the shouted order, "Take Cover!" I was totally disoriented as I opened my eyes and focused on the tropical setting — Paliti trees bent from the force of the rain and the haunting smell of death in a foreign land permeating the heavy air. Everything seemed to resonate with fear as the wind moaned its surreal warning, "Many will die today." Was this another nightmare or had I somehow been cruelly jerked back in time to Vietnam to awaken in the middle of some chaotic fire-fight long since forgotten by everyone except my subconscious?

Responding to the urgency of the order, I snagged my gear, hit the deck running heading for the door, and opened it the second the roof of my building was ripped off and rocketed away. On that bitter morning, 22 September 1998, Hurricane Georges dropped by the Dominican Republic to say hello. That dawn could have, however, been any similar terror-filled a.m. in Vietnam 30 years ago.

Relieved for the moment that my feeling of being thrust back into the combat of a long-ago era was without reality, I began to make my way down the wind-swirled stairwell of the hotel to the shelter of the basement. Suffering from a minor hangover, I was the last one out of the top-floor room. Finally, leaping down the stairs, now four at a time, through a blown-out window I caught a glimpse of a sheet of corrugated metal roofing — spinning toward me like some lethal razor blade — which decapitated a healthy palm tree. Screams echoed in the rocking concrete stairwell as several guests fractured their legs as the mighty winds catapulted them down the steps.

As I watched the casualties being carried to safety, I again flashed on Vietnam with an eerie vision of poncho-littered WIAs being rushed toward a hovering medevac chopper.

Through the next window, I saw a small building evaporate into the wind with the sound of an explosion. The relief I felt moments ago was gone as I realized the force of a category III hurricane can kill you just as dead as combat.



Armed troops were everywhere to enforce curfew and discourage looting. Author (right) in hurricane's aftermath.

Rounding the stairway at full-speed toward the ground floor, I was more than halfway down when the two large doors at the foot of the stairs imploded off their hinges and blew me back up to the landing. As the wind ebbed back out the door, I crawled at the same speed as the receding wind, until I could recover and run the rest of the way to the shelter.

Emerging late that night from the shelter, I wandered through the hotel lobby on the way back to my room. The storm was nearly spent except for an occasional strong gust, one of which sent a large fan



from the three-story-high ceiling crashing to the floor inches behind me. The floors were inches deep in water and littered with bobbing debris. I spent the night in a soaking wet bed. There was no running water or electricity. Consequently, there would be no shaving, showering or toilets flushed for days to come.

The airport in Santo Domingo was severely damaged and ordered secured by the Dominican government to receive humanitarian aid, which meant

there would be no commercial flights out.

The hotel made an effort to accommodate its guests, now trapped on the island for the next several weeks, by bumping us an extra \$70 dollars a night. When a tourist complained about price gouging, two security guards armed with shotguns converged on his room and summarily removed him from the hotel.

The sun rose the next day with the hurricane well en route to Cuba. The hotel bar was again open in the lobby, so I treated myself to a *Cein cincuenta uno* (151-proof Dominican rum) to compensate for the shower I didn't get.

I walked outside and couldn't believe the destruction. It looked like winter, since the trees still standing had lost most of their leaves. Every street was blocked with downed powerlines and trees. Most houses had no roofs and every commercial sign in the country appeared to be trashed. *Soldados* armed with shotguns and M-16s were everywhere. People in the street were talking about looting, which had broken out before Georges hit, and the headline of the local newspaper read "*el toque de queda sigue*," which roughly translated

Continued on page 85

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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Missile Defense: Clinton reverses long-standing Democratic Party policy to delay any National Missile Defense System with announcement he will allocate another \$7 billion over six years to develop the system. Part of administration decision is move to downgrade U.S.-German-Italian MEADs air defense system to protecting only maneuver forces, not cities and populations, which has angered Europe. • **Droning Enemies:** First 20 tests of MALD—Miniature Air-Launched Decoy—successful in January. MALD program designed to create small, cheap drone to confuse enemy forces by appearing as F-16 or other attacking fighter and waste their missiles. • **Tiny Planes for Cops:** Lockheed Martin tests Micro Air Vehicles. The tiny planes (6 inches across) are self-controlled and can send back video or other data. Pentagon wants the aircraft to help infantry units fight in cities. Lockheed envisions civilian markets, such as police, firefighters, hazardous materials inspection units, and even ranchers for surveillance of cattle and fences. • **Minesweeping:** Navy has agreed to spend more money on minesweeping technology, but only after Secretary of Defense Cohen agreed to provide it as part of Navy's increased budget. • **Failed Policy?** Pentagon records show number of gay and lesbian soldiers kicked out of military has increased every year since new "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy of 1994. • **Gulf Syndrome:** New study shows British troops who went to Iraq suffer twice rate of illness as civilians who stayed home or soldiers who went to Bosnia.

2

CHINA

New Submarine: Military receives fourth Kilo-class submarine — a modernized type-636 boat. • **You Die First:** Government orders executives of all 23 domestic airlines to personally ride their companies' planes on 1 January 2000, as incentive to solve Y2K problems. • **Warning to U.S.:** Government warns U.S. not to work with Japan or Taiwan to build missile defense system.

6

SUDAN

SPLA conflict: SPLA rebels repulse government attack in Blue Nile region. Two pro-government factions clash in Juba, and both ordered out of city. SPLA rebel Garang flies to Libya for secret meeting with Sudanese officials. Sudanese cargo plane drops three bombs into hospital run by "Doctors Without Borders" at Kajo Keji, destroying key buildings. Sudanese government and SPLA agree to extend ceasefire for another three months. Eritrea and rebels reject government claims that Eritrean troops were massing to invade Sudan.

5

TURKEY

Turkish Tank: Bidding becomes intense for new Turkish tank. Israelis drop out, fearing Turks might let a *Merkava-3* be captured by the Syrians or Kurds, or an Islamist revolution would take over Turkey. Israeli companies would provide components if General Dynamics wins bid. • **U.S. Missiles:** Government asks U.S. to send Patriot missiles to protect it from any Iraqi missile retaliation. U.S. agrees to send battery to the Incirlik Air Base.

1

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17

14

9

SOUTH AFRICA

Vigilante Revenge: Moslem vigilante group PAGAD vows revenge for a Moslem who died of injuries sustained while protesting visit by British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Government launches "Operation Good Hope" in effort to end bombings and threats of Moslem insurrection in Cape Town. Former intelligence officer says Cape Town Moslems have been trained since 1996 by right wingers seeking to destabilize government.

10

LIBYA

Divine Punishment for U.S.: Government officials say talks with South Africa and Saudi Arabia have made important progress in resolving Lockerbie impasse. Libya says 10 tornadoes that struck state of Tennessee on 17 January was "divine punishment" for U.S. crimes against humanity.

13

13

CHILE

Pinochet: Panel of seven British Law Lords meet to review Pinochet's claim of diplomatic immunity. Chilean government and Amnesty International were allowed to speak at hearing. Relatives of Pinochet's victims in Chile filed law suit against President Eduardo Frei for defending Pinochet. Spanish prosecutors insist Pinochet had ordered torture before seizing power, and therefore could be extradited for those crimes if not the crimes committed as president.

14

HAITI

Assassination Attempt: Six opposition parties form coalition to oppose President Preval's recent move to disband parliament and rule by decree. Leaders of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies reject Preval's move, saying 1995 law he used to force them out was not valid. U.S. expresses concern. Marie-Claude Preval-Calvin (Preval's sister) badly wounded in assassination attempt. Followers of Preval and former President Aristide hold angry demonstrations.

15

CANADA

Base of Terror: Canadian Senate warns that since it is not against Canadian law to plan terrorist attacks to be carried out in other countries, Canada could become base for terrorist groups launching attacks on U.S.

3

RUSSIA

Nuke Test Lies: *Washington Times* reports Russian Deputy Nuclear Energy Minister Lev Ryabev admitted that Russia carried out five sub-critical nuclear tests on Novaya Zemlya in September and December 1998, contradicting previous denials. • **Advanced Fighter:** Military unveils long-awaited MiG-1.42 or MFI advanced fighter. Russians insist it is as stealthy as the F-22, more maneuverable, and faster. Regarded as the "flying laboratory," MFI will never go into production but will form basis of smaller and cheaper fighter to go into service about 2010. MFI can carry air-to-air weapons internally for increased stealth, or externally when weapons load is more important. It can cruise at Mach-1.7 without afterburners. • **New Missiles:** Tests continue for smaller, lighter missiles that would allow SA-10 launcher to mount 12 rounds ready to fire, rather than the original four. Russian SA-10 and SA-12 expected to dominate market in anti-aircraft missiles for next decade.

4

IRAQ

U.S. Pilot Threat: Military adapting to tactics Serbs used to shoot down F-16 over Bosnia. Missile battery waits until aircraft is directly overhead, then launches missile which pilot cannot see and which defensive pods on aircraft may not detect. In other cases, Iraqis try to lure U.S. planes into areas where several missile batteries interlock. Pilots report flights over Iraq have gone from routine patrols to edge-of-the-seat missions with extreme tension. Iraqis have mounted most of their missiles on tank chassis or heavy trucks, allowing them to move so U.S. intelligence is never sure where all missile batteries are.

7

ZIMBABWE

Free Press: Army officials arrest newspaper editor for publishing report that 23 officers tried to stage a coup. Army hands editor, Mark Chavunduka, over to civilian police only when they threaten to arrest Defense Minister. Reporter and publisher involved in original story also arrested.

8

DEMOCRATIC CONGO

Civilian Bombing: Antonov plane drops three bombs on rebel-held Kisangoani, killing 178 civilians. DRC soldiers completed "advanced training" in Angola. Government denies reports troops massacred 320 civilians around Zongo. Mai-Mai and Burundian Hutus attack Bukavu, losing 69 men. Central African Republic denies any role in war, but DRC troops have launched their attack on Zongo from CAR territory. Namibia trying to pull troops out of DRC, saying situation in Angola more dangerous.

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INDIA

Russian Tanks: Government orders 100 new T-90 battle tanks from Russia and will build another 200 under license in deal with \$750 million. Tanks will replace old T-55s and *Vijayantas* and will form main striking arm of Indian Army. India wants T-90s in order to stay one step ahead of Pakistan's Ukrainian-built T-80Uds.

12

JAPAN

Peace Without Packing: Government says troops will not carry weapons while on UN peace-keeping missions.

17

CUBA

Evil empire: Castro denounces U.S. as self-appointed world government that uses economic and military power to dominate smaller countries.

16

THAILAND

Corvette Fight: Military confirms one of its corvettes engaged in firefight with unknown armed trawler in January. Trawler had been firing on several Thai fishing boats. Myanmar reports two of its frigates had fired on the Thai corvette, but Thai Navy denies it had any knowledge of such a clash. Thailand and Myanmar have long-standing dispute over three small islands near Ranong, and agreed to set up a hot line.

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Special Wardrobe And Toys



Regarding Wayne Laugesen's superb article, "The Thin Blurry Line," I agree that federal and local law enforcement is becoming increasingly militarized, due to the "war on drugs": SpecOps training, disregard for Posse Comitatus, and high-tech gear paid for through RICO seizures. However, I don't believe there has been large-scale recruitment of Special Forces veterans.

Without the draft, it is becoming less common to find vets in the Thin Blue Line, and female vets are extremely rare. Additionally, I believe some agencies avoid recruiting martial artists, competitive shooters, and combat vets for fear of civil liability. The hot ticket these days is a degree in

Criminal Justice (formerly called Police Science, another oxymoron).

SWAT has moved from countersniper to "high risk" warrant operations, and they have passed these techniques on to patrol and narcotics units. Even simple arrests and detentions are carried out by squad-type units called teams, task forces, etc. Confronting the public with large numbers of officers has several advantages: The suspect is intimidated, the officers can talk to each other without listening to citizens, responsibility for mistakes can be spread through the team, and female officers can be protected without being singled out.

Outside SWAT, I doubt if very many cops wearing "ninja suits" or "Fritz" helmets have ever experienced the joys of infantry basic. If they had they would not attract rifle fire by bunching up or staying close to the black-and-whites.

David E. Steele

Insulting and Demeaning

I feel the article by Mr. Laugesen, whether written from personal animosity toward SWAT and other special operations within police departments, or as an "informative article" meant to reveal a few bad apples, to be both insulting and demeaning to today's local and federal law enforcement agencies. As a professional soldier, and a friend of several police officers, many of whom are on SWAT teams, I am embarrassed by your insinuation that police officers should not have military training that they often have. This insinuation is reminiscent of the ones made by male chauvinists that women should be kept in the kitchen, instead of the work force.

I also find the subliminal comparison of

Continued on page 29

U.S.M.C. Fighting/Utility Knives

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It's just hands-down the most brutally-effective (yet simple to master) system ever revealed to civilians!

Vicious Russian "Top Secret" Spec Op Military Fighting System *Finally* Revealed By Defiant "Underdog" U.S. Businessman!

This exciting news is going to blow the lid off the "self-defense" industry. Due to some unbelievably complex (international) breakthroughs...

I Now Have Videotape Of Russian Spec Op Unarmed Combat Secrets The U.S. Military Spent Millions Trying To Steal

And the U.S. military *still* doesn't have these amazing fighting secrets! You *cannot* find a qualified teacher of these vicious hand-to-hand fighting secrets *ANYWHERE* in the United States... not in the military Special Forces, not in the FBI or CIA Virginia compounds, not in *any* of the high-tech "foreign experiment" dojos around "Area 51" in Nevada (the most *secret* military installation in the world). This stuff is hands-down *the* best-kept secret among "insiders" in the world of *serious* combat.

But I found him — the ONLY former-Russian Special Forces "super-soldier" willing to reveal the fighting techniques that made Soviet elite soldiers the most *feared* fighters on the planet. Navy SEALs, DELTA soldiers, Rangers... they're tough guys, but even *they* admit they *NEVER* want to have to face anyone trained in the brutal killing arts of SPETSNAZ. (SPETSNAZ is Russian for "Special Forces", but the organization is actually *more* elite than even our SEALs — only *one* out of 3,000 Soviet spec op soldiers ever reaches this level... and *NO ONE* but these "elite-of-the-elite" soldiers in Russia ever gets *this* advanced training! Ninety-six percent of the *Soviet* military doesn't even know these secret killing arts exist — due to *intensive* government coverups! Even the more-famous KGB agents — Russia's version of the Nazi Gestapo — are *terrified* of SPETSNAZ operatives and their skills.)

The guy I found is named Vladimir Vasiliev, and I had to travel to Toronto, Canada to see him — he won't come see me here in the States. (Let's just say he's a little "cautious", due to his reputation and escape from Soviet Russia.) Finding this former Russian "super-soldier" meant risking my ass with some *serious* international intrigue. Fortunately, I still have several "deep contacts" in the U.S. military special forces... and when Vladimir finally decided to "go public" in a big way, he sent word to me through a Ranger veteran in northern Idaho.

And let me tell you, this is the most *important* "find" in all my years of working with world-class fighting arts. (I've been *swamped* with calls from cops, U.S. special forces soldiers, federal agents and street fighters about this tape... *even though it's not for sale yet* — word has slipped out among the insiders *already*.) You see, Vladimir wasn't just a Spec Op soldier... no... Vladimir was so "high up" he *taught* this astonishing Russian fighting system to other SPETSNAZ agents (and was, in fact, one of their "specialized" trainers)... and then *led* them in the most chilling and dangerous missions I've *ever* been briefed on (all *still* classified Top Secret by the Soviet Army)! (My Ranger contact, who did *two* frontline tours in Vietnam, was *equally* blown away listening to these bloody tales.)

Vladimir is so tight-lipped about his past it took me *6 months* to get this deal together... but I *did* it. And now... because of these jerk-off "black baggers" harassing me at home...

I Have To Move Fast To Make Sure These Amazing Combat Secrets Are Available (And Stay Available) To Civilians Like You!

What I'm doing is *not* illegal... but you know my little company has been stopped *before* by "high up" interference despite being in the right. (These "higher ups" want to keep this information *only* for cops and soldiers, and *out* of the hands of civilians like you and me. Last year we held 3 exciting "hands on" gun-and-fighting workshops hosted by veteran Navy SEALs and former DELTA officers... and these workshops were *stopped* by mysterious, *powerful* interference!) Now, dammit, I love this country... but sometimes a man is forced to just stand up and say "ENOUGH!" I don't care what *anyone* says — the Cold War is over, and if these "top secret" Russian hand-to-hand techniques are now "fair game" to be shared with you... well, that's what I'm gonna do. And if I'm putting my *life* in danger doing something that is *guaranteed* by the First Amendment... well... sometimes you gotta show a little courage to do the right thing.

But... with *your* help... I see an *EASY* way out of this... if you act *fast*.

Up to today, *very few* people have seen these tapes (or even know they exist). And, as *soon* as I can, I want to get these tapes

into the hands of as many "civilians" as possible. I've ordered a limited number of "special" sets of these tapes prepared, and by next weekend, I want them *all* in the hands of people like you. Once this happens...

The Cat Will Be Out Of The Bag!

There's *no* law against *owning* these tapes... or *selling* them. The only way anyone can stop this deal is to stop *me* from getting them out. Once the tapes are in the hands of the "public" (meaning non-military people like you), the game is *over*. That's why I am selling these special packages at *less than half* what they're worth!

And you don't get the "edited" version of the tapes, either — no, what I'm sending *you* is the same *un-edited* version that I have in my *own* home for training. *Plus*, I'm throwing in an *extra bonus video* — this extra footage really "*pushes the line*" — it contains Russian military "dirty tricks" about fighting with improvised weapons. This made sure that SPETSNAZ soldiers were never farther away than their belt, jacket, wallet or even a simple magazine from possessing an amazing weapon that can *defeat and disarm* even a skilled attacker holding a gun or knife on them. (This is incredible information I've never seen before from all my years in this business. Even professional soldiers and cops are astounded at the Russians' ability to create weapons out of virtually nothing during a streetfight.)

Plus, you get the most wild-ass guarantee I've ever offered *anyone* at any time — you can order these tapes, watch them, train with them... for an entire *4 months*... and, if you're not satisfied, for *any* reason, just send 'em back for a complete refund of your entire "insider" price. *AND*... you get to keep that special Russian "*improvised weapons*" *bonus video footage*, no matter what.

What's more... I'm even paying (out of my *own* pocket) for *all* your shipping and handling costs — about *\$16 worth* of postage-plus. That means you get *the most outrageous discount price available*... without *any* risk at all... *plus* the chance to see the "unedited" insider tapes... of the *HOTTEST* fighting secrets videos now in existence!

This will cost me dearly — *no way* am I going to make up my initial expense of flying a crew into Canada to shoot these tapes... not selling this huge package of stuff at *50% off*... but it's *worth* it... because... I have dedicated my life to providing this kind of

important information to civilians.

Now... I realize all this sounds like some weird "spy" drama you'd see on television. But this is how the "real world" works. Most men in my position would just close up shop, and not try to ruffle anyone's feathers. I'm not like that. I love being an American, and it feels good to do the right thing... even if I'm taking an *enormous risk*.

You, of course, risk absolutely nothing.

But, man, are you ever going to be blown away by these tapes Vladimir made! If you value your self-defense (and the *protection* of your family and loved ones)... you have just discovered the *easiest... yet most effective* way to beat *any* attacker (of any size), anywhere, *anytime*... even if you are surprised, outnumbered, or *bare-handed* against a weapon!

Here's why *everyone* who's seen it is so excited about this new fighting system:

- There are *NO* moves to memorize or practice — the *entire* system works by using your *natural movements* (and just "lethalizing" them with a few "twists"). This is the *only* system I've ever seen where you look like you're having relaxed FUN kicking serious ass!
- No one has a *clue* how defend or *attack* this system — even the handful of U.S. fighting experts who have seen it *can't* find a way to beat it! There are no "stances", so you're *never* unprepared... *and cannot be taken by surprise!*
- It's so ingeniously *simple*, you can MASTER it in the *shortest time humanly possible!* (Russian spec op soldiers spent *minimum* time in training — a *fraction* of what SEALS do — and yet the Russians *quickly* attained *better* hand-to-hand fighting skills!) There is *NO* other fighting art you can learn in a shorter time *anywhere* on the planet!
- You *don't* need to be in shape, or have fast reflexes, or *any* previous training at all — in fact, being buffed-out and having athletic reactions won't help you master this any faster at all! (Vladimir loves training women, first-time fighters, and people you might be tempted to call "weak" or "small".) In fact... this style is so *fluid and natural* that it easily adapts to *your* particular strengths and...

Instantly Eliminates Your Weaknesses!

You learn it fast, it's *easy* to use, and yet even *casual* training in it will allow you to rub the noses of bigger, meaner, and more skilled black belt/streetfighting thugs into the

dirt. It's so *deceptively dangerous*, people will think you're using *magic* to knock opponents out! Sounds like a Hollywood bullshit movie, doesn't it. Well, it's not. I checked it out — by hiring two expensive "investigative reporters" to see if all this was the truth. **Here's what they found:**

First, Vladimir is the "real thing." He was a champion boxer and karate competitor in his home town of Tver (2 hours east of Moscow). When he reached the Army, his special talents as a fighter got him placed in officer training with SPETSNAZ. He spent 10 years with that elite operation, running multiple special missions... including *eleven* deep reconnaissance and POW recoveries *behind enemy lines* (this was during the brutal Afghanistan War — Russia's nightmare version of our Vietnam).

On top of seeing *more* bloody face-to-face combat than any American soldier I've met, Vladimir was so skilled at these special hand-to-hand combat arts that he trained *other* SPETSNAZ operatives, KGB hit-men, Kremlin bodyguards, elite paratroopers and Russian big-city SWAT teams.

But it's *WHAT* he taught that's so interesting. This Russian fighting system is like *NOTHING* you've ever seen or heard about before. There are very good reasons why the U.S. military spent mega-millions of dollars (and *wasted* the lives of good agents) trying to *steal* this amazing system.

First, it's just hands-down the most devastating fighting system anyone's ever seen. (This is *freely admitted* by martial art experts in every discipline.) Second, it's *simple* to master, and *not based on strength or conditioning* — the equivalent of handing you a *loaded revolver* to face an unarmed attacker:

No contest!

Third, there's the amazing "*short cut*" learning process. Russian scientists discovered long ago how to *quickly* "download" even the most vicious training *directly* into your nervous system — so it's *part of who you are*, not just something you've *memorized*. That means, in a fight, while the *other* guy is *thinking* about his next move, you've *already made yours*... and *ended* the fight. (This Russian secret of "training the nervous system directly" has *never* been fully understood by the U.S. military — in fact, Vladimir can't even explain what he does... he only has the *massive evidence of success* to show that what he does works. This *enrages* American scientists — *especially* the ones connected with the Pentagon.)

Fourth, this new system prepares you with physical, psychological and PSYCHIC training... stuff our boys haven't even *begun* to understand. Vladimir trained with knives held to his back, fighting live prisoners using *live ammo*, suffering mind-game torture (like being stuffed in a small sewer pipe so tight he could barely *breathe*, and *left* there for long hours)... and — coupled with the devastating

hand-to-hand skills you're also about to learn — it was this training that got these soldiers so tough, so *dangerous*, and so *skilled* that they got through bloody fights victorious and safe.

What's more... it was GUARANTEED these elite Russian soldiers would *never* meet a better hand-to-hand fighter...

Anywhere On The Planet!

This system evolved because of Russia's long history of warfare. *Everybody* took a shot at them over the last few thousand years... which meant Russian soldiers had to learn (fast) how to beat black belt Japanese Samurai... razor-swallowing Mongols under Attila the Hun... French savate experts... British boxers... Korean swordsmen... Turkish terrorists... German storm-troopers... and on and on. So they needed a system that would *instantly* adapt to *any* fighting style you faced... and *instantly beat* it.

Russia didn't have a "standing" army of professional soldiers until recently, either — so this fighting system also had to be *learned quickly* by farmers and factory workers... and *mastered* by them... so they could go into battle (often the *next day*) and *win* against superior numbers and better-armed *professional* warriors. What's more, once learned, this system had to be *so simple to remember*, and so *natural* (using *only* those moves you do naturally, *everyday*, to walk, wash, eat, breathe, etc.) that these "farmer-soldiers" wouldn't forget it, *even if it was 20 years until the next battle!*

The amazing thing is, my researchers discovered that *civilians* who learned (even *casually*) this system seemed to absorb *all* the attributes of the "super soldiers". Here are just a few stories we learned:

- One young Canadian who Vladimir trained for a short time is so *small*, and so "fragile" looking (5'6", 140 pounds soaking wet) you might mistake him for a *girl* from across the street. Yet... he's now **banned** from competition fighting because he *hurt* all his opponents too seriously! (Black belts don't *like* to get their noses broken by a "boy" who doesn't seem to actually *have* any fighting skills they can identify!)
- Another Canadian guy named Mike Sapiz (5'9", maybe 160 pounds) ran afoul of 7 *beefy bouncers* in a European nightclub — the biggest one was a bodybuilder with 17 inch arms and a *serious* attitude problem... but the "fight" took about 8 seconds — Mike took the big jerk down and held him there, helpless, for the other bouncers to see, and they backed off, all their macho attitude suddenly *gone*. Mike's *life* had been threatened, and his training with Vladimir literally *forced* him to react in the most brutally effective way.
- Another Canadian (James Pomerants) was vacationing in the Caribbean, minding his own business, when the guy at the next table pulled out a **knife** and

waved it in a woman's face. No one else in the bar moved... but James *took the knife away* and "convinced" the wildman to calm down with a nerve-shattering move *no one saw*. His brief Russian System training just "leapt" out of him, *automatically and savagely*.

- A 32-year-old cop arrived at a scene just like the Rodney King incident — this crack-crazed thug wasn't fazed by pepper spray or nightsticks, and was terrorizing *3 armed policemen*. He stepped in and put the mad-dog on the ground *without hesitation*... using a *simple move* he had only *recently* learned from Vladimir. (Needless to say, those other cops are now among those hounding me for these new training videos.)
- A Russian soldier (name withheld) had been parachuted *behind enemy lines* in Afghanistan, and hadn't seen food or water for days. He was *exhausted*, and struggling with a 130-pound pack of explosives — a *stiff breeze* would have taken him down. Afghani mountain warriors attacked with Khyber swords (long, curved blades as sharp as razors)... no contest. The Afghani's are feared the world over for their *viciousness* and courage and *delight in killing*... but *this time* they had picked the wrong "easy target". This soldier was trained in the Russian System, and even dead-tired, hampered by 130 pounds of metal and leather, starved and surprised... he disposed of the attacker in *seconds*.

It's amazing, too, what happens when "ordinary" people train with Vladimir. **Businessmen** suddenly find themselves *influencing* people with their confidence and intuition... **smaller guys** who would never otherwise consider a bodyguard job suddenly *excel* at it... and... without a word said... suddenly *no one* wants to get in your way in the street. It's like "loading up" your body and your confidence with...

Mysterious Power That Others Can Sense In You!

What Vladimir does is teach your *body* to "think"... this training goes *straight* to your nervous system, and operates *automatically* whenever you're in danger! This ain't JKD by any measure... yet what Vladimir teaches is *more* "in tune" with Bruce Lee's philosophy than *any other* art now practiced anywhere! (Stay fluid... no memorized moves... only use what *works*, regardless of tradition... *everything* Bruce Lee promised has shown up in this amazing new system.)

Here are some *details* of what you're about to learn:

- Where to find the "handles" on your opponent so you can lead him into your elbows and knees and *inflict more immediate damage* than any karate kick or ju jitsu take-down known!

- How to deliver a "punch" (without *ever* forming a classic "fist") that will do more devastation than hitting your opponent with a *hammer!* (You'll look like a blur of motion, but in reality you're only making very simple, *natural* movements — *easily learned* — which you can use *regardless* of your fitness level or body type!)
- The most *unique* knee work you've ever seen... allowing you to *dominate* attackers *without putting your drink down!* Devastating, effective... *perfect* for tight places, or when your arms have been trapped (or, as the Russians learn, *wounded!*)
- How to unleash the natural "whips" in your body to *take out* even attackers who have advanced, high-end athletic quick reactions! (They can be *twice* as fast as you and *still* not be able to defend themselves from the brain-numbing blows you deliver!)
- How to use your belly to deflect formal and street-level strikes — even if you've got a *large* gut! (You've *never* seen a fighting art that allows you to be *so out of shape, and still deadly!*)
- Special "one-strike" fight-enders especially developed by the Russians to be used when you are exhausted, drained of energy, even wounded! (You *only* want to know *this* vicious stuff for when your *life is in danger!* The games are over...)
- New target areas you *never knew existed* that will *instantly* leave your attacker numb and useless! (A simple "tap"... and he's *limp!*)
- How to multiply the power behind your blows — a simple technique that can turn a mild *slap* into the *most savage strike you've ever delivered!*
- How to use your *elbow* to take out bulky, *larger* opponents... especially street-fighting boxers! (Not like *any* karate elbow work you've ever seen!)
- How to take out multiple opponents with the Russian version of the "bitch slap" — an *unbelievably deadly strike* that "multiplies" itself... *perfect* for taking out 2 attackers at once!
- The "rotating fist" that causes extreme pain with every "touch"! (Let your opponent know right *NOW* who he's dealing with, and what he has to look forward to if he doesn't run away *immediately!*)
- How Russians have learned to "parlay" the energy of *getting hit* (in a surprise attack), so your "reply" strike *absorbs* all the power and *returns* it — just like an electric current making a loop and burning a hole in the original plug! (Pro fighters have been searching for this secret for *years!*)
- Special strikes that will let a 12-year-old kid *shred* a bodybuilder's gridiron stomach like *melted cheese!*
- An ingenious way to use your *teeth* (that could *only* come from the Russians) on hidden "pressure points" that will leave your opponent *helpless!*
- How to use special "psi" training techniques to quickly "recondition" your nervous system *so you don't feel pain during a fight!*
- How to turn the fact you're shorter, smaller, fatter or *weaker* than your opponent into an *advantage!*
- Where to look with your eyes during a confrontation — the Russians discovered it's *NOT* a direct stare that gives you an advantage... almost *all* professional fighters eventually do this intuitively, and now *you'll* have the secret!
- The incredible Russian "Trinity Shot" — a rapid-fire *explosion* of hands and feet that no one can defend against! (And yet it's *simple* to learn, completely adaptable to your body type and level of fitness!)
- How to use ingenious "test kicks" to find out *how scared* your opponent is! (He may look confident and tough, but you'll know the *truth* in seconds.)
- How to become "mugger-proof" by learning how to easily turn *unexpected attacks* (even from behind your back) into instant *wins!*
- How to knock someone *completely off balance*... by *spitting* at them! (Yes, there's a trick to it, but you only need to see it *once* to understand how to use it effectively!)
- Why the "breathing secrets" of all Oriental martial arts *don't work* in a real fight... and how to use your *natural breathing* to add **400% more power** to your every move in a dangerous situation! (This secret explains why Russian fighters *laugh* so much when they fight!)
- How to stay relaxed (literally, loose as a goose) during the most dangerous attacks... allowing any *fear* to simply *dissipate* into thin air! (Quickly, you'll learn how to *never* "feel" fear again!)
- How to make fancy black belt kickers look *silly* by simply "tripping" them up!
- How to take down a trained fighter with a *5-inch hip move* (used by elite soldiers who have been captured and *tyed up!*)
- The most devastating "finishing moves" you've ever seen — easy to learn, utterly final for ending a fight fast!
- The famous "Tregubetz" takedown move that scares the *crap* out of ju jitsu ground fighters!
- How to open his fist and *remove* the knife as if from a child!
- The 3 "mind-game" secrets that even *tiny* Russians use to become the *best bodyguards in the world!*
- Everything the Russians know about body language during a fight — secrets that will give you a 100% advantage over *anyone* who's never been told these critical facts! (Find out who's more scared, who's more skilled, who's going down *first!*)
- Totally *unknown* (in the U.S.) knee strikes that will give you an *instant advantage* over better-skilled fighters! (*Especially* in tight places, like a crowded bar or a narrow alley

or between parked cars.)

