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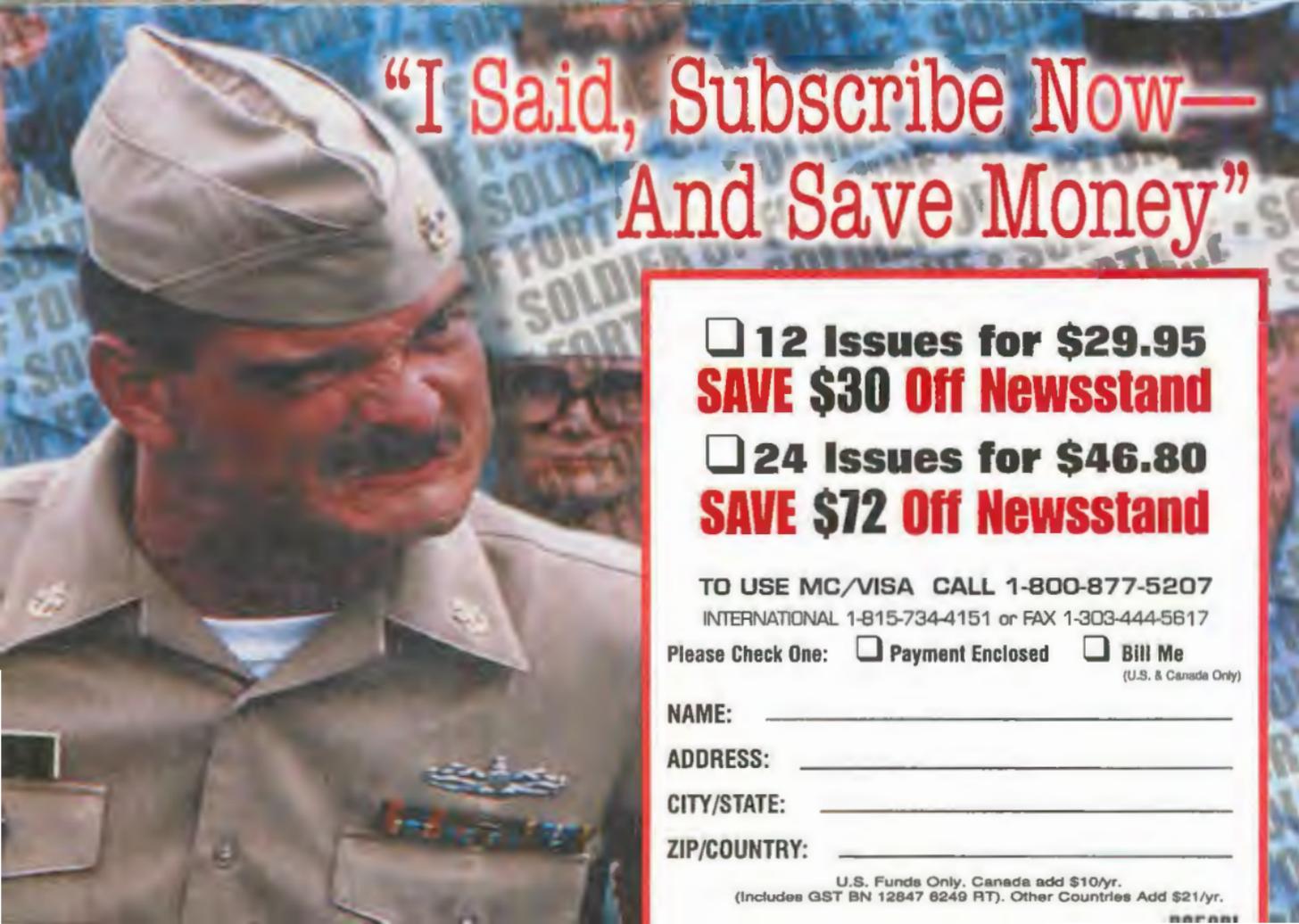
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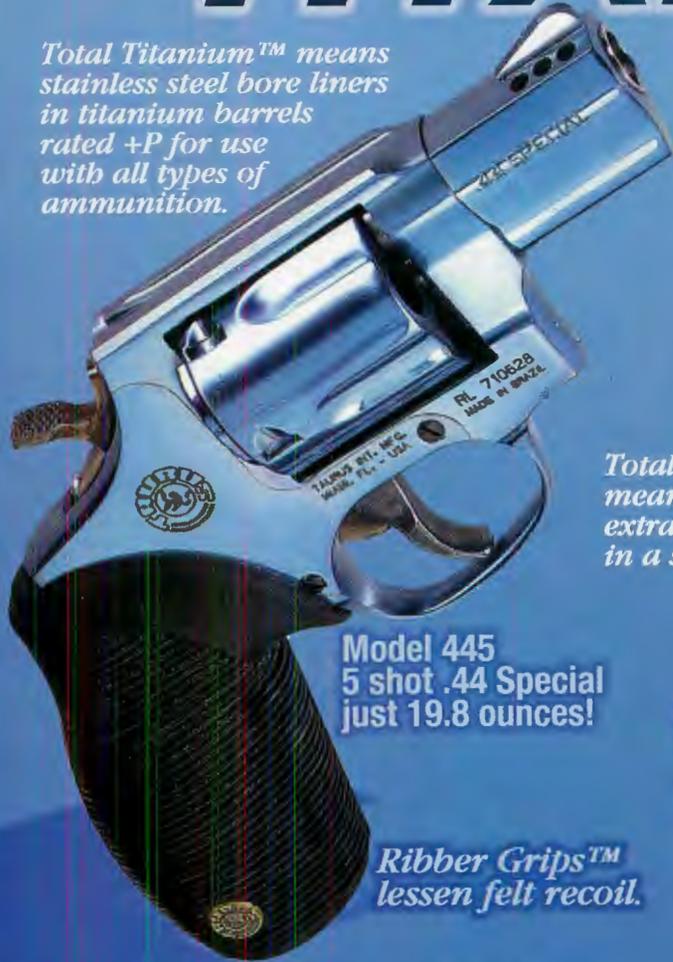
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courtesy Atlantic Monthly Press

COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Manchurian Candidate

Traitor.

There was a time in American history when the word traitor and President of the United States were never mentioned in the same sentence. But, the Clintons have succeeded in making outrageous behavior politically correct.

Bill's ratings seem to go up in popularity polls every time some misdeed is uncovered. As usually liberal columnist Richard Cohen has noted, the rape charge could have raised Clinton's popularity in the polls to about where, "Roosevelt was for ending the Great Depression and beating the Axis powers." If that logic holds, the recent disclosures that Bill and company have helped improve Chinese chances of nuking our people and homes ought to cause Americans to rise up and demand that he be allowed to run for a third term.

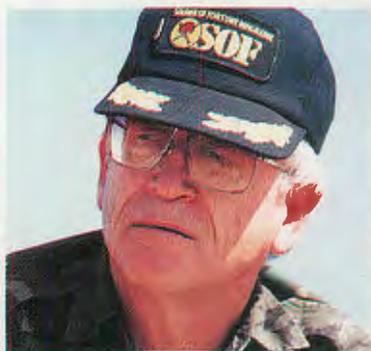
It was a waste of time to focus impeachment proceedings on matters connected to Oval Office masturbation motivated by thong-snapping fat girls using cigars for unnatural purposes.

Clinton's complicity in Chinese espionage efforts should have been the focus of the impeachment. It wasn't because Clinton has been able to use the cloak of national security to hide his complicity. By threatening members of Congress with criminal penalties, the Clinton administration has managed to actually keep from the American people its treasonous guilt — remarkably outrageous, but that is how it happened.

The initial hearings on trading secrets for campaign contributions held by Senator Fred Thompson, were all but boycotted by the networks and failed to produce the smoking gun because the White House cleverly had the proceedings censored by national security moni-

tors. It is for that same reason that the Cox committee's report on Chinese espionage has been blocked for release as we go to press.

In an attempt to keep it all under wraps and appease the newspapers, it is fairly likely that National Security Advisor Sandy Berger will take the bayonet. Berger is a fairly feckless college professor who really isn't up to swimming in a pool full of Hillary-managed spin doctors.



Paul Redmond, the retired CIA chief of counterintelligence who caught Ricky Ames, said that the nuclear secrets lost are far more damaging to national security than was the case of Ames. He also noted that the current situation is "going to be just as bad as the Rosenbergs."

The Rosenbergs were strapped in the chair and turned into crispy critters. What do you suppose is going to happen to the perpetrators in this matter? The word of the Justice Department is that Wen Ho Lee, like a long list of other Chinese espionage assets mentioned in connection with this administration, is not likely to be prosecuted.

It would seem outrageous to suggest that the president is really a Manchurian candidate. It is more likely that he is simply a man with an absolute absence of any sort of morality.

Not long after the president's re-election, this column reported that DNC fund-raiser John Huang had received a top secret clearance at the request of Clinton and that he had phoned the Chinese embassy after top secret CIA briefings. That disclosure here and elsewhere, like the rape charges, didn't get much attention from the mainstream press or the American people. This matter, which can only be termed treason, should be fully explored — because the country is in grave danger. ☒

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (USPS 525-810, ISSN 0145-6784), June 1999, Volume 24, Number 6, is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Inc., 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340. Periodicals Postage is paid at Boulder, CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, Subscription Department, POB 348, Mt Morris, IL 61054-0348 or call 1-800-877-5207. U.S. and APO-FPO subscription rate for twelve monthly issues \$29.95. Canada add \$10.00/yr. additional postage (includes GST tax registration business number: 12847 6249 RT). All other countries add \$21.00 U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S.: \$4.95; United Kingdom: £2.60; Canada: \$5.75. PRINTED IN THE USA.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs or drawings are submitted at the contributor's own risk. Material should be mailed to Articles Editor, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SOF. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs must be credited and be accurately identified. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication. Editorial office phone number is 303-449-3750.