- *Filthy Russian "dirty tricks"* that will turn cocky black belt fighters into *unconscious lumps of meat at your feet!* (You won't believe these "one-second discussion enders" until you see them for yourself!)

And lots more. In fact, I've made sure your "special" set of tapes includes a Bonus section on "Improvised Weapons"... where you'll learn: **How to make a instant set of "brass knuckles" with a magazine and four quarters!** (*Better* than a brick or baseball bat for inflicting pain and damage against multiple attackers — includes specific "best targets" map for strikes)... **How to use your wallet to take out a knife-wielding attacker!** (Perfect "dirty trick" for turning tables on a mugger)... **How to use a credit card as a knife!** (Inflict wounds as savage as an *Afghani Khyber sword!*)... **How to use your jacket to take away a knife, to strangle multiple opponents** (astounding technique, easy to master!), and to **literally tie-up a conscious attacker so he can't get free!**... **11 ways to use your belt more effectively than a knife or bat!** (Plus, the Russian Army "official" way to use a belt to truss up an opponent so he can't move, can't get away... and will go anywhere you want him to go! Perfect info for taking care of attackers *after* you've subdued them!)... **How to make a "noose" out of almost anything...** to make sure your opponent *stays* down after you've put him on the ground! (Answers the question, finally, of *what to do until the cops arrive!*)

Look... I could go on for another 20 pages... but if you aren't convinced by now, *you never will be.* I wouldn't be trusting you with all this hot information if I didn't have a pretty good idea you'd be very interested. I've done all I can to bring these amazing video tapes to you. It cost a small fortune to fly a professional crew up there, do the 3-camera shoot (on top equipment), *clear Customs with unlabeled bags,* and get the

master-copies made. I've slashed the price to 50% of what everyone else will pay (plus arranged for you to get a *longer* guarantee than anyone gets), thrown in every "goodie" available... *and I have your special set of tapes and manual right here in my office.*

All I need is your okay to send it out.

Here's what you need to do now: Call my office at **1-800-899-8153** (Dept. RC-53) and tell whoever answers you're giving "clearance" for us to ship the special set of "Unedited Russian System" videos we've put aside for you. The price is \$99 (that's half of what everyone expected to have to pay)... but, if you call right away (within 11 days), I'll even pay for your shipping and handling — *another \$16 savings.* (And you'll *still* get *rush delivery.*)

Nevertheless, you get the *SAME* "unedited" version I have *myself* to train with at home. Later, when we go to the "general" public, we'll have to sanitize the tapes quite a bit. (The camera crew and the sound guys all insisted on *this* version for themselves, too... the *FIRST* time I've ever had a request like that from a crew. These guys are jaded... but Vladimir impressed them like *no one else they've ever seen!*) **PLUS...** you get the Bonus section on "Improvised Weapons"... (the *same* "insider" knowledge the SPETSNAZ "super soldiers" got) -- and you can **KEEP** the bonus video *no matter what you decide to do later!* (And, you have 4 months to decide! I'll *personally* make sure you get an immediate refund.)

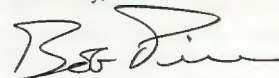
The *ONLY* catch to all this is...

You Have To Call Right NOW!

Just order the tapes, keep them as long as you like, sample the training... *and make your own decision.* That's what this is all about — the *right* to make your own decision about this kind of information. So please... **call right now.** Like I said, I've got a special set of the tapes waiting here for you. I've got

people waiting for your call (use the special toll-free line: **1-800-899-8153.**)

Sincerely,



Bob Pierce

P.S. Listen — if you'd rather pay by check or money order, you can just fill out the Priority Order coupon below and mail it in... but still... you gotta do this **TODAY,** all right? Thanks.

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James Pomerants, 37,
professional bodyguard

"Even as a black belt in Kung Fu, I was still scared of confrontations or of getting into a fight. That all changed with Vladimir's teachings — I'm now totally confident, and I know that whatever happens, I will survive. I can handle any kind of confrontation now." — **Elad Saji,** black belt instructor in Kung Fu, Toronto

"This Russian fighting system is the best I've found — completely different from anything else you've ever seen. There are no special movements, like in karate — all moves are natural and instinctive, so it's easy to learn." — **Igor Davidov,** professional boxer, trained with Canadian Olympic Boxing Team

"I've developed so much new confidence, that I now routinely fight with guys twice my size. This system teaches you what will work in a streetfight, and you can believe it because Vladimir has so much real-life experience to share!" — **Barry Street, 26**

"The best system to handle multiple attackers you could ever study. I've studied Ju-Jitsu, Tae-Kwon-Do, Phillipino martial arts, you name it... and I plan to stick with what Vladimir taught me! This is the ultimate confidence booster." — **Dr. Brett Jacques,** 43, Portland, Oregon (Professional Sambo fighter, former Army Ranger)

"Vladimir only teaches you what he knows will work in real-life situations. I've got 20 years of black-belt fighting experience and I've never seen anybody do what he does — this system is several steps higher than any other martial art!" — **Den Brinkley,** 50, Salt Lake City, Vietnam veteran

"The beautiful part of Vladimir's system is that your opponent is encouraged to touch you... and once they have, you immediately destroy them!"

Rick Merrell, black belt in
Tae-Kwon-Do

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the militarization of our police to the reign of the Third Reich to be both despicable and inexcusable. That is nothing but a gross exaggeration of a half-truth, based on the biased opinion of an obviously disgruntled man who happens to have a public forum (soapbox) to stand on. In plain English, the article insulted me, as it did several others who hold our peacekeepers in high regard. Police officers have enough to worry about trying to apprehend a criminal with no legal obligation, and no superior to answer to, without having to justify something that is long overdue (i.e. special operations forces within the law enforcement agencies).

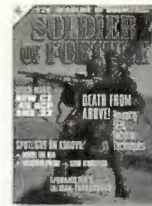
As an enthusiastic reader of this magazine it shocks and saddens me to see an article (cover story nonetheless) demeaning our nation's fine law enforcement agencies. To state that police need to remain the docile and friendly peacekeepers of the 1950s is to suggest that America is the friendly country of the movies. That is amusing. Clearly, the public is obviously uninformed, and this magazine does its best to keep us up to date with the truth, but whose truth is it preaching? It is easy to attack a target that you don't understand. Perhaps if you were to spend time with the people you are attacking, you would have a different outlook. I am sure you will have no problem

now with studying these people. I am in no way trying to attack the magazine as a whole, I am just embarrassed to see an article written in a magazine so dedicated to freedom and democracy, so aggressively blatant in its attack of the very people who are sworn to protect. Police officers are asked to do a job with a plethora of rules and regulations standing in their way. Police are all too often portrayed as the bad guys in movies, and as imbeciles on television. Please don't jump on the bandwagon you are usually trying to overturn. To do so will turn dedicated readers away, and we have nothing else to consult for the truth. Your magazine is a voice for people who cannot speak for themselves. Don't forget why you created it. You have enough support from your readers in the military and law enforcement community — don't lose that trying to bite the hand that feeds you.

Respectfully,

Anthony R. Kruzel
U.S. Army

NOTE: Due to the tremendous amount of reader reaction to "The Thin Blurry Line," next issue will devote feature-length space to publishing some of the many very articulate counterpoint responses we have received from peace officers across the country. Don't miss it!



Y2Krisis?

The February edition on the Y2K bug, and the Techno Treason story were very informative and I just wanted to say keep us all up to date on this Y2K bug issue. Thanks and keep up the good work.

Shane Henseon

Y2Krackpots?

I have been a long-time reader of your magazine. I am an avid collector of military firearms and have found your articles on such weapons to be excellent. I also find your articles on government military and foreign policy informative and well written.

Your article on the Y2K issue, however, was more worthy of one of those UFO watch magazines. The only thing the article lacked were little green men landing after Y2K to take over.

I have worked in the data processing industry since 1979. I am currently employed as a network design engineer. To say no one has addressed the issue is rubbish. There have been conferences, seminars and books dating back to 1995. Many large corporations and computer manufacturing companies will gladly give

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you a legal statement guaranteeing their compliance for Y2K. No large company or government agencies are waiting to see what happens.

Those millions upon millions of embedded systems Mr. Norell discusses do exist. Sure, the day-date display on my toaster might be wrong, but it will still probably make toast. As for financials, keep your money in big reputable institutions and ask if they have a guarantee of Y2K compliance.

I hope you have the guts to put this in print, as a service to readers who may not be computer literate. Sure, there may be some glitches, but to assume that society will fall apart is irresponsible journalism. Where is Mr. Norell's research on what has been done to fix Y2K? Facts, not rumored myths, are what I have come to expect from your publication.

Sorry guys, but if this is the best you can do with computers, stick to guns, which you do quite well.

Mike Chambers

Well, thanks for your input, but I'm still keeping up my membership in the Luddite Party. The author's point was not that nothing has been done, but that there is a great deal more to do — not that if you go in the woods you will be eaten by a bear, but that there are bears in the woods.

April 19th ... Again

In response to "Y2K: Deadline of Doom," the article brought up many of the important reasons why planning for the future may not include a comfortable retirement, to say the least. There were two important dates left out from the article that are extremely important when preparing for the millennium [bug]. First, April 19th, the Japanese banks move to the fiscal year 1999-2000. This could trigger problems with banking in Japan which could result in adverse reactions by U.S. banks because of being interdependent and interconnected by investments. This date can be the first downturn in our economy. The other date is August 21, 1999 at 2359 hours and 47 seconds. The stroke of midnight is earlier by 13 seconds because of an adjustment for "leap seconds." Leap seconds work just like leap years, but instead of skipping a year, you just skip a few seconds. This date and time is significant because this is when the Global Positioning System experiences its own millennium rollover. GPS is on a 1,024 week calendar which began January of 1980. GPS, which is controlled by the government, sends date and time information to the computers which control the national power grid. If the GPS receivers for the power grid have been updated with receivers made after 1995, then the system shouldn't crash. If the receivers are still the

older models, then at that time the grid will crash. I think that a realistic date to be prepared by is August 21, 1999. After that date, public awareness could be higher and our money could be worth less and supplies could be fewer.

Here are some web sites on the subject worth looking at:

www.y2knewswire.com
www.yardeni.com
www.yourdon.com
www.garynorth.com

Tim Whalen
 Columbus, Ohio



"Bad" Was Good

My thanks for Dale B. Cooper's "Bad to the Bone." How encouraging to see the fabulous "Electric Jet" so well covered in a publication that usually views the arts of warfare from a lower and slower perspective. Your article ought to boost morale in the two remaining active-duty wings still flying the B-1.

My pleasure was multiplied to learn that your reporter had actually flown with my old outfit, the 77th. I was assigned there in the late 1980s as an instructor, when the aircraft was coming into inventory. It's reas-

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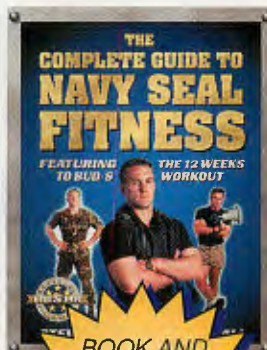
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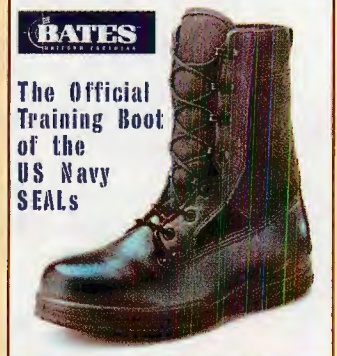
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suring to know that younger troops still stand ready — even if I am too old and broken down to do it now.

Lt. Col. Dean Spraggins, USAF
Senior Analyst, U.S. Strategic Command

the-left-but-not-too-looney state university. What keeps me out of arguments is that I am female and have a reputation for saying *exactly* what I think of the anti-military/anti-veteran crowd. (That, and the strong veteran presence in this state.) Keep

up the good work, guys, and don't feel too bad about the TV show thing. Nobody takes Hollywood seriously anymore.

Andrea K. West
University of Montana ✕

Very Scary

Just sent this to comments address. Is it true that U.S. Marines on float in the Pacific were rerouted to Australia and assisted in weapons confiscation of Australian citizens after they were outlawed by the Australian government? This is scary and I hope not true.

Jim Williams, USMC 76-83

The scariest thing about this is that a reasonable man would think it is true. Where did that come from? The Spotlight? The Australian government confiscated the Aussies' guns by telling them to bring 'em in — and so they did. (Well, most of them, anyway.)

No Argument Here, Either

You ought to see the looks on people's faces when I pop up the *SOF* homepage or pull out the latest edition at this slightly-to-



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When will saving lives become as important as saving face?



The Clinton Administration knows precisely which policy will cut gun murders and save countless lives.

But they've ignored it. Maybe because it has nothing to do with gun bans, waiting periods or FBI record-keeping. Or maybe because NRA has proposed it for decades.

It simply enforces existing federal law: Every single felon caught carrying or attempting to purchase a gun gets five years in federal prison. No exceptions, no deals, no discussion.

Dubbed Project Exile and deployed by a handful of courageous prosecutors in Richmond, Virginia, it swiftly cut gun murders by 65% and has saved hundreds of lives.

With no help from the White House and often active resistance from the Justice Department, Project Exile now struggles to survive. NRA just donated another \$100,000 to help keep it alive while other cities consider adopting it.

NRA has also sponsored and endorsed Truth-in-Sentencing legislation, "Three Strikes and You're Out," right to carry, prison construction and mandatory sentencing. All are reasons why violent crime is down, but all are uniformly resisted by this Administration.

Such duplicity is revealed by the proud announcement that, in one million instant checks on gun buyers last month, 11,000 gun sales to apparent convicted felons were blocked.

But felons trying to buy guns is a federal crime — where are 11,000 arrests and prosecutions?

They didn't prosecute them and don't intend to. Such dishonesty only results in more tragedy at the hands of armed felons stalking our streets.

More than once, we have asked the White House to put aside political differences and make Project Exile national policy.

Instead, we get more empty speeches.

Sacrificing the truth may be shameful. But sacrificing lives is inexcusable.



Charlton Heston

CHARLTON HESTON
President



Wayne LaPierre

WAYNE LAPIERRE
Executive Vice President



James J. Baker

JAMES J. BAKER
Executive Director
Institute for Legislative Action



ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

Woodland Camouflage Tool Roll Pouch

Over the next few issues "Adventure Quartermaster" will introduce a number of quality products from Pueblo Diversified Industries. PDI was founded more than 30 years ago as a non-profit vocational rehab facility that assists vets and adults with disabilities through vocational training, paid work and career advancement. They manufacture a number of mil-spec products for Uncle Sam. They do very good work in getting people back on their feet, and in producing a quality product at a competitive price. All their products are made in the U.S.A. and guaranteed to be free of defects. They take Visa, Mastercard or postal money orders. They have offered to give special discounts to *SOF* readers.



One example of their mil-spec products is the PDI Woodland Camouflage Tool Roll Pouch, made of -40° F cold-crack vinyl and having 12 slots for 12 or more tools of your choice — mechanics tools, gun-cleaning gear, camp-kitchen gear or whatever you need to keep together, safe and clean. Ideal for long-term storage. Regular retail is \$6.75, but *SOF* readers get them for only \$4.75 plus \$2.50 post and handling. Good gear, good deal, good outfit to deal with. Contact Mark Bunch, Director of Marketing, Pueblo Diversified Industries, Dept. SOF, 2828 Granada Blvd., Pueblo, CO 81005; phone: 800-466-8393.

Blade-Mate Knife Openers

If you shop for quality in working knives (and you should unless you're buying gifts) you no doubt have one or more single-blade folders that were made years ago before thumbstud openers became common. For instance, we have a Buck #110 folding hunter that has seen uncountable trips to the woods, which we fully plan to leave as part of our estate as it is one of our favorite hard-use large folders and there is no way we'll ever wear it out or break it. Would be nice to open it with one hand, though, when the other hand is busy.



Ahah! Y.B. Technology has introduced their "Blade-Mate" and "One-Arm-Bandit" retrofit thumbstud kits in three sizes to fit most large single-blade folders. They attach firmly with a fine-thread set screw and a special locking key. The Blade-Mate is machined from solid brass and is available natural or with a nickel finish, and fits most single-

blade folders with a blade thickness of 1/8" or less. The One-Arm-Bandit is made of stainless steel, available in three sizes: Model A for blades up to 1/8" thick (such as the Buck #110 Folding Hunter); Model B for blades from 1/8" to 3/16" thick (such as the SOG Tomcat); and the compact Model C designed for smaller knives with blades up to 1/8" thick.

Fully adjustable, these thumbstuds can be mounted in the posi-

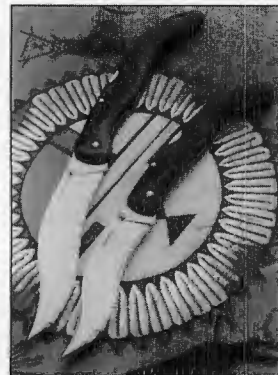
tion you prefer, and with the special locking key may be removed, adjusted or even moved to another knife. Easily lost parts such as the locking screw available free from the maker.

They cost \$7.95 plus \$2 shipping; payment by postal money orders only, please.

Contact Y.B. Technology, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 65, Snowdon Station, Montreal, Quebec H3X-3T3, Canada.

Vaquero, Vaquero Grande

Cold Steel's two new serrated-blade folders, the Vaquero and Vaquero Grande, make a big knife a light knife to carry. The Vaquero Grande has a 6" blade and is 13 1/4" open, 7 1/4" closed and weighs a mere 6.2 ounces. The Vaquero has a 5" blade and is 11 1/4" open and only 6 1/4" closed — and weighs in at an incredible 4.6 ounces. They both feature a new metal clip for side pocket or belt carry, and both have ambidextrous thumbstud opening. The 3.5mm-thick blades are made of AUS8A stainless and they feature non-slip Zytel handles. A lot of knife for the weight; particularly recommended if you work a lot of rope, as line parts ahead of these serrated and honed blades like water ahead of Moses' staff. For information on the Vaqueros or any other of Cold Steel's quality cutlery, contact Cold Steel Customer Service, Dept. SOF, 2128-D Knoll Dr., Ventura, CA 93003; phone: 800-255-4716.



Millennium Bean Mixes

With people wringing their hands over possible Y2K problems, we recommend a person just sit home and enjoy a good pot of beans until the utilities and traffic lights get working again; the intellectually challenged quit running around the streets with guns and the stores work out any supply problems. Of course, we've sampled the various bean recipes from Ponderosa Sports & Mercantile before and we never met one of their legumes we didn't like. They are tasty, and one sure doesn't need the rationale of possible infrastructure problems to lay in a supply of their fine products. When you can set aside a safety net of chow for only 67 cents a serving, and you can eat them anytime, we'd be hard-pressed to find reason not to have a few of Ponderosa's handy stackable buckets on the shelf. Their five new varieties include Rice & Bean Mix, Pea Mix, Chili Mix and Minestrone Mix. Each 2-gallon bucket contains the legumes, seasoning mix, measuring cup and directions. Each variety costs \$40 delivered in the continental United States.

Contact Ponderosa Sports & Mercantile, Dept. SOF, 6854 Highway 55, Horseshoe Bend, ID 83629; phone: 208-793-3121; fax: 208-793-3133; e-mail: ponder@micron.net ☒



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Hell's Four Acres



The Navy Bombs The Knave

It's

Groundhog Day in the Persian Gulf. Cruise missiles still rain down on Baghdad, U.S. forces continue to launch air ops against Iraqi biological weapons facilities and Saddam Hussein is still in power.

Today is also the 29th consecutive day that the *U.S.S. Carl Vinson* — “4.5 acres of sovereign U.S. territory” — has been on-station in the Gulf as part of Operation Southern Watch/Desert Fox, the latest U.S.-led effort to rid the world of the most persistent geopolitical threat the decade has known.

Strangely, though, after more than eight years of United Nations-led disarmament-monitoring backed by threats and airstrikes, the U.S. — and the world for that matter — is still no closer to achieving a solution for straight-jacketing Saddam's megalomania than they were on 2 August 1990, the day his forces invaded Kuwait.

For the pilots on the *U.S.S. Carl Vinson*,

however, little of that matters. What does is the chance to put all of those years of training and endless hours of making left turns over China Lake to a real-world test. Dodging Russian-made surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) while piloting a simulator is one thing, but quite another is sitting in a 50,000 pound F/A-18 Hornet humping three tons of GBU-12 smart bombs, two sidewinders and a few HARM missiles over hostile Iraqi territory.

Said one pilot from Strike Fighter Squadron 94, (“Mighty Shrikes”), “There's no second chances in that kind of environment. I mean, many of us have never actually flown over Iraq before we were deployed here, and we trained hard and thankfully all of us have returned to ship after every sortie. Hell, yes, this beats training. This is why I joined Navy aviation.”

That's also why *SOF*, upon smelling the first whiff of possible serious action against Iraq, decided to contact the U.S. Navy 5th

Text & Photos by
Mark H. Milstein





Fleet in Bahrain and go as quickly as possible to the Gulf. Less than 48 hours after arriving in the Bahraini capital of Manama, the U.S. Navy's efficient press center team had us strapped in for the one hour C-2A Greyhound flight to the carrier.

We weren't disappointed.

Air combat operations were still in motion when our COD, as the C-2A is also known, landed on the *Vinson's* deck. Events were moving quickly. Not an hour earlier had two of the *Vinson's* F-14s engaged a number of Iraqi MiGs over the southern "No Fly Zone," and word was buzzing that one of the Navy aircraft might have actually knocked a MiG out of the sky with an "over-the-horizon" Sidewinder strike.

It was the first American-Iraqi air-to-air confrontation in more than six years.

According to what I was able to get out of Lieutenant Dave Waterman, the *Vinson's* public affairs officer (PAO), the Sidewinders apparently failed to hit the Iraqi planes, although one Iraqi plane was believed to have crashed, apparently after running out of fuel.

The official Iraqi news agency said Iraqi planes "confronted and clashed with the aggressive American aircraft" before "the aggressive aircraft withdrew. All of our air force planes returned to base safely."

The American planes — two Air Force F-15 strike aircraft and the *Vinson's* two F-14 fighters — returned safely after the confrontation, Waterman told *SOF*.

Soldier Of Fortune later learned that the

air-to-air altercation was the first over Iraq since late December 1992, when a U.S. Air Force F-16 shot down an Iraqi MiG-25.

According to our information about the latest dogfight, there were actually two separate contacts 15 minutes apart, one involving U.S. Air Force F-15s and Iraqi MiG-25s, the other the *Vinson's* F-14s and MiG-25s. Word had it that a total of six missiles were fired during the two incidents.

Although a bit of bragging over the successful dogfight crept into the dinner conversation in the officer's mess that night, op sec was still incredibly tight aboard the *Vinson*. If you didn't think you could keep 5,700 seaman from talking, just ask probing questions about possible targets and threat assessment and see what kind of reaction you received. Trying to squeeze any information from Navy personnel that might paint a better picture than that being recited on CNN or out of official Navy channels was absolutely impossible.

No one, but no one, talked — and that went doubly so when it was a reporter asking the questions.

For any real answers we had to spend time on deck — watching the red-shirted ordnance teams loading their cocktails of smart bombs, air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles under the wings of the three dozen or so F-14s or F/A-18s crowding "steel beach," as the flight deck is known.

The only real sure-fire way to tell if the planes being launched at any arbitrary time of the day were going out on a planned

A 50,000 pound F/A-18 Hornet (left) that can carry three tons of GBU-12 smart bombs, two Sidewinders and a few HARM missiles readies itself on the flight deck of the *U.S.S. Carl Vinson*. (below) An hour before *SOF's* arrival, two of the *Vinson's* F-14s engaged a number of Iraqi MiGs over the southern "No Fly Zone" — the first American-Iraqi air-to-air confrontation in more than six years.





(above) "Four-and-a-half acres of sovereign U.S. territory" is covered, but ship's crew can launch an aircraft every 20 seconds — all of Carrier Air Wing 11's three squadrons of F/A-18 Hornet attack fighters and one squadron of F-14 Tomcat air supremacy fighters in about 15 minutes. (right) Four of the *Vinson's* EA-6B Prowler pilots are women, as are five F/A-18 Hornet fighter pilots, and six who fly SH-60 Seahawk helicopters involved in search-and-rescue missions. (below) Even with the aid of the "Ouija board," this plastic replica of the flight deck and all the ship's aircraft, trying to keep an eye on the incredible activity on the *Vinson's* flight deck is an awesome job. (bottom) Over the past several decades, Sidewinders in various iterations have accounted for more air-to-air kills than any other weapon of its type.



bombing mission was to look closely at the faces — specifically the eyes — of the pilots, navigators and crew members of those aircraft preparing to take off and bomb the hell out of targets with names like Qurna, Tallil, An Nasiryah, Balad, Habbaniya, Altao-addum and Al Isitandariyah.

“Some things you just can plan for,” said one pilot from VFA-22, the “Fighting Redcocks.” “You train hard how to avoid SAM fire, but until you fly through it you’ll never really know how to react. That’s why we brief and debrief. We learn from each other’s experiences.”

Forget Any “One-On-One”

What about dogfights, we asked? Saddam’s air force might easily be dismissed as a non-entity, we added, but Iraqi MiGs still represent enough of a threat to remind even the most seasoned pilot that one slip, one second of lapse, could result in either death or a one-way ticket to an Iraqi POW camp.

“Yes,” another pilot from the “Fighting Redcocks” told *SOF*, “you can laugh all you want about the Iraqi air force. But they’re not trying to go one-on-one with us; they know they can’t do that. So what they do is they try to lure us in, act as juicy targets for us. Then, *blam*, we get suckered into following them and end up flying over a dense array of SAM and anti-aircraft fire. The pilot who falls for that might pay for that decision with his life.”

It was clear from speaking with the *Vinson*’s pilots that although the U.S. enjoys complete air superiority, none were so full of themselves as to believe that luck was all they needed to get them back to ship.

What about tactics, we wondered? “Have the tactics that the U.S. Navy uses in dogfighting changed much since Desert Shield/Desert Storm?” we asked, hoping that a nugget of insight would slip out and give us a better picture.

“I can’t tell you that,” came the answer from one of the pilots. Case closed.

We were also a bit curious to find out whether or not deployments like these actually acted as a lure for pilots to re-up and remain in Navy aviation.

We had been reading and hearing, like everyone else, that the Navy, like the Air Force, was losing pilots in droves. A combination of low pay, sinking *esprit de corps*, and lack of any real serious opportunities over the past eight years to use those skills in the way they were meant to be used were causing pilots to leave the service and go fly for the private sector.

In fact, Navy pilots with an average of five years under their floatcoats gross an average of only \$3,400 per month against nearly double or triple that for pilots flying for private airlines. Only this year did the White House see fit to offer to raise military



About as far below flight deck as you can go without getting wet, *SOF* was given a chance to examine the *Vinson*’s bomb factory, where MK-82, MK-83 and MK-84 conventional unguided bombs are mated with laser-guided nose cone and tail assemblies. (below) All aircraft scheduled for air ops on a particular day have their ordnance loaded on early in the morning. As Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class William Brown told *SOF*, “Every time we go out to sea, we do bomb-builds — so when we get over here for the real deal, everybody is ready. They know what their job is.”



salaries by as much as 9.9%, and even that might not help.

The Navy has even been toying with the idea of offering huge — up to \$30,000 — bonuses for those pilots who re-up.

“I realize that I will never become rich flying for the Navy. But I believe that deployments like this, a chance to use the skills we’ve developed over years of training, does help to keep pilots in the Navy,” said Lt. Will “Swill” Layton. “It’s not easy. I mean there are plenty of opportunities out there for competent pilots in the private sector to make more money and have better hours than the Navy now offers. But this is why all of us are here. We worked our tails off to be Navy aviation. To fly aircraft in combat.”

Lieutenant Commander J.T. “Tonka” Ross concurred with Layton. “This is all I

ever wanted to do in my life,” Ross said. “I wanted to fly, and fly with the Navy. I have many friends who say ‘this will be my last deployment, or if I can’t get better pay I’ll go to the private sector.’ As far as, does a situation like this keep pilots in the Navy? I think yes.”

The *Vinson* was a ship of many firsts on this deployment to the Gulf. It was the first carrier to launch aircraft involved in air-to-air combat over Iraq in six years and the first carrier in the Navy to field female aviators during combat ops.

Habits Die Hard

Indeed, day after day *SOF* watched female pilots standing wingtip-to-wingtip with their male counterparts during air ops on the deck of the *Vinson*.

According to Lt. Waterman, there are now five female F/A-18 Hornet fighter pilots, four EA-6B Prowler pilots and six flying SH-60 Seahawk helicopters involved in search-and-rescue missions.

Lieutenant Waterman said the Navy was proud of all their pilots, female and male alike, but noted when we asked to photograph and speak with any of the women pilots that all of them to a name had specifically requested that the media be kept away from them.

Lieutenant Waterman said the female pilots were worried that media attention would make their fellow pilots jealous and would trivialize the serious nature of their mission. We were a bit disappointed, but not so put out that we weren’t still impressed as we watched a few of them take their F/A-18s from zero to 150 mph in less than two seconds.

Certain habits just die hard.

Rain had started to batter the flight deck, and we thought it would be a good time to try to get a clearer heads up on that day’s flight ops by going to the source — the flight deck control center.

Even with the aid of the “Ouija board,” the plastic replica of the flight deck and all the ship’s aircraft at their disposal, trying to keep an eye on the incredible activity on the flight deck is an awesome job and responsibility. According to the officer in charge, the ship’s crew can launch an aircraft every 20 seconds. In other words, the ship could launch every one of Carrier Air Wing 11’s (CAW-11) three squadrons of F/A-18 Hornet all-weather attack fighters and one squadron of F-14 Tomcat air supremacy fighter aircraft, in the event of an emergency, in a little more than 15 minutes.

Upstairs with the primary flight controller/air boss, things were pretty much the same. He exuded pure professionalism

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Billy, Bombs And Baghdad

The B-1 Bomber Comes In From The Cold

by Dale B. Cooper



Airman Sean M. White, USAF

(left) Bathed in an early morning light, the first two B-1 bombers to be used in combat, code-named "Slam 1-1" and "Slam 1-2," are prepped for their historic mission. Member of the 37th Bomb Squadron with the most combat air time is "Billy," squadron mascot, who never missed a mission over Iraq. He wears helmet and goggles made by Life Support section at Ellsworth, which Billy reports performed flawlessly.



author

When a B-1 from Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, made military history before Christmas by attacking the Al Kut Barracks, the complex housing Saddam's Republican Guard in the west-northwest side of Baghdad, the swing-wing supersonic bomber carried a special VIP in the cockpit.

Normally, a B-1 crew consists of the aircraft commander, pilot and two WSOs ("Wizzos" — weapons systems officers). Earlier versions of the B-1B Lancer had jumpseats between the pilots, but there was no provision on "096," the history-making B-1, for additional crewmembers. Yet, the lead B-1 made room for a "Very Important Person."

"Billy rode on the dash between the pilots," said Captain Fred Bivetto, the Defensive Systems Officer. "Billy is the mascot of the 37th Bomb Squadron, the 'Tigers,' and he's part of the family," explained Bivetto as he picked up a hand-carved tiger in the flight scheduling office.

"It may seem silly," said Capt. Jeff Taliaferro, the officer who helped plan two nights of B-1 strikes on the Republican Guard barracks in Iraq, "but it's squadron

tradition. Billy has logged more combat time than anybody right now."