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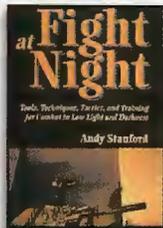


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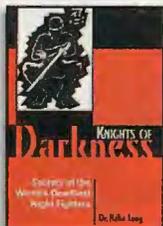
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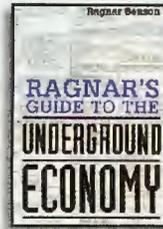


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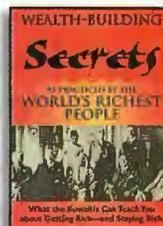
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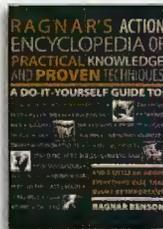


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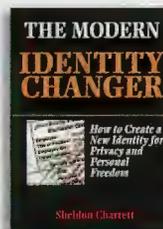


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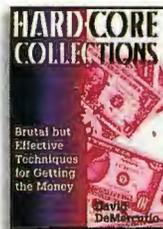


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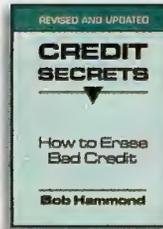


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I Was There

by Chief Warrant Officer 2
Robert Varney, USA (Ret.)

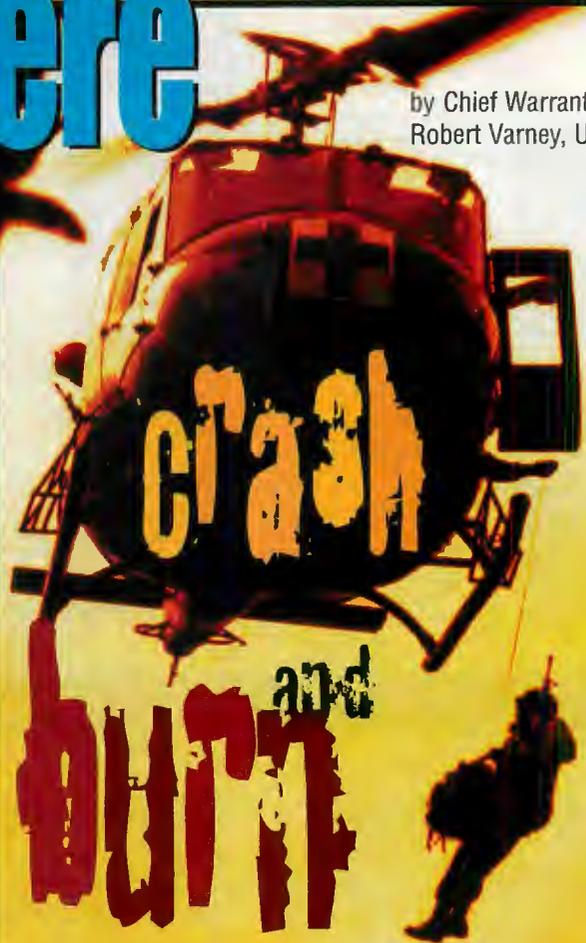
It was 10 October 1969. Two months into my second tour as a (MOS 100B) helicopter pilot, or Army aviator, I was looking forward to R&R in some Asian city and my 21st birthday.

My crew and I were flying routine supply missions with elements of C Company of the 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion in Phuoc Long Province when we were diverted for a troop extraction mission to lift out an infantry company from triple-canopy jungle. Our most recent extraction had resulted in an engagement with .50 cal. hostile fire near the Cambodian border, so this promised to be at least equally hairy.

We found the LZ to be a poorly prepped one-ship affair with several layers of canopy to dodge. Departure required backing a fully loaded UH-1H up through triple-canopy jungle while dodging the same obstacles that had slowed our approach. The first two trips taxed the whole crew as we coordinated our departure with each crew member clearing his quadrant. I was for-

Disaster struck in the form of an engine compressor stall.

Continued on page 12



Arthur Wilkink, Jr.

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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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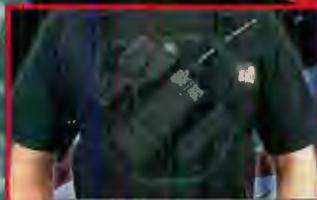
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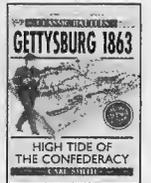
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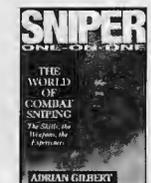
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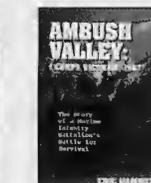
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tunate to have an excellent crew and their professionalism made me proud to work with them. The third trip was somewhat easier because we burned off fuel and became accustomed to the tension.

Then disaster struck in the form of an engine compressor stall. I felt my ship settle and then with a jolt it started down, bouncing off trees as it crashed to the ground. Autorotation isn't an option when you're stuck in the third canopy of a tropical rain forest. My face struck the cyclic control and the world took on a surreal look as we hit the ground. As my senses returned, I looked up at a couple of grunts approaching the wreckage. I was still strapped into the seat

but was resting on the ground — in the jungle of a mangled UH-1H. The crackle of small arms fire was closing on us!

I released my shoulder harness but was unable to pull my right foot from the remains of the instrument panel and battery compartment. One of the grunts screamed that I needed to get out as the ship was burning! I yelled back my situation and held out my arm and told them not to worry about breaking anything but to get me out! Then the flames roared up and the ammunition began to cook-off.

I told them to get my co-pilot but they were shielding their faces and backing away from the heat. To this day, I don't know what

Continued on page 68

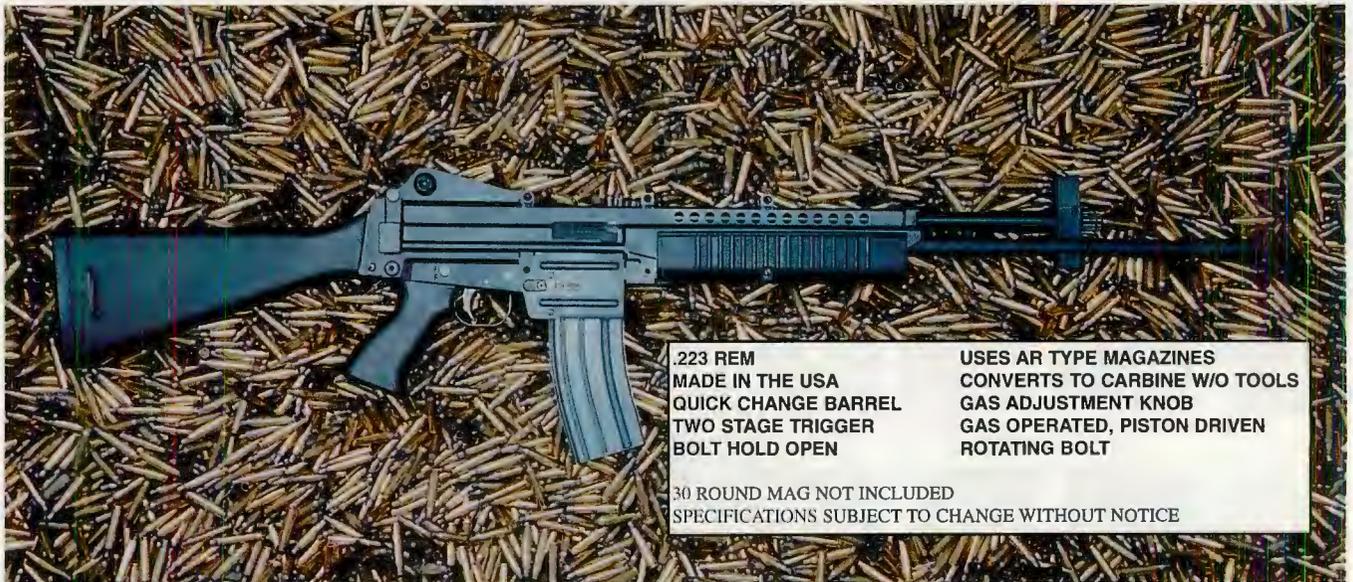


"Check your canopy." 25th Infantry Div. troops lie in wait amid double- and triple-canopy jungle.



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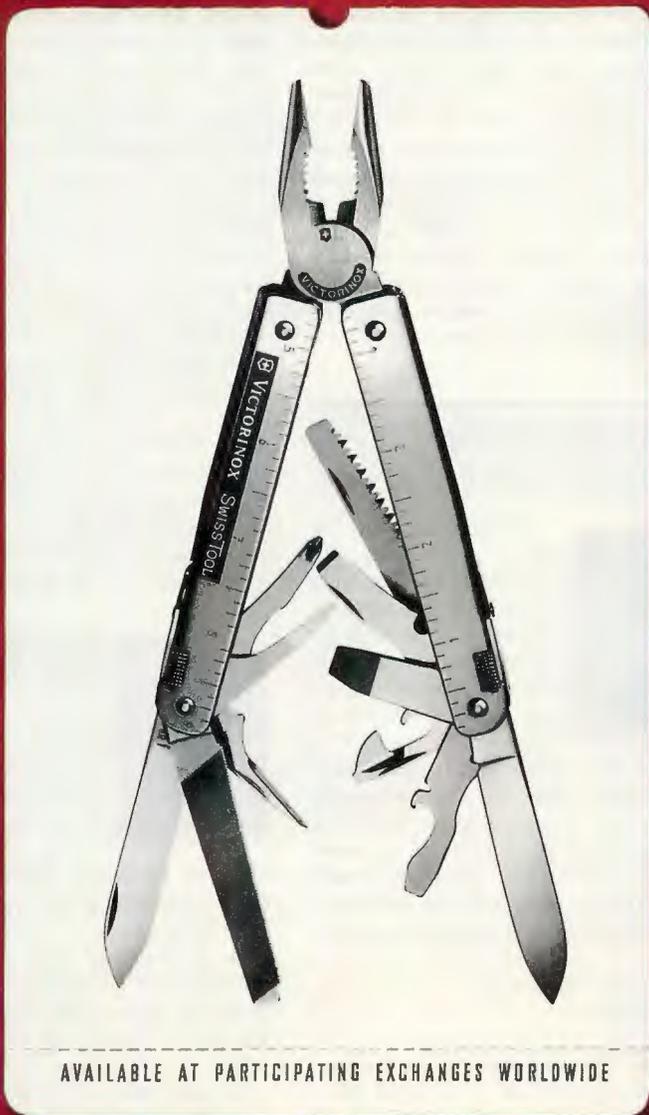
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A Hero

I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of MSG Benavidez via your magazine. I first learned of the man and his heroic deeds back in the early '80s just prior to President Reagan presenting him with the MOH. I immediately realized that this man and the actions he took during the conflict were to be used as a role model for myself. Such acts of selflessness are the things legends are made of. It is due to the sacrifice of men such as the Master Sergeant that we are Americans, and far too many people do not understand or appreciate such things. While I never met the man, his life influenced the way I lead mine in many ways. I enlisted in '85, and served six years (back when it was fun) but never had the opportunity to do anything even modestly heroic. I'd like to think if I had, the actions of MSG Benavidez would have inspired me to courage.