"And Billy has two tiny bombs painted on his back to prove it," said Bivetto.

Through The Eyes Of The Commander

"The crews were ready to go," said Lieutenant Colonel Steve Wolborsky, commander of the 37th Bomb Squadron, who led the attack on the barracks. But there was not a lot of time to focus on the historical nature of the mission. There were too many things to do, too much to think about — not the least of which was the remnants of a cyclone in the area.

"We were focused on getting the mission done right," said "Taz" (Wolborsky's tactical call sign). The mood in the cockpit was very professional as Wolborsky's bomber flew into Iraq under cover of darkness. Like the "Bats," the 9th Bomb Squadron from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, the "Tigers" from Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, prefer to prowls at night.

"As we got close to the target, there was some Triple A," recalled Wolborsky, who as the flight lead had to maintain his situation-

al awareness while keeping track of the rest of the package, F/A-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcats from the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Enterprise* in the Persian Gulf.

"As we scanned the horizon for populated areas, we began to see some of the bullets come up, the tracers," he said. The tracers appeared green in the night vision goggles he wore, not red. Occasionally, he and his co-pilot looked under the goggles to compare what they were seeing through NVGs, with the naked eye.

Co-Pilot's View Of The Mission

"It [AAA] was very visible. We could see the tracers and some of the self-destructing rounds flash, but I could tell with the naked eye that it wasn't really a factor for us." The remnants of a cyclone were pretty much gone from the area by the time 096 arrived in the vicinity of the target. Scattered clouds below the bombers would occasionally obscure things, but weather is never a problem for the B-1. With the type of radar it carries, the offensive systems officer does not require visual conditions to deliver loads on target.



As the aircraft commander and flight leader, Wolborsky flew in the right seat that is normally reserved for the co-pilot, but Capt. Chris Wright didn't mind switching positions. Like Wolborsky, Wright says the Iraqi flak was not unexpected: "We were pretty much expecting the Triple A, so it was no surprise."

Neither did Wright have time to reflect upon any historical implications of the mission on the evening of 17 December and

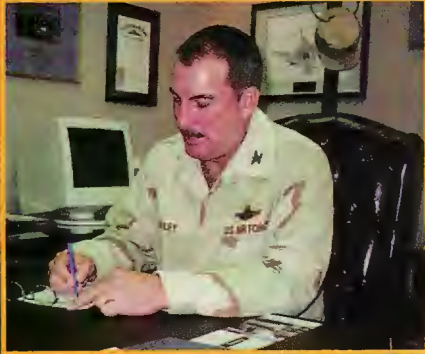
"Dark Star" was the tactical call sign of Capt. Pete Bailey, the OSO on 096. Bailey and Wright graduated together from the Air Force Academy in 1990. Bailey was one of two OSO graduates of the Air Force Weapons School who flew the first night's mission. Neither did Bailey dwell on the historical aspects of the mission. "Dark Star" just concentrated on keeping his system tight, so that when it came time to pull the trigger, the offensive system worked, and he put the bombs "on time, on target."

Having seen his handiwork in intel briefings, Bailey had one word to describe the damage inflicted on his target: "Outstanding!"

Texas, who flew on the first night. But still "acceptable," because the pattern was tight from beginning to end, and the complex is no longer usable.

What caused the bombs to hang up in the bomb modules on both bombers has not been determined. One of the module maintainers speculates turbulence could have knocked the computerized system out of whack.

Chief Master Sergeant John Hough, the maintenance superintendent of the 28th Munitions Squadron of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth, says the release system is called the "Rubix Cube" because of its complexity. "It's a flying computer, a com-



(above, inset) "Slam-1-1" and "Slam 1-2" crews head out to make aviation history last 17 December: (left to right) Captains Fred Bivetto, Gordon Greaney, Chris Wright, Jason Xiques, Jeffery Hoyt, Lt. Col. Steve Wolborsky, 1st Lt. Robert Mankus and Capt. Pete Bailey. (right) Back home in South Dakota, part of Team Ellsworth poses with 096, lead bomber in the run on Saddam's Republican Guard barracks: (left to right, front) Senior Airman Matthew Hodge, crew chief; Capt. John Martin, DSO; Lt. Col. Steve Wolborsky, mission commander; Capt. Fred Bivetto,

DSO; Staff Sgt. Dennis Gauthier, No. 1 man on load team; Airman 1st Class Johnny Thomas, loader; Tech. Sgt. Tim Osterkamp, weapons load team chief. Back row left to right are Capt. Pete Bailey, OSO; Capt. Chris Wright, pilot; Capt. Jeff Taliaferro, pilot; Airman Bridget Wakeman, jet mechanic; Airman 1st Class Todd Sturz, weapons load crew member; and Capt. Randy Kaufman, aircraft commander. (top, left) Col. Tim Bailey, vice commander of 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth, was commander of the 28th Air Expeditionary Group in Operation Desert Fox.

morning of 18 December. "All the time we were in Iraq, I was pretty much focused on getting the bombs on target and getting out safely," said Wright, who has been flying B-1s for four-and-a-half years.

"May The Force Be With You"

There was always the danger of getting hit or worse yet, being shot down, but none of the crews dwelled on the morbid side of the mission. They had confidence in the survivability of the B-1 in such a hostile environment. Training also prepared them for that first night in combat. "Every time we get out on a training flight, we practice against scenarios involving something that launches against us, or fires at us," said Wright, "so I had confidence in the crew and especially 'Steamer,' our defensive systems officer who would tell us how to react to a threat." Wright had no question that he could get into Iraq and back out safely.

From his position on the right side of the aircraft behind the bulkhead, Bailey was unable to see forward; unable to see the flak that came up at them. "Maybe it's good that I don't see it," laughed Bailey, "because I'm focusing in on what I'm supposed to be doing. Their job is to fly the jet; my job is to make sure the bombs come off and go where they're supposed to go." But not all of the 126 Mk-82 500-pound bombs dropped by both B-1s fell on the target.

Five Mk-82s hung up in the bomber from Ellsworth — two in the forward bay and three in the intermediate bay. Four bombs hung up in the Dyess bomber; two in the forward and two in the intermediate.

Of the 115 bombs that were dropped, at least 24 missed the barracks and blasted big craters in the ground in perfect lines along both sides of the complex. "Too many holes in the ground," said Capt. Jeffery Hoyt of the 9th Bomb Squadron at Dyess AFB,

puter with wings," said Hough, "so if you know how temperamental your desktop PC can be, you can appreciate the problem." None of the bombs failed to drop from the bombers on the second night.

A B-1 can dump a full load of 84 500-pound bombs in 2.5 seconds, but if the system is a microsecond out of adjustment, the swing arm on the bomb module won't work properly, and the bombs won't fall. The bomb module in each of the three bays in the belly of a B-1 carries 28 Mk-82 bombs, but they don't fall like they did during World War II, when the bomb bay doors came open, and the bombardier flipped a switch.

Bombs in the B-1 are actually fired through the slipstream by gas-powered cartridges about the size of 10-gauge shotgun shells, cartridges that develop about 8,000 pounds of thrust. Had the iron bombs dropped in Iraq just before Christmas been Joint

Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs), a 2,000-pound satellite-guided bomb, none of the 24 buildings in the complex would have been standing, because the 24 JDAMs in the bomb bays of each B-1 are independently targeted.

JDAMs also pack five times the punch. For example, a general-purpose 500-pound bomb is loaded with 200 pounds of explosives. A 2,000-pound JDAM contains 1,000 pounds of HE. Considering it only took an estimated 4,000 pounds of improvised explosives to destroy the Alfred E. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, one can visualize what explosive power is carried by a single B-1 bomber.

JDAM And Saddam

Pointing to an inert JDAM in his work-

shop in the 28th Munitions Squadron at Ellsworth, Master Sergeant Edward Kiefer, NCOIC of conventional munitions, said, "This is state of the art technology. This is the weapon that takes us to the next level of combat." The acknowledged kill-radius of the JDAM is 200 yards compared to only 40 yards for a 500-pound general-purpose bomb.

The JDAM looks like a miniature Zeppelin with its rear stabilizer and elevator fins. JDAMs have predetermined target coordinates loaded into an onboard computer in the tail assembly of the bomb. After it clears the weapons bay, the GPS uses four satellites to find out where it is in relation to the target, and then the weapon flies itself there.

The new family of weapons can be

dropped up to 15 miles from a target at high altitude, or 5 miles from low altitude, allowing the B-1 to stay out of AAA range and away from short-range SAMs. The JDAM kits mount to a Mk-84 2,000-pound general-purpose bomb, or a BLU-109 2,000-pound bomb designed to penetrate multiple layers of reinforced concrete and explode at a preset level.

"This is the wave of the future," said Kiefer, "with 'fire and forget' weapons." In addition to having access to Global Positioning Satellites, B-1s will also be equipped with a Joint Tactical Data Link that will give regional commanders the ability to communicate with bombers en route to targets on Global Power missions of 30 hours or more duration.

Thanks to Joint STARS (Surveillance Target Attack Radar System), B-1s will be provided real-time moving target information from an E-8C airborne platform. General Richard Hawley, chief of the Air Combat Command, says the flow of information continues right to the target. Armed with that information, the B-1 can fly ahead of an armored column and take out a bridge, or mine a pass to stop its forward progress.

Were Saddam Hussein stupid enough to send armored units toward Kuwait again, Hawley, who flew a JDAM demonstration mission over the Utah test range preceding a B-1B Block D ceremony at Ellsworth on 3 December 1998, says a two-ship formation of B-1s could wipe out an entire Iraqi armored brigade with one pass over or near the battlefield. "And when you add in the time it can loiter overhead and the GMTI (Ground Moving Target Indicator) capability to track moving targets on the ground, it becomes a mini-AWACS, Joint STARS weapons-delivered platform all together," affirmed Colonel Tony Przybyslawski, 28th Bomb Wing commander at Ellsworth.

Three of the B-1s at Ellsworth have been modified to carry JDAMs. More Lancers will be modified this year. Hawley hopes to have the entire fleet of B-1s modified by 2001.

Electronic Chess

As the Defensive Systems Officer, Bivetto's job was to avoid threats over Iraq and defend his aircraft against any unknown threats that might come up to bite him, but the analogy of an "electronic" game of chess is quite accurate. "Once a system comes up, we have techniques that we play against these systems, and then if they counter that, we have backups," added Bivetto. "Steamer," as he is known to his buddies, flew on the left side of the aircraft directly behind the pilot.

En route to the target, Bivetto received excellent threat scenarios and updates and also considerable U.S. Space Command help in locating current threats. Bivetto didn't want to talk about the signals he was receiving on his system, "but I knew that any threat that came up, we could counter it successfully."

The bottom line? Bivetto had confidence



(clockwise, from top left) Lt. Col. Steve Wolborsky, commander of the 37th Bomb Squadron, was mission commander on first B-1 strike on Iraq. Capt. Pete Bailey, offensive systems officer on the Al Kut strikes, in his crew position on right side of the aircraft. Capt. Chris Wright, pilot of lead bomber on first combat strikes of B-1. Capt. Fred Bivetto, defensive systems officer, in his crew position on right side of the aircraft.



photos: author

in the B-1 in terms of its stealth and speed at night, its ECM (Electronic Counter Measures), its expendables (chaff and flares) and maneuvers that it could perform.

Asked to classify the threat over Iraq, Bivetto says it was less than he expected. Bivetto says B-1 crews from Ellsworth and Dyess fly "much more complicated scenarios" in training than what they flew in Iraq last December. Looking out his tiny window, Bivetto pointed out Triple-A to the crew up front, but he was not impressed with what the Iraqis threw up against the bombers. "None of it appeared to be radar-guided. They were just throwing up curtain fire," he said.

There was no sense of relief aboard 096 until the lead B-1 from the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth and its wingman from the 9th Bomb Squadron at Dyess left Iraqi airspace and flew over water in the Persian Gulf. It wasn't until then that the "Tasmanian Devil"'s crew said, "Wow, it was something!"

Second Night, Same Song

When B-1s returned to the skies over Iraq on the second night of the air campaign, 19 December, they bombed another Republican Guard barracks near the site of the first strike. Dyess led this time, and Ellsworth flew wing. Captain Randy "Rudder" Kaufman, the aircraft commander in the Ellsworth bird, says the mission went well. "Without a hitch. On time, on target," said Kaufman, who could see the "lead"

visually as they swung onto the target.

Kaufman agrees with Bivetto about training being tougher than anything they faced in Iraq. "This was actually pretty vanilla," he said. "I was perfectly happy to be on the giving side as opposed to the receiving side." So was Capt. John "Oasis" Martin, the defensive systems officer who expected "more of an onslaught from them, but they didn't provide much of a defense."

Kaufman's co-pilot, Capt. Jeff Taliaferro, Chief, Wing Weapons, at the 28th Operations Support Squadron at Ellsworth, was the only USAF Weapons School graduate on the second mission. Taliaferro could see streams of anti-aircraft artillery fire in his night vision goggles, but the fireworks were not unnerving. "To be honest I thought I'd be a little nervous, but I wasn't." Taliaferro has six-and-a-half years flying B-1s. He feels focus kept him from being afraid. He never felt at risk, because of the way his crew defended themselves — but he didn't feel invincible.

"I think we are well prepared and in that is the confidence; not in that we bring some magical thing with us or some piece of technology that we're sure will save the day. My confidence comes with the guys who are sitting with me and our experience training with the airplane."

Taliaferro talked about the mission in greater detail as he ate pizza and this reporter ate peanuts at Metropolitan Airport in Minneapolis-St. Paul during a three-hour layover.

"As a wingman on the second night, I had visual contact with Lieutenant Colonel Garrett Harencak (mission leader), but I didn't observe his drop, because I was assessing other things at the time," said Taliaferro. The 1989 Air Force Academy graduate did see flashes from 500-pounders as he rolled off the target: "They were lighting up the sky below us."

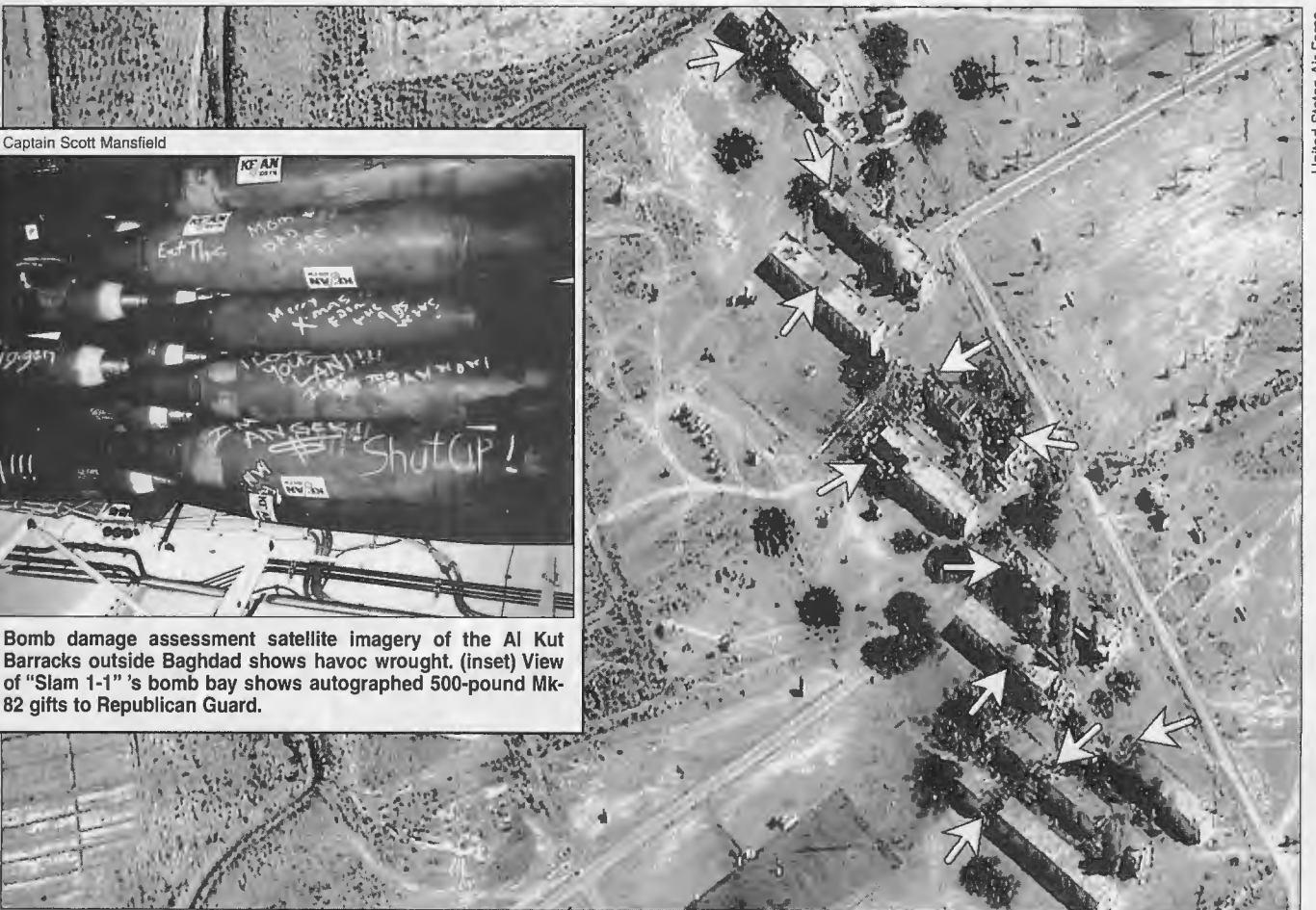
"All 63 of our bombs hit the target," said Taliaferro as he finished off his pizza and focused his attention on the Minnesota Vikings, who were playing the Atlanta Falcons in the NFC Championship on television.

How did he feel about hitting a barracks complex as opposed to a missile factory or other industrial target? "I felt it was a proper target selected by our leadership. I know the leadership goes to painstaking detail of tying targets to objectives in an overall theater objective, and the things we hit related directly to our objectives, so with that in mind, I was confident we were doing the right thing," he said.

Great Sendoff For Joint Effort

The night that two B-1s, code-named "Slam 1-1" and "Slam 1-2," took off on that first combat mission was awesome. "It reminded me of the night that Mark McGwire hit his 61st home run," said Capt. Pat McEvoy, the sortie generation flight commander who was almost blinded by

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United States Air Force

Bomb damage assessment satellite imagery of the Al Kut Barracks outside Baghdad shows havoc wrought. (inset) View of "Slam 1-1"'s bomb bay shows autographed 500-pound Mk-82 gifts to Republican Guard.



Heckler & Koch's Revolutionary New UMP45



IS The
"Next Generation"
MP5 The Ultimate
CQB Weapon?

by Peter G. Kokalis

Photos by Steven Galloway/Heckler & Koch, Inc.

Some small arms have clearly dominated within their niche. Heckler & Koch's MP5 submachine gun series has held sway in the law enforcement and military arena for more than three decades. In the United States, most police special response teams and many military special operations units carry one variant or another of the ubiquitous MP5. The MP5 has its idiosyncrasies, as do all small arms. But once mastered, it is quite simply the best submachine gun with which you can enter a doorway in the high anxiety anticipation of imminent and lethal CQB (Close Quarters Battle).

To stay dominant, small arms must evolve, sometimes slowly as the MP5 series did and sometimes in a more startling manner. *Soldier Of Fortune* was recently presented with a unique opportunity to fire and examine in detail Heckler & Koch's revolutionary new UMP45 (Universal Machine Pistol, caliber .45 ACP). There were two major design thrusts behind the UMP45's development.

SEALs, Army Ranger Battalions and Special Forces, Air Force Special Operations and several other unspecified clandestine operations groups. The Special Operations Forces (SOF) Offensive Handgun and Suppressor that Heckler & Koch, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Boulevard, Sterling, VA 20166-8903; phone: 703-450-1900 — Federal Operations: extension 205; fax: 703-450-8160) developed for USSOCOM is chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge. (A detailed history of the development of the SOF Offensive Handgun and Suppressor project appeared in the June '93 and October '95 issues of *Soldier Of Fortune*.) In addition, the FBI's HRT (Hostage Rescue Team) and field SWAT teams recently obtained a substantial quantity of M1911A1-type .45 ACP pistols. Heckler & Koch further indicated to me that there is substantial overseas interest in the new UMP45.

Cost effectiveness was also a significant factor in the UMP45's development. To that end, the use of polymers was greatly increased. Heckler & Koch, most certainly not Glock, was the first to make extensive use of polymers in firearms manufacture.

positioned through the backstrap.

Furthermore, the H&K VP70M caliber 9mm Parabellum machine pistol and its semiauto equivalent, the VP70Z — both designed during the same time frame as the P9S — had frames made entirely of polymer, although they were reinforced at appropriate points with steel. Both the P9S and VP70 appeared more than a decade before Gaston Glock's pistol was ever even conceived. H&K's G11 caseless-cartridge rifle, its CAWS (12-gauge Close Assault Weapon System) and both the MP5/10 and MP5/40 submachine guns also make extensive use of polymer components. Currently, both the USP pistol series, its USSOCOM derivative and the new G36 infantry rifle contain a great deal of polymer as well.

Looking To The Future

However, the UMP45's antecedents are even more direct. In 1982, Heckler & Koch developed the Model SMG for the JSSAP submachine gun program. This prototype was followed by the Model SMGII and in 1984, 60 of these latter weapons were deliv-



Firing new Heckler & Koch UMP45 submachine gun equipped with vertical foregrip and Aimpoint Comp M red dot electronic reflex sight. Note flash and streak of light produced by Hornady's Vector illuminated trajectory training ammunition.

An essential ingredient in the project's equation was to produce a submachine gun in caliber .45 ACP. The MP5's envelope will not accommodate this cartridge. There has been a significant resurgence of interest in the .45 caliber round within the U.S. military's special operations forces community. The U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) is the umbrella organization for the Navy

Back in the late 1960s, H&K introduced the P9S pistol, which featured, like most of their shoulder-mounted weapons, a delayed-blowback, roller-locking system of operation. This pistol's "frame" was composed of two components: a polymer trigger-guard/front strap and a sheet-metal receiver. A one-piece polymer grip was held to the rear of the receiver by two screws

ered to the US Army. As these prototypes evolved, the use of polymer increased and the roller-locked, delayed-blowback method of operation was changed to a more simple pure blowback system firing from the closed bolt (as is found on the new UMP45 also). Fire from the closed bolt position is an all important enhancement of first shot hit probability. By 1989, the H&K

MP2000 appeared in prototype form with about 50% of the surface area made from injection-molded polymer. Ready to move into production series, the MP2000 was dropped without fanfare.

Successfully foretelling the future, the MP2000 not only made substantial use of polymer and eliminated the roller-locked system, formerly H&K's most salient feature, but introduced a hold-open (bolt lock) to H&K's shoulder-mounted small arms. The UMP45 project commenced in 1996 with a great deal of input from H&K's U.S. Federal Operations, Law Enforcement Sales, and Training Division staffs about exactly what features U.S. law enforcement and military organizations would be looking for.

The specimen *SOF* examined and fired was one of five fully tested pre-production series prototypes through which hundreds of thousands of rounds have been fired. One of the UMP45's most important features is its weight, which is only 4.62 pounds, without a magazine. An empty 25-round magazine weighs 0.38 pounds. The sling, which is of the combat-ready-type popularized by its use on



Heckler & Koch UMP45 can be fired with the stock folded. Note detachable polymer handstop on the underside of the forearm. (below) Polymer construction provides the H&K UMP45 with unloaded weight of just over 4.5 pounds, yet with moderate recoil impulse only.



the MP5, weighs 0.22 pounds. In comparison, an MP5A3 weighs 6.47 pounds. Complete with an Aimpoint Comp M red dot electronic reflex sight, vertical foregrip and SURE-FIRE 6P flashlight, the UMP45 weighs just 6.19 pounds.

With a 25-round magazine inserted, the height of the UMP45 is 12.76 inches. The width is 2.5 inches with the buttstock extended. With the buttstock folded, the overall length is only 17.71 inches. Extending the buttstock increases the length to 27.17 inches. Add about another 6 or 7 inches if you install a modern state-of-the-art sound suppressor. The barrel measures 7.87 inches (200 mm) in length. The six-groove barrel has polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches.

Almost all of the major polymer components are injection-molded using a proprietary material referred to as PA6, which contains 30% glass fiber for added strength. The injection-molded, two-piece receiver is a departure from the MP5's one-piece receiver configuration.

The lower receiver contains the trigger mechanism, the magazine well and a backplate that slides back and forth about 7/16-inch to permit installation onto the upper receiver. During re-assembly, the backplate snaps into place behind the rear end of the recoil spring's guide rod. There is a neoprene-type buffer on the backplate. Two polymer hooks (which will be steel inserts on production series guns) interface with a steel axis pin on the upper receiver during re-assembly. There is a single, non-captive retaining pin, located at the rear of the lower receiver directly under the backplate, that holds the two receivers in place. The magazine well is flared for easier insertion of the magazines. The magazine catch/release is of the flapper type and made of polymer. H&K found that few operators made use of the alternative bush-button release found on the MP5.

The pistol grip/trigger housing configuration is similar to that of the most recent MP5s. The selector controls are ambidextrous and, most important, the re-designed ambidextrous selector lever can be rotated without changing the firing grip. Selector markings are of the Pictogram-type found on all current Heckler & Koch shoulder-mounted weapons. Three different trigger packs will be available: 1) semiautomatic-only; 2) semiautomatic and two-round burst; and 3) semiautomatic and full-automatic.

The spring-loaded bolt hold-open mechanism on the left side of



A MIL-STD-1913 rail can be mounted in front of the UMP45's rear sight to accommodate a large variety of targeting devices. (below) UMP45's hold-open is similar to that found on the M16 series. Note also oversized trigger guard and Pictogram-type selector markings.



the lower receiver is similar to that found on the M16. The grip checkering and vertical serrations on the pistol grip's back strap are molded-in. A finger rest on the front strap of the prototype that I fired will be removed from production series guns and be replaced with stippling. The trigger guard is over-size for deployment with gloves.

In addition to the trigger itself, except for springs, a substantial number of the trigger mechanism components are injection-molded polymer parts. Even the auto safety sear (or release lever) and hammer are made of polymer; although the hammer has a steel insert.

Operator Input

There are a number of important innovations to be found throughout the UMP45, all designed from the operator's perspective. One of the most interesting is an L-shaped sheet-metal bar held stationary inside the trigger housing. It prevents separation of the lower and upper receivers if the bolt is

(above, right) H&K UMP45 submachine gun, right side view, complete with Aimpoint Comp M red dot electronic reflex sight, vertical foregrip and sound suppressor. (right) Heckler & Koch UMP45, left side view; note clear polymer window on magazine, which will have round count markings on production series magazines; molded-in front sling point on upper receiver will be replaced by an ambidextrous I-bolt of the type used on the MP5K-PDW. (below) The cost-effective H&K UMP45 is chambered for a powerful resurgent caliber.



locked rearward. Disassembly with the recoil spring compressed could result in serious injury to the operator or at least loss of the recoil spring and guide rod as they sail into the sunset.

Magazines are available with either 10- or 25-round capacities. UMP45 magazines have polymer bodies, followers, locking plates and floorplates. The feed lips have steel inserts for added strength. They are significantly easier to disassemble than MP5 magazines. There is a clear polymer window on the left side of the magazine body. Production series magazines will have round count markings next to this vertical portal. Surprisingly, these staggered-column, detachable box-type magazines are of the single-position-feed type. This geometry proved to be more reliable with the stubby .45 ACP round. Dual magazine

clamps and a simple, one-piece polymer magazine loader will also be available.

There are some interesting innovations in the bolt group, as well. The firing pin is spring-loaded, but does not protrude beyond the back face of the bolt body until the moment the hammer falls forward. As the hammer falls, it pushes aside a spring-loaded firing pin release lever at the rear of the bolt which frees the striker to move. As this occurs, and while the bolt is in its final forward momentum, the fixed ejector in the upper receiver strikes a tab on the firing pin and drives it rearward about 0.125-inch to protrude out the rear face of the bolt body for impact by the hammer. This is all very clever, relatively simple and measurably adds to the system's safety.

The bolt weighs 11.7 ounces and contains tungsten granules (as does the MP5

bolt) which serve as an anti-bounce device (to inhibit primer ignition before bolt movement has completely stopped in the battery position). There is a notch on the right side of the bolt body, visible through the ejection port, for silent closing of the bolt group. A conventional single-coil recoil spring is held captive on a steel guide rod. The guide ring, nylon on the MP5, is made of steel. The claw-type extractor is spring-loaded.

The skeletonized, polymer buttstock is hinged to the upper receiver. It has a rubber buttpad and cheekpiece which add noticeably to the operator's comfort. The stock folds to the right and the weapon can be fired with the stock folded. There is a spring-loaded locking latch on the left side, opposite the hinge, with a serrated polymer button. A hole in the stock toward the front is intended to hold the retaining pin during disassembly. Another hole at the rear of stock serves as a sling attachment point. A projection, integral with the injection-molded upper receiver, located at the top and front of the ejection point retains the stock when folded.

There are threaded hard points on the top of the upper receiver and on the right, left and bottom sides of the forearm for installation of MIL-STD-1913 rails for the attachment of optical sights and such accessories as a vertical foregrip and flashlight. There is

Heckler & Koch UMP45

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .45 ACP.

Method of operation: Unlocked blowback; fires from the closed-bolt position.

Modes of fire: Three available: 1) semiautomatic-only; 2) semiautomatic and two-round burst; and 3) semiautomatic and full-automatic.

Cyclic rate of fire: 580 to 700 rpm, depending upon ammunition.

Feed device: 25- or 10-round, staggered-column, single-position-feed, detachable, polymer box-type magazines.

Barrel: six-groove, polygonal rifling with a right-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches.

Barrel length: 7.87 inches (200 mm).

Length, overall: 27.17 inches with buttstock extended; 17.71 inches with buttstock folded.

Width: 2.5 inches with the buttstock extended.

Height: 12.76 inches with 25-round magazine inserted.

Weight: 4.63 pounds, without magazine; 25-round magazine, empty: .38 pounds; sling: .22 pounds.

Sights: rear sight: two-position flip-up-type with the MP5's peep aperture and the MP5K's open U-notch, adjustable for both windage and elevation zero; one-piece, injection-molded front sight and protective hood. Threaded hard points in front of rear sight for mounting MIL-STD-1913 rails and attachment of optical targeting devices.

Ancillary equipment: Vertical foregrip, MIL-STD-1913 rails, flashlight, sound suppressor, polymer one-piece magazine loader and optional targeting devices.

Law enforcement price: Under \$900 complete with one magazine and sling.

Manufacturer: Heckler & Koch GmbH, Dept. SOF, Postfach 1329, D-7238 Oberndorf/Neckar, Germany.

Distributor: Heckler & Koch, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21480 Pacific Boulevard, Sterling, VA 20166-8903; phone: 703-450-1900; fax: 703-450-8160.

T&E summary: Polymer construction provides an unloaded weight of just over 4 1/2 pounds, yet with moderate recoil impulse. Chambered for a powerful and resurgent caliber. Cost effective. Innovative and reliable. Superb human engineering.



Accessories for the Heckler & Koch UMP45 include 10- and 25-round magazines, sling, SURE-FIRE flashlight, MIL-STD-1913 rails, Aimpoint Comp M red dot electronic reflex sight, vertical foregrip and sound suppressor.

also a detachable, polymer handstop on the underside of the forearm. The cocking handle is non-reciprocating and similar to that of the MP5. Two horizontal vents on each side of the front portion of the upper receiver provide cooling for the barrel. The serial number is contained on a molded-in steel insert on the left side of the upper receiver. There are two molded-in steel rails in the interior on which the bolt reciprocates.

The barrel is held in place by a roll pin and can be easily removed by an armorer. However, Heckler & Koch's polygonal sub-machine gun barrels have been known to last for hundreds of thousands of rounds. A flared ring around the muzzle end of the barrel, and integral with the barrel forging, has been designed for instant installation and removal of devices such as sound suppressors and



flash hiders that have been equipped with a special spring-loaded interface.

The rear sight is a two-position flip-up-type with the MP5's peep aperture and the MP5K's open U-notch. It's adjustable for both windage and elevation with a simple allen wrench. The MP5 was sometimes criticized because a special tool is required to adjust the rear sight. However, in my opinion, this serves to keep inexperienced operators from fiddling with it. The front sight and its protective hood, a one-piece injection-molded component, is retained by a single roll pin and can be easily removed. The sight radius is 12.8 inches.

On production series UMP45s the front sling mounting point will be an I-bolt of the type used on the MP5K-PDW, attached to either the left or right side front threaded hard point on the upper receiver. At the rear of the upper receiver there will be molded-in sling mounting points on both the left and right sides.

Disassembly procedures are quite simple. Remove the magazine. Clear the weapon. Withdraw the retaining pin at the rear and swing the lower receiver down. Lift it off the pin through the upper receiver that supports it at the front end. Lift the bolt group out of the upper receiver and withdraw the recoil spring/guide rod assembly from the rear of the bolt body. No further disassembly is required for normal maintenance. The magazines should also be disassembled for cleaning. The UMP45 and any of its components can be immersed in any solvent or chemical that is safe to put your hands in. Lubricate the reciprocating components and re-assemble in the reverse order.

Trail By Fire

I fired a wide range of ammunition through the UMP45: Hornady's excellent Vector illuminated trajectory training ammunition, Federal Ballisti-Clean non-toxic frangible ammunition, Winchester 185-grain Silvertip Hollow Point, 230-grain military ball, 185-grain +P JHP, and Triton .45 Super 165-grain BHP (Bonded Hollow Point). This latter round moves out of the UMP45's muzzle at about 1,350 fps. Ammunition is an important variable in determining an automatic weapon's cyclic rate of fire. Standard military ball ammunition will produce a cyclic rate of about 580 rpm in the UMP45, while +P ammunition will increase that to approximately 700 rpm. There is usually a direct correlation between the ammunition's muzzle velocity and the cyclic rate it generates. Military 230-grain ball ammo will leave the UMP45's muzzle at about 850 fps, while 185-grain +P JHP's will move out of the 7.87-inch barrel at almost 1,250 fps.

Surprisingly, even the Triton .45 Super 165-grain BHP round produced only a moderate recoil impulse in the 4.62-pound UMP45 (plus the weight of an Aimpoint Comp M and a loaded magazine) that I fired. After firing a few magazines, an experienced MP5 operator can easily master



Innovative and reliable, the H&K UMP45 exhibits superb human engineering.

two-shot bursts with the UMP45's selector in the full-auto position.

The UMP45 feels much lighter than it actually is. As a consequence, flanking targets can be engaged with great speed. There is very little muzzle jump when the vertical foregrip is employed. I would recommend this accessory highly. Most probably a function of its re-configuration, the selector lever is appreciably easier to rotate than that of the MP5. The ejection pattern is to the right and downward, exactly as it should be to avoid position disclosure.

First production series specimens of the UMP45 will reach the United States by May 1999. Not only will its many innovative features and more powerful caliber guarantee

its success in law enforcement and military circles, but its price will attract many agencies facing the budget constraints so common today. An MP5/40A3 (MP5 with a retractable stock and chambered for the .40 S&W cartridge) costs police departments more than \$1,500. Complete with one magazine and sling (But without any MIL-STD-1913 rails) the law enforcement price for the UMP45 is less than \$900.

While it will take a number of years for the UMP45 to replace the many MP5s in service, I foresee the day when Heckler & Koch's new submachine gun will completely dominate this highly specialized arena. Without doubt, the UMP45 has been designed for the 21st century. ☐



High And Hot

SOF Flies With South Africa's Air Cops

They enforce the law a little differently in Africa. Lieutenant Colonel Craig Mackrory — veteran of a succession of South Africa's battles in Namibia and cross-border raids into Angola when Castro's honchos were still around — can testify to that.

A couple of years ago, while flying a chopper over what was once referred to as Zululand; today kwaZulu/Natal, he reached Tugela Ferry, even today regarded as the hangout of some of South Africa's most ruthless criminal gangs. While there is a lot of crime throughout South Africa, Tugela Ferry enjoys a special kind of notoriety: Almost all the felons there are armed with AK-47s. The majority are smuggled across the Mozambican border.

At the same time, the age of the *knobkerrie* — the traditional Zulu fighting stick, which (as the name implies) has a knob at one end that is used to cleave open your opponent's skull — has not quite yet passed into obscurity. While this Neolithic implement of war has been superseded by more modern weapons (because it's easier to shoot someone than beat him to death), there are a lot still about. Most of the younger men still like to fight with them.

Tugela Ferry is also an area where life is cheap, especially when the average daily wage is a couple of bucks, if you can find the work. It's a place where gang

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter



(top) Police Air wing chopper lifts off in the kwaZulu Natal highlands during the Lesotho border operation. (left to right) Ground and air crews confab prior to an operation. Setting up the "Night Sun" locator on a 105. It can light up area the size of an American football field. Superintendent Craig Mackrory checks the 7.62x51mm R1 carried by his chopper. Note metal deflector to prevent shell cases from exiting while firing in the air.

members will kill you for the Reeboks on your feet.

So it was that morning that Mackrory suddenly spotted a number of burning huts in a river valley. He pushed his stick over and took the helicopter down to have a look. Before him there was a heavily armed Zulu *Impi* of about 600 men. From experience he knew that almost all of them were members of the Sijozeni Zulu clan, one of the most warlike tribes in the region.

Mean Deadly Bastards

Now you don't often see traditional Zulu *Impis*, or regiments, in South Africa anymore. They are something of a legacy of centuries past. The great Zulu king Chaka and others before and after him used them to dominate their neighbors. But violence in the "new" South Africa has tended to coalesce tribal sentiments. The fact that this great African tribe is reverting to its old ways says much for the level of brutality which is almost a way of life in the country these days.

The *Impi*, Mackrory observed — the distinctive mottled brown-and-black of their cowhide shields and spears glinting in the sun — was interspersed by men with automatic weapons. The group covered much of the low knoll.

As his glide path took him over the next hill, another *Impi* came into view. In between was all that was left of about a dozen burning huts. Bodies lay where they had been struck. All of this, he was to learn later, belonged to a second faction, the Ngcengeni clan, an equally mean bunch of bastards.

The pilot was aware that this wasn't a new development. Intelligence reports had been circulating back at base all week that the two clans were itching to get at each other and settle some long-standing differences. This could include revenge killings for deeds sometimes committed generations ago, which underscores the fact that tribal Africans have a phenomenal memory.

In South Africa's brief history of conflict, it has always been an unwritten law that when the Zulu are on the march, they are best left well alone. It's in their own interests for whites to look elsewhere when *Impis* clash. Ignore that simple precept and it could be your brains that make confetti.

But right now, Mackrory had a problem. The two groups weren't simply a few crazed belligerents. There had already been violence. If something weren't done, there could be a lot more of them killed; women and children, too. If you're not "family" you're a target, and no age group is excluded when scores are settled. His job, as police officer, was to put a stop to it.

High And Hot

Mackrory flew low over the next hill. Moments later he banked and headed back toward the two black regiments; he was only a couple of feet off the ground. First, some of the Ngcengeni scattered. Then a few of the Sijozeni militants gave way. By the time he had gained a height to try to make an assessment, both had started to regroup.

Since the local police station was minutes away, Mackrory made a last pass over the *Impis*. Meanwhile, he radioed base.

Time was not with them, he stressed, because while this wasn't exactly war, it was close!

The South African Police Services BO 105 helicopter that Mackrory flew, while ideal for the sort of police "search and spot" work that one finds in Africa, was never intended to be employed as a trooper. Normally this chopper carries a crew of two. Heat and height permitting, it can take a couple more with their hardware. What it doesn't like is "high and hot," though in the mountains of the interior, there's a lot of that.

"I had to act," Mackrory recalls. "By now, I'd been speaking to the ground commander and we decided even before I'd landed that we needed to get some of our guys between the two groups. Obviously, it was a tricky option. It was worth a try," he told *Soldier Of Fortune*. "So, as soon as I touched down, two volunteers were waiting to board. Each had an automatic weapon, which was fine, but we knew that the two groups probably had a couple of hundred AKs between them. Problem was, once these first two men had been put down, they would be isolated and there would be more than a thousand fighting men — the majority of them tanked up and

the rest high on wacky-backy — on either side. It was obvious that they'd probably been partying all night in preparation for the scrap.

"While there was a slim chance that nothing would happen until I was able to bring in more troops, we faced the prospect of the two groups moving in on them."

Finally, after he'd flown about 20 more men across from the station, it was all over but the shouting. It soon became clear that scores would be settled another day. Mackrory believes that his buzzing of the two groups possibly helped to disorient them. Also, since many Zulus had served in the South African armed forces in Angola, "they clearly weren't quite sure whether I was armed or not," he said. "And though these German-built 105s weren't Alouette helicopter gunships, they were noisy and fast. It was close."

Career Warrior

Over the years, Superintendent Mackrory (as he is ranked now, in the new political dispensation) has had a few other experiences. Like the time, shortly before the Tugela Ferry incident, when the Air Wing was called upon to react to a shootout on the Natal north coast. Political tempers were running high.

It was early when reports first came in. While trying to arrest the occupants of a stolen car, a police unit in the Umzinto area, south of Durban, had come under sustained AK fire. Prior to that, a gang had robbed a store, which is why the alert had gone out in the first place. "Shortly afterward," said Mackrory, "we were told that the group were ANC guerrillas. And, if that were the case, then these buggers were really dangerous because they had possibly received military training."

About 20 minutes later, Mackrory arrived over the scene. He found three armed men in a sugar cane field surrounded



One of the dead recovered after a flash flood near the Natal coast. Body was bagged and airlifted out of valley by police crew. (below) Lifting one of the ground crew from the bush during a drug raid



by a squad of security personnel. Circling once, he ventured lower. Suddenly the helicopter shuddered. Then he felt it again; there was no mistaking the first impact of bullets hitting his rotor.

"The 105 started to vibrate violently. I knew that we had been struck. But when a round hit my joy stick, I pulled away and looked for a clearing to put down. Whoever was doing the shooting knew what he was doing."

The firefight ended after two of the robbers had been killed and the third wounded. There were 11 guns between them, including three AKs and several thousand rounds of ammunition. The police officer said he was lucky to be alive because of the volume of firepower. Only later were they able to establish that the bullet that had hit his joystick had exited the cockpit within a whisker of his face. For Mackrory, it was all part of a day's work.

Adventuresome Work

While flying police choppers in South Africa might not be everybody's idea of fun, it has its moments.

In the week that *SOF* was with the Police Air Wing operating out of Durban, we were involved in several car chases, a body search along a remote river canyon after a flash flood (we found one

SAPS is thus spared the agony of training novices from scratch.

"It's not only cheaper, but it makes good sense. We put two people aloft, each with their own specialties; a combination which still has to be faulted. At least we're not wasting time and money on youngsters who, from the start, might have no intention of staying with the force once they're rated."

Impossible Policing

Where South Africa does come short is in finding the cash to keep the Air Wing aloft. This problem has become critical. Two years ago, each of the 14 BO-105 CBS twin-engine helicopters was allocated 50 hours air-time a month. That has since been cut by half. It makes effective policing in South Africa — a country almost twice the size of Texas — just about impossible.

Take one example: kwaZulu/Natal, formerly the Province of Natal. The 35,000 square-mile region is strategically wedged between the mountainous Kingdom of Lesotho and the Indian Ocean. For this entire region (about the size of Maine), with its 8 million people and a murder rate often running into double figures — a day — Police Command in Durban has at its disposal two 105s and a Pilatus PC6. The latter is used for long-distance movement and air-surveillance work. The unit has five pilots on strength.

Obviously, the work can be demanding. Apart from medical evacuations, vehicle chases, riot control work, emergency call-outs, trooping into suspect areas and stock-theft patrols along the Lesotho border, the Air Wing is required to provide regular backup for everyday anti-vehicle hijack and



(left) Reaction Force members, with an UZI on the left and an R4 on the right, zero in prior to operations along kwaZulu/Natal coast. (below) Two members of reaction force, one with an R4, who took part in the cane fields operation. Firefight in fields ended after two robbers had been killed and a third wounded.

cadaver and flew it out), three or four armed robberies that left felons dead and, ultimately, the recovery of three men killed atop a mountaintop. They had been gunned down in an ambush by soldiers of the Lesotho Armed Forces.

All three men were farmers, members of a 26-strong group of "vigilantes" who had been following stock thieves who had decamped into Lesotho with their cattle. And though their bodies lay across an international divide, it was left to one of the 105s to bring them out. That, too, was touch and go because Lesotho is still smarting from last September's South African invasion that left 60 Basotho nationals and eight South African troops dead.

With all this activity, South Africa might also have found the answer to the perennial international problem of a police force training and then losing its helicopter pilots to the more lucrative private sector. This is a serious problem, where many of the larger police departments train their own pilots, only to find that once they have their wings, the aviators tend to move on. Also, it's an expensive exercise, particularly in some of the larger states.

In contrast, the Air Wing of the South African Police Service (SAPS) has worked out an enterprising rationale. On contract, the police hire experienced multi-disciplined helicopter pilots from outside; all of them certified for fixed-winged as well as rotor-winged aircraft. Elevated to the rank of Police Superintendent (equivalent to lieutenant colonel), they are "paired" with experienced police officers as crew.

This unusual "marriage of talents" achieves a useful combination: a two-man police helicopter crew which comprises a senior police officer and a versatile pilot, both with years of "hands-on" experience. According to Superintendent Rick Dooley — who flew Alouette gunships and Puma troopers in the Angolan war — the



armed robbery incidents. It also needs to give immediate-time support to the crack Police Reaction Force, which performs a critical SWAT role in Natal. Reaction Force members see real action at least once a week; many of them have died in shootouts with felons over the past five years.

Violent crimes are an everyday event in the new South Africa. During the first weekend of December, for instance, 35 cars were hijacked in the Durban area alone and two of the victims were shot dead, executed by shots to the head alongside their vehicles in full view of passersby.

The Air Wing also has a role to play in patrolling the frontier in search of illegal aliens heading for this "land of hope." They also have to counter the drug trade, particularly in some of the isolated regions of the interior and along the border. There, strings of donkeys from Lesotho haul bales of marijuana into South Africa. Most times they move along precipitous trails across the mountains. When accosted, they're often not afraid to exchange fire with the cops.

"Pot" Of Gold

There is a lot of pot being grown in South Africa. While flying with the Air Wing the pilots would constantly point out rows of



marijuana bushes on the mountainsides, some small, for domestic use, others acres-big and intended for export. SAPS has too much on its plate to be able to deal with the problem, which, with the deteriorating economy, will only get worse with time. As one officer explained it: "When there is no work, fathers still have to put bread on the table."

Apart from the usual sidearms carried by flight crews, each operational 105 carries a single FN or an R4.

The work is dangerous. The weapon of choice used in the majority of crimes in South Africa these days is the AK-47. Sometime gang members will include hand grenades in their armory, and they use them. A 105 was damaged in a grenade attack after political unrest near Durban recently.

"Of course we have body armor," another officer explained, "but it's impractical and for two reasons. First, there's the heat (in a region where it routinely touches 110 degrees in the shade in summer). "The second concerns weight," he said. The 105 was designed for European conditions and it simply doesn't like the tropics. When employed in the mountains, the crews go in with only the barest essentials aboard.

"On some of those takeoffs, like when we brought those three farmers' bodies out," he said, "the crew had to slide their chopper along on skids to gain momentum and lift off." He conceded that it was hairy because they were working on the edge of precipices and at altitudes sometimes in excess of 10,000 feet.

"White Man's Magic"

For criminal work, each 105 can be fitted with an FLIR camera "Eye-in-the-Sky" system to monitor movement on the ground.



(far left) Rotor of a BO105 that took 'incoming' caused by an AK-47 slug. (above) Shootout in Natal cane fields: Police Reaction squad answers fire while one of 105s provides top cover. (left) Pilot of BO105 navigates his chopper through rugged Natal Midlands area.

Information is electronically downloaded or transmitted to mobile ground-control systems. Also, voiceovers can be recorded and used in evidence, something that is usually concurrent with vehicle chases. One consequence is that locals in remote areas now refer to police helicopters as "thakatha (witchcraft) from the sky." They cannot understand how felons are detected even when they have covered themselves with leaves and branches: White Man's magic.

The Ireco "Leo 400" infrared observation system with which the unit is equipped comes with the package. Also available for night work is the "Night Sun," which has 30-million candlepower on tap and can light up a football field. Most pilots concur

that when using bright lights, they have the singular disadvantage of providing the opposition with something to aim at.

The SAPS Air Wing maintains 24-hour service. Crews work to a flexible 10-hour daytime routine with one of them taking over the night shift at 1500 hours. He mans the communications center at Durban airport. Should something happen he can call out crew members who are on standby at their homes. Under normal circumstances, a 105 can be airborne in four, maximum five

Continued on page 84

World-class competitors gathered

in September at the Desert Sportsman's Range west of Las Vegas, Nev., for the 11th Annual 1998 Soldier Of Fortune World Championship 3-Gun Tactical Match. They came together from throughout the United States, and beyond, to ply their warrior skills with pistol, shotgun and rifle.

There are many tactical matches held around the world, but none must raise the hair on the back of a liberal's neck as much as the SOF 3-Gun Match. Next to ownership, nothing frightens "Klinton" and his left-wing cronies as much as a populace that's proficient with firearms — which is exactly what was on display at this year's match.

Drawing military, law enforcement, civilian, men, women, and senior shooters, SOF has provided more than a decade of opportunity to test firearms proficiency in

3 GUNS IN THE DESERT

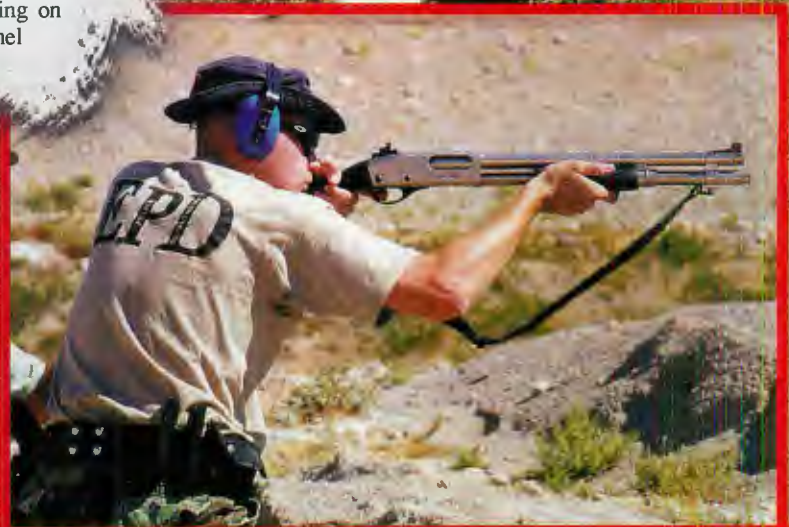
some of the most unique and challenging scenarios one could dream up.

The competition and action proved to be non-stop, with such participants as International Practical Shooting Confederation and Bianchi Cup shooters Michael Voigt, Bruce Piatt and Jim Clark Jr.; Single Action Shooting Society five-time World Champion Dennis "China Camp" Ming; and many other noted experts in the field of competitive shooting.

The event began with the mandatory shooters meeting on Tuesday night when SOF Publisher, Lieutenant Colonel Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.), welcomed all of the competitors. The course of fire was outlined and the

A Stage 4 contestant utilizes cover in one of the six shoot areas during the "Pistol Gauntlet."

Text & Photos by
Chris Mayer



(above) One of the numerous police officers shooting in the match shoots in "Rorke's Drain" with a Remington 870 (Stage 7). (left) A sniper in the team event engages the targets identified by his spotter.





A shotgun "bounce" begins Stage 8 with eight rounds of 12-gauge slug fired from four positions.



One of the women competitors engages Stage 7 targets with her Benelli shotgun. A large number of women were involved in this year's competition.



viewed by Match Director Michael Horne and his range personnel.

On Wednesday morning the event began for this year's 233 participants. Eight announced stages and one surprise team shoot were included. Each stage utilized one of the three weapons systems and several required that the pistol be used along with the rifle or shotgun. After three days of shooting, some familiar names clawed their way to the top 10.

Stage 1: Sniper/Counter-Sniper

Sniper/Counter-Sniper was a two-phase rifle exercise fired on 8- and 10-inch reactive steel targets positioned at distances of 330, 212, and 133 yards. The firing position was a sniper bunker where the shooter engaged these targets as instructed and the stage ended with two steel falling plates shot with the pistol.

The first phase was controlled by an electronic three light box. The contestant was given only six seconds for each of the shots as he was directed randomly to the far-, middle-, and short-range targets. As the sniper engaged these targets of opportunity, he was required to rapidly adjust his point of aim for each distance involved. He was given nine commands to fire in the allotted time and received 10 points for each hit.

The second phase afforded the sniper two more shots at each target distance when given the "green light" by

Teamwork, Training And Timing At SOF's World Championship 3-Gun Match

an audible signal. After the last engagement, the contestant moved to the second firing position where the final two steel plates were hit, ending his efforts.

Stage 2: Short-Range Rifle Assault

As a rifle assault course, this stage necessitated rapid movement between four different positions, locating and firing on 16 knock-down metal targets and four paper targets at ranges up to 50 yards. Steel targets were engaged until put down and paper targets were scored only for the best two hits. Maximum time allowed for this stage was 120 seconds.

Only six targets were visible from the first shooting position, four from the second, four from the third, and the final six from the fourth and last. Prone, kneeling, and off-hand were the requisite shooting positions due to the firing ports that were mandated for target engagement.

Stage 3: Rifle Gauntlet

With six shooter positions, one stationary and four dynamic targets, the "Rifle Gauntlet" provided a formidable task to the contestant.

Dynamic targets included three "wigwag" types that would present themselves from the sides of a false-front building



"Wall Jordan's Challenge" in Stage 6 required lateral movement while engaging numerous targets mixed with a myriad of no-shoots.



(above) One of several dynamic targets is hit in the "Rifle Gauntlet," of Stage 3.

or window and a moving target that sped across what must have appeared to be a very small opening.

Two rounds were to be fired on the stationary paper target from each position. When the first round was fired, one of the four dynamic targets would be activated. It was not required, and probably not the best tactic, to fire both shots on the stationary target before engaging the dynamic target with no more than two rounds. This routine was then repeated at each of the firing positions. The six shooters' positions offered a variety of mandatory use of cover.

Stage 4: Pistol Gauntlet

The "Pistol Gauntlet" layout was very similar to Stage 3 with reduced ranges and varied types of cover the shooter was to use. With fast-moving dynamic targets, six firing positions, and a 150-second time limit, the contestant was pushed to the limit.

Stage 5: Richard's Reckless Recon

Roughly based on an actual SWAT incident in a large metropolitan city, "Richard's Reckless Recon" was one of the more complex stages of the match. With four of the more unusual shooting stations, 17 shoot targets mixed with a number of no-shoots, the pistol shooter's accuracy was challenged by the rapid movement, the available cover, and a sometimes unwilling door.

The wall at start position featured a doorbell button that the competitor was obliged to push upon receiving the start signal. This gave him seven seconds to move to shoot area one, engage three steel targets, and get to the door. If he did not make it in the allotted time, the door would not open and he would be required to crawl through a small portal. Shoot areas two and three offered the opportunity to engage 10 more targets. And, finally, position four required the shooter to crawl between a sofa and wall to access a small, ground level firing port, for the last four steel plates, all in less than two minutes.

Stage 6: Walt Jordan's Challenge

Lateral movement was the essence of this handgun stage. Twelve orange and black shoot targets were placed in the openings of an interrupted wall and two stop plates were positioned to the rear and outboard of the target line. They were intermixed with 15 no-shoot targets, just to make the whole exercise a bit more challenging.

The shooter started on the right side of the barricade line and when given the start



SOF 3-Gun Match Winners

Top 10 Individuals:	Score
1. Michael Voigt	736.74
2. Bruce Piatt	704.38
3. Jim Clark, Jr.	674.71
4. Jerry Miculek	673.27
5. Kurt A. Miller	641.61
6. Bennie W. Cooley, Jr.	640.83
7. Todd Salmon	637.82
8. Eric A. Miller	636.46
9. Steve Hendricks	632.59
10. Darren Davenport	625.40

Top Individuals By Category:

Law Enforcement Individual Bruce Piatt	704.38
Reserve Law Enforcement Individual Joe Wong	546.80
Military Individual Antek Skoniecki	596.30
Tyro Individual Darren Davenport	625.40
Top Foreign Shooter Sverre Idland	505.15
Senior Individual John Cook	596.71
Woman Individual Sonya R. Seaman	446.26

Top Teams:

Open/Sponsor Team Marksman Division "Dust In The Wind" Alan Samuel Louis Cambre Scott Miller Dr. Jimmy LaBaune
Open/Sponsor Expert Division "Team Hologight" Bruce Piatt Tony Holmes Todd Salmon Jerry Miculek
Law Enforcement Street Division Team "Oregon Law Dogs" Scott E. Anderson John Hoffmeister Jim Anglemier Jeffrey T. Barratt
Law Enforcement Trainer Team "LA. Riots" David Wheeler Bill Parmelee Tony Huerstel Christian Christensen

"Richard's Reckless Recon," Stage 5, begins by pushing the doorbell button. After pushing the doorbell, each competitor had seven seconds to move to shoot area one, engage three steel targets, and get to the door before it locked, forcing the shooter to crawl through a small portal.



(left) **SOF Publisher Robert K. Brown** and **Match Director Michael Horne** brief the troops on what is to come during the 3-Gun Match. (right) The team event started with a 50-meter uphill run to barricade firing positions, where targets were engaged with pistol and shotgun. A designated sniper then moved to his hide some 50 meters to the right, while the team observer moved a like distance to the left.



signal, moved laterally toward the left side, firing only on the six orange shoot targets. After he reached the left side, he moved to a barrel and fired on the stop plate. The process was then reversed with movement toward the right, targeting only the black targets, and completing the exercise with the stop plate on the far right, all in 30 seconds or less as a combined time for both runs.

Stage 7: Rorke's Drift

A shotgun-only exercise, somewhat reminiscent of the 1879 Zulu attack on Rorke's Drift in Natal, South Africa, the competitor was confronted with a large number of targets mixed with varied obstacles to restrict his view. All of this required the use of movement, cover, and reloading as he moved back and forth laterally in search of the target indicators.

Firing from behind a dirt mound with stacks of tires interspersed along the top, the shooter had his work cut out for him as he searched for the 15 steel plates, all of which had to be completed in no more than 150 seconds.

Stage 8: Shotgun Exercises

This stage presented the most demanding of the shotgun exercises. The stage was divided into three phases that pushed the shooter to the edge.

The first string was a "shotgun bounce" that entailed firing eight rounds of slug at a paper target some 50 yards off. This was performed two rounds at a time from the standing, kneeling, sitting, prone, kneeling, and standing positions all in one minute or less.

The second string began with the shotgun grounded. The competitor retrieved his weapon and moved to a shoot area where two steel targets were visible. After he successfully engaged the first two, he would move to a firing port in the barricade wall where he would shoot on four more plates. Time allocated for this phase was 30 seconds or less.

The barricade was also used in the final string with six marked firing positions on the wall lettered "A" through "F." The shooter then engaged six steel plates, one at a time, from each firing position in alphabetical order until all the targets were down, in no more than 40 seconds.

The Team Shoot

The Team Shoot was a surprise to all, as the specifics were not announced during the shooter's meeting. This stage utilized the pistol, shotgun, and rifle on unknown-range targets from 10 yards out.

Five team members began this stage with a 50-yard uphill run to barricade firing positions, where targets were engaged with pistol and shotgun. The designated "sniper" then moved to his hide some 50 yards to the right, while the team observer moved a like distance to the left.

The sniper was confronted with two partly hidden targets that only the observer could clearly see from his position. The observer was required to identify the shoot target and communicate that information to the sniper who was then able to fire on it. The exercise score was based on a calculation of time and hits.

Chris Mayer is a 30-year law enforcement officer and long-time firearms instructor who resides in Southern California. ✕



SOF would like to thank the following sponsors of the 11th Annual 1998 3-Gun Tactical Match:

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omega PROVING ground

SHOTshow 99

The *SOF* editorial crew made it to the SHOTshow like a herd of locusts last February, to see what's new in the shooting, hunting and outdoor arena. Some exhibitors had boycotted the show in Atlanta to protest that, after the show was laid on and exhibitors couldn't cancel without suffering considerable loss, the City of Atlanta announced it was suing gunmakers. But since Atlanta is not suing publishers — yet — *SOF* went to the show. The state of Georgia is undertaking preemptive steps to bring an end to this dementia, but it will probably be the last time that burg ever sees the SHOTshow and the millions it brings to town.

The SHOTshow is optimal territory to examine what some bright young whippersnapper has invented, or the new iterations and offerings of the veteran suppliers. Next year it will again be in Las Vegas, which may not be much of a town but does have good facilities for conventions and trade shows. Over the next few issues we will be reporting on the industry's new oblations for your outdoor habits.

Yugoslav Mauser Treasure Trove

Yugoslavia has a long history of Mauser rifle production. Some Mauser Company machinery was sent to the government arsenal at Kragujevac in the early 1920s. The last Mauser military rifle produced in Yugoslavia was the M48 (Model 1948).

The first Mausers used by Yugoslavia were the Model 24 rifles developed *Ceskoslovenska Zbrojovka A.S.* in Brno, Czechoslovakia. This Mauser 98 variant has a straight bolt handle, a handguard extended rearward to the receiver, rear barrel band retained by a screw and sling swivels on both the bottom and left side of the rifle. Subsequent to World War II, many of these rifles were rebuilt at Kragujevac ("PREDUZECE 44" — Production Facility 44). I have one that was re-serial-numbered and roll marked "M24/52 C" (Cyrillic).

In addition, a number of K98k rifles were also rebuilt during this time frame, many with German Mauser, Austrian Steyr and Polish Radomiu components. Most of these rifles have German laminated stocks. They will be encountered with either mixed serial numbers or renumbered parts.

All of these rifles carry the Yugoslav communist crest on the top of the receiver, which includes the date (29 November 1943) of the Germans retreat from Yugoslavia and the inception of Tito's government, and the usual communist regalia: five-pointed star, an "eternal" flame and bundles of wheat.

Mitchell Arms, Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 20855, Fountain Valley, CA 92728; phone: 714-751-5258; fax: 714-593-6971) has

recently imported a quantity of Yugoslav M48 rifles that have been in carefully maintained storage for half a century and remain in new condition. *Soldier Of Fortune* was sent one of these unique rifles for test and evaluation.

The Yugoslav M48 is an interesting blend of both the Model



Yugoslav M48 Mauser rifles are equipped with the M98-type cleaning rod, a bayonet and matching scabbard, leather frog, leather sling, leather two-compartment ammo pouch, and a cleaning kit with canvas pouch, bristle bore brush, pull-through and two-compartment brass oil bottle.



(above) Too little, too late. Shortly after the Yugoslav M48 rifle was manufactured, and before it was issued, it was replaced by the Yugoslav made Kalashnikov series.