With the passing of so many great warriors recently, Valhalla must be a pretty happening place right about now.

God bless America and such men who have made her great.

John Denny
Via e-mail

Executive Outcomes

I recently came across an issue with an article about merc wars. In it there was an employer by the name of Executive Outcomes. Does anyone in the staff there know of a way to contact this employer? I'd appreciate any help. I purchase your magazine consistently when it's at the PX. Thanks for the great articles.

Name Withheld
Camp Lejune, NC

As we noted in the March issue's "Bulletin Board Column," Executive Outcomes' board of directors voted last December to wind up the company's business and fold their tents as of 1 January 1999. Their services were well received by their many clients and it would not surprise us if sometime in the future at least some of the principals involved reappeared on the scene in a different uniform. Since they are not presently operating, they may not be in

need of "a few good men," but the last point of contact we have for them is: P.O. Box 75255, Lynnwood Ridge, Pretoria 0040, South Africa; fax: 27-12-348-1158. Recent laws enacted in South Africa may have simply made it impractical for them to be based there. But there are other bases.

FNG?

Hey, I just subscribed and wanted info on civilian boot camps and extra military training. Please reply.

Hoorah,
Jason (Via e-mail)

There are a number of various schools with a shingle out for various types of training — some good, some worthless, some less-than-worthless. If you seriously want military training, enlist in the Army, Marines or Navy: Their training is good and they pay you and feed you. About all you can learn to be in a couple weeks of "boot camp" is a corpse. There are many very good schools teaching various advanced military, survival or weapons-handling skills, but they require a previous level of training and experience.

Everybody's Coming! Everybody's Coming!



In the past your fine magazine has done articles about Russian tanks in the USA. The tanks are supposed to be used for learning and target practice. Have you ever done a story about UN troops "training" in the U.S.? I wonder if these troops actually leave when they are done? Also, the Chinese government has large "free trade zones" in the U.S. but, I heard that these zones are not under business license, but under diplomatic license. That means that we can not inspect them. What are the Chi-coms bringing in?

Ray Field Clement, Jr.
Philadelphia

Yes, we did a story on former Warsaw-pact armor in the U.S. — we even got to drive some around the desert, and, yes, it was bought/scrounged for intelligence

efforts and training purposes, and that is what it's being used for (The idea insinuated by some tabloids [rhymes with paranoïds] that somebody is stockpiling commie tanks in this country for use against the American people is so abysmally "stooopid" as to not receive an answer, but here's a question in reply: Why the hell would anyone try to smuggle in inferior former-Soviet armor, when there would be no ammo or spares, when "they" could use the better American-made stuff that's already here?).

Yes, we did more than one story on the various "UN" [sic] troops training here. That they now include troops from former communist-controlled countries was news (usually as part of the "Partnership for Peace" program for NATO wannabes). That foreign troops were training here was not news, as there have been a "bazillion" foreign troops trained here under various exchange programs over the years. A good proportion of them were from South America (golly, where was the armed takeover from these Latino troops?). And yes, these exchange-program troops have been going home again (except for a couple Albanians we mentioned who went AWOL from a baseball game and were last seen headed for Philadelphia, where one of them had family).

Current Chinese "commercial" operations on the West Coast, however, are a tiger of a different stripe. Most PRC commercial interests are owned by government entities — and it is well known that their company officials usually wear more than one hat — often even carrying military rank. They've already been caught smuggling guns and making illegal campaign contributions, and we can assume that's only the tip of the iceberg.



Love The Luftwaffe

After you poooh-pooohed the presence of German air force personnel in New Mexico, I was pretty determined to cancel my subscription, or not to renew. However, with the Y2K, China-Gate, militarized police-type articles, I may have to reconsider.

I do want to make you aware that, according to Chittum [on the Internet] these good ole boys have claimed diplomatic immunity. If this can be established for these defenders of something other than our constitution, the door may be opened for all manner of murder and mayhem. And as you know, the trend is for more, not less, of

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– Daily Southtown

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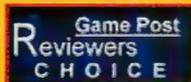
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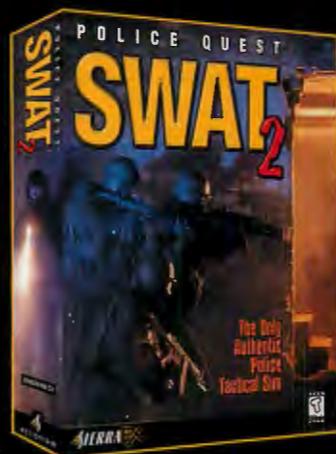
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these types of incursions, from countries that have not been as cozy in recent history as the Germans.

Joseph L. Geiser

I guess there's nothing left to say except, why don't you just drop by some of these bases and see for yourself what's going on? Aside from a permanent training cadre, these German flyboys all go back home after they train, as do all other trainees here under various programs. Most Europeans are fairly courtly and polite, so they probably won't laugh at you when you ask if they are here to take over the country, although they may express dismay at the question or stifle a snigger. And buy the local sheriff a cup of coffee and get a handle on what sort of murder and mayhem has engulfed New Mexico thus far from the German renters. Stay alert and concerned — there are both foreign and domestic enemies that bear watching — but examine critically what comes across the Internet and from the tabloids.

44 Parachute Brigade

Looking for former members (nationals or foreigners) of the South African Army, especially those who served with me in 44 Parachute Brigade (Pathfinders) and the 32 Battalion (Recce wing). Interested in corresponding and remembering the good old days.

Nelson Fischbach
P.O. Box 780
Plymouth, MA 02362



Hordes And Legions

I enjoy reading your magazine and the many insightful articles contained therein. I was concerned with the accuracy of some of the statistics quoted in the "Dragon Dollars" article contained in the November, 1998 issue. You stated that "the Chinese People's Liberation Army is not merely a force of 220,000,000 men. ..."

My research of several authoritative sources indicated the PLA has less than three (3) million (3,000,000) men in service!?

Ron Warmbier
Palos Verdes Peninsula, Calif.

The 220,000,000 number is not accurate, of course, but it was not a typo. It was a figure that has been bandied about by the Chinese when they were in essence bragging how many combatants they could field in a worst-case scenario such as an attack from Yankee Imperialists. The 3-million number may even be a little high, since the PLA also contains a lot of people in uniform whose job is essentially industrial or commercial. ✕

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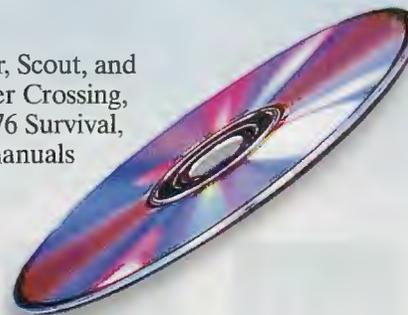
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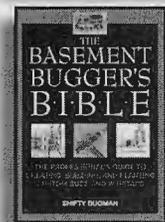
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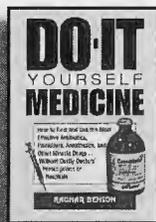
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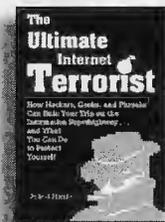
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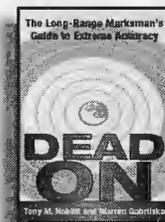
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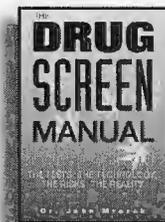
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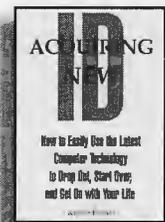
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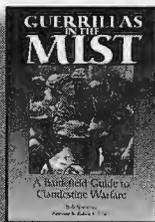
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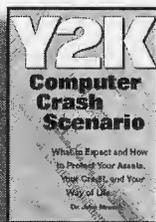
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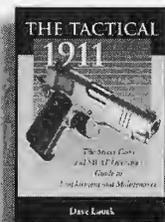
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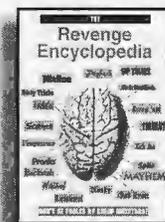
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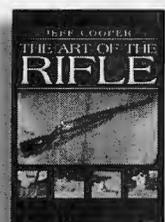