Yugoslav communist crest includes the date (29 November 1943) of the German retreat from Yugoslavia and the inception of Tito's government, and the usual communist regalia: five-pointed star, an "eternal" flame and bundles of wheat. (right) Roll mark on left side of receiver indicates in Cyrillic "PREDUZECE 44" — Production Facility 44 at Kragujevac.

1924 and K98k rifles. The hand-guard extends fully to the receiver as in the M24. However, the method by which the sling is attached to left side of the stock is that of the K98k. There is also a K98k-type wrap-around sheet-metal buttplate, but the bolt disassembly fitting in the buttstock has been deleted. The bolt cocking handle is bent in the K98k manner. All serial numbers match: receiver, bolt, magazine floorplate and teak wood buttstock. Teak wood, used also on Yugoslav Kalashnikovs, is heavy and dense because of the natural oils that saturate its pores. The trigger guard and barrel bands are machined forgings, with many tool marks remaining.

The sights are those usually found on Mauser rifles of this type. The front sight is an inverted-V that can be drifted in its dovetail in the base for adjustment of windage zero. It has a snap-on protective hood. The open V-notch rear sight assembly — a sliding tangent-type — is also veened and soldered onto the barrel. This sight can be adjusted for elevation zero only from 200 to 2,000 meters in 100-meter increments. Its graduated scale has been left in-the-white for better visibility.

Barrel length is 23.2 inches (590 mm). The four-groove barrel has a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.45 inches. Overall length is 42.7 inches (1,085 mm). Chambered for the 7.92x57mm cartridge, the weight is 8.8 pounds.

The rifle sent to us for test and evaluation was absolutely brand new. The bore was perfect, the bluing exhibited no wear and the



Earlier Yugoslav Mausers include, top to bottom: M24/52 with a straight bolt handle, followed by two K98k types

stock had no dings. There was a rather substantial dent in the buttplate. Trigger-pull weight of our test specimen was 8.75 pounds, typical of rifles of this era. Accuracy was also typical of a military Mauser with surplus military ball and an open V-notch rear sight, about 3 to 4 inches at 100 yards. This is precise enough for government work. Principally because of the stock configuration, perceived recoil is always fairly significant with the Mauser 98 series.

Almost immediately after their production and prior to their fielding, the M48 Mauser rifles were replaced by the SKS and AK47 series rifles. As a consequence, the Mausers remained in storage at facilities throughout Yugoslavia, but were removed every five years for servicing and testing of the rifles and, equally important, the ammunition stored with them.

These rifles are equipped with the usual M98-type cleaning rod, a bayonet and matching scabbard (not matching to the rifles' serial numbers), leather frog, leather sling, leather two-compartment ammo pouch, and a cleaning kit with canvas pouch, bristle bore brush, pull-through and two-compartment brass oil bottle. Most fascinating of all is a spring-loaded shoot-through muzzle cover that is rifled! Complete with all of the above, the price is only \$249.95. These are outstanding pieces of history in museum-grade condition and they will disappear quickly in to private collections (and Y2K stashes).
— Peter G. Kokalis

The Mauser 98 Action

There is no doubt whatsoever that the Model 1898 Mauser action and its direct derivatives are the finest, strongest and most foolproof military bolt-actions ever designed. The one-piece receiver is machined from a single forging. The recoil lug, integral with the receiver forging, is large and more than ample. The inside of the receiver ring is threaded to accept the barrel shank. There are 12 threads per inch with a pitch of 55 degrees Whitworth. There is a collar, completely around the inside of the receiver ring except for the extractor cut, against which the rear end of the barrel impinges. This collar adds strength to the receiver ring and provides a seal around the bolt head. The top front of the receiver bridge is slotted to accept a charger clip.

The Mauser 98 bolt is a solid steel machined forging with an integral bolt handle, usually with a round knob. The Yugoslav M48 cocking knob has been flattened on its underside and the entire bolt group has been left "in-the-white." There are dual-opposed locking lugs on the front end. The top (left side) lug is slotted to permit the ejector to pass through. The bottom (right side) lug is solid. The inside of the receiver ring has been milled to form the shoulders against which the locking lugs abut. There is a third (or safety) lug at the rear of the bolt body and slightly forward of the bolt's cocking handle — in line with the bottom locking lug. This lug engages a recess in the receiver when the bolt is closed. It acts only as a safety lug, in the unlikely event that the front lugs fail. A long spring-steel extractor (much copied) is attached to a groove in the bolt body by a separate collar and provides what is usually called "controlled feeding." This means that rounds cannot be dropped into the chamber because the extractor claw will not slip over the rim and so the bolt cannot be closed. All feeding must be from the magazine and the extractor claw rides in the case's extractor groove starting at the time the cartridge moves upward out of the magazine. Thus, the extractor "controls" the case's movement throughout the feeding cycle.

When the bolt is opened the beveled squared-off base of the bolt handle moves along the rearward inclined surface of the receiver bridge and this provides camming power for initial extraction and assists in the bolt's beginning rotation. The bolt lift on the Mauser 98 action is 90 degrees. The bolt body is bored from the rear to accept the firing pin and mainspring. The rear of the striker and the cocking piece have three interrupted lugs to provide precise quarter-turn locking between these two components. The mainspring is retained by the cocking piece. Two safety lugs on the firing pin, matching cutouts inside the bolt, serve to block the fall of the firing pin should it fracture before the bolt is fully locked. While many insist the Mauser 98 action cocks on opening, more than one-third of the cocking motion actually takes place as the bolt is closed.

There is a wing-type manual safety in the top of the bolt sleeve. When placed in the far-right position both the firing pin/cocking piece and bolt are locked. Movement all the way to left will permit the rifle to be fired. In the center position, only the firing pin/cocking piece remains locked, permitting the bolt to be rotated for safe unloading of the magazine. There are two oval safety gas vents toward the front of the bolt body, on either side of the extractor collar. The bolt stop, on the left side of the receiver, rotates on a pointed screw that passes through an integral stud on the receiver. The trigger guard and staggered-column box-type magazine are machined from a single piece of steel. Capacity of the M48 magazine is five rounds. There is a hinged, milled-steel, detachable floorplate, together with a milled follower and W-shaped follower spring.

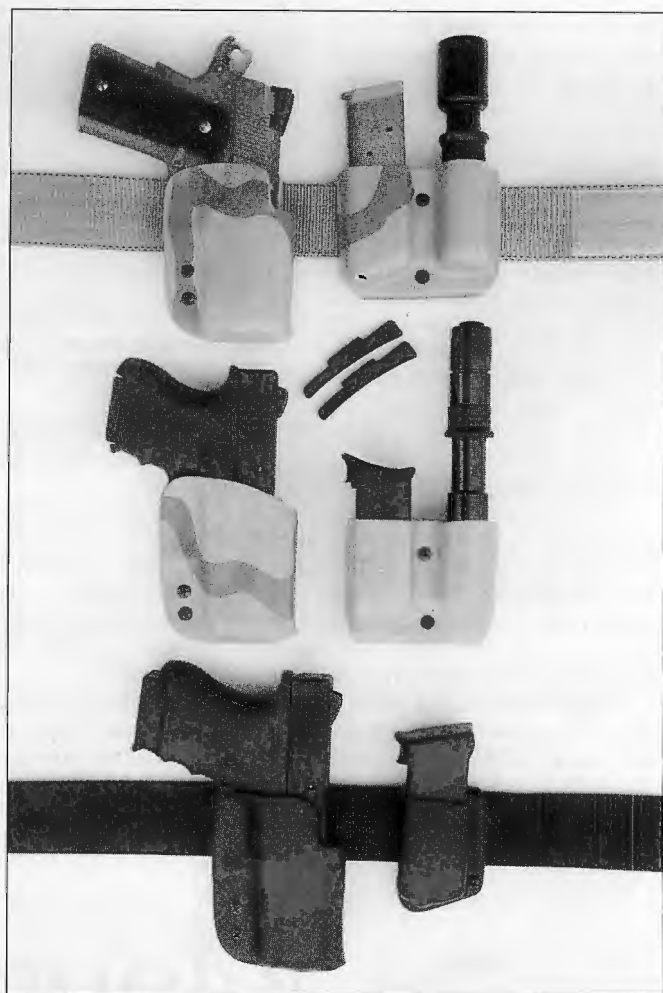
Over the hundred years of its existence, many have modified the Mauser 98 action and there have been no small number of competing designs. None have equaled its most salient features and it remains, a century after its introduction, the very best turn-bolt ever brought to "shoulder arms."
— P.G.K.

Kydex-type materials are becoming more and more popular as a holster material. Unfortunately, anyone with a hot-air dryer and a grinder can cut, shape and bend a sheet of this material around a handgun and call it a holster. But, that's a far cry from the holsters created by the acknowledged leader in this field, Blade-Tech Industries, Inc. (Dept SOF, 3060 South 96th Street, Tacoma, WA, 98409; phone: 253-581-4347; fax: 253-589-0282; website: <http://www.blade-tech.com>; e-mail: twegner@blade-tech.com).

Kydex was originally developed about 25 years ago for airplane interiors with scuff-resistant and low-flammability properties. Less than a decade ago a few custom knifemakers started to use it to make sheaths.

Blade-Tech has just introduced a new material called Concealex that will eventually replace their use of Kydex completely. Developed specifically for the firearms and knife industry, Concealex is better than Kydex in just about every way, yet equal in cost. A PVC/PVA acrylic thermoplastic, Concealex is made from 100% virgin materials. Less abrasive than Kydex, it has a higher Rockwell hardness (105) as well. It is impervious to most chemicals, solvents and lubricants. It is waterproof and has a permanent memory, retaining its molded shape forever. It will not shrink or crack and will withstand the harshest environment. Concealex is stable from well below freezing to more than 170 degrees F. Concealex's coarse matte finish has a smoother texture than Kydex.

Totally unique to Concealex is a range of camouflage patterns that is integral to the plastic. This is a proprietary process that results in a remarkably low-maintenance material that retains its



Blade-Tech Concealex holsters and magazine/flashlight pouches are available for a wide range of handguns, including (from top to bottom) the Colt Defender, Glock Models 26/27 and Glock Models 29/30.

Concealex Concealment

pattern over the life of the product. The camouflage patterns available include Desert, Woodland, Arctic and Realtree. The other colors are Olive Drab and Stealth Black, both with exceptionally tight color resolution.

Using 0.125-inch-thick Concealex Blade-Tech handcrafts tension-adjustable belt-loop holsters for just about any handgun. They also make an offset drop belt-loop holster, several types of inside-the-waistband rigs, several paddle holsters and a small-of-the-back holster. They make single and double magazine pouches, as well as a pouch that holds both a single magazine and a Surefire flashlight. Blade-Tech holsters are available with either a straight drop, FBI cant (muzzle to the rear) or crossdraw (muzzle forward) configuration.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent three Blade-Tech Concealex holsters for the Colt Defender (Desert camouflage) and Glock Models 26/27 (Desert camouflage) and 29/30 (Stealth Black), respectively, for test and evaluation. They were accompanied by a Stealth Black single magazine pouch for the Glock Model 29/30 and Desert camouflage combo pouches for the Colt Defender and Glock Models 26/27. One of the combo pouches holds the Surefire flashlight lens down, the other lens up. The camouflage-pattern belt holsters sell for \$64.95 each, while the Stealth Black holster costs \$54.95. The camouflage combo pouches are \$54.95 each and the Black Stealth single magazine pouch costs only \$22.95. Blade-Tech also makes shotgun shell, assault rifle maga-

zine, break-front baton and handcuff pouches, together with custom knife sheaths.

One of the most useful new items in the Blade-Tech catalog is their shim system. All of the holsters and pouches sent to us for test and evaluation have belt loops for 1 3/4-inch belts. This is the most common width for gun belts worn by those who pack a rod every day, all day. It will provide a substantial amount of support for the holster and pouch and still pass through the belt loops on most blue jeans. There are times when that belt width is inappropriate, i.e., at a Presidential Inaugural Ball. Two of Blade-Tech's 0.25-inch shims, when snapped into the holster's and pouch's belt loops, will create a snug fit on a 1 1/4-inch dress belt. This is really nifty and precludes the requirement for different holsters and pouches for each belt width.

To prevent abrasion to your handgun, holsters of this type should be occasionally wiped with hot soapy water or a clean oily rag. In my opinion, stainless steel and polymer-framed handguns, like the Glock series which feature a sturdy nitride finish on the slide, are best suited for carry in a Concealex holster. Although many do, I would personally avoid stuffing pistols with a Teflon finish into a holster of this type. That said, I've been carrying my Colt Defender and all of my many Glock pistols in Blade-Tech holsters for some time now. The retention is more than adequate, yet the draw stroke from these holsters is slick and unimpeded.

— Peter G. Kokalis

Tigersharp Knife



At the booth of a quintessential bright young whippersnapper named Steve Overholt, we found something truly new and quite sensible in the realm of field knives. This Montanan has addressed the dark secret that although all real men don't eat quiche, some of them can't sharpen a knife worth a hoot. Some of us, of course, will feel obliged to say that this knife is of interest primarily as an excellent gift for the wife or brother-in-law because they don't know how to sharpen a knife. But there's been more than one time that we let a blade get duller than would come back with a couple minutes work because we were fighting encroaching darkness, and as a result did a sloppy job of dressing a hide. Some of the new diamond sharpeners are amazingly fast at putting an edge back on a knife, but they don't do it in two seconds when the sun is sinking away from you. But the Tigersharp does — by replacing the edge.

Many new knife ideas look real good on paper, but there's many a slip 'tween the cusp and the slit. The Tigersharp, however, is one handy idea that has been very thoroughly engineered to be as good an idea in the hand as it is on paper. The basic idea isn't new — changeable and/or disposable blades have been used to great advantage on three-cornered knives and scalpels for decades. Not because sheet-goods men and surgeons aren't smart enough to sharpen a blade, but because time they would spend messing with a blade is better spent doing what it is they do best.

The application of the principle is news, however. The Tigersharp's central blade, you know, the *sharp* part, is made of K7 stainless (an excellent *blade* material, although not a common *knife* material) sandwiched between two rigid 440A stainless side panels, same idea as a laminated blade of high-carbon steel between cheeks of a more resilient low-alloy steel or titanium. Well-supported by the cheeks, it can be hardened to Rockwell 56C since brittleness is not a problem. It thus holds a very good edge, and when it does dull you simply release it, and swap it for the fresh blade insert that is riding in the Finnish-style Cordura nylon sheath. But the Tigersharp's instantly changeable blade is not necessarily a throw-away: What you do with the old blade is up to you, but we took ours to the bench and resharpened it on a Japanese waterstone and it's like new and riding in the sheath waiting for its brother to get dull. Spare or replacement blades are available from Tigersharp at very reasonable cost. You carry spare ammo, spare batteries, extra water and some jerky afield — now you can carry a "spare knife" with almost no weight penalty.

With an overall length of 8-1/2" and a 3-3/4" blade, the Tigersharp is not a chopper, but for every cutting and slicing duty



— especially for dressing game — it is one of the handiest fieldcutters we've ever held. The slightly drop-point blade has a very good radius for either skinning or dressing. Scalpel-sharp, it cut the prettiest steaks you ever saw from a frozen venison shank. The well-designed locking system holds the central blade tight and firm with no play whatsoever. The handle is of black, high-impact ABS with a very good shape and good texture for use and grip. Important for a camp knife that may be gutting game at noon and preparing dinner in the evening, the Tigersharp is very easy to clean and wash. It is of full-tang construction (0.140"), yet weighs a scant 7 ounces. It is entirely made in the USA. We don't use a star-rating in this column, but if we did we'd have to throw a whole handful at the Tigersharp — it's gear that's good to go. If nothing else, assuming you're getting along well enough that you trust her with sharp things, you should get one for your significant other. You can always say "Sweetpea, I can't find my pocket stone, can I borrow your sharp knife?" and she'll be pleased you gave her something so good you want to borrow it back — and you'll always know where it is.

Dealer program? Of course. Limited lifetime warranty against defective materials or workmanship (don't use the knife as a tire iron and you'll never need the warranty). Tigersharp Knives and replaceable blades are available from Tigersharp Technologies, Dept. SOF, 4275 D. J. Drive, Missoula, MT 59803; phone/fax: 406-251-5671.

—Don McLean ✂

"The Taliban are mobilizing thousands of troops for a second offensive on Mazar-i-Sharif and the north of the country." — Pakistani English-language press report, July 1997.

The main road west from Kunduz in northern Afghanistan is a shifting track across a stony desert with not much to recommend it except that it is the shortest distance to the ancient city of Mazar-i-Sharif, capital of Balkh province, a once thriving agricultural, commercial and industrial center, famous Oriental carpet bazaar, important site of religious pilgrimage ... and at this time, headquarters of the ethnic Uzbek warlord General Abdul Malik.

Malik's betrayal of his boss General Abdul Rashid Dostam was the catalyst for the triumphant entry of Afghanistan's extremist Muslim movement, the *Taliban*, into Mazar-i-Sharif in May 1997 (see "Taliban Turnaround," February '99). Malik had the deluded presumption to believe that when he defected to the predominantly ethnic Pushtun Taliban, he would be treated as an equal partner in a new ruling coalition. Poor fool. Malik (whose mother was a Pushtun) had his neck saved by the timely uprising of his *Shia* allies in Mazar, and the religious militia suffered huge losses in its defeat.

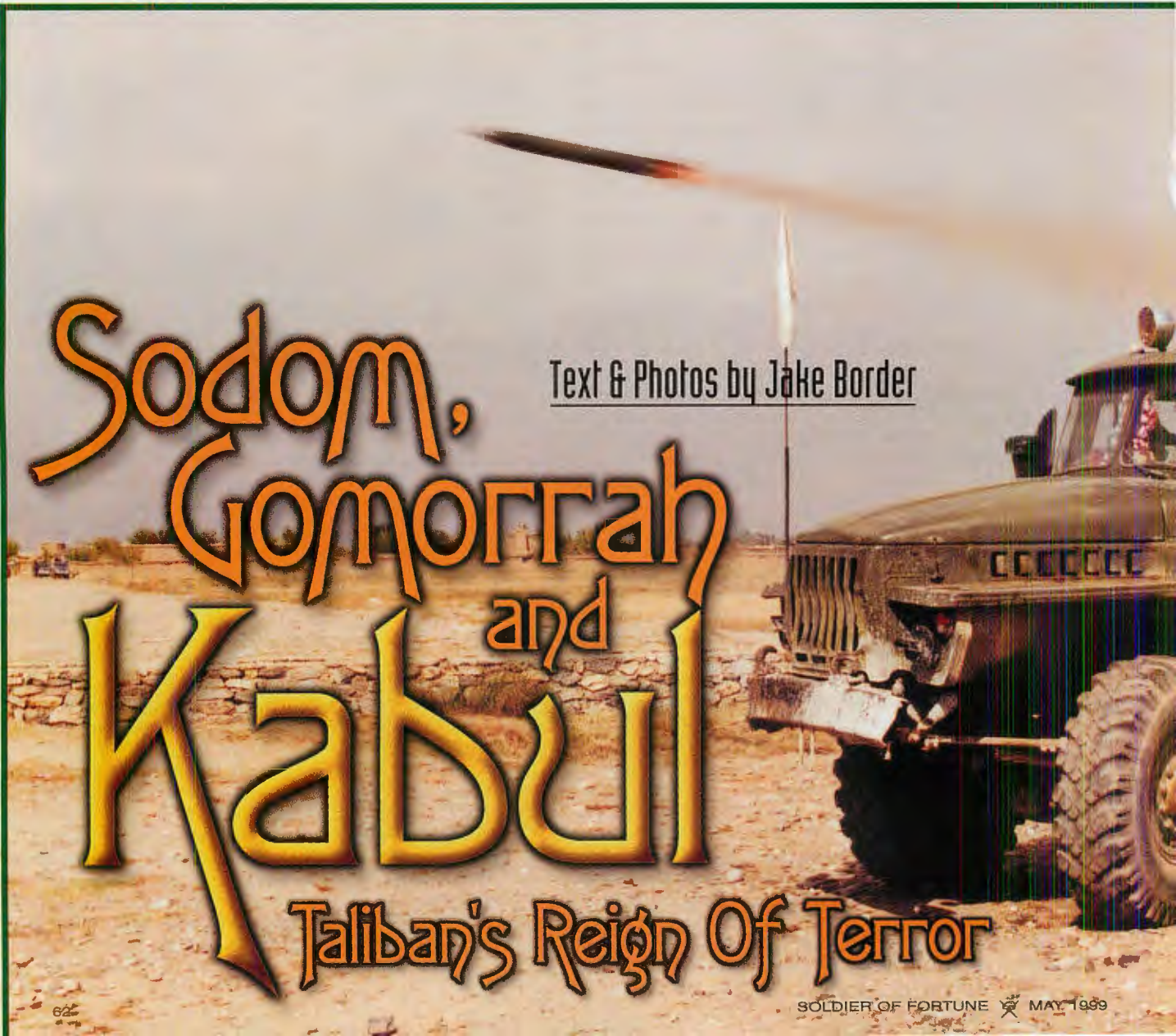
Shortly afterward, in June 1997, gutsy fighters of the Taliban (a stranded expeditionary force of reinforcements meant for Mazar) against all apparent odds captured the provincial capital Kunduz (340 kilometers north of Kabul) from their rivals (see "Taliban Turnaround, Part II," March '99) and even had a go at Ahmad Shah

Masood's ethnic Tajik forces belonging to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's *Jamiat-i-Islami* faction, whose headquarters (since their September 1996 retreat from Kabul) was in the neighboring province of Takhar to the east.

A stalemate gradually settled over the northern front lines but the Taliban were apparently trapped. They had no overland link to Kabul and their enclave in Kunduz (with Pushtun allies farther south in Baghlan) was flanked to the east and west by inimical Tajiks and Uzbeks.

Dostam slumbered in shameful exile in Turkey. Meanwhile, Malik fumbled along in uneasy alliance with groups such as: *Shia Hezb-i-Wahdat*, Masood's *Jamiat*; some *Hezb-i-Islami* of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's following; and other minor *mujahideen* factions also represented in Mazar-i-Sharif. The Uzbeks no longer dominated Mazar-i-Sharif, as they had during Dostam's day. Rather, the Mazar-i-Sharif were ruled by a council of military commanders, from all the resident parties, known as a *shoora*.

As early as July the Taliban began claiming they once again had Mazar in their sights. In Kabul, Jalaluddin Haqqani, a distinguished Pushtun mujahideen commander who brought a large force of eastern Ghilzai tribesmen into the Taliban movement, told journalists that the northern coalition was "disunited" and there was growing mistrust not only between Malik and his Uzbek generals but also between Malik and Masood. Rather than see the isolation of the Kunduz column as a liability, Haqqani was upbeat about the religious militia's toehold in the north. "We have divided the opposition into



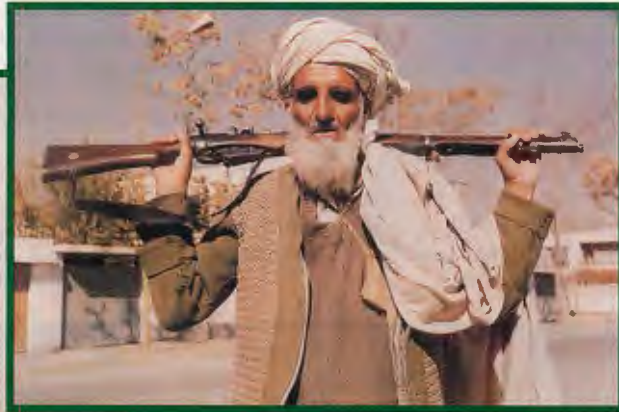
Sodom, Gomorrah and Kabul

Text & Photos by Jake Border

Taliban's Reign Of Terror



(left) Taliban gun crew unloads 122mm rounds for M-30 howitzer, less common now than the D-30 on front lines, but not yet retired from service. (above) Taliban gunner fires Soviet 122mm D-30 howitzer, which has become a standard artillery weapon in the Afghan arsenal, used by both sides in recent conflicts. Not all recruits to Taliban are youths. (below) This old Pushtun turned up in Kabul with his trusty World War II-vintage Lee Enfield, vowing to fight "jihad."



Taliban BM-21 rocket launcher in action on front lines north of Kabul. (below) Taliban patrolling north of Kabul in BMP-2 Infantry Fighting vehicle, painted in camouflage, against snowy backdrop of Hindu Kush mountain range.



two parts by putting our forces into Kunduz," he noted, accurately.

However, Haqqani's spin on the military situation was that the Taliban offensive against Mazar-i-Sharif would come from the west, from Herat. It did not. It came from the east, from Kunduz.

In early September 1997, the Taliban once again took the battlefield initiative and broke the Kunduz stalemate. They were on the march, and for the second time in less than six months, these piously bearded religious militiamen were to seriously threaten Mazar-i-Sharif. Breaking out of confinement in Kunduz, they struck west, quickly crossing the Kunduz River to capture the district center of Chardarra. They advanced farther to seize the strategic heights of Irganak Pass that opened the way across the desert to Mazar.

The In-law Problem

It was not as if there had been no warning. In the preceding week, up to three flights a day by Taliban Antonov An-32s had airlifted men and ammunition from Kabul to Kunduz. Naturally, betrayal was also a major element in the Taliban breakout. Pushtun locals in Kalayi Zol (a traditional Turkoman outpost north of Kunduz on the Amu Darya River ... but populated in the late 19th century by tribal migrants from Kandahar) turned in the Taliban's favor. Meanwhile, the commander at Irganak (Malik's own brother-in-law) sold out to the religious warriors. So did a former Hezb-i-Islami commander in the town of Tashkurghan in Samangan province, where the desert road from Irganak links to the black-top main highway bound for Mazar just 60 kilometers to the west.

"The Taliban stormed across the desert from Irganak to Tashkurghan, and then on to reach Mazar, in just two to three days," noted an Afghan observer. It was 9 September 1997. "But they didn't enter the city. They were afraid — afraid of getting ambushed and wiped-out as they had been in May," he added.

The Taliban dithered on the eastern city limits near Mazar University. Had they known Malik had fled the capital when they arrived in Tashkurghan they might have pressed on and taken their prize. Again, resistance was largely in the hands of the Shia fighting factions. The Taliban dug in and laid siege.

Meanwhile, Dostam staged a comeback after four months of exile in Turkey. For 20 days the former warlord had been watching events from the sidelines in the Uzbekistan border town of Termez. He then crossed the steel-girder "Friendship Bridge" over the Amu Darya (the last units of the defeated Red Army exited Afghanistan going the other way in February 1989) and entered Afghanistan at the frontier town of Hairaton, from where he choppered down to Mazar-i-Sharif, arriving on 12 September.

Dostam was given a warm reception by the people. "The people kissed the tires of his Mercedes-Benz and threw money onto the street," an Afghan resident remarked with incredulity.

Short-lived Jubilation

Things changed quickly. Hairaton suddenly fell to the Taliban, who then penetrated deeper into the province. With the help of opportunistic Pushtun sympathizers (all formerly Hezb-i-Islami) they seized the town of Balkh to the west of Mazar. The net was now closing around this most important of all northern capitals, and Dostam was back between a rock and a hard place. The fall of Balkh had severed overland connection with his native Jawzjan province (where Malik was hiding out) and the Taliban had control of Mazar's airport, which was on the Turkestan plains far to the east of the city.

Dostam panicked. From his sprawling army base north of the city, the so-called *Qalayi Jangi* (literally, "War-Fortress"), he ignominiously fled Mazar for the second time. By Mi-17 he choppered south into central Afghanistan to the Hezb-i-Wahdat headquarters of Karim Khalili in the historic town of Bamian, site of the two ancient and colossal Buddha statues (the *smallest* is 38 meters [125 feet] high) carved in a cliff face. By all accounts his reception was frosty.

Taliban heavy armor moves up to front line north of Kabul. Here a T-62 is escorted by foot soldiers in typical dress, with Chinese webbing for Kalashnikov ammunition magazines. (inset) Mark of the Taliban — untrimmed beard and turban. This young tanker also wears yellow prayer beads and religious amulet around his neck.



"You have two options: return to Turkey or die on the front lines," Khalili was reported as saying, but he agreed to send 2,000 reinforcements.

Evacuation Yard Sale

While all this palaver was going on in Bamian, the internal security situation in Mazar was grave. In face of the front line uncertainties, the United Nations and most expatriate aid workers had also evacuated the capital. The Red Cross, made of sterner stuff, had stayed put. This was the UN's second evacuation from a troubled Mazar-i-Sharif and, feeling betrayed, the angry and bitter civilian population took its revenge. They looted everything they could get their hands on. "UN vehicles were looted big-time," chuckled an Afghan present at the time. "You could buy a UN Landcruiser for a few thousand bucks, no papers of course!" Local commanders with stolen UN jeeps had them repainted for running around town.

All the UN foodstocks for the poor — 735 tons of wheat flour and cooking oil, etc. — were looted. So were 800 tons of fertilizer and all UN radio communication equipment. Most, not all, NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) were cleaned out too. "Sheet-iron was ripped off the roofs of our offices, and the electrical wiring was even chiseled out from under the plaster in the walls," one irate foreign aid worker recalled. In one agency, the toilets were ripped out of the floor.

In another, looters took all the walkie-talkie radios, computers, printers and a photocopy machine. All ended up in the bazaar for sale at very cheap prices. Where jeeps had been disabled by expats before evacuating Mazar, they were dragged away by enterprising thieves using trucks.

A plucky French aid-worker was determined to return to Mazar to continue helping impoverished Afghans despite her personal sense of betrayal. "Besides, I want to track down my saxophone!" she growled.

Gang-Raping the Red Cross

The Red Cross, despite its sterling record of service, was not immune to the lawless mob which prowled the streets, and also fell prey to some looting and violence. In possibly the worst case of assault against a foreigner in Afghanistan, one expatriate Red Cross woman was gang-raped, reportedly by some 30 men. The rape was hushed up. On 20 September, the Red Cross evacuated 29 of its aid workers, keeping on a skeleton staff only.

Meanwhile in Kabul, another small drama was being played out in which a number of western women got first-hand experience of the Taliban's "reign of terror," as Emma Bonino described it. Bonino, the European Union Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, together with 19 others (EU officials, aid workers and visiting journalists, including CNN's celebrated Christiane Amanpour) was arrested by the Taliban and held for nearly four hours in detention in the compound of a Kabul jail.

The EU entourage had been visiting Kabul's sole hospital for women patients, when the journalists began filming and snapping pictures — in defiance of the Taliban's well-publicized prohibition on photography. Acting on a tip-off from the Afghan director of the hospital, Taliban religious police swooped down on the scene, waved a Kalashnikov in Bonino's face, slapped the CNN cameraman, rifle-butted one aid-worker and confiscated all film. The incident later received much international publicity in righteously indignant accounts that described "A Taste of Terror" and the "Tyranny of the Taliban." At the time, however, many resident Kabul aid-workers and local journalists were of the opinion the visiting journalists had brought the heat down squarely on themselves.

CNN's Hokus Pokus

"Everybody knows the rules regarding video here, and not even CNN are above them," a foreign-aid worker was quoted by the AFP Kabul-based correspondent. "The incident escalated when the CNN crew attempted to pass off a blank video cassette to angered officials at the hospital, following complaints over the open use of their cameras," reported AFP.

In addition to raising their own profile, the arrest of Bonino and the journalists did serve to highlight the austere and puritanical world of the Taliban. It also shed light on the Taliban's own religious watchdogs — the repressive and repugnant Prevention of

Vice and Promotion of Virtue squads who roam Kabul in jeeps seeking out men with untrimmed beards and women in public not properly enclosed in full-body shrouds that may reveal no more than hands and feet. They also see to it that alleged thieves, gamblers and homosexuals are paraded through the city with blackened faces for all to see and mock.