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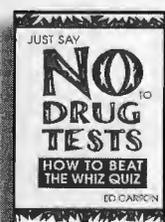
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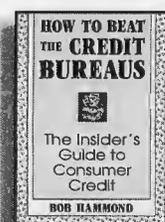
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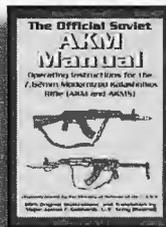
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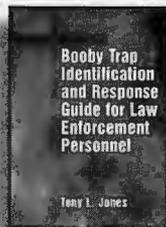
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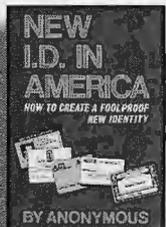
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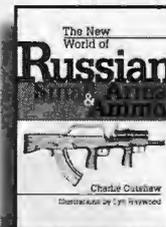
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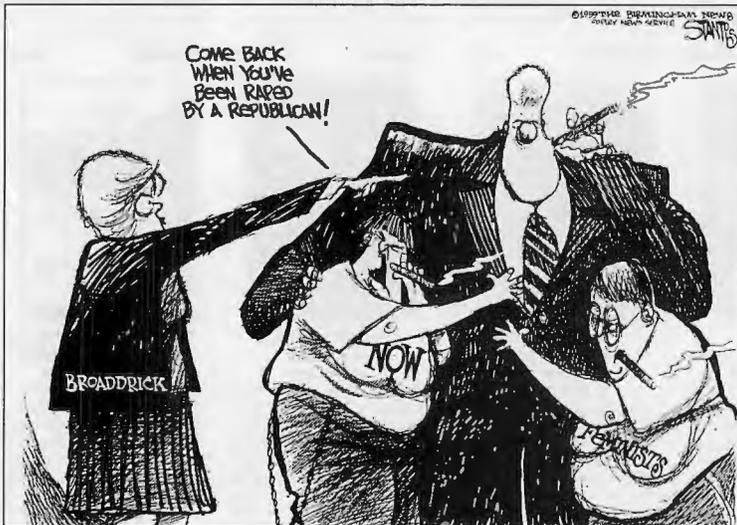
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SLICK WILLIE WATCH

Don't Ask, Don't Tell

More homosexuals are being booted from the military than ever before, reports The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a gay-rights group for military personnel. The group calls this trend a "witch hunt" against gays, and accuses the military of flagrantly violating the so-called "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The mainstream media are also reporting this trend as if it's some sort of violation on the part of the military.

But here's the true story: Bill Clinton and his administration are fully responsible for the unfortunate disappointment scores of gay and lesbian soldiers experience upon being kicked out of the military. That's because more and more homosexuals have been enlisting in the military under a false premise, thanks to Clinton, that the military now allows homosexuals if they don't flaunt their sexuality. And that's simply not true.



Elaine Donnelly, of Center for Military Readiness, cleared up the issue with some factual reporting in a recent newsletter. Donnelly writes that back in 1993-94, when Clinton invented the gay soldier issue, Congress considered adopting a version of the president's "don't ask, don't tell" proposal. It would have allowed gays to serve in the military as long as they did not disclose their sexuality. Although it was seriously considered, the "don't ask, don't tell" proposal was never adopted.

Instead, Congress passed a law that made only one modification to military policy. It simply states that potential recruits will no longer be asked if they are homosexuals. The law says nothing about allowing gays in the military. Clinton signed it into law.

The law still specifically states that homosexual acts by military personnel create "an unacceptable risk to the high standards of morale, good order and discipline, and unit cohesion that are the essence of military capability."

Which prompts us to ask just where in the hell anyone got the idea it's OK to be gay in any branch of the United States military?

From Clinton. That's right, Clinton's disdain for truth and inability to obey the law have backfired on the very people whom he purported to be helping. After failing to get a law through Congress that would allow gays in the military, the

Clinton administration issued "regulations" that blatantly contradict the letter of the law, the spirit of the law and the intentions of Congress. The commander-in-chief's regulations say "homosexuality is not a bar to military service."

Because Clinton's not a dictator, the "regulations" are nothing other than a statement of his personal opinion on the matter. They do not supersede the law. All they do is confuse gays and lesbians, many of whom probably begin military careers with sincere beliefs they have every legal right to serve.

So for clarity's sake, we emphatically remind everyone that it is illegal for gays to serve in the military. Clinton would likely take issue with us, arguing confusion over the word "is," or "gays," or "illegal." Unfortunately, Clinton's inability to deal with reality serves as little comfort to gays and lesbians who were deceived into volunteering for eminent disappointment.

Ancient Chinese Secret

A selfish liar in the White House is OK, just so the economy flourishes and we all have really good jobs. Such is the American mindset, after years of media bombardment regarding President Clinton's lack of moral grounding and inability to deal in truth.

Over and over again in these pages, we've told readers how a president who can tell bold-faced lies to millions of viewers on live TV would sell Americans into slavery to retain his power. We've shown readers how the president is willing to risk the lives of American soldiers in needless wag-the-dog attacks designed to distract attention from his lies and personal indiscretions.

So nobody should be the least bit shocked to hear emerging news of Clinton's efforts to keep the focus off of a dangerous spy situation, involving scientist Wen Ho Lee, at the Los Alamos lab — which contains America's most sensitive nuclear secrets.

The FBI suspects Lee's efforts gave China all it needed to leap a generation ahead and build small nuclear warheads that can be launched from under water and aimed at the United States. Clinton was warned of a spy situation at Los Alamos by a Department of Energy official in April 1996, a time when wealthy Chinese agents of influence had the run of the White House, raising millions for the president's re-election campaign. Suspicions were subsequently seconded by the FBI and CIA. Says the *New York Times*, the DOE official who first suspected a Chinese spy was ordered by senior administration officials not to tell Congress.

"Yanked to a complete turnabout on trade policy with China by the Riady family and other heavy campaign contributors in the satellite and computer businesses, Clinton did not want Congress to know what the FBI and CIA and DOE suspected about China's spy in Los Alamos," writes *Times* columnist William Safire.

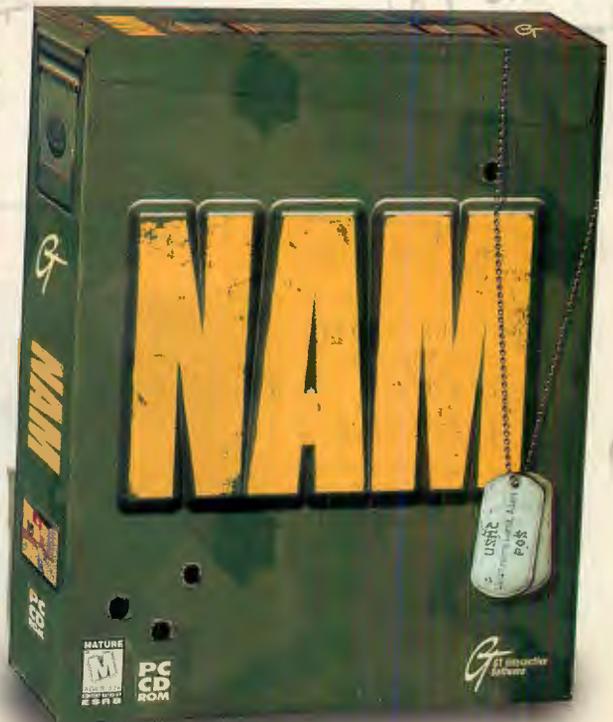
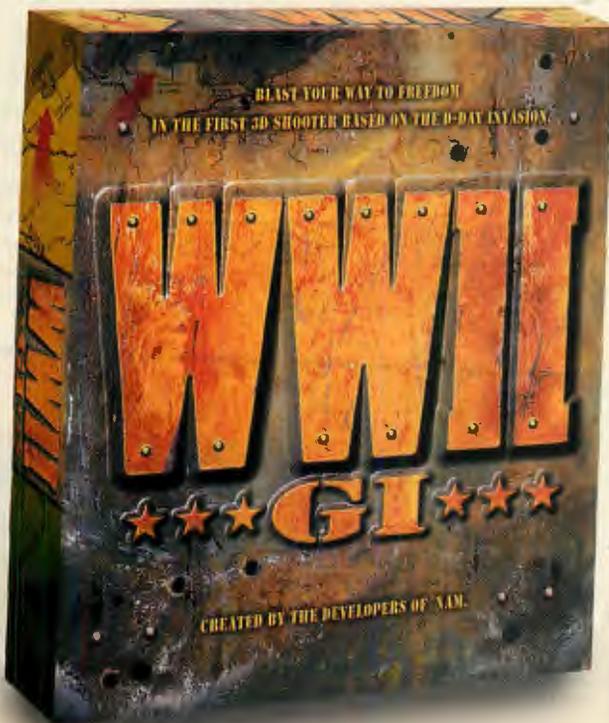
Clinton hopes this story is too complicated for most Americans to become alarmed. But it's really quite simple. By all accounts, it appears Clinton jeopardized the welfare of every American man, woman and child in order to keep friendly ties with those who were giving him cash. That makes him an accomplice to espionage, which carries a life sentence for private citizens. ❌

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For fast-breaking news on the availability of Jim Leatherwood's classic Automatic Ranging Telescope, check out their new website: leatherwoodoptics.com

Hiding That Red Neck

We personally asked Jeff Foxworthy, and it's OK to be a redneck — but after you've spent a hour calling that old Tom turkey in close and your mouth is dry and you swallow hard, your bobbing Adam's apple will give you away. And if you are on a deer stand for hours and the bugs get down your neck and you finally have to claw them out, you've just compromised a morning of stealthy sitting.

Bug-repellent grease paint is available, but when you stop



in for a brewski after the hunt you're likely to take a lot of ribbing for being a SEAL wannabe. And even if you married one of those good women who will clean your fish and wash your clothes, she may well draw the line at green grease paint on the pillow.

Bugproof, warming, face-and-neck camouflage is now available from Two Painted Ponies. Called the Deceptor, it is a camouflage dickie made from soft, supple and tightly knit fabric available in 15 camouflage colors. Adapted from their police line, the Deceptor looks like an ordinary turtleneck sweater until there is a need, when you simply pull it up over the face and neck for instant concealment.

Two Painted Ponies, Dept. SOF, 7616 Dover Lane, Ft. Worth, TX 76118; phone: 877-COLLARS; fax: 817-284-2554.