Bonino and the others were released with an apology, but the Taliban were unrepentant for their strictly interpreted religious orthodoxy. Repenting was for sinners and as they saw it, and Kabul was a "city of sinners" which had to be cured of its evils.

"Afghanistan will be a pure Islamic state, and a model for the Islamic world and the west,"

enthused *Mullah Qalamuddin*, head of the Vice and Virtue department, in an interview with the foreign press in Kabul

Finally Dostam returned to Mazar from Bamian. Masood was also as scathing as Khalili. In reminding Dostam of his hollow boast that he had come to save the country, Masood reportedly offered some advice, which was: "It's better for you to die than to run away." Dostam was now very much reduced from his self-vaunted role as Afghan king-maker to the knave, if not the joker of the pack.

A counter-offensive against the Taliban entrenched in Mazar University by mixed Shia factions and Jamiat troops cleared the religious militia from the outer eastern suburbs of the city. The Taliban put up stiff resistance at Mazar airport. The Taliban claimed that of the eight opposition jets based at Mazar airport, three defected to Kabul and the other five flew to the Russian-Tajik military base of Kulyob in Tajikistan, which supplies Masood with aid. Control of Kulyob had changed hands three times before the coalition forces could claim total victory on 5 October. It is uncertain what role Dostam's few remaining loyal troops had in these actions — the Uzbek warlord was said to have been more interested in the western front, where he was chasing Malik, hell-bent on revenge.

Here, with the help of one of the Hezb-i-Islami commanders in the town of Balkh who switched sides yet again to rejoin him, Dostam pushed into Jawzjan and captured the provincial capital Sheberghan from Malik ... who retreated west to Maimana, capital of Faryab province.

Dostam then returned to Mazar and joined forces with Wahdat and others for a successful push that saw the recapture of Hairaton and Tashkurghan. The Taliban did not contest these locations, but merely retreated back through the desert to Qalayi Zol and Kunduz. It was practically deserted in Tashkurghan when Dostam's Uzbeks and Wahdat rolled into town.

Effectively the second Taliban assault on Mazar-i-Sharif was over. No breakthroughs had been made on any other frontlines to back them up, which may have influenced their decision not to stand and fight. Even though this second Mazar offensive was a fizzer, the story was far from over, for the Taliban had clearly shak-



Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan: Uniformed trooper of Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostam guards entrance to Blue Mosque, famous site for pilgrimage and worship. Beards were not the fashion for ex-communist forces.

Continued on page 80



John Taylor declared the pen is mightier than the sword; John Browning declared the gun is mightier than the knife; Russian ordnance inventors ask, why not have both? Technician fires the NRS-2 Special Scout Knife during field tests at Izhevsk, Western Urals.

A Knife For A Gunfight

Russia's SpecOps Bullet-Shooting Knife

by Valery N. Shilin

In the hands of a soldier, a knife may be either tool or weapon. Its utility as a tool can be enhanced by the addition of implements such as a saw or a wire cutter. As a weapon, its lethality and range can be increased by a built-in ability to be used as a firearm. In times past, marine services used a

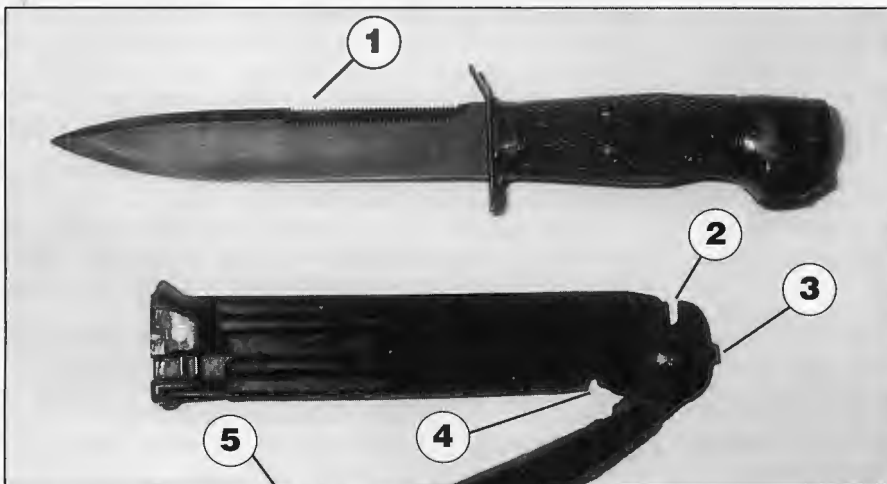
“boarding pistol” which comprised a single- or double-barrel flintlock pistol with a large cutlass built under or between the barrels, it being a moot point whether the blade was there to enhance an unreliable and marginally lethal pistol, or if the pistol was there to back up a particularly clumsy blade weapon.

Several years ago *SOF* featured an article by the late John Minnery regarding a Chinese-made military knife with a multiple-shot .22 weapon built into the handle. The idea of making a knife more deadly through the addition of a firearm function is still attractive, but until now was awaiting a practical engineering answer to the concept, and a cartridge that would make it worthwhile.

NRS-2: Russia's Special-Purpose Scouting Knife

TOZ — the Tula Oruzheiniy Zavod — Russia's oldest arsenal, located in the city of Tula about 600 km south of Moscow, recently unveiled a novel and versatile scouting knife, designated as NRS-2 (*nozh razvedchika, spetsialniy*).

The author was able to test and evaluate this unusual weapon specifically for *DWJ* and, in due course, *SOF*.



NRS-2, knife removed from sheath, showing: 1) saw; 2) wire cutter; 3) screwdriver; 4) cable cutter; 5) handle of cutter.



An operator can cut wire or steel rods of 5 mm, or (inset) electrical wires to 400 volts (note: never cut wire suspected of being energized, two at a time.)



The NRS-2 is a personal weapon designed to be used in close combat by Russia's special forces such as OMON, SPETSNAZ, VITIAZ or Alpha Group. It can be employed against an enemy force as a blade or as a firearm.

The blade is made of steel and has a non-reflective black matte coating. The upper serrated edge of the blade can be used as a saw. The polymer-insulated sheath is used as a multi-functional field tool: it cuts concertina wire, steel rods to 5mm diameter, telephone cords and live electrical cables up to 400 volts. The tip of the sheath functions as a strong square-bar screwdriver.

The most unexpected element of the knife is the handle, which accommodates a super-compact firing unit. The short, smooth-bored barrel of about 50mm is equipped with a muzzle attachment and a breech-locking mechanism. The latter consists of two lugs on the barrel, which turn into recesses in the handle's internal sleeve, locking into battery when the barrel is rotated in clockwise. Security of locking is enhanced by a special lever located at the knife's muzzle device.

The inner sleeve houses both the barrel

with ammunition (one round only) and the firing mechanism. The muzzle is fitted with a soft rubberized conical cap comprising several leaves. When fire is delivered, and the bullet escapes the barrel, the petals open and let the projectile pass. In a non-fire position the leaves are closed, thus protecting the barrel from outside debris.

The handle has two sights. The one, which is located at the rear part of the handle, is adjustable for elevation zero and functions as a front sight. The hilt on the spine side of the blade has a non-adjustable U-notch, which in the firearm mode serves as the rear sight.

Firing The NRS-2

To bring the weapon into firing position, proceed as follows:

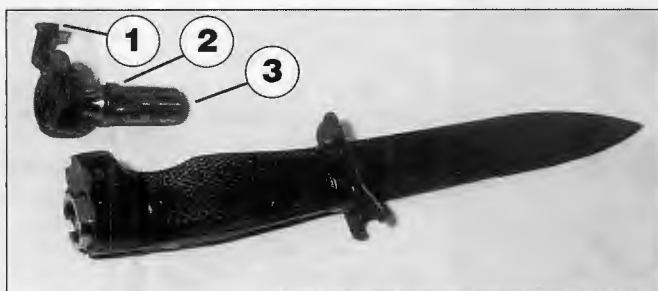
1. Release barrel locking lever by turning it counter-clockwise.
2. Remove barrel assembly from its recess in the knife handle.
3. Put a round into the chamber and replace the barrel assembly into battery. Lock it.
4. Turn the safety lever forward so that a red dot is exposed.
5. Lift the cocking lever in the handle upwards and release it to let it return into initial position.

The weapon is now ready to fire. By holding the knife in a horizontal posture, with the muzzle aimed at the target, depress the trigger knob located on the right side of handle. By depressing the trigger, the hammer is released from the sear and hits the firing pin, and the round is fired.

The SP-4 special sound-suppressed 7.62mm cartridge is used to fire at targets from point-blank to a distance of 25 meters. The round pierces a standard issue steel army helmet from the distance of 20 meters. The ammunition has a significantly reduced sound signature, more resembling the sound of an air-operated BB gun than that of a firearm — an important feature for special "quiet" missions.

A resident of Russia, Valery N. Shilin is a frequent contributor to SOF on new Russian arms developments.

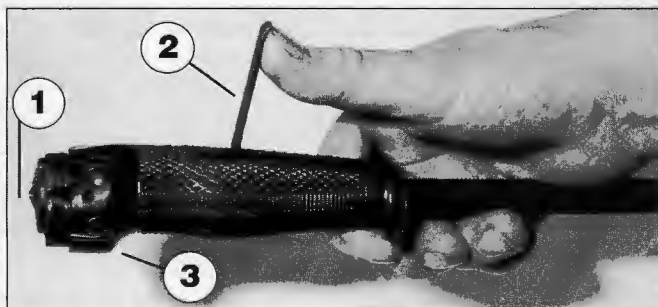
NRS-2	
SPECIFICATIONS	
OVERALL DIMENSIONS MM:	
Knife in sheath:	332 mm x 65 mm x 34 mm
Knife alone:	284 mm x 54 mm x 34 mm
Length of blade:	160 mm
OVERALL WEIGHT:	
With sheath and cartridge:	0.57 kg.
Knife without sheath, unloaded:	0.35 kg.
Caliber of SP-4 round:	7.62 mm
Muzzle velocity:	200 meters per second
Weight of round:	24 gm.
Weight of bullet (FMJ):	10 gm.
Sighted range of fire:	25 meters
Manufacturer: TOZ, 2 Metallistov St., 300000 Tula, Russia	



A fieldstripped NRS-2 shows 1) barrel retaining locking lever; 2) locking lug; 3) barrel.



Safety lever located in butt of knife (muzzle of gun) exposes a red dot when in firing position.



The polypetalous muzzle cover 1) keeps dirt out, opens to pass projectile; the trigger mechanism is cocked with the cocking lever 2); projection at butt of knife serves as front sight in firearm mode.



Round is fired by pressing the trigger; it is recommended the knife be sheathed and weapon firmly gripped.

Nattering Nabobs Of Natick

Why Can't Our Troops Have The Best?

by John Hogan

Photos by Wayne Laugesen

The U.S. Armed Forces are currently deploying a quarter-million new sleeping bag systems, and another three hundred thousand or so are about to be procured. The total cost for buying this new system will add up to about \$100 million dollars, and they probably aren't as good as they should be. There is considerable evidence suggesting that the troops may get more warmth for the dollar when individual units buy sleeping bags in the civilian marketplace. In fact U.S. Special Operations units like the Green Berets, Rangers and SEALs are buying that equipment from private enterprises, and here is why.

During every war fought by Americans, troops have always had to purchase on the civilian market those necessary items that were either inadequate as supplied by the military or not supplied at all. Certainly funding adequate equipment has been a problem at certain times in history. Beginning with the Revolutionary War and

on through the Civil War, the government couldn't afford to buy everything the troops needed. At present, those of you who know how much you pay in federal taxes fully understand that lack of funds isn't the reason that today's soldiers aren't getting the best equipment available. In fact, considering what the taxpayers pay for, the U.S. armed forces ought to be getting the very best gear available.

Unfortunately, as any soldier will probably tell you, at least some of his equipment doesn't perform as well as the civilian equivalent. Perhaps the most often cited reason for inadequacies in supplied equipment is the politics inherent in the procurement and supply system. Certainly there is something to that. Until very recently, military equipment was produced either by the low bidder or by a firm with good political connections or perhaps by a company with a recently retired general officer on the payroll. But a far more prevalent reason that the troops usually don't get what they need can be traced to the fact that the people who develop gear have always thought that they knew more about the field soldier's needs than the field soldier. Talking to the guy who actually uses the stuff usually doesn't happen.

Most of the major research and development of items used by ground forces, Army troops in particular, comes from the U.S. Army Natick Laboratories in Natick, Massachusetts. Natick is responsible for the Kevlar helmet and the PASGT protective vest, both historically notable improvements in personnel protection. In the inside pocket on the back of the flak vest is a questionnaire printed on a postage-paid postcard. The questionnaire asks the soldier who has taken a hit while wearing the vest to describe the matter and return the information directly to Natick. Eureka! A revolutionary idea. Actually asking the guy with his ass in the grass for information on improving the product. Why not ask soldiers for feedback on everything they use?

Not possible, says a spokesman for Natick Labs. It's easy with flak vests because there is a little pocket in back, but not so



Headquarters of Jerry Wigutow's "Wiggy's," manufacturers of sleeping bags, insulated outdoor outerwear and tents. Wiggy says that Natick Labs is comprised largely of bureaucrats who are more interested in self-perpetuation than they are in giving the troops the best equipment available.



easy with other items that don't have little pockets. Apparently, the absence of "little pockets" prevents communication with the troops. Sound like bureaucratic nonsense? That's what Jerry Wigutow says it is.

Wigutow, who is also known as "Wiggy," manufactures sleeping bags, insulated outdoor outerwear and tents. He says that Natick Labs is comprised largely of bureaucrats who are more interested in self-perpetuation than they are in giving the troops the best equipment available.

Warm Heart, Warm Feet

Wiggy, of course, may have a vested interest in saying such mean things about Natick because he manufactures sleeping bags that have been rejected by the gatekeepers at Natick. Sour grapes could be a reasonable explanation. And Wiggy does have just the off-center type of personality that might rub officials the wrong way. He does things like making end runs around the process by writing to the president of the United States to protest Natick Labs' finding that his products are "unsuitable for military purposes."

Wiggy also publishes his own newsletters in which he states without equivocation that he makes the "finest sleeping bags ever produced in the history of sleeping bag manufacturing" and makes the lofty claim of having the world's most efficient insulation, a polyester product called Lamilite. Those claims put him crossways with other manufacturers and with official people like Major General Lynn Stevens, head of the Army Material Command's sleeping bag development and acquisition program. In a letter to Wiggy, General Stevens cited "Polar Guard," not Lamilite, as the "best available" insulation.

He said that shingled Polar Guard was necessary to most closely approach the Army requirement for the Extreme Cold Weather Sleep System (ECWSS). That requirement says that ECWSS must provide troops with four hours of restful sleep in an ambient air temperature of -60° F below zero.

The General went on to say that, though Wiggy's product might be "... highly suitable for some purposes, it does not meet the Army's requirements for a sleeping system or represent an advance over present Army equipment."

Since the government doesn't have a very good record of issuing anything troops could carry on their own backs that would keep them warm, Stevens' categorizing Wiggy bags as not being any "advance" over the present issue was very insulting, but not quite correct.

The military-issued bags at the time Stevens scorched Wiggy were horribly inefficient, slightly updated Korean War-era-designed mummy types. The best of those, the intermediate and extreme cold weather

sleeping bags, are heavy, nearly 10 pounds, not compressible enough to carry on a backpack and not good for temperatures much below 20° F. Troops could get lighter, more efficient bags for about \$100 at good sporting goods stores. In fact, Ranger units did that very thing. In the early '90s all operational companies of the 75th Infantry went outside the supply system and bought Sierra Designs and North Face bags.

At about the same time other units, like the 10th Special Forces and various elements of Delta who were quite unsatisfied with the products of the Army Material Command and Natick Labs, began buying sleeping bags from Wiggy. Why then did the most elite of the Army units go outside the supply system and purchase the exact equipment that both a major general and the Army's premiere materials testing facility had declared to be unsuitable for military use?

In 1992, not long after being declared unsuitable for military use, the Navy SEALs requested that Wiggy build a sleeping bag system that would function from summer time through -40° F below zero. He did, the SEAL teams adopted it and the Navy assigned the Wiggy sleeping bag system stock number NSN 8465-01-395-4094.

Wiggy calls it the Flexible Temperature Range Sleep System (FTRSS). It is very different from the Army Material Command/Natick labs ECWSS bag.

The most notable difference is that the current issue ECWSS uses two bags: a heavy inner sleeping bag and an intermediate or light patrol bag with a soon-to-be-deployed outer Gore-Tex Bag cover, and in addition specifies that the user wear issue booties, a hood and other clothing items while inside the bag. The FTRSS equipment is a heavy inner bag that Wiggy rates down to -20° F below by itself. The second component is an outer or patrol bag rated to 35° that zips to the inner bag. Zipped together, the Ultima Thule/Patrol FTRSS is rated by Wiggy to be good to -60° F below if you use booties and an insulated head cover.

Getting "Down" To Business

The most important difference, according to Wiggy, is the insulation. Both the Polar Guard and Lamilite are continuous filament polyester material produced by the same company, Hoechst Celanese Corporation.



Wiggy at his shop on the western slope of Colorado. Wiggy has just the off-center type of personality that might rub officials the wrong way. He does things like making end runs around the process by writing to the President of the United States to protest Natick Labs' finding that his products are "unsuitable for military purposes."

**The ECWSS bags
actually tested in
Alaska in January/February
temperatures did not keep
the troops warm even
though they had the
extra protection
of tents.**

After a number of years in storage, the down bags were judged to be fundamentally devoid of any insulating merit.

The major difference is that Polar Guard insulation, as specified by the Army for the ECWSS, is a bonded continuous filament and Lamilite is not. Wiggy says that Lamilite is more dense than Polar Guard, and that it has most of the warmth and breathability of down insulation but without the problems. For example, down insulation is worthless when wet and when it is stored compressed for long periods or laundered it loses some of its insulative qualities.

In a few short years after having his Lamilite insulation rejected as inferior and his product declared unsuitable for military purposes, Wiggy's became the largest supplier of "unbranded bags" to the U.S. armed forces. He was selling them to all branches of the service in small-unit sales batches and to individual troops through the Brigade Quartermaster's catalog.

In 1995, in addition to FTRSS bags, the 10th Special Forces Group bought 500 pairs of Lamilite-insulated Joe Reddington mukluks for troops deploying to Bosnia. That same year the U.S. Air Force began replacing the vacuum-packed down-filled sleeping bags they put in cold weather ejection seat and aircrew survival kits. After a number of years in storage, the down bags were judged to be fundamentally devoid of any insulating merit. What did the Air Force replace all those down bags with? You

guessed it, Wiggy's bags. And in each survival kit there is also a set of Wiggy's Joe Reddington mukluks.

In 1996, there was one of those critical occurrences in the progression of events which would lead to the taxpayers spending \$100 million on sleeping bags that have been judged not good enough by the leading units of the U.S. military.

An officer at the U.S. Army cold weather testing facility in Alaska called Wiggy and asked if he could supply them with 2,000 FTRSS bags for testing. The Alaska National Guard had already purchased FTRSS systems. Apparently, the officer was in charge of procurement and had either looked at one of those or had seen one of the Special Forces FTRSS bags. According to Wiggy, the officer said he had been offered 2,000 of the Natick-approved ECWSS bags for \$120 each but had decided instead to spend the extra few dollars and purchase Wiggy's FTRSS bags.

In a few weeks, the procurement officer phoned back to say that the Army Material Command was no longer going to deduct \$120 each from the budget for the 2,000 bags. Instead they would be supplied without charge and the commanding general had insisted that it would be prudent to go that route instead of spending cash on the Wiggy product.

One has to wonder whether internal politics may have played a role in any of this. It turned out that tests conducted in Alaska with some of the 2,000 supplied bags were pivotal in the Army's validation of the Natick/ Material Command design and manufacturing specifications. That acceptance paved the way for the Army spending up to \$100 million on the low-bid contractor Polar Guard-type ECWSS bags.

According to Wiggy, the ECWSS bags actually tested did not keep the troops warm in January/February temperatures in Alaska even though they had the extra protection of tents. According to Neil Smedstad, the clothing team leader at Natick Labs, the ECWSS bags performed as they should have and kept the troops warm.

When We Want Your Opinion ...

How did Natick find out that the Army ECWSS kept the troops warm? "We have established procedures for reporting that information," said Smedstad. Did those procedures include talking to the guys who actually used the bags? Wiggy says he talked to some of the officers who actually participated in the tests, including the officer who collected the data from the platoons. Imagine that. According to Wiggy, the Army-supplied ECWSS bags failed to keep the troops warm inside tents when the ambient air temperature ranged between -10° below to 30° F above.

One of the major difficulties encountered during the tests,



The best way to figure out what works is to find out what makes the guy with his ass in the grass happy. Possibly the very best endorsement of Wiggy's gear comes from them. The SpecOps troops, the Air Force and everyone who seems able to get away with it uses Wiggy's products. Units from all branches have purchased a total of about 50,000 sleeping bags from Wiggy. In 1995, in addition to FTRSS bags, the 10th Special Forces Group bought 500 pairs of Lamilite-insulated Joe Reddington mukluks (right) for troops deploying to Bosnia. That same year the U.S. Air Force began replacing the vacuum-packed, down-filled sleeping bags they put in cold-weather ejection seat and aircrew survival kits with Wiggy's bags and mukluks.



courtesy author

according to Wiggy, was that all of the ECWSS had condensation problems. Unless the sleeping bag insulation allows perspiration moisture to pass through, the water accumulates and the sleeper gets wet. Sleepers awoke in the morning and found the ECWSS bags frozen to the ground.

The efficiency of Gore-Tex is another matter about which Wiggy's findings seem to contradict those of Natick. Gore-Tex, as everyone knows, is the miracle fabric of expensive mountain climbing and fashionable outdoor wear that is supposed to allow moisture to escape while keeping the rain out. Wiggy says that Gore-Tex and other similar laminates simply do not perform as advertised.

The Army, due to Natick's recommendations, has heavily invested in Gore-Tex clothing and sleeping bag covers. Nonetheless, a number of knowledgeable users agree with Wiggy, and the author's experience with the standard-issue ECWS Gore-Tex parka supports Wiggy's contention. The ECWS parka is great for blocking wind but in the islands of southeast Alaska it rains all of the time. Even the most expensive Gore-Tex becomes uncomfortably saturated in minutes.

Even Natick's Neil Smedstad, who insists that Gore-Tex is great stuff, acknowledges that it is tough to keep the troops dry in a wet climate. Smedstad does say, however, that the Gore-Tex bivy bags are effective and state of the art. In fact, all branches of the military have been buying a lot of them recently. In July 1996, the Marines sent out a proposal for bids for a minimum of 60,000 Gore-Tex bivy bags with a potential maximum of 900,000. In January 1998, the Army awarded a contract for the production of 300,000 Gore-Tex bivy bags for use in connection with the ECWSS bags.

At a cost of \$130 per bivy bag, the USMC contract is potentially worth between \$7.8 million and \$1.2 billion, while the Army award is worth about \$39 million.

Wiggy says this is a great waste of money because not only does the Gore-Tex fail to keep the rain off, it also fails to allow moisture to escape, thereby causing it to accumulate between the sleeping bag and the bivy bag cover. Natick's Smedstad disagrees.

Obviously, an independent evaluation is called for here. Wiggy sells a competing product and if Natick did not stand behind the technical validation of about \$1.5 billion in Gore-Tex bivy bag covers, congress might investigate what has the outward appearances of another procurement boondoggle.

When It Rains It Pours

Backpacker magazine, "the magazine of wilderness travel," is a comprehensive guide to outdoor equipment. Every year it publishes an annual gear guide, which contains the test reports on thousands of products from stoves and boots to sleeping bags and covers that it has actually field-tested. Here is what *Backpacker* said on page 129 of the March

1998 issue: "Gore-Tex. This material is often used in bivy sacks, but it's pretty much a shell material of the past where sleeping bags are concerned. Even Gore doesn't recommend Gore-Tex as a sleeping bag cover anymore, because time has proven this material doesn't allow moisture to escape well enough, which causes insulation to lose loft."

And what's more, the Navy SEAL teams aren't buying Gore-Tex bivy bags, they are buying Wiggy's "Single Person Bivi Shelters" to use in connection with their FTRSS bags, and so is the Air Force.

What does

Wiggy's Flexible Temperature Range Sleep System has been rejected by Natick Labs, but selected for "unofficial" use by U.S. SpecOps, in emergency packs, and any GI with a few extra dollars and a desire to stay warm.



courtesy author

Natick's Smedstad have to say about these various armed services elements buying large amounts of equipment that both Natick and the Material Command has deemed unsuitable for military use? He says that Special Ops guys can do whatever they want. And certainly they are doing just that.

The best way to figure out what works is to find out what makes the guy with his ass in the grass happy. Possibly the very best endorsement of Wiggy's gear comes from them. The SpecOps troops, the Air Force and everyone who seems able to get away with it uses Wiggy's products. Units from all branches have purchased a total of about 50,000 sleeping bags from Wiggy. In addition, the Marine Corps, which is issuing the Army ECWSS to the troops, has ordered 200 Wiggy bags for use in vacuum-packed ejection-seat survival kits, too, and, of course, the Coast Guard is using Wiggy's Hypothermia bags on rescue boats. Perhaps Natick should talk to them.

WIGGY's contact info: P.O. Box 2124, Dept. SOF, Grand Junction, CO 81502; phone: 1-800-748-1827; email: wiggys@wiggys.com; website: www.wiggys.com

Author John Hogan is a frequent contributor to *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine, and has misspent a great deal of time in Alaskan "sunshine." ☒

Other units, like the 10th Special Forces and various elements of Delta were quite unsatisfied with the products of the Army Material Command and Natick Labs.

THE RESISTER

Maverick Publisher Out of the Army ... And Out in the Open

by James L. Pate

Steve Barry chuckled at the thought: news reports in late February of anti-communist demonstrators in a Vietnamese immigrant community in Orange County, California, attacking a Vietnamese shopkeeper who proudly hung on his wall at work a North Vietnamese flag and a picture of Ho Chi Minh.

"Back in the old days, he'd be lucky to have gotten off with a good beating," said Barry, a retired U.S. Army Special Forces sergeant who founded, edits and writes *The Resister: The Political Warfare Journal of the Special Forces Underground*. "More likely someone would have torched his shop."

Possibly that's why the shopkeeper's landlord advised his tenant to vacate the premises, despite a judge's ruling that the First Amendment right to free speech guarantees protection of the man's pro-communist wall-hangings. The man needed a police escort to return to work. An angry mob surrounded the storefront, waving placards that condemned Ho Chi Minh and communists as "liars" and "murderers."

Déjà Vu

The incident struck a somewhat nostalgic chord with Barry. It was in this same cluster of Orange County communities of Vietnamese immigrants, in 1989, that Barry launched his first foray into political journalism, an English-language weekly called *Asia Hand*. After 12 years in the Army, almost all of it as a Green Beret, Barry got out in 1988 and did a short stint of private-contract work in the Philippines before washing up in southern California.

Like *The Resister*, *Asia Hand* was stridently anti-communist. The aim was to bolster anti-communist sentiment among the large number of Vietnamese in Orange County, although most didn't need to be taught to despise the political system that forced them to flee to U.S. shores in the first place. But the communists had infiltrated its agents into their midst to influence local politics.

Barry said the editorial policy at *Asia Hand*, published in Westminster, was "for the express purpose of torquing out the Vietnamese communists in Orange County, and interfering with their package-forwarding service through Air France, which the communists were using to send gold, medical supplies and what-have-you back to Vietnam," bypassing a U.S. trade embargo.

By 1989, the communists' forwarding operation in California was a decade-old. Vietnamese refugees in Orange County and other places in the U.S. were being encouraged to put together "care" boxes for their families in Vietnam. They would save up and buy gold, medicine and other commodities and send it home to Vietnam. To facili-

tate the difficult process of shipping, pro-communist Vietnamese set up a forwarding service through Air France. The packages were flown to Thailand, unloaded and transshipped on to Vietnam.

"As soon as the packages hit Saigon — Ho Chi Minh City — the commies would grab the stuff and rummage through it and pull out all the valuables," Barry explained. "It was a scam the communists were running. They were encouraging people to send clothing, gold, precious gems, so they could steal it. So when the people's families finally got the packages — if they got the packages — there'd be nickel-and-dime stuff in there."

So what made Barry decide to start *Asia Hand*, which exposed the package-pilfering operation?

Thomas Paine Rides Again

"I was out of the Army at the time," Barry said. "I wasn't working for anyone. If I was working for anyone, it was a Vietnamese gentleman named Xu Minh, who'd been publishing Vietnamese-language newspapers for quite a few years. He was the publisher and I was the editor. It was a nominal salary. It was more a labor of love, learning the craft.

"It upset the local *gendarmes* considerably," he said, laughing at the memory. "I couldn't walk down the street without getting jacked up by the local cops. They wanted to know what I was up to," a tall lanky round-eye with a disarming smile, living and working in a community of Vietnamese refugees normally wary of Caucasian strangers.

"For some unknown reason," Barry said, eyes twinkling, "about once a month, a Vietnamese pro-communist newspaper would get torched. We were stirring up trouble, or so they said. You might say we were nurturing grass-roots political activism in the Vietnamese community against communist sympathizers. Which was a curious development, because we were an English-language newspaper, instead of a Vietnamese-language newspaper, but in a Vietnamese neighborhood.

"It was fun," said Barry, breaking into laughter again. "There were several communist newspapers that got torched — not as a result of *Asia Hand*, of course. It was just a curious development ... I had no knowledge of that stuff. If I did have knowledge, of course I would have told."

It's hard to tell if Barry is joking, but it wouldn't be the first time. As a plebe at West Point in 1973, he saw a classmate cheating. Taking his pledge to uphold the Honor Code very seriously, Barry said he didn't see that he had any choice. He reported the other cadet for an Honor Code violation. It was a tough lesson for Barry.

"From that point on," he said, "I was an outcast" among his peers. He recalled that no one spoke to him for six months, other than as required in the conduct of official duties, procedures or ceremonies.

But when a major cheating scandal erupted at West Point in 1975, being an outsider served Barry well.

"I was not involved in that," Barry explained. "My classmates didn't trust me."

Not that anyone might have suspected Barry of cheating. He was discharged for poor academic performance in February 1976.

"I fought it tooth and nail," said Barry, who characterized his dismissal as less because of grades than his intense philosophical differences with his instructors. Barry failed two courses, economics and constitutional law — somewhat ironic, because between these two very subjects runs the axis on which most of the political and philosophical themes revolve in *The Resister*.

Re-Up For Another Hitch

After his discharge from the Army in February 1976, Barry went to Cleveland and got a job in a tool-and-die factory.

Ever the maverick, Barry rejected shop pressure to join a collective-bargaining group and, instead, "I was heavily engaged in anti-union activities."

But Barry soon got bored and decided to join the Army again. He enlisted in Cleveland in June 1976, and after two-and-a-half years at West Point, boot camp was a bit of a cakewalk. He went on to advanced infantry training, where he convinced his company commander to let him take the graduation test. He was in and out of AIT in two weeks. He went on to Airborne School (he'd been to Ranger School as a West Point cadet) and then to the Special Warfare Training Group, and he was qualified for Special Forces in 1977.

Barry recalls the selection process for Special Forces as particularly rigorous. Phase I of the Q-course, he said, turned out to be a pilot course for the then-fledgling Delta Group. He was cross-trained in weapons and operations and intelligence, but his specialty was as a sniper, which is still a passion. He served in 5th SFGA from 1977-83; and as an instructor in the Special Warfare Center from 1983-85. It was then, after 12 years of service, that Barry again parted ways with the Army.

Barry was in the middle of designing and implementing what remains the core training program for long-range target interdiction in Army Special Forces when he got orders to attend the Army's advanced NCO school.