A Stitch In Time

Ben Franklin's old saw about a stitch in time saving nine isn't just bad poetry — it's true. And even if you're like the rest of us and couldn't do a pretty stitch to save the Republic, that strong but ugly stitch counts just the same for saving the other nine. Pueblo Diversified Industries, contractors to the military, is making available



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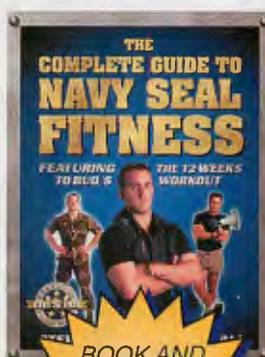
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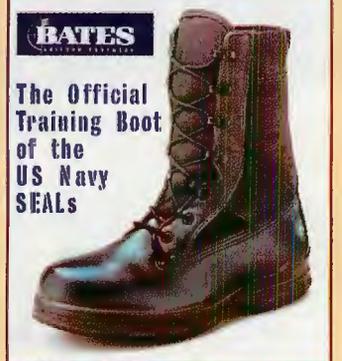
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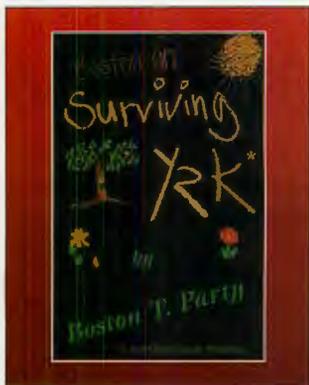
a number of their milspec products, to include their woodland camouflage sewing kit, to *SOF* readers. Complete with 20 OD green buttons, 5x5-inch woodland camouflage patch, seam ripper, scissors, eight needles in two sizes, a unique woodland camouflage thread bread and (for those of us who can't do a stitch at all) 14 safety pins in three sizes — all in a handy woodland cammie vinyl pouch. Retail price is \$9.95, but *SOF* readers get a \$2 discount, which with the \$1.50 post and handling makes a postpaid price of \$9.45. A sewing kit may not be the most macho item in your go pack or Y2K kit — but try getting along without one when you need it.

Pueblo Diversified Industries, Dept. *SOF*, 2828 Granada Blvd., Pueblo, CO 81005; phone: 719-564-000; fax: 719-564-3407.

Boston On Surviving Y2K

Just in time with creative advice to head off or handle your Y2K problems, comes independence gadfly Boston T. Party and his hands-on, how-to *tour de force* the publisher calls "the mother of all Y2K books." Do you have a plan — and supplies — for such worst-

case scenarios as no food, no water, no power ... nor even no phone nor police for weeks on end? Preparedness is neither panicked paranoia nor merely laying in a supply of extra toilet paper: Preparedness is simple common sense, harking back to the mindset of an earlier era when everybody had put by a winter's supply of food, and had a shotgun behind the kitchen door. The two keys to preparedness are planning and preparation: to give serious thought as to what needs

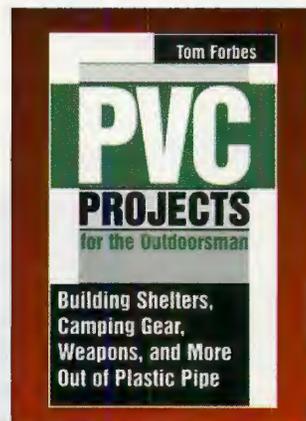


to be done, and then set about doing it in a rational fashion. Whatever your assessment of the potential for Y2K — or other — problems on the immediate horizon, Party's large 350+ page volume is an excellent place to start. If you already have things on the Y2K front under control, this volume is a best-yet checklist to make sure you have covered all the bases. Written with an entertaining edge, it is an easy read. Available from Paladin Press, Dept. *SOF*, Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306; phone: 303-443-7250.

PVC Projects for the Outdoorsman

Here's nearly a hundred pages of how-to for those who can't-do: Tinker-Toy engineering at its best for those who need, quickly and cheaply, diverse gear from snowshoes and shelters to bootdriers and blowguns. From windbreaks to weapons, this concise manual leads the outdoorsman through the construction of more than 30 projects requiring only a hacksaw, solvent cement and a supply of inexpensive PVC pipe. Even a total klutz can follow the illustrated directions and save hundreds over the cost of comparable items at a sporting goods outlet. Clever designs and sound engineering guarantee good results even for the inept if they but follow the simple instructions.

Even if you only build one project — say the ground blind or the teepee or the equipment raft or the nunchucks — the book will pay for itself with its first use; 96 pages, photos and illustrations, ISBN 1-58160-021-6; Paladin Press, Dept. *SOF*, Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306; phone: 303-443-7250. ☞



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Required Reading for Machine Gunners

Kalashnikov Arms. *Compiled by Alexei Nedelin; 1997; 241 pages. Color illustrations. Military Parade, Ltd., Moscow, Russia. Distributed by Ironside International Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 55, Alexandria, VA 22313-0055; phone: 703-684-6111; fax: 703-683-5486; \$49.95 plus s&h.*



My personal autographed copy of this extraordinary book was presented to me by Mikhail T. Kalashnikov himself at a private dinner party on the occasion of the celebrations surrounding the 50th anniversary of the AK-47 in November 1997 in Izhevsk, Russia. No other book will ever come close to depicting the incredible array of prototype and production series small arms designed by this most extraordinary person, as the majority of the photographs are of weapons stored at either the St. Petersburg Military Historical Museum of Artillery, or the vaults of Izhmash, where many were produced.

The text is scant, but the color photographs are breathtaking for any student of modern military small arms. Many of the items illustrated were previously completely unknown in the West. Kalashnikov's second design was for a caliber 7.62x25mm submachine gun operating by means of delayed blowback with deceleration by telescopic screw pairs moving in the rear of the bolt. There are photos of three other submachine guns, a caliber 7.62x41mm (by 1947 this case's neck was cut back by 2 mm and from that time forward it became known as the now ubiquitous 7.62x39mm cartridge) carbine with features taken from the .30 M1 Garand, experimental semiautomatic sniper rifles, two 9x18mm pistols, all of the AK-46 (caliber 7.62x41mm), AK-47 and AK-48 prototypes, the many subsequent experimental assault rifles, the AKM prototypes and experimentals — including a rifle with a peculiar "balanced automatic system," an AKM with a curved 100-round magazine, the AK-74 series, the new AK-100 series, experimental light machine guns, the RPKs, the PK GPMGs, semiautomatic hunting rifles and the foreign variants from Bulgaria, Egypt, Hungary, East Germany,

India, China, North Korea, Poland, Yugoslavia, Romania and, most surprising of all, Cuba. Even the semiautomatic-only B-WEST AK47S (a U.S.-made AKM-type receiver assembled with Chinese components) is depicted. Thus, all the more conspicuous by their absence are the Israeli Galil and the extensive Finnish Valmet Kalashnikov series.

This truly remarkable work belongs on the bookshelf of every serious student of modern military weapons. It would be well-worth the price of admission at twice its cost.

The Belgian Rattlesnake; The Lewis Automatic Machine Gun, A Social and Technical Biography of the Gun and its Inventors, *by William Easterly; 1998; 584 pages with 686 illustrations; Collector Grade Publications, P.O. Box 1046, Cobourg, Ont. K9A 4W5, Canada; phone: 905-342-3434; fax: 905-342-3688; e-mail: info@collectorgrade.com; \$79.95.*

This fascinating story of the Lewis gun revolves around three improbable characters: a homeopathic physician and two West Point graduates who became bitter enemies. At the end of the 19th century, Dr. Samuel Neal McClean filed patents for what he called his "Automatic Musket." By 1906 it had evolved into a "Musket Machine Gun." Major Isaac Newton Lewis recommended modifications in 1909. Subsequent U.S. military trials were unsuccessful and the McClean Arms & Ordnance Co. was dissolved by the end of that year.

Lewis himself was responsible for the design of the "air ejection" cooling system (aluminum fins around the barrel) eventually incorporated onto the machine gun that was to bear his name. It was also supposed to evacuate propellant gases out the front. It is my considerable personal experience that it, in fact, drives the noxious fumes directly into the operator's face. Lewis linked up with the Savage Arms Company and during the same time frame, Lewis' nemesis, General William Crozier, entered the picture. He was to preclude adoption of the Lewis gun by the U.S. Army and force perfection of the gun in England and Belgium. Most of the Lewis guns in U.S. collectors' hands were made by the Birmingham Small Arms Co., Ltd. (BSA) in England and entered the country as DEWATs (DEactivated WAR Trophies). Fielded by the British during World War I, it became the world's first truly effective and widely distributed Light Machine Gun (LMG).

William Easterly spent over 20 years in research and writing to complete this definitive history of the "Belgian Rattlesnake." During World War I, the Germans envied and employed captured Lewis guns, as their MG08/15 "LMG" weighed 49 pounds! Easterly details Russian deployment of the Lewis gun chambered for the 7.62x54R round and the U.S. Navy's adoption of the Lewis gun in .30-06. There are ample sections on both aircraft and anti-aircraft use of the Lewis gun, patents and manuals, World War I surplus Lewis guns in China, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Israel and Poland. There is also extensive coverage of both the Japanese and Dutch versions of the Lewis gun, Lewis rifle and pistol designs that never reached the production stage, and accessories, such as magazines, magazine carriers, mounts, sights, slings and many

Continued on page 29

World-Class Handgun Champion And SWAT Trainer Reveals Little-Known Shooting Secrets That Will Save Your Life If You Ever Use Your Gun In Self-Defense!

If you own or carry a handgun for self-defense,
this is probably going to be the most important letter you've ever read!

By Ben Cooley, SWAT, Hostage Rescue, and Anti-Terrorist Team Trainer; World Champion Competition Shooter

Dear Friend,

It's true! If there's even the slightest possibility that you'll have to use your gun some day for self-defense, then this is going to be the most important letter you've ever read. I'm not kidding.

So please do yourself a favor: Go some place quiet, close the door, and tell everyone not to disturb you for the next 5 or 10 minutes.

Done? Good. I'm only asking you to do this because I want you to carefully absorb and consider what I'm about to share with you. It really could save your life someday.

So let me begin. First of all...

I Have Some Good News And Some Bad News

The good news is, you're very smart if you own AND CARRY a handgun for self-defense — because today, the gun is the "martial arts" of the 21st Century. All the criminals and gang-bangers are carrying. If you're not...

You're At A Serious Disadvantage!

But that's not the bad news. No. The bad news is, even if you carry, chances are you don't know how to use your gun properly in a real life-or-death confrontation!

I don't mean to offend you. I'm only saying this for your own good. But I know what I'm talking about. I've trained with SWAT teams, hostage rescue teams, and anti-terrorist teams for a living. I'm also a world champion handgun shooter at the Soldier of Fortune competition and other high-level competitive events. (More on that later.)

So please believe me when I tell you that there's a lot more to combat shooting than sight-alignment, target identification, stance, and trigger pull. A lot more!

In fact, proper gun use in combat doesn't have much to do with the "mechanical" aspects of shooting at all. Not at all! All your training at the range shooting paper targets will do you no good if you're missing the key element I'm going to explain in this letter, and which you will learn on my new video tape training course, "The Fighting Mindset".

You see, what's more important in combat

is what's going on in your head — and how you convey that in your words, your physical movements, your attitude toward your adversary, and your willingness to shoot him.

Hollywood Will Get You Killed!

Tragically, almost everyone alive today learns their so-called "fighting skills" from what they see on TV and in the movies. I say "tragically" because everything you see on TV and film is absolutely the opposite of what you should do in a real-life armed confrontation!

And yes, I know it's almost "heresy" to say it, but...

Even "Dirty Harry" Would Get His Head Blown Off If He Tried Those Stunts In Real Life!

How do I know? And who am I to be attacking the revered Inspector Callahan?

My name is Bennie Cooley. As I mentioned a moment ago, I'm a professional SWAT Team trainer. I have over 13 years of experience in Counter-Terrorism, Hostage Rescue, and SWAT training. I've seen things that would make your blood run cold.

Currently, I'm a member of an Elite Federal Tactics Team under the direct control of the Federal Government, (protecting "sensitive" installations I can't even reveal). I have over 14 years of intense hands-on experience in counter-terrorism and SWAT training — I've cross-trained with Specialized Military Units shrouded in secrecy, the FBI, and other "in deep" operations I'm not "security cleared" to even speak about.

And when I'm not working with elite soldiers, I travel around the country as one of the top competitive handgun shooters in America. For instance...

- I'm a 2-time Soldier Of Fortune 3-Gun World Champion...
- I recently won the 1996 USPSA 3-Gun Limited National Championship...
- I'm the winner of 7 separate State and Regional Gun Championships...
- And from 1991-92, I was the Championship Team Leader at the IPSC National

Championship in SWAT, Georgia.

I'm telling you all this not to brag, but to show you that when it comes to shooting (and especially combat shooting), I know what I'm talking about, plain and simple...

And Now I Can Teach It To You!

The reason I'm writing to you today is because I've recently completed a life-long dream of mine: To take everything I know about combat shooting and teach it to the average, hard-working American guy who carries a gun for self-defense and the protection of his home and family.

And these days, let's face it...you have to carry. Crime is so out of control that you can't even take your children to the local park without being in fear of some gang-bangers coming in and shooting innocent people. It happened just recently in a small town in Central California. Two people dead, one little girl wounded because a 15-year-old gang member started squeezing off rounds at someone he didn't like!

In another incident I saw on the news, an elderly man was taking pictures of his grandchildren at a playground. Two thugs walked up to him, demanded he give them the camera, and proceeded to beat the hell out of him — hospitalizing him with severe head injuries!

I'm sure you see plenty of this on the news wherever you live. It's everywhere — not just in the big cities anymore.

It's Enough To Turn A Regular Guy Into A Raging Vigilante!

No, I'm not suggesting you do that. But I am saying that your best choice is to protect yourself. The police can't protect you anymore. Just ask them!

And these days, the gun is the martial arts of the 21st Century. Don't let anybody tell you that you're "over-reacting" if you carry a gun. It's the smartest thing you could ever do.

But to be really smart, you have to know how to properly use that gun in a real-life hostile confrontation. And as I said, unless you've already received special training from someone

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like me, chances are you're going to act the way you see "Hollywood cops" move around and shoot their guns on TV and film.

And if you do that...

You Might As Well Call The Mortuary And Make Your Funeral Arrangements Now!!!

I'm not kidding. Unless you've already been trained, chances are you don't know how to act and react in a hostile life-or-death confrontation with an armed aggressor.

The truth is, there are some very special skills you need to know. They don't come naturally. In fact, what comes "naturally" is what will get you killed. You actually have to train yourself to overcome your natural instincts, fears, hesitancy, desire to escape, etc.

In all honesty, there's nothing "magical" about these skills. They all make perfect sense. But unless you're trained by an expert, you'll probably never figure them out on your own.

That's why I'm so eager to share my new training videos with you. I've just completed a 3-tape, 4 1/2-hour video "training course" where I explain everything you need to know to survive and fight successfully in virtually any hostile confrontation you find yourself in.

Taking the exact same skills I teach to SWAT teams, hostage rescue teams, and the anti-terrorist units of elite branches of our government, I give you a no-holds-barred "crash course" in the physical and mental aspects of combat shooting. I call it...

"The Fighting Mindset"

You see, what really makes the difference in a lethal struggle is your mindset. If you don't have the emotional structure to be able to fight in a lethal confrontation, you're going to lose. That's the honest truth.

No matter how big your gun is... no matter how many rounds it holds... no matter how much money you had to pay for it or how accurate it is, you need this specialized training.

And you can't get it anywhere else that I know of, because this is the first video of its kind where someone with my background comes right out and "tells it like it is" on tape so you can know what I and SWAT teams across America know about combat shooting.

What Will You Learn?

Plenty. More than you could ever imagine. More than I could even describe in this letter. But let me give you some of the more important highlights...

First, I start off with Equipment Selection. You'll be amazed that the vast majority of expensive, "sophisticated" guns on the market today are actually bad for you in combat. They'll cost you valuable reaction time!

And you'll discover what I regard as the single most effective weapon to use, bar none. It's used by the best combat shooters in the world, as well as by hostage rescue teams, Delta Force, SEAL Team Six, the LAPD and Denver SWAT teams... you name it. Anybody who knows what they're doing uses this type

of gun. So should you.

- I give you the most important rule to remember in a gunfight.
- Should you carry a revolver instead of a semi-auto? I give you the general rule on how to make this crucial decision.
- You'll learn why you should be able to function your weapon with only one hand. It shouldn't take two.
- I explain what a good holster should and should not have. Officers and soldiers have gotten killed because they had the wrong equipment. I give you 7 "MUSTS" for any holster and magazine pouch you buy. This information alone is extremely valuable.
- There are no one-second "quick-draws" on the street. I show you what to do instead.
- "Intermediate Force" weapons such as batons: Do's and don'ts to consider.
- If you shoot a motivated opponent in the heart, he can still survive for 10-15 seconds and fight you — even kill you! I thoroughly explain what to do about that!
- The best, most effective kind of tactical flashlight to use — and why it's so important to have one.
- The right way to hold your flashlight and your gun at the same time. Other ways are simply not effective. They're too hard to do, and they cause you to waste too much time getting your sights aligned on the target. But the method I teach you lets you illuminate your target and keep full control of your gun at the same time. This one little technique alone could save your life in a night fight.
- I even show you the right kind of ear protection to use during practice and for real-life situations in your home. You might think earmuffs don't matter, but these are especially important to have when an intruder is in your home and you have to investigate the noises you hear.

As you'll see when you watch my video, I have a very important rule when it comes to equipment: Don't rely strictly on your equipment! The most important weapon you have — and indeed, the most dangerous weapon you have — is right between your ears. If you don't learn how to use that in a real fight, you can have every gadget in the world and you're still going to lose.

That's why, throughout the rest of the video training course, I meticulously explain everything you need to know to overcome any mistakes or misconceptions you're now carrying around in your head.

I also train you in the proven techniques of gun-retention and gun take-away methods.

For instance, if someone tries to take your gun away from you, I show you an unbeatable way to keep control of the gun. It surprises the hell out of the person attacking you. Many other methods currently taught to people are extremely dangerous and ineffective. But with this simple method, you will win every time you use it. You can even use it if someone attacks you with a knife.

I also show you how to take their gun away
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— even if they're holding it in your back or if they have you kneeling on the ground, "gangland execution"-style!

Plus...

- Even though criminals look for victims instead of opponents, sometimes it's smarter to look like a victim! I show you how to do this and fool your adversary so you can take his gun away from him before he even knows what hit him!
- To help you become better at shooting, I show you how to master the details — even the "small" stuff such as a proper grip. I show you a "natural" way to grip the gun that automatically increases your accuracy without any effort on your part!
- I teach you how to keep from accidentally putting the gun on "safe" when you're under pressure in a gunfight! (It happens more often than you think — and it has cost a lot of people their lives!)
- The tactical reload: Proper techniques that allow you to safely and reliably change magazines under pressure without skipping a beat.
- Action vs. Reaction: It takes the human brain two-tenths of a second to process the information and react in response to someone else's action. I teach you how to use this "natural law" to your advantage in any hostile situation.
- Most criminals travel in pairs. Here's how to take this fact into account when attacking the first one.
- In any type of conflict, your mind will operate at "light speed" beyond your physical capability. I teach how to make sure this doesn't work against you in a real fight.
- How to go from fear to controlled anger in your response to a hostile threat.
- How to train your subconscious mind to act properly under the pressure of a surprise attack.
- How to get your enemy to immediately do things for you that he doesn't even know he's doing. You'll use his human nature against him!
This is all good stuff. But one of the most crucial things you'll learn from this video training course is...

The Vital Importance of the Reactionary Gap!

Here's what it means: The average person can travel 14 feet in one second, and yet it takes a second and a half for you to react to their initial action. I show you how to train with this lethal "law of nature" in mind.

For instance, you might think that the guy with the knife in his hand is far enough away from you that you'll get your gun out in time to shoot him while he's running toward you. Think again! On this tape, you'll witness a dramatic demonstration of the eye-opening reality of "the reactionary gap".

And since everybody's reactionary gap is different, I tell you how to know what yours is!

From here we move into...

The Blood-Chilling Realities Of Room-Clearing!