"Rather than turn over the important work that I was doing on the sniper course to some 'mouth breather' who'd fuck it all up," Barry said, "I turned down my orders and finished my work designing the course. Then I had to go."

Free Lance

In the latter half of his four-year hiatus from active duty, Barry engaged in "some contract work," which he dismissed with a laugh and a joke. He did confirm that he worked in the Philippines in 1988, when Manila was a hotbed of political intrigue and, in the two years culminating in the assassination of U.S. Special Forces Colonel Nick Rowe, terrorism and murder were rampant.

The pro-communist New People's Army were running guerrilla assassination teams in Manila known as the "Sparrows." The

Manila Police Department responded with *ex officio* groups of their own, most notably the "Eagles," teams of covert operatives who would hunt down NPA operatives and kill them. "The Eagles ... were out hitting NPA people at the same time NPA people were also hitting government targets," Barry said. "Tit for tat. Pay to play."

Barry's work there was for "a consortium of private individuals concerned about political developments in the Philippines, particularly after Marcos left," he explained.

"Were any of these individuals people I might know through my long association with *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine?" I asked.

Barry bent over in his chair and cackled with laughter.

"Were any of them retired military officers?" I asked.

"I don't know," he said, eyes sparkling, erupting in laughter again. "They were concerned with the current developing situation in the Philippines and wanted me to do an area assessment."

And maybe orchestrate some political developments?"

"No, no, I was just there to observe," he said. "Observe and report."

Maybe it's just a coincidence. But not long after Barry arrived in Manila, Gringo Honason escaped from a prison ship in Manila harbor.

The Filipino army officer had tried to stage a coup against Corazon Aquino and was jailed. He escaped after a group of heavily armed men in Zodiac boats

swooped down on the anchored hulk, stormed the ship and spirited

Honason away. He was later pardoned and now is a senator.

"Who were his liberators?" I asked

Barry.

"I don't know," he said. "They must have been some friends of his."

Soon after his return from the Philippines, Barry helped found *Asia Hand*. When that project ran its course, he decided to give the Army another try. He returned to active duty at the



photo: Mrs. Steve Barry

In his editorial office near Fayetteville, North Carolina, *Resister* Editor Steven Barry and Bettina McCann, of McCann Research Associates, confer. (At John P. Zenger Press, they report no sexual harassment, but they do grade.)

end of 1989, now a part of the 3rd SFG, which sent him on A-team assignments all over Africa and the Caribbean.

It was during this period that Barry conceived his idea for *The Resister*. But it didn't gel until the federal government's disastrous fiasco in Waco, Texas — a bloody botched operation in which a training detachment from the 3rd SFG — ODA 381 — played a pivotal role. Like millions of other citizens, Barry was outraged by the government's reckless conduct toward civilians, and especially by the participation of the Army.

Underground Press

Barry had a major problem, though. The political climate in the Army had changed drastically under Bill Clinton. While Special Forces doctrine had traditionally encouraged exposure to all types of political philosophies, under the *ersatz* "tolerance" supposedly advocated under the liberal "don't ask — don't tell" policies fostered by Clinton, the military in general, and special operations in particular, became ironically intolerant of *The Resister's* make-no-compromise, take-no-prisoners editorial style.

Continued on page 97



by **John Hogan**

Photos by Robert K. Brown

Certainly there were elk there on the Uncompahgre Plateau. In other hunting camps we saw them gutted out and hanging from poles with their skins and heads still on. Some of us had even had a fleeting glimpse of them crashing through the pines. But, although we regularly fielded between six and 18 over-equipped hunters every year, no one from the *Soldier Of Fortune* T&E Camp had ever harvested a single elk. We blamed it on the weather, on hunting pressures, on the Democrats and a few other things, but none of the reasons made the stew pot any less empty.

The awful truth was that despite a sizable annual investment in hunting licenses, tons of food and the very latest hunting gear, the only game anyone from our camp managed to bag in three years was a single blue grouse who lost his head as a consequence of Steve Schreiner's quick work with a Model 66 Smith & Wesson. After three consecutive years on the Uncompahgre Plateau, *SOF* publisher Robert K. Brown decided to move the annual hunting camp.

He picked an area south and east of Gunnison, Colorado. It so happened that a friend of a friend owned a large ranch that butts up against Sawtooth Mountain in the Gunnison National Forest. That turned out to be quite fortunate for us all. If you ask around in wildlife circles you'll probably find that the area around Sawtooth Mountain is well known as some of the very best elk habitat on the planet.

One of the reasons is the fact that southwestern Colorado is less inhabited than the rest of the state. Seven or eight big ranches, some Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property and the national forest occupy hundreds of square miles. There are no overbuilt boutique ski areas like Vail and Aspen that have despoiled major parts of Colorado by driving up land prices and attracting glittering weirdoes spawned in places like California, New York City and the Middle East. Elk seem to prefer being in close proximity to beef cattle instead of skiers. Puzzle that one a while.

The Cowboy Way

Wade Collins has similar tastes, he prefers both elk and cows to skiers, land developers and most other things and people that have to do with cities. Wade is the real thing, a genuine bonafide, gun-packing, horse-mounted cowboy. He's been a cowboy all his life. He and his wife own and operate a 2,000 acre working cattle ranch located about half way between Gunnison

Happy Hunting Grounds

SOF Takes The High Ground *And* The Elk

and Saguache, with another 18,000 acres leased from the feds.

The Collins family agreed to let Brown and some of his miscreant friends take over one of the cabins on the property. Compared to the usual *SOF* hunting accommodations, the Collins' ranch cabins were like the Concierge Floor at the Marriot. Although we weren't softened by the excesses of running water, the bunks were U.S. issue and the outhouse did have a thick piece of carpet nailed to the seat.

The ranch buildings, including the cabin building we inhabited, are part of the old town of Cochetopa. It was built around 1885 as a stage stop on one of the more well-traveled overland routes. It must have been fairly prosperous because a medical doctor was a resident of the town for a time in 1895. The Collins family has a copy of the doctor's journal, written in the fine Palmer method penmanship of the time. It seems that although the area was alive with bandits, occasionally hostile Ute Indians and other hazards, much of the doctor's recorded professional time was spent treating cases of syphilis.

Cochetopa is Ute for "buffalo springs." Evidence of Ute Indian presence is found all over the property, mostly in the form of flint arrow heads. A few miles above the ranch an old one-room shepherders cabin still displays bullet holes from a shootout between the occupants and Indians. Hunting in one form or another has been going on in that area for a very long time.

Before we began hunting, however, it was necessary to check the rifles Brown and I would be using. Bob chose his Steyr SSG topped with a Tasco scope. It is a .308 cal-

iber, Austrian made, bolt action, sniper rifle. In addition to being among the first factory produced synthetic stocked sniper rifles, the Steyr has three fairly interesting characteristics. First, the locking lugs are on the bolt's rear. Second, the barrel is hammer forged around a mandrel and third, it features a very nicely done twin set trigger. That setup allows the shooter to either use the front trigger in a conventional manner or to use the rear most trigger to set the front for a hair-light touch off.

Using Birchwood Casey Visible Impact targets at 100 yards, Bob's SSG was zeroed to shoot 3 inches high using 180-grain bullets. Brown's ammo for the hunt, in fact, for all three of the .308 calibers on the hunt, was loaded with a new hunting bullet from North Fork Technologies, Glen Rock, Wyoming. Engineer Bob Fulton, the originator of the famous Hawk line of hunting bullets, helped design the North Fork Technologies bullet line. The design is a "soft" bullet intended to balance adequate expansion with dependable penetration on game animals.

For my part, I chose a .375 H&H Magnum. I believe in that caliber for hunting any kind of meat bigger than a groundhog and smaller than a cape buffalo. The rifle was Ruger's M77RSM Safari model, featuring a nicely figured walnut stock, quarter rib with folding leaf sights, and a 1.5x4 Nikon scope in Ruger rings.

Using factory Winchester 270-grain ammunition, I zeroed the weapon to group 2 inches high at 100 yards. After weaving my arm into the properly adjusted Turner Saddlery sling, I fired 10 more rounds from the standing position. The barrel-heavy

Ruger proved to be remarkably easy to hold on target in the off-hand position.

Elk Up High

Unfortunately, Bob, Steve Screiner and Matt Flaherty were delayed a few days. Fortunately, Wade Collins had not gotten his elk so the two of us loaded into his pickup truck to go up the mountain for a look. One of the first things I noticed was that the front seat was full of guns. Wade carries three rifles and two pistols: a Ruger M77RP synthetic stocked stainless .338 Winchester Magnum, the same model in .30-06, and a wood stocked Remington .22-250, as well as a Ruger .22 Magnum, and .44 Magnum pistol.

Since the area we were hunting had a four-point antler restriction, we had to depend heavily on our optics not only to locate elk, but also to establish whether they were legal for harvest. Wade had his Bausch & Lomb Discoverer spotting scope mounted on a Bushnell car window mount. Rather than dismount and setup a tripod or attempt to steady a spotting scope on an unlikely surface, he simply rolled down the window and quickly positioned the whole setup from the comfort of the driver's seat.

After several hours of scanning we saw little more than spectacular scenery. But Wade knew that several hundred elk were hiding somewhere nearby. Hunter pressure in the national forest on both sides of his property, combined with steady snow fall 1,000 feet above us had no doubt forced the elk into the aspen thickets.

Two days into the season, I went up the mountain by myself. Shortly after sun-up a single elk crossed the road about 1,000 yards ahead and then disappeared around the base of a small hill. I thought I'd get above the elk and flush it out into the open for a shot. Everything was going as planned until another hunter came driving up the road and spooked my elk before I was close enough for a shot. As it ran across a large open space I noticed through my binoculars that it had antlers, but they were atypical — one long brow tine on one side and five or six smaller points on the other side. Under a peculiar variation of Colorado law, if one brow tine measured at least 5 inches it would be legal under the four-point rule. In any event, I did not get a shot.

The next morning I was out on the mountain again about daybreak. This time I spotted eight elk and got excited about it until my binoculars focused on the reality that none of them had headgear.

About three hours later, at mid-morning, I was atop a knoll on BLM land bordering Wade's ranch that afforded a good view in three directions. It was about 15 degrees or so in the sunshine but I had little choice but to sit down and hope for the best. Moving around would likely produce little more than sore feet.

After glassing the valley below for a couple of hours, I heard something moving above the treeline across the valley. Focusing in, I spotted elk moving among



(opposite) Wade Collins is the real thing, a genuine bonafide, gun-packing, horse-mounted cowboy. Atop his organic four-by-four, he is carrying a Ruger M77RP synthetic stocked stainless .338 Winchester Magnum with a Leupold scope, Bushnell Yardage Pro 800 laser-range finder and Bausch & Lomb elite binoculars. (above) Matt Flaherty (right) used an Armalite AR 10T and Steve Schreiner (left) was armed with a Springfield Armory M1A scoped with a Leatherwood ART.



act. I don't remember pulling the trigger or feeling the recoil, but I heard the telltale "slap" of the bullet hitting meat. The big bull fell to his knees. I was shooting for his heart and if everything worked as it should that would be enough.

Unfortunately, he got up and began running uphill toward the crest. I fired again and missed, kicking up dirt behind him. I led a little more and fired again. There was no telltale puff of dirt that time and the bullet slapped against him but for some reason he didn't slow down. In fact he was going to clear the crest of the hill if I couldn't drop him. That was it, I had to concentrate. I put more tension on the sling, thought about my breathing, placed the crosshairs just above his horns and squeezed off again. He dropped heavily, like someone had just hit him with a sledgehammer, and that was that.

the trees — a hell of a lot of elk. While I was wasting my time glassing the open valley, an entire herd of perhaps a hundred or so had passed in front of me completely undetected in the trees.

I watched intently as elk after elk crested the ridge and disappeared down the far slope. A number of them had antlers, some even had lots of antlers, but they were moving too quickly for me to do anything about it.

Just as I ruled out walking down into the valley to set up a blocking position, a shot resounded from the far ridge in the vicinity of where the elk had gone. Soon after, a few elk came back over the ridgeline. First a few cows and then several bulls. One bull stood for a long time looking back in the direction of the shot.

Hunting Or Sniping?

I lowered the binoculars and raised my rifle. It was a 1,000 yards or better, but the wind had given way to a dead calm. I knew that if I could just get steady enough ... But reality set in. I'm not Carlos Hathcock and this was hunting, not sniping. I wouldn't risk any shot over 300 yards.

Two more shots came from the far side of the hill and the bull and his friends moved off. What I didn't know until later was that the shots were fired by Wade, who missed once and then used two shots from his Ruger .338 Magnum to take a nice five-five bull at a range of about 150 yards.

A half-hour later four cow elk emerged from the trees and hightailed across the open ground about 800 yards up the valley. Scanning the treeline for movement I saw two bulls come out into the open. They were both large and beautiful with plenty of antlers. Best of all, they were moving toward me.

As luck would have it they chose to take a dry creek bed up the mountain. Moving in a crouch, I got into position. Threading my arm through the Turner sling I scoped the animals pretty well. They were still moving but not quite so quickly. I put the crosshairs on the biggest one and slipped off the safety.

At a time like that you don't think, you

Mounting a spotting scope on a Bushnell car window mount allowed hunters to simply roll down the window and quickly positioned the whole setup from the comfort of the vehicle. Bob Brown (below, on top) chose his Steyr SSG. It is a .308 caliber, Austrian made, bolt action, rifle among the first factory produced synthetic stocked sniper weapons.



courtesy Robert K. Brown

Another bull milled around for a minute or two trying to figure out why his buddy wasn't leading anymore. He trotted by, looking directly at me and then he disappeared into the aspen thicket.

While dressing the elk I was able to examine the effects of my hits. My first shot had hit exactly where I wanted it: straight through the heart. But the 270-grain

Winchester soft point bullet did not expand; the exit hole was about the same size as the entry hole. I missed with the second shot, but the third shot caught him in the left hindquarter. That bullet came completely apart on impact, removing a fist-sized crater of meat but only causing a surface wound. The fourth shot, the one I had taken the extra time with, hit him exactly in the neck, clipping his spine.

The next day I went back to the spot and took along the Bushnell Yardage 800 Pro laser-range finder. My first shot was 285 yards and the final shot was 348.

Camp Followers

That same night John Mullins came to camp. John is a retired Special Forces officer who manufactures the Longbow line of frangible bullets. His pistol bullets and shotgun slugs are in use by police forces across the country and he is supplying frangible ammo to the U.S. armed services.

Going out in mid morning armed with a Browning BAR chambered in 7mm Remington Magnum, John spent all of 45 minutes hunting before other hunters managed to spook several elk that then came toward him. "They damn near ran me over," he said. At about 50 yards he fired three fast shots at a bull. In fact, it was the atypical bull that had eluded me two days earlier.

Since John Mullins and I couldn't hunt

any more, we tried to help the others get their elk. We put Brown in a likely spot on several occasions but he never got a shot. That couldn't be blamed on his optics however. He used a pair of Bausch & Lomb excellent 10x28 Elite compact binoculars.

Both Flaherty and Schreiner had a good chance at elk. After working for days to get in position for a shot at a bull, a group of elk was spotted up high in the national forest. Schreiner and Flaherty took their time and carefully moved into range. Unfortunately, the elk also moved. By the time the pair had closed the distance enough to get a shot, the elk were standing in a tangle of trees some 150-200 yards away.

Flaherty used an Armalite AR 10T and Schreiner was armed with a Springfield Armory M1A scoped with a Leatherwood ART. Schreiner picked a six-point royal bull, "he was so old that he appeared to be almost yellow." Unfortunately, firing through the aspen trees was risky at best. Neither was able to connect a shot. And that ended our hunt.

Soldier Of Fortune wants to thank Wade Collins and his wife for their hospitality and what is no doubt some of the best elk hunting on the planet.

John Hogan is a frequent contributor to Soldier Of Fortune magazine. ❧

Product Information

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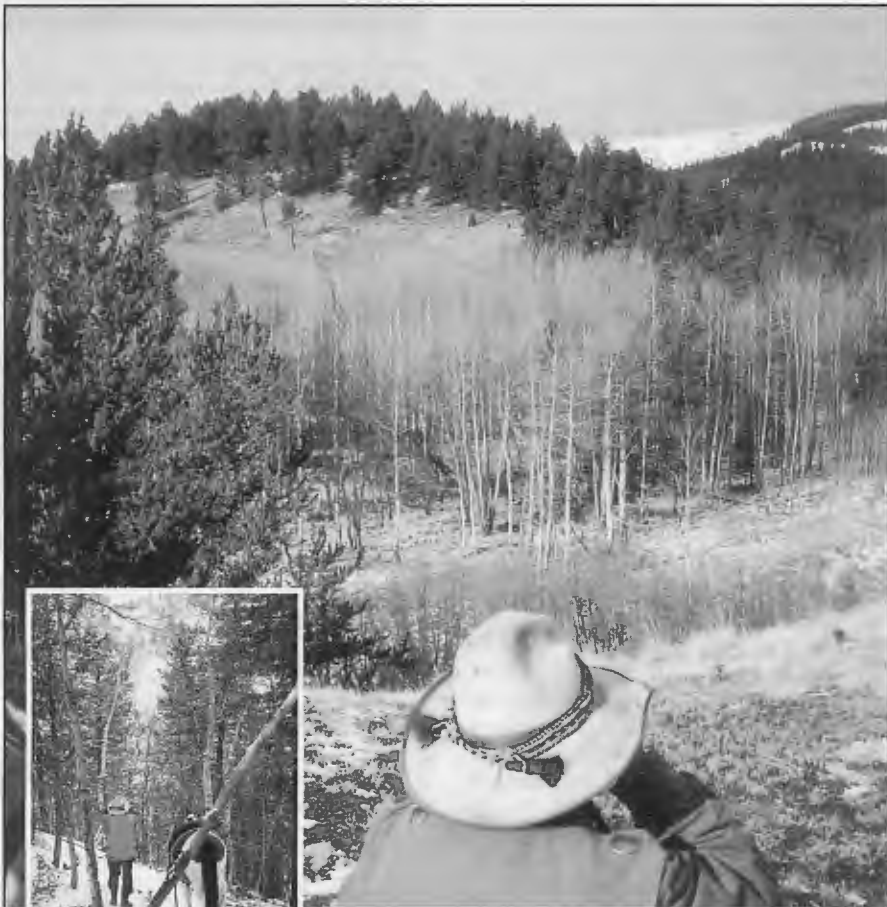
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Southwestern Colorado is less inhabited than the rest of the state. There are no overbuilt boutique ski areas like Vail and Aspen that have despoiled major parts of Colorado by driving up land prices and attracting glittering weirdoes spawned in places like California, New York City and the Middle East.

Imagine an edged weapon so totally dominant that it gives a life-saving advantage to its user in a confrontation involving blades. Imagine also that when properly deployed, a blade that is invisible to the adversary, and strikes so quickly that human reaction time is incapable of rendering a defensive response to its action. Imagine a blade that strikes with such devastating effect that a single blow can permanently incapacitate and disable an opponent. In short, imagine a fighting knife that is unstoppable.

That knife is here. The Bagwell Hell's Belle is acknowledged by the most serious and skilled practitioners of the blade arts as the most efficient and effective weapon of its type. But there has always been a problem with the handmade version from Bagwell himself: availability and price. Although Bagwell is a full-time bladesmith, and has been for over 30 years, demand for his work far outstrips his personal production capacity. As a result, Bagwell and Ontario Knife Company have entered into a collaboration of the Bagwell-designed fighting Bowie, and not one — but four knives — have been brought to market. They are here, they are available now, and they set a standard for production fighting knives that has never been seen before in this, or any other, country. This is how it all came about.

In November 1997, Bagwell was a participant in a Riddle Of Steel event hosted by James Keating and Comtech in New Orleans. These blade seminars provide the best instruction of the advanced blade arts, and it is there that one can learn the subtleties and nuances of Bowie deployment that make



(top to bottom) Ontario's Hell's Belle, original Bagwell hand forged Hell's Belle, Ontario Hell's Belle Fortress, Ontario Hell's Belle Stealth, Ontario-Bagwell Gambler's Bowie. The true fighting Bowie is a knife that refuses to die, not because of sentiment or nostalgia, but because it is the best knife of its kind that the world has ever seen.

THE BOWIE IS BACK!

this the dominant form of edged weapons technique. Conversation at the time was focused on the Bagwell Hell's Belle, when someone made the statement to the effect that it was a shame that this knife couldn't be manufactured on a commercial basis. As a result, Bagwell and Ontario Knife Company began discussions which resulted in Bagwell flying from his home in Louisiana to the Ontario manufacturing facility in Franklinville, New York, on 1 March 1998.

Bagwell and Ontario president John Wyllie both had the same concerns. Each wanted to make a landmark knife, something that would stand alone at the top of its class. After having seen the exquisite Schatt

A Production Blade Worthy Of The Name

by *SOF* Staff • Photos courtesy Bill Bagwell

and Morgan folders manufactured by the Ontario subsidiary, Queen Cutlery, Bagwell knew that Ontario had the capability to make the Hell's Belle, but the question in his mind was *would* Ontario make the necessary commitment to make the knife properly.

John Wyllie addressed those concerns immediately. He said that Ontario would duplicate exactly the handmade prototypes that Bagwell furnished, and assigned plant manager and chief engineer Bob Breton to the project. Breton and Bagwell were destined to ultimately go through four sets of Ontario-made prototypes before the final production models were realized.

The first Ontario prototypes made their public debut at the Comtech's Hell's Canyon Riddle Of Steel in July 1998. While these initial models left a lot to be desired from Bagwell's perspective, they were well-received at the event. Bagwell returned home and called Breton to see if he wanted the verdict on those prototypes sugar-coated, or did he want it straight? Breton wanted it straight, and from there the project moved forward quickly and smoothly. Breton credits Ontario's Kathy Austin for invaluable work on the prototypes, and the next public outing of the Ontario Hell's Belle came at the Soldier Of Fortune Convention in Las Vegas in September 1998. Except for some minor changes in the way the bevels were ground and sharpened, the Hell's Belle was ready for production.

When production began in December 1998, Ontario president John Wyllie made the following statement: "The historical research and design genius of Bill Bagwell has been brought to light in a production environment by the Ontario Knife Company. Ontario's proprietary QS13 steel



Bill Bagwell (*sans* beard) and blade arts instructor Kelly Worden talk about the Ontario Hell's Belle at the 1998 SOF Convention. These are the knives that ultimately went into production.

and manufacturing expertise combine to deliver the performance that Mr. Bagwell intended in his original hand-crafted masterpiece. We believe these world-class fighters bring forth the pre-eminent edged weapons design sought by Bowie enthusiasts for many many years. We are proud to team with Mr. Bagwell to bring this Bowie series to market."

Bagwell responded: "I am both proud and gratified at the commitment Ontario has made in making these knives with no production compromises. When I wanted something changed, Ontario did not say they couldn't do it. No excuses, and no ifs or buts. They just did it, and they did it right. I also wish to make a point about the use of Ontario's QS13 steel in these knives. I am on record saying that stainless steel does not possess the requisite strength and shock resistance for combat-quality cutlery. This is a stainless steel that meets those require-

ments, and I have personally tested it for both strength and cutting qualities. This is a steel that works, and works well."

When the project began in March 1998, the target date for market availability was the SHOT show in Atlanta, Georgia, in February 1999. That goal was accomplished, and the Bagwell-Ontario Bowie collaboration is now a reality.

Now that the knives are here, what do we have? First, there is the Hell's Belle itself. This is a finely balanced, laser-quick Bowie with a blade 11 inches in length designed to give maximum reach and speed. It is carefully focused to provide maximum delivery of the backcut and its variations. The classic coffin handle and forward curved guard work in concert with the Spanish notch to provide maximum control of the

knife during deployment, coupled with the capability of accomplishing disarms under some circumstances. The handle itself is made from a resin-impregnated wood laminate that has incredible toughness. The sheath is genuine leather, in the original Bagwell configuration with the belt stud that allows for a totally concealed carry. Best of all is the price. At \$275 suggested retail, it is a genuine bargain.

The next two knives are actually the same knife, each finished somewhat differently. These fighting Bowies are exactly that — finely tuned implements designed for edged-weapons combat. They are not camp knives, and they are not intended for use in opening car doors or 55-gallon drums. They are designed to allow the user to engage another edged weapon — and

Continued on page 82



Bagwell forges the first prototypes in his shop.



ELECTRIC LOCK PICK

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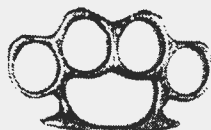
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Sodom, Gomorrah & Kabul

Continued from page 65

en up the opposition alliance in Mazar-i-Sharif. The hegemony of the Uzbeks in the north was over, and the balance of power had now shifted very much in favor of the minority Shia factions.

Rule of Shoora-i-Tafaham

A new ruling body was established in Mazar called the Shoora-i-Tafaham (literally, "Council of Understanding") which was comprised of representatives from Dostam, three Shia factions, Jamiat-i-Islami and Hezb-i-Islami. Wahdat dominated this shoora and the running of Mazar, including the television station, which "once in a while voiced criticism of Dostam," according to a local informant.

From Kabul the Taliban voiced criticism of Iran, charging that this predominantly Shia neighbor was supplying Wahdat with huge supplies of arms and ammunition. The Taliban warned of retaliation if Tehran did not cease its support for Wahdat. "The grave consequences of such interference and the further bloodshed will rest with the Iranian authorities," the Taliban stated. This proved to be no empty threat.

In mid-October, when Mazar was relatively peaceful, Malik reappeared out of the blue, declaring he had "no differences" with Dostam. However, the two rivals did not meet face to face, and Malik's rapprochement with Dostam was entirely rhetorical, and short-lived.

Dostam returned to Sheberghan, where he had his strongest following. In early November, he rekindled his feud with his Uzbek rival and former subordinate Malik, based across the border in Faryab province. Fighting centered on control of two district centers in northern Faryab, Andkhoh and Daulatabad, both of which were connected by road direct to Sheberghan. Malik's half-brothers Gul Mohammad Pahlawan and Zamon Pahlawan, who were in command, reportedly refused enticements by Dostam to defect, and a bitter divisive struggle followed. The title *pahlawan* is an honorific that literally means "wrestler." Colloquially the word is also taken as "hero," and apart from sportsmen it is only appended to the names of powerful and influential personalities.

Masood's Loose Cannon

The Taliban were no doubt well pleased by this development, whereas for Masood it was like having a couple of loose cannon on the deck. Unconfirmed reports by local informants spoke of Masood's unsuccessful attempts at quelling this internecine bloodletting. A buffer force of several hundred Tajiks under commander Fahim (formerly head of National Security in Kabul) was reportedly sent to the Jawzjan-Faryab front lines, but Dostam was in no mood for reconciliation.

Eventually the might of Dostam pre-

vailed over the forces of Malik, which fell back toward the Faryab provincial capital of Maimana. On 23 November 1997, from a post outside Maimana, Malik and his brothers deserted their men and fled by helicopter to neighboring Turkmenistan, from where they escaped to Iran. "They were just paper pahlawans!" scoffed a contemptuous Afghan.

Dostam had now reclaimed most of the western territory of his former fiefdom. But his drive against Malik wasn't over. With the battlefield success behind him, he went on the diplomatic offensive, fingering Malik as the perpetrator of a mass murder. In December, the UN sent its special human rights envoy, the Korean Dr. Choong-Hyun Paik, to northern Afghanistan to investigate Dostam's allegations that Malik was responsible for the slaughter of some 2,000 Taliban prisoners captured in their failed May offensive.

Murder, Rape and Robbery

There was mass murder all right (along with rape and robbery), but the UN was reluctant to point the finger of blame at any one faction, saying "rampant slaughter was committed by both sides in the conflict," according to one press report. It seemed that while it was true that Taliban had been massacred in large numbers during Malik's rule, the religious militia were responsible for the "ethnic-cleansing" of Shia Muslim Hazaras as well as Uzbeks.

"It appears that everybody was butchering everybody up there," a UN official was quoted anonymously in one foreign news report.

The UN team visited various mass grave sites, some in the desert near Hairaton and some in underground wells near Mazar-i-Sharif. Discovered in the sand dunes were many skeletal corpses, some of which were only partially covered, their grotesquely desiccated hands and feet protruding from under the ground like vain appeals for mercy. The number of bodies found with their arms firmly bound behind their backs seemed compelling evidence to the investigators that they had been executed. In nine partially exhumed wells, the UN found many skulls, some wrapped in turbans typical of Taliban fighters.

The UN investigators said it was possible some of the (Taliban) victims had been thrown into the wells while still alive. There was evidence that grenades had been tossed into the wells to finish these prisoners off. Some of those trapped underground were also raked with machine-gun fire, the investigators said.

Who's the Butcher?

Naturally, both Malik and the Taliban denied any role in the massacre of civilians or enemy prisoners of war. The issue of prisoners had long since been a thorny issue between the two sides, and a stumbling block to the UN's foundering peace plan for Afghanistan. Back in July the religious movement had expressed concern over the

fate of more than 700 of their men captured in their first failed offensive when Malik reported that a large number of them had been killed in a Taliban air raid on Maimana. Among the wounded were said to be at least two high-ranking Muslim movement officials — former Taliban foreign minister Mullah Mohammad Ghaus and the Taliban Civil Aviation Minister Maulavi Mohammad Mansour.

Malik said 60 Afghan and 50 Pakistani Taliban prisoners had been killed when Maimana jail was bombed by Taliban jets flying out of Kabul. This claim was refuted by the Taliban, who accused Malik of mass murder.

“We feel the raid was staged by General Malik’s forces to eliminate Taliban in his captivity,” stated a spokesman in Pakistan.

By the end of 1997 there had been relatively little change in the balance of power in northern Afghanistan. Dostam had evicted the usurper Malik and the Taliban had retreated, although they were still entrenched in Kunduz and Baghlan, from where they harassed Masood to the east. On balance the Taliban were winners. Although they had failed in their second bid to grab Mazar-i-Sharif, they themselves had not been driven out of Kunduz, where



Taliban, wearing the rubber sandals that are typical part of their attire, loads a PKM GPMG belt with fresh ammunition on front line north of Kabul.

their presence created an embarrassing, annoying and dangerous strategic wedge between their rivals, the nominal alliance of Tajiks and Uzbeks.

Bunch of Losers

“Coalition” was a misnomer for the so-called northern alliance. “A bunch of losers!” observed one resident foreign correspondent. For many northern commanders, loyalty was just a bargaining chip, a commodity to trade. Honor came cheap, and was corrupted by greed and betrayal. Masood was holding his own on the plains north of

Kabul, but there was no united front to take the war to the Taliban’s doorstep. So much potential but so little trust and cooperation. Morale was low, and this too compromised the defense of the north.

Thus, in August 1998, when the Taliban had their *third* go at Mazar-i-Sharif, they finally achieved their victory. Mazar was captured. Wahdat’s Bamian also fell and the Taliban made advances into Masood’s traditional territory in northeast Afghanistan, but he held onto his heartland, the Panjshir Valley, and rallied for the counter-attack. Once again Dostam fled the country and once again there

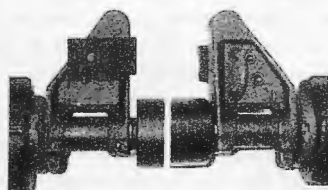
were brutal reprisals in Mazar. The religious militants began a ruthless ritual slaughter of the capital’s Shia population ... and murdered eight Iranian diplomats and one Iranian journalist sheltering in the Iranian consulate.

The Taliban now control about 80% of the country, and Masood is their sole remaining opposition. Rabbani’s “government” still has UN recognition. The struggle continues.