And yes, it is blood-chilling. The hardest thing we ever have to do in a hostage-rescue operation is walk up to that front door, ready to go into action. No one wears a cape in our business. We're all human. We all want to live to see our families, or see the next day. So what we do for a living — coming up against bad guys who want to kill us — requires that we damn well better know what we're doing!

Here Are Some Of The Key Things I Teach You

- **NOISE:** What to listen for before you enter a room — and what to do when you don't hear anything. (WARNING: In this case, silence can be deadly!)
- How to "pie" a room — the one right way, and several wrong ways that would get you killed.
- What to do once you see the intruder in your home. How to engage him properly and still protect yourself against a "surprise" threat from his partner.
- The truth about "double-tapping": Should you or shouldn't you fire two shots at each person?

In one segment, I actually shoot the camera in order to demonstrate the proper technique and effectiveness of the room-clearing methods I teach you!

Now, some of these techniques are "obvious." But most are what we call "counter-intuitive." That means they're the opposite of what you *think* you should do.

Further along in the course, I devote a considerable amount of time to teaching you...

The All-Important Rules Of Action Vs. Reaction!

In this fascinating section, you'll get to see a studly, 6' 4", 240-lb. asskicker turn into a quivering tower of jello as I come into the room in a simulated attack that dramatically demonstrates how you should employ the very same methods I teach you on this life-saving video.

You'll also see a 3-man test that demonstrates the proper use of my techniques: 3 "bad guys" are standing together on the street, the way gang-bangers do. One of them has a gun. How do you deal with them? It makes all the difference in the world — whether you live or die. Watch this segment over and over again and ingrain it into your subconscious, and practice it with friends.

You'll also receive a "crash course" on the laws regarding the use of deadly force by civilians, such as...

How To Acquire The Survival Mindset!

Basically, you're in a survival situation right now.

That's how bad crime has become in our

society today. You have to *think about survival* virtually every hour of every day, whether you like it or not. That means you have to prepare yourself for any possibility. Unfortunately, nobody is going to come up and tap you on the shoulder and say, "Hey, two weeks from now, there's going to be a guy down at the convenience store and he's going to pull a gun on you and try to shoot you." Or "He's going to break into your car and try to rape your wife."

If you don't start preparing for these things today — both mentally and physically — then you're losing already. Your attitude is too passive, and it will get you killed. So on my video, I teach you...

- How to obtain "the survival mindset" that will enable you to act and react properly when the shit hits the fan.
- Two lethal attitudes that destroy the survival mindset. How to keep yourself from falling victim to them.
- The number one thing you have to do to win any fight.
- How to react properly to pain and not let it defeat you.
- Once the "losing" mindset has set in during a bad situation, you cannot reverse it. Here's how to prevent it from taking hold in the first place.

I'll show you things you're doing with your gun and with your physical movements that directly sabotage your chances for survival during a hostile encounter. You're doing them and don't even know it, because it's human nature.

You must learn what these are, understand them, and then purposefully avoid them in training so you don't commit these fatal mistakes in real life.

That's what my video course is all about. I've put virtually everything I know into it to make you a highly-competent individual in the area of armed self-defense.

For instance, I also train you in...

The Highest-Level Skills Of Tactical Survival!

- How to be alert to your environment at all times without being paranoid. I explain the military's "color code" system which you can use in your everyday life for optimum security and self-reliance.
- The most important thing to pay attention to when observing a stranger and something doesn't "feel" right.
- How to tell if someone is packing a gun.
- The proper psychological and physical response to the threat of violence.
- Why you should ALWAYS "draw a line" for your adversary to cross.
- FACT: Criminals will normally attack you first. They have the initial surprise. But I show you 3 ways to surprise them and re-gain the tactical surprise.

Get this straight: Nobody's "super-human" — not the criminals, not SWAT teams... no one! We're all subject to human nature. Most people unknowingly allow it to be used against them. But once you watch these tapes, you will

understand where the "pitfalls" are — and how to use human nature (yours and your enemy's) to your advantage.

You Get To "Attend" One Of My Rare Training Courses - Free!

Finally, for the advanced Room-Clearing section of the course, you'll be taken inside one of my rare Training Courses for civilians.

People just like you paid thousands of dollars to attend the Training Course that you're going to see on this video. But you get to "be there" for a fraction of what it cost them.

You'll see the students going through exactly what I teach on the tapes. You'll learn from their mistakes. You'll see me teaching them, which is the next best thing to being there yourself and going through the course.

You'll see me going through the drills, showing the exact right way to do the room-clearing techniques I teach you, including...

- The best way to secure your child's room in your house.
- How to use cover and concealment in your house — and how to assess your house and know the difference. What you can rely on, and what you can't.
- The most fatal mistake people make (thanks to TV and movies) when entering a room with a gun.
- Why SWAT teams, hostage rescue teams, and anti-terrorist soldiers wear ski masks — and how to use this fact to your advantage.
- What cops are required by law to say to a suspect — but you AREN'T! Once again, TV and movies teach you the wrong thing. If you do it in real life, call the mortuary.
- The right way to move when confronting someone if you've got a gun in your hand. Most people do it all wrong, and they'll get killed because of it.

As part of the Room-Clearing session, I also give you in-depth training on...

The Do's And Dont's Of Doorway Entries!

Let's say you come home late at night and you think someone's inside your home who's not supposed to be there. What do you do? I tell you the surprising answer on Tape 3.

- I show you how to properly open a door if you have to enter with your gun. Most people make several critical mistakes because of TV and movies. But I show you the way I train SWAT teams and police officers to enter the room to gain the maximum advantage over anyone who's inside, and get immediate control over the situation.
 - What to do if someone grabs your gun. This simple technique will enable you to keep control of the gun, fire two shots at your attacker, and then finish him off!
 - The pitfalls of entering a room slowly.
 - The legal aspects of who you can and cannot shoot, when, where, and why.
- The bottom line is that you will be in control

of the entire situation, from beginning to end. And that's what it's all about.

Listen To What Experts Say About This Top-Level Training

How good is the training you'll get from these video tapes? Here are some comments from respected individuals whose lives depend on proper training...

"Ben Cooley's ideas and teachings are down to earth and they make sense. This stuff works in the real world. Since taking Ben's course, I have improved my handling of firearms on the range and on the job. I am a firearms instructor, and I try to impart Ben's techniques and philosophy to the officers I teach. I highly recommend The Fighting Mindset to civilian and professional alike."

— Gary Clark • Police Officer and Investigator • California

"I've seen almost everything in police tactical training, and not a lot of things impressed me — until Ben Cooley came along. I was very impressed and saw a lot of new techniques and ideas. Ben's ideas are groundbreaking, new, and unique, and he always gives the reasons behind them! By the second day of training, my tactical team was inspired and transformed, and returned to the job more confident and aware."

— Jerry Lites • Police Officer and Leader of Special Response Team • Sebastopol, California

"I've been a police officer for 32 years, and I have been through a lot of courses. None of these have compared with Ben Cooley's course on The Fighting Mindset. Learning these techniques could save your life in many life-threatening situations. It already has for me!"

— Steve Abbott • Police Sergeant and Rangemaster • Visalia, California

"I found that Ben Cooley's course dealt with real-life situations in a practical manner. His teaching deals with the brutal realities of confrontation scenarios and house searches. It has given our

SWAT team valuable and proven techniques that work for real and save lives. I can't recommend this course enough!"

— Daryl Smith • Police Officer and SWAT Team Leader • Fayetteville, North Carolina

"Many instructors are knowledgeable and competent, but Ben Cooley truly knows how to communicate and inspire. Ben is one of the top shooters and teachers in the country, and he can talk to novices and professionals alike. What I've learned from Ben — especially the firearms retention drills — has stuck with me. The aggressive stance and shooting on the move are very state of the art."

— Jim Wall • IPSC Shooter • Parma, Idaho

"The biggest change Ben Cooley internalizes in people is that the mind is the best and foremost weapon. A lot of courses tell you that if you have certain tools, you'll win. Ben comes around from the other side and shows you that your mindset makes all the difference. You'll learn to be in charge of the situation from the beginning. Nobody comes close to teaching what Ben Cooley teaches!"

— Mike Voight • Professional Shooter and Teacher • Mesa, Arizona

With statements like those, I hope you will give my new video training course, The Fighting Mindset, an honest try.

It's 3 tapes, 6-hours+ long, and it's available normally for \$129.97 plus \$9.65 shipping and handling (total: 139.62). But for this special one-time introductory offer to Soldier of Fortune readers we're offering the complete set, all three videos, for only \$97. That's over \$30 OFF! (This offer will not be repeated).

No doubt you've spent several hundred, even thousands of dollars on your weapons and equipment. Doesn't it make sense to invest a little bit and get the training that will make those weapons pay off in real life? It's a small price to pay for saving your life.

Even so, you take no risk when you order because of...

My 100% Money-Back Guarantee Of Satisfaction

When I send you these tapes, I want you to watch them over and over until the things I teach you become second-nature to you.

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But if for some reason you're not, I don't expect you to pay for them. In fact, you can take up to 90 days to decide if what I teach you is "the real thing" or not.

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Ask for Dept. BC-56

Use your credit card for faster service. Or, fill out the priority Order Form below and mail it in today.

Your tapes will be shipped out to you within a few days, and I urge you to start watching them as soon as they arrive. You never know when you're going to have to use the life-saving techniques and strategies I teach you.

If you employ what you'll learn on these tapes, you won't make mistakes that can cost you your life (or the lives of your loved ones).

It's all about the tactical use of your MIND instead of just your equipment. That's why I call the video "The Fighting Mindset."

You'll call it the most valuable set of videos you've ever owned. Call now.

Sincere best regards,

Ben Cooley

P.S. Here's another testimony from one of my students on how effective this training is...

"In the second day of Ben's course, I got called out on a search warrant with the Special Response Team unit. I was the scout lead-man and the first one into the residence. When I went in, I encountered two men, one of whom held a bottle of crack cocaine. Because of what I learned from Ben Cooley, these guys were totally helpless. They were immediately on the floor, and they knew I was serious!"