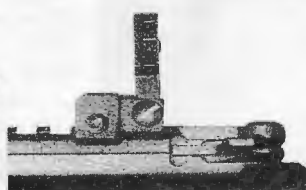
Jake Border is a free lance journalist based in Indonesia. ✕

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

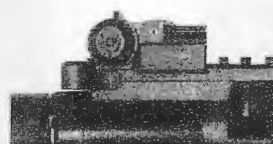
Fully Integrated Rifle Enhancement (F.I.R.E.)



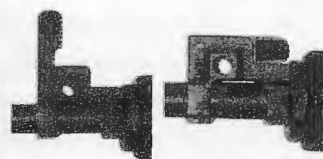
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The Bowie Is Back!

Continued from page 79

win. Knife fighting is as serious as it gets, and in a knife fight there is one rule, and one rule only: You must get out of the fight alive. These two knives have black handles and blades 10.5 inches in length. The finish on each knife is non-reflective, making it utterly impossible for the eye to follow or even catch its movement.

The Stealth model of the Hell's Belle is all-black. Handle, guard and collar are black. The blade has the same black-powder epoxy finish that Ontario utilizes on their Spec Plus series. This is the superior edged weapon for SpecOps and night deployment. The Hell's Belle Stealth retails for \$205 with sheath.

The second model of the Hell's Belle with a military focus is the Fortress. It, too, has a blade 10.5 inches in length and a black handle. However, this knife has the blade, guard and collar executed in a non-reflective silver matte finish. Like the Stealth, The Fortress retails for \$205, sheath included.

The fourth and final knife in the Bagwell-Ontario Bowie collaboration is a classic traditional coffin-handled Bowie such as was used from the period 1839 through the Civil War and into the Indian Wars. This Bowie has a 9 1/2-inch blade, traditional oval guard, and brass fittings. Called the Gambler's Bowie, this type of knife saw duty as a protector and companion from the California gold fields to Gettysburg and beyond. Small and eminently concealable, yet larger and with more reach than one would imagine, the Gambler's Bowie may be the outstanding knife bargain of the decade with a retail price of only \$175, sheath included.

The Bowie was developed in a time and place in American history when America was truly an active blade culture. It was so effective and efficient that in a 30-year-period of use, it developed a reputation that has endured and survives today, more than 150 years after its heyday. Even though the tactics and skills for its proper combat deployment were lost for all practical purposes, the impact of this knife on our culture refused to let it die.

With the rediscovery of proper Bowie technique, advanced blade players now have the secret to a system of blade work that is far superior to anything seen in well over 100 years. Our military now has an opportunity to train and equip our troops with proper edged weaponry and tactics, not the smoke and mirror approach of the last 75 years. The true fighting Bowie is a knife that refuses to die, not because of sentiment or nostalgia, but because it is the best knife of its kind that the world has ever seen. Now, thanks to Ontario Knife company, anyone who needs a knife in a life-saving circumstance can have, and afford, one of the very best.

For information on where to find one of the Bagwell-Ontario Bowies, contact John O'Brien at 1-800-222-5233. ✂

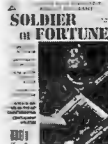
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BACK ISSUES

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LAOS: Chao Fa firefight **KENYA:** waging war on poachers **ELITE UNITS:** Colombia's riverine force **INDIA:** rebel army in Kashmir **WEAPONS:** concealment holsters



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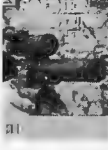
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DOMESTIC AFFAIRS: Rodney King verdict incites riots in L.A. **BURMA:** RRI's volunteer doctors train Karen medicos **MIDDLE EAST:** Islamic fanatics on the march **TRAINING:** Camp Lejeune's MOUT facility **DESERT STORM:** air missions over Baghdad



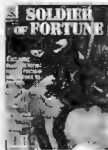
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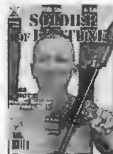


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High & Hot

Continued from page 53

minutes, of a call coming in.

The biggest recurring operational problem facing the Air Wing, according to Mackrory, its commanding officer, is time. "If we are to react to a farmer having his cattle driven across the border by thieves, we need that info now. Tomorrow or the next day doesn't help. It takes a while to work through intelligence reports, brief a crew, fly out to the area, pick up a trail and then possibly follow it to conclusion. All that must be initially done on one tank of gas and there is often not the immediate possibility of backup," he explained to *SOF*. "Then we have to coordinate some sort of support program with our people on the ground. The guys are going to need fuel to get home again." He explained that because the 105 had an air time of 2 hours and 15 minutes with its tanks full, it was essential while working in the boondocks to get to target and back to a position where a vehicle with drums of aviation gas can be brought in. In kwaZulu/Natal there are some fuel depots, either in regional police or the SA National Defense Force bases, but the majority are in settled areas.

"Where we go there sometimes aren't roads. In certain areas you sometimes can't even get a packhorse through, especially in the rainy season. So without air support, law enforcement would be stymied." He added that the 105s did have additional fuel tanks available which, fitted back at base, provide an extra 2 hours in the air.

"Also, these machines don't fly forever. They need maintenance. Because Durban operates with a skeleton staff, most 100-hour MPIs are contracted out to local engineering firms. For the more comprehensive 1200-hour services, the 105s are flown to headquarters in Pretoria, 400 miles away.

Then we're down to a single chopper, sometimes for weeks. But the work must go on," he said.

An American Swap?

Considering the huge area covered by the South African Police, it is astonishing that the Police Air Wing (with a total national complement of 110 personnel, including 35 pilots) has only 10 operational bases; one in each major center. Units in the larger centers, such as Johannesburg and Cape Town, are more urban-oriented. None are required to cover such a vast and diverse region as the Durban crews.

Nor are activities restricted to South Africa. During recent floods in Mozambique, the kwaZulu/Natal command was called upon to rescue victims stranded by flood waters and fly in supplies to isolated areas in the adjacent country. Mozambique is bankrupt. If Pretoria hadn't helped, nobody would have come to their aid. The chopper boys have also helped the Lesotho government eradicate marijuana

plantations in the mountains of the neighboring country, but that, some of the men felt, was more of a public relations exercise to keep Washington's DEA off their backs. America keeps a close watch on Africa's drug trade because so much of it is finding its way to the United States these days.

Apart from 14 105s (two were lost in crashes), the SAPS Air Wing also has two larger BO 117 helicopters as well as eight Swiss-built Pilatus PC6s. There are also five Hughes 500s (two are used exclusively by SAPS drug squads), a VIP Beechjet and a single Cessna 402.

Because the 105s were originally acquired in the mid-'80s, the force needs to be upgraded. In answer to questions, Police Headquarters in Pretoria said that while plans for new helicopters were being mooted, "a rolling replacement program will be implemented in 1999."

Types and numbers are still to be decided on, a spokesman confided to *SOF*, but if they had the money, a clutch of surplus U.S. choppers would be the answer.

What most of the pilots would like most is an exchange program with American police officers who do the same sort of work. The South African pilots thought it would be a valuable exercise for all concerned.

"We have the experience, here in Africa," said Dooley. "And it would be good for U.S. pilots to spend time with us and for us to gain their sort of experience. Perhaps there's a police force in the States that would like to do a swap."

Al J. Venter is a senior SOF correspondent residing in Washington state. ✕

I Was There

Continued from page 20

means a form of martial law to follow.

Returning to the hotel around noon, I was surprised to see chartered buses lined up to transport German tourists to an alternate airport up north. I was told arrangements were being made by their nation to evacuate their people. The British soon responded with a similar program the next day.

Not wanting to feel abandoned by my country, I placed a call to the American Embassy to inquire about possible plans for an evacuation of U.S. citizens. However, there were none.

Now, just a few stragglers remained at the hotel, until the American military took up residence there. The first to arrive were U. S. Navy personnel. When I was detected eavesdropping on their conversation during breakfast, I was amazed that, although they were obviously gringos, they began speaking fluent Spanish in an effort to maintain security. However, comprehending Español, I learned that they were part of a helicopter flight contingent on TDY to fly relief flights for the hurricane-ravaged nation.

The next on the scene were U.S. Army

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troops dispatched from Panama to fly relief missions as well.

Much fanfare was made by the Dominican media about Spain's pledge to help its former colony, but the only hefty shipments of aid I spotted during my tour originated in *Los Estados Unidos*.

I'm always amazed at how people everywhere hate us but we're usually the first to arrive in times of crisis.

Boredom became the order of the day as the curfew imposed curtailed Dominican nightlife. After a week of going to bed early, I was more than ready to run the gauntlet of armed troops in the street, when an angelic taxi driver called my room to tell me *La Aguila*, a downtown disco that featured salsa music, was going to be open despite the curfew. Just before dark, I was standing on the curb in front of the hotel with dancing shoes, beer money and a 20-something salsa dancer decked out in an orange mini awaiting our "limo."

After a delightful night of dancing and drinking Presidente beer, we woke our snoozing driver for the return trip to our hotel. Forgetting about the curfew, we turned a corner speeding toward a well-lit underpass, when mayhem-minded Dominican marines brandishing M-16s swarmed over the taxi. I'll never forget the sounds of those rifle bolts flying forward as the marines locked and loaded.

My door was yanked opened and an M-16's flash suppressor shoved in my face. I learned that if there was anything that pissed these guys off it was an American adventurer taking it upon himself to violate their curfew. All the fancy talking I could do notwithstanding, it was that cute, petite, mini-skirted señorita who was the most effective at pleading my case.

Although we were detained only a few moments, time passes slowly with a loaded weapon in one's face. But once she convinced them that I wasn't a looter and, thus, didn't deserve to be shot, we were waved on our way. I was beginning to like this girl.

The hurricane's death toll continued to mount daily. One of the most tragic discoveries was a nearby school where the pueblo residents had taken refuge in the basement. When the river overflowed, the basement collapsed, drowning all the occupants.

I wondered how this developing nation would ever recover from such massive devastation. In some areas civil disobedience was on the verge of erupting because of the corrupt distribution (or non-distribution) of foreign aid.

With the country enduring almost total chaos, I was destined to spend several more weeks running the curfew, confronting armed troops, swilling Presidente and dancing salsa with a girl young enough to be my daughter — until the day the American Embassy got its "Sierra" together and arranged a flight out for stranded (and endangered) U.S. citizens.

This is Frank Bergmaier's second contribution to I Was There. ✕

Billy, Bombs and Baghdad

Continued from page 43

hundreds of cameras flashing as the bombers took off into the night sky.

The first-ever B-1 strike against an enemy target was spearheaded by Colonel Tim Bailey, vice commander, 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth, who serves as second in command of one of the largest B-1B wings in the Air Force, with about 27 aircraft and more than 3,500 military and civilians members.

Back in 1985, Bailey was selected to become part of the initial cadre to bring the B-1B operational. Since then, Bailey has served as chief instructor pilot at both Dyess and Ellsworth, commander of two operational B-1B squadrons, and most recently served as commander of the 28th Air Expeditionary Group during Operation Desert Fox.

If you had asked him in mid-November, when the 28th AEG arrived in Southwest Asia, if combining two units like the 37th and 9th Bomb Squadrons would work, Bailey would have said no.

"I had some concerns about going into combat on short notice with folks I was not familiar with," said Bailey, who has served in leadership roles at both Dyess and Ellsworth. If he had taken folks from Ellsworth it would have been a known quantity to him as vice commander of the 28th Bomb Wing, but as it turned out, "It was almost a seamless transition."

Bone's First Blood

After languishing for years in the backwaters of the Cold War, the B-1 bomber has finally come in from the cold, and become the hottest item in the U.S. arsenal. A source close to the Joint Chiefs of Staff told *SOF*, "You're going to see the B-1 play an increasing role in future conflicts like the one unfolding in Iraq." The source, who did not want to be identified, said, "We can't keep hurling Tomahawks at the Iraqis at the rate we're throwing them. They're too expensive."

A cruise missile with a 1,000-pound warhead costs about \$1 million. A JDAM packing a similar punch only costs about \$17,000. The cruise missile is more accurate. But the JDAM can impact within 15 meters of its aim point, and the JDAM is also a deep penetrating weapon. So you give up a few meters of accuracy. But you save a bundle of cash.

Defense experts tell *SOF* it will take the U.S. six years to replace the number of cruise missiles we fired at Iraqi targets during this last confrontation. At the rate we're expending cruise missiles, the JCS source said, "simple math says you've got to go to the next best and most economical delivery platform, and that, my friend, is the BONE."

Dale B. Cooper is a frequent contributor to SOF, reporting on the troops as he finds them on the ground, at sea and in the air. ✕

Combat Weaponcraft

Continued from page 16

these drills can't take into consideration is that the threat may not be interested in your caliber or maybe they haven't read about the ballistic effectiveness of your cartridge. The enclosed "times" reflect the use of a .45 caliber Government Model using 230-grain hardball deployed from concealed carry against multiple threats. These "times" don't show that the threat may not respond to the fire in a manner we want. There are different times, distances, and number of shots fired. In an actual fight this information is just data, not reality. You must shoot, hit and fight until you win!

All of these drills were fired with a Wilson Thunder Ranch Special government model drawn from a Milt Sparks Summer Special holster. All drills were started from

a "real" concealed carry under a coat. There was no warm up or practice prior to the timing. We got out of bed, got dressed, went to the range and started shooting. All the shots fired were inside a 10-inch circle, center of mass on an IPSC-style target. It was fired as "cold" as possible. In scenario four, the three-threat drill, the pistol was shot empty then reloaded to finish the drill. These times may be good or bad, but they are what was actually recorded — not "padded" to look good for this article. In comparison to all of today's self-proclaimed "combat masters" these results may not seem blindingly fast, but many things may effect the outcome of a multiple threat encounter. Shooter survival may depend on a conditioned aggressive response that is programmed to expect non-responding threats. The shooter's skill in shot placement will probably be more important than blinding speed.

Shoot good, not fast! ☒

Scenario # 1

Time against two threats two yards apart

Distance to threat	Shots per target		
	one	two	three
Three yards	2.20	2.45	2.73
Five yards	3.04	3.41	3.87
Seven yards	2.85	3.98	4.32
Ten yards	3.34	4.29	4.93



Scenario # 2

Time against two threats three yards abreast. Yardage reflects the distance to the first threat. Second threat is always three yards farther away. (Example, three-yard threat reflects first threat at three yards second threat at six yards etc.)

Distance to threat	Shots per target		
	one	two	three
Three yards:	2.81	2.98	3.63
Five yards:	2.76	3.26	3.69
Seven yards:	2.82	3.33	3.94
Ten yards:	2.97	3.89	



The Two-Threat Drill. Moving to the right may "stack the targets."

Scenario # 3

Time against two threats 180 degrees apart. Each threat is the same distance from the shooter but, the shooter is required to engage the first threat and swing 180 degrees to engage the second threat.

Distance to threat	Shots per target		
	one	two	three
Three yards:	2.78	3.30	3.23
Five yards:	2.71	3.45	3.51
Seven yards:	3.16	3.51	4.30
Ten yards:	3.12	4.22	4.93

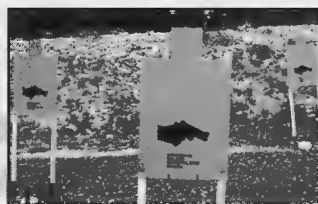


The 180-degree Drill

Scenario # 4

Time against three threats two yards apart. The first threat is at the distance given, the second threat is three yards farther back, and the third threat is three yards farther back or six yards from the front target.

Distance to threat	Shots per target		
	one	two	three
Three yards:	3.16	3.90	7.68
Five yards:	3.14	4.13	8.49
Seven yards:	3.57	5.02	10.35
Ten yards:	3.64	5.02	8.97



The Three-Threat Drill. You can be very busy in this kind of fight.

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Hell's Four Acres

Continued from page 39

when it came to making sure that all of the *Vinson's* aircraft both launched and landed safely — at least in 99% of the cases.

During a lull in flight ops we walked out on to the flag bridge to watch a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter bringing in a replacement engine for a SH-60 Seahawk. A cargo reception team had been assembled aft of the island, and while all eyes were on the Sea Knight, no one except us saw what happened next.

Soldier Of Fortune had been told by

everyone on board that when you walk out on the flight deck "Keep your head on a swivel." In other words, what can go wrong will go wrong so don't get lazy and put your guard down — keep your eyes open.

Throwing the strongest prop wash we'd ever seen, the wind from the Sea Knight's double rotors had — in less than a blink of the eye — picked up the incredibly heavy damaged engine, which was packed tightly in a fiberglass hard-shell mounted on a pallet, and thrown it off the ship into the Gulf.

By the time anyone on deck or in the primary flight control center realized what had happened, the damaged engine was bobbing in the *Vinson's* wake, nearly

half a mile behind us.

It was a major mistake, one that doesn't happen often, but probably cost someone a serious headache and possibly a reprimand. The Sea Knight was sent out after the lost engine, but without the proper equipment and someone in the water to attach the cables, it was unable to effect a recovery.

CNN was reporting that U.S. Air Force fighters based in Turkey had earlier in the day attacked a number of Iraqi radar and SAM sites, and had destroyed them with a lethal concoction of smart weapons. Once more we watched the fuzzy, black-and-white nose cone TV video of yet another U.S. smart weapon hitting its target with absolute precision.

In fact, during Operation Desert Fox, the four-day-long bombing campaign against Iraq last December, U.S. forces launched more than 400 smart weapons against Saddam, seriously depleting our overall stock at a cost of nearly \$1 million each. It also rekindled our interest in smart weaponry. We had heard that there had been marked improvement to the weapons since Desert Storm, but we still wanted to see for ourselves.

Although smart weapons of every sort hung from nearly every wing and fuselage of nearly every fighter and attack aircraft on deck, and were readily photographed and talked about by any aviation ordnanceman, *SOF* was given special permission to go deep below deck and visit the ship's "bomb factory."

It's there, about as far below flight deck as you can go without getting wet, that *SOF* was able to look at rack upon rack of MK-82, MK-83 and MK-84 conventional unguided bombs (so-called "dumb bombs") waiting to be mated with smart laser-guided nose cone and tail assemblies.

The manufacturing of the weapons actually took place in a 30-foot-long by 15-foot-wide room, specially encapsulated in roof, floor and wall tiles made of what seemed to be Kevlar-like material. In the center of the room stood a 10-foot-long stainless steel table, covered with rollers to aid along the dumb bomb component as it was off-loaded from a fork-lift onto the table. Then ordnancemen took both tail fin and nose cone guidance assemblies from room-length storage shelves and connected them to the dumb bomb. After safety checks were completed, the newly made smart weapon was placed upon a carriage and wheeled into a storage area before being placed on an elevator for the trip to the flight deck.

"All the aircraft scheduled for air ops on a particular day have their ordnance loaded on early in the morning," Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class William Brown told *SOF*, as he put safety tags on a number of GBU-12 smart bombs waiting to be put on the elevator.

"Every time we go out to sea, we do bomb-builds," Brown continued. "So, when we get over here for the real deal, everybody is ready. They know what their job is."

Mark H. Milstein is based in Budapest. ✂

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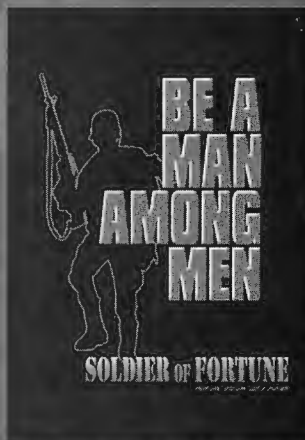
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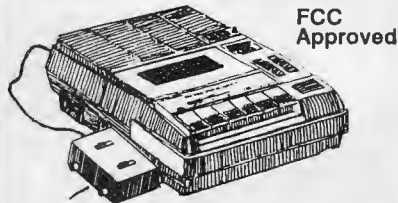
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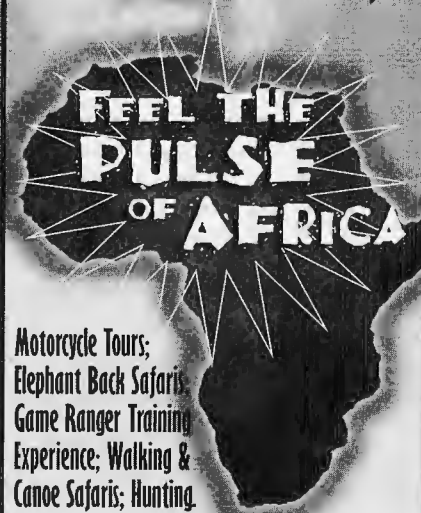
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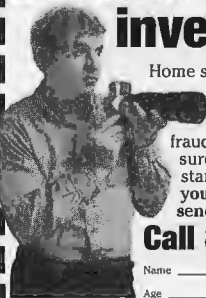
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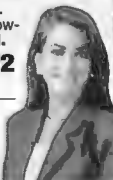
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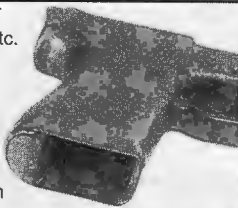
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The Resister

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Until Barry's retirement, *The Resister* would have to be a covert operation.

Barry chose as his pen name a combination of two names, those of John Farquharson and Alexander Davidson. The former was a "free forester," or a poacher, and the latter was a poacher and whisky smuggler, both Scotsmen of the 19th century. Barry, who became J.F.A. Davidson in *The Resister*, had read about both men in *The Romance of Poaching in the Highlands of Scotland*, published in 1904.

Although Barry managed to retire in November 1997, it was close. *The Resister's* militant, provocative tone quickly caught the command's attention, especially its editorials, at times pointedly personal. Things got especially hot for Barry after he and another editor appeared in disguise on a CBS News *60 Minutes* segment in April 1995. Barry's ultimate victory is an example of the wisdom behind the old adage: Admit nothing. Deny everything.

By the following February, "I got hammered," Barry recalled. "They dragged me in to CID. Interrogators and all that stuff. I just refused to cooperate. That's the bottom line.

"They said, 'We know you're doing this.' They're holding up *The Resister*. I'd just be looking at 'em. They got tired and went to catch their breath. I asked if I was being charged. They said, 'We can't charge you. It's up to the commander to charge you.' And I said, 'Oh, I'm free to go.'

"So they escorted me out of the building and off I went," Barry recalled. "As I'm halfway across the parking lot ... one of the investigators yells out, 'Davidson!' I just kept walking. He said, 'Sergeant Barry.' I turned around. He asked me, man to man, not to put his name in *The Resister*. I didn't acknowledge that I had anything to do with it, but I did honor his request, just as I honor anyone else's request."

Barry survived multiple official investigations, including one by the National Security Agency. Also looking into who was behind *The Resister* was the Defense Intelligence Agency, "which pulled my security clearance in March 1996," Barry said. "They were stepping all over my history. DIA went back to the day I was born, finding out who I was, what I was doing, all that crap ...

"So I was under suspension. But I got my security clearance back in June. I walked into 3rd Group security office. I said, 'What's the status of my clearance?' ... They pulled it up on the computer. They said, 'You're good to go.' They gave me back my clearance. I was operations intelligence NCO."

During the investigation, Barry was assigned to the language lab at 3rd Special Forces Group.

Time Off For Bad Behavior

"It was a foolish move on their part. ... If they wanted to shut *The Resister* down, all they had to do was put me back on an ODA

(operational detachment). Because I would have been deployed 200 days a year. It would have been impossible for me to put out *The Resister*:

"What they did was put me in jobs in which I worked about an hour a day to accomplish my duties, which were nominal, at best," he said. "I couldn't work on *The Resister* on government time, so I would ask my immediate supervisor, 'Can I have the rest of the day off?' 'Go ahead.' So I'd go home and work on *The Resister*:

"In essence, what they did is they gave me the time I needed. That's the same time frame that *The Resister* went from a 16-page stapled newsletter to a 40-page magazine. Now it's up to 80 pages and I'm looking at going to 100."

The expansion has not been easy. One deployment to Haiti prior to retirement disrupted Barry's publication, and other delays since then have resulted in occasional double issues. Along the way, *The Resister* bought *Conservative Digest*. Like all controversial publications, *The Resister* has not attracted a lot of advertising. But it's not like Barry hasn't tried.

"I take ads from people who query me. 'Will you take an ad?' Yes, I will," said Barry. "I don't go out shopping my ad space. I don't have an ad salesman. The revenue is generated from subscriptions and distributors. The resubscribe rate is over 50 percent. I'm into incremental growth. I'll let it grow naturally. If it lives, it lives because it is of value to people reading it. If it dies, then I'll do something else.

"But right now, it is sustaining itself and making a small profit, which is plowed right back into *The Resister*. You can tell, I'm not exactly living in the lap of luxury here," he said, regarding the packed clutter of his office, located in a small frame house on the outskirts of Fayetteville, N.C. "But neither am I starving."

One ad recently published in *The Resister* has raised some eyebrows, that for a book catalog of a small West Virginia publishing company owned by William Pierce, author of *The Turner Diaries*, a novel about an underground race war that has gained notoriety because of its popularity among such white supremacists as Robert Matthews and Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

"I don't want ads from commies," he said. "The only reason I ran the National Alliance ad is because it has books I was looking for. I'd just had a run-in with a self-appointed censor at an alleged bookstore. So I was pretty pissed off about that. Trying to order a book I already had, actually. Jared Taylor's *Paved With Good Intentions*. I didn't see any on the shelves [in the] current events and political section ...

"The clerk said, 'We don't carry that sort of material. We don't carry those kinds of books,'" said Barry, who described Taylor's book as "very intelligently written and very well thought out. And I agree with the vast bulk of his conclusions. But the fact that self-anointed censors are taking it upon them-

selves not to stock books that they disagree with — that you have to special order ...

No Censorship

"There's this organization called 'Friends of the Library,' who take it upon themselves to cull stacks of books that displease them, to quote, 'make room for other books' close quote. You can find *Heather's Mom Is a Dyke* and *Bobby's Dad Is a Fag*. You can find that in any library, but you can't find *Race*, by John Baker, or Jared Taylor's book. ... You can't find books that displease the censors."

But how does he respond to criticism for advertising an unabashedly white supremacist book such as *The Turner Diaries*? Some of the criticism has come from longtime readers, some of it from staff.

"My point is, if ... a reader is not intelligent enough to look through Pierce's catalog and say, 'This is bullshit, this is bullshit. Oh! I've been looking for that.' If my readership is not intelligent enough to discern bullshit from relevant historical works or other politically important material, it's on them, it's not on me."

Barry also responded in print.

"I assume *The Resister's* readership is intelligent enough to exercise discretion in evaluating the advertised products," Barry wrote. "... *Caveat emptor* is the traditional English and American common-law practice of assuming the buyer is intelligent enough to know what he is buying. *Caveat venditor* is a communist invention; and, in the case of publishers and booksellers, it is the cry of the censors."

Has he ever been contacted by Morris Dees' Southern Poverty Law Center?

"No. They haven't got the balls. I got this last Southern Poverty Law Center magazine on so-called 'extremist groups' that they publish and send to cops all over the country. They still have me listed as J.F.A. Davidson. They haven't put my real name in there yet. A bunch of yahoos. Let me rephrase that. ... They're a pack of communists. All this shit about so-called 'hate crimes, hate speech.' All that's for is to establish a framework for political crimes and thought crimes. And that's what that's all about. ... They're a bunch of communists."

Barry said things have progressed enough that he is paying contributing writers, but "not very well. It's starting to make a profit, though. ... The cost of paper has spiraled. It's leveled off some. But part of my problem is I refuse to recycle paper. When I go into the printers, I tell 'em to kill some trees, and they know to order the right paper. I want to hear the chainsaw, *Rrrrrrrraaaaaaaaaaaaaa* ..."

Barry hasn't gotten any perfume ads, he jokes, "but I will run an ad for Bushmills distillery if they want to send me one. We could trade, product for product. I'd take a barrel of single-malt."

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PARTING SHOT

by Tom Reisinger

Close The Breach

Help Needed To Rebuild Canadian Vietnam Memorial



photos: Ed Johnson

Americans often fail to recall the valor of our Canadian brothers and sisters in the Vietnam War — and more often fail to recognize those 110 Canadians who joined some 58,000 Americans and untold thousands of our Southeast Asian, Australian, and New Zealander allies in making the supreme sacrifice.

On 20 December 1998, in windswept Assumption Park, in Windsor, Ontario, sledgehammer-wielding vandals inflicted some \$20,000 to \$80,000 damage to the Canadian Vietnam Memorial. Whether the people were trying to rip-off the Purple Heart medal inside the memorial or simply attempting to show disrespect to the Canadian vets one can only surmise.

The broad effect, though, of this senseless act of malice and desecration has been to solidify Canada's veterans and their supporters to their American brothers and sisters across the border.

Some 40,000 of Canada's finest served in Vietnam. American veterans and supporters must again unite with Canadians to undo this tragedy, and rebuild the Canadian Vietnam Memorial.

Like us, our friends from Canada returned to all the gross epithets that we endured: warmongers, baby-killers, mercenaries, sadists, war criminals, and all the rest. They, too, were despised by a large segment of society, eyed with suspicion, portrayed by the entertainment industry as psychos, drunks and heroin addicts, and relegated to a lower rung of the social ladder.

Among the 110 Canadian KIAs in Vietnam were Marine Lance Corporal Richard Paul Dextraze, whose father was Canadian General Jacques Dextraze, commander of the Royal 22nd Regiment (Canada's French-speaking unit, the *Van Doos*) during the Korean War. General Dextraze later became Canada's Chief of the Defense Staff (equivalent to the U.S.'s Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff).

Seven Canadians are MIA, including Michael John Masterson, of Alberta, a Douglas A1-G Skyraider pilot based at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, who was shot down over Laos on 13 October 1968.

One Canadian hero, Peter Lemon, of Norwich, Ontario, was a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Vietnam was not just America's fight — or Canada's fight. It was *our* fight!

(left) Canada's shrine to its Vietnam heroes. They are America's heroes, as well. (right) Damaged, yes, but it will be repaired. "They Are Not Forgotten." Ric Gidner, a two-tour Nam Marine veteran, and one of the driving forces behind the Memorial's construction, holds remnants of anti-vet hostility.

Despite what the politicians and historians contend, we did win the Vietnam War. A noted and respected retired USAF general, Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt, was privy to a conversation some years ago in Hanoi. During a dinner party which ran well into the night, old guards were lowered and aging warriors grew more candid with each passing hour. A retired North Vietnamese general confided to Aderholt that had Nixon prolonged his 40,000-ton 1972 Christmas bombing by just 24 hours, North Vietnam was set to surrender — unconditionally.

Canadian, American and other Allied troops won *our* battles — the soft-gutted politicians in Washington and Paris lost theirs:

Ed Johnson, Ric Gidner and Chris Reynolds, Oakland County, Michigan vets, lobbied hard for the now-damaged Memorial to honor their Canadian counterparts. In fact, they helped raise the \$112,000 needed for its construction.

Help them — and us — raise funds to repair this defiled monument for its anticipated rededication on 10 July 1999.

Donations may be mailed to:

Windsor Veterans Memorial Service Committee
12097 St. Thomas Crescent
Tecumseh, Ontario N8N 3P5 CANADA

Website of interest: <http://www.ipsystems.com/ppowmia>

Our sincere thanks to Joe Fernandez for his vital information. Three books which detail Canadians' service in Vietnam are Unknown Warriors and Cross Border Warriors, both by Fred Gaffen; and I Volunteered; Canadian Vietnam Veterans Remember, by Tracey Arial. All are available from the Rovend Company, Dept. SOF, 5740 Coolbrook Ave., Montreal, Quebec H3X 2M1, Canada; email: rovend@netcom.ca



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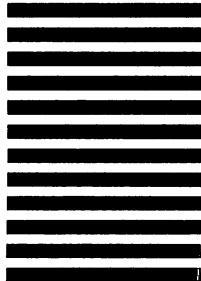
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