— J. Taylor • Police Officer and Trainer • Whiteville, North Carolina

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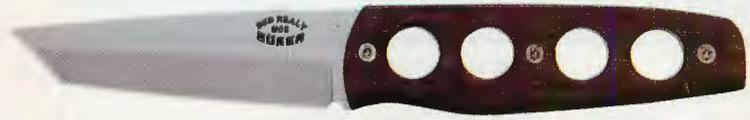
Both the archival and studio photography are excellent. The bibliography is exceptionally detailed. Only an index is lacking. Throughout its history, right up to the present day, the Lewis gun has been misunderstood and underestimated in this country. Hopefully, this superb book will help to clear the misconceptions surrounding what was a very fine machine gun in its day.

Czech Firearms and Ammunition; History and Present, by *Vladimir Dolinek and Vladimir Karlicky*; 1995; 192 pages with color illustrations. Radix, spol. sr.o., Prague, Czech Republic. Distributed by Ironside International Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 55, Alexandria, VA 22313-0055; phone: 703-684-6111; fax: 703-683-5486; \$49.95 plus s&h.

There is much of interest machine gun buffs in this lavishly illustrated history of Czechoslovakian small arms. The hundreds of color photographs are outstanding. The first chapter deals with firearms developments up to 1918 and the only machine gun illustrated is the Model 1909 Austrian-Hungarian water-cooled gun manufactured by the Skoda Works, in Pilsen. The period between the World Wars, 1918 to 1939, saw the introduction of a series of machine guns developed by the private Zbrojovka Praga. One of these guns, the Model 24 designed by the famous Vaclav Holek, became a test bed at Zbrojovka Brno and led to the ZBvz26/30/33 light machine guns that, in turn, eventually led to the British Bren gun. During this same time frame, Vaclav Holek designed his Model 37 caliber 7.92x57mm heavy machine gun. Incredibly complex, but beautifully executed, it was a machinist's nightmare. As there were more than 1,000 machining operations in the receiver alone, the Model 37 was not cost-effective and never achieved large-scale production.

World War II saw development of the Koucky brothers' ZK 403 submachine gun. Subsequent to World War II, this evolved into the ZKK 466 SMG, which featured a tilting magazine (a forerunner of the French MAT49). During this time frame, the Koucky brothers also developed the ZK 383 H and the ZK 480. None of these designs went into series production. Jaroslav Holecck's CZ 447 led to his CZ 23/24/25/26 submachine guns that were adopted by the Czech military and much copied during Uziel Gal's development of the UZI. In the 1950s and 1960s the Model 58 assault rifle was developed, as well as the infamous Model 61 Scorpion submachine gun and the Models 52, 52/57 and 59 light machine guns.

Czechoslovakia's history of small arms design and production stands far above any other country of its size. *Czech Firearms and Ammunition* is a fitting testimony to this rich tradition. Highly recommended. ☒



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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Readiness Crisis: *San Diego Union-Tribune* reports Navy SEALs suffer from sudden, dramatic drop in reenlistments among veteran personnel. Retention rate falls from 90% to 68%. Force of 2,320 men is short 81 officers and 226 enlisted men. SEALs operate in 16-man platoons so personnel shortages quickly degrade unit performance. Some reservists have been recalled to duty, and SEALs normally assigned to headquarters and staff units have been sent back to combat units to keep them up to strength. • **Army Inspector General** reports readiness is declining and current reporting system overstates readiness of units. Initial performance at combat training centers is at historic low and continues to fall. • **Navy** is short 22,000 of its 327,000 personnel, and most shortages are on 327 ships rather than at shore bases. Navy says sailors exhausted from longer ships. Carrier *Truman* is at sea short of 400 sailors. • **Air Force** readiness from to 74.3% in 1998. • **Adultery:** Air Force to court-martial Captain Joseph Belli for defying orders to end affair with enlisted woman and for asking wife and mistress to lie about it. • **Terrorist tours:** NORAD will end tours of Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, in Colorado, saying money is short to provide adequate security to screen out potential terrorists. • **War on Drugs:** Vice President Al Gore announces plans to cut U.S. drug use by 25% in 2002 and 50% in 2007, asking Congress for record \$17.8 billion to fund war on drugs. Gore indicates Mexico will be certified as fighting drugs. United Nations arranges to use EU satellites to monitor drug crops around the world.

2

CHINA

Smart Bomb hardware: U.S. officials arrest Collin Shue, a Chinese businessman holding Canadian citizenship, as he tries to buy advanced fiber optic gyroscopes from undercover U.S. agents posing as corrupt businessmen. Shue planned to ship equipment to China through his Canadian company without applying for export permits. Gyroscopes guide U.S. "smart bombs" to their targets. • **China exchange:** *Washington Times* reports Pentagon is expanding military exchange program with China, giving Chinese more access to sensitive U.S. technology, tactics and techniques.

5

RWANDA

Genocide update: Courts sentence two genocide suspects to death, five others to life in prison, and 17 to up to 17 years. Several top officials of former Hutu government (Eliezer Niyitegeka, Casimir Bizimungu, and Ignance Bagilishema) were arrested in various countries. Rwanda is to send 70 sergeants to Israel for flight training, and five others have completed training on Cessna-310s in Uganda, as the country intensifies efforts to reduce the size of its armed forces while increasing its technology. Rwanda has 10 T-55 tanks.

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NORTH KOREA

Anti-U.S.: Government continues anti-U.S. rhetoric and asks UN to dissolve its military command in South Korea. UN Command held high-level talks with North Korea about avoiding accidents caused by Y2K bug. South Korea, U.S. and Japan agree that North Korea should not be compensated for allowing inspection of Kumchangni underground nuclear site (ignoring 440,000 tons of "humanitarian aid" U.S. is sending through the UN). North Korea estimates 10% of its population, about 3 million people, died in the famine.

9

CUBA

Boat People: Castro complains flaw in 1995 agreement with U.S. allows boat people who reach U.S. shore to remain in U.S. instead of being forcibly returned to Cuba. This, Havana insists, encourages Cubans to risk dangerous sea voyage. Castro has proposed new legislation that would crack down harder on dissent and impose death penalty for drug smuggling. Cuba continues to pressure U.S. to release \$187 million U.S. telephone companies owe Cuban government. Federal Judge Mame King wants to divert the money to pay families of four Cuban dissidents killed in 1996 shoot-down of two Cessnas, but State Department warns doing so would severely affect U.S.-Cuban relations. • **Journalists beware:** New Cuban legislation would send journalists (including Americans and other foreigners) who "serve the interests of the U.S." to jail for up to 20 years.

13

MEXICO

Drug war: U.S. indicates Mexico could win certification as drug-fighting nation this year, but rejects Mexican calls to scrap certification process. Mexico denies recent arrest of corrupt former officials was to appease U.S. Mexico says its drug seizures were down because its effective blockade had forced smugglers to take other routes.

14

SUDAN

Ceasefire: Khartoum government agrees to extend humanitarian cease fire. Army troops recaptured Bonj, killing 147 SPLA rebels.

15

BOSNIA

Government unrest: Central government of Bosnia-Herzegovina sworn into office in February. Movement grows for separate Bosnian Croat state.

3

RUSSIA

Rogue science: U.S. Government Accounting Office reports Russia continues abusing U.S. aid intended to keep top weapons scientists from going overseas to work for rogue nations. About 40% of the aid has been diverted to pay Russian taxes. Scientists in question are, in large part, still working for Russian weapons programs. At least four Russian institutes which have provided nuclear weapons technology to Iran and Libya have been funded by U.S. aid. • **Anti-aircraft:** Kazakhstan receives battalion of S300 anti-aircraft missiles and 16 Su-27 fighters from Russia, reports *Jane's Defence Weekly*. • **Illegal Chinese:** *Intelligence Digest* reports 1.5 million Chinese citizens living illegally in Russian far east, according to Border Guards Director Konstantin Totksy.

4

CONGO

Rebel advances: DRC says it halted rebel advances and will kick rebel allies out. Rebels announce new 60,000-man offensive. Government says it has been repelled. Rebels down Zambian MIG near Kabolo. Angola accuses Rwanda and Uganda of trying to destabilize central Africa. Arthur Zahidi Ngoma resigns from rebel Congolese Rally for Democracy accusing rebels of being a front for foreign invasion.

7

SOUTH KOREA

Government allowed free donations by private groups to North Korea. • Canada rejects scenario by U.S. military strategists that North Korean attack on U.S. would hit Canadian targets first. • South Korea announces it will release 17 long-term political prisoners, including Woo Yong-Gak, world's longest-serving political detainee.

8

COLOMBIA

Peace talks: Government holds peace talks with ELN in Venezuela, but rejects their demand for demilitarized zone like that given FARC. Venezuela warns it will intervene if Colombia's rebel violence spills across its border. ELN declare a Coke bottling plant a military target for refusing to pay "war taxes." • **Human rights:** U.S. announces plans to help Colombia set up human rights observatory. Army rejects FARC accusations it was training children to assassinate rebel leaders. Skirmishes leave 13 soldiers and 68 rebels dead.

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SRI LANKA

Camp bombs: Skirmishes continue, leaving 121 rebels and five security personnel dead. Air force bombed two rebel camps near Paranthan. Six soldiers receive 10-year prison terms for disappearance of 31 students and a teacher from town of Embilipitiya during crackdown against anti-government Sinhalese People's Liberation Front in 1990.

10

UGANDA

ADF bombs: LRA rebels abduct 80 people in Aswa County. The ADF rebels in the West region recruitment drive. Uganda accuses Democratic Congo leader Kabila of funding ADF rebels. ADF sets off two bombs in Kampala.

11

IRAN

Murders: Iran celebrates 20th anniversary of Islamic revolution, Iranian Security Minister Qorban Ali Dorri Najafabadi resigns after members of his ministry implicated in recent murders of dissidents and moderates. Iran arrests more people implicated in murders during February, but rejects EU inquires as "interference." Murder of German bank official in Tehran worsens already shaky Iranian-German ties. Iran's Supreme Court quashes death sentence on jailed German businessman.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

Looking For A Few Good MENSA

DoD studies show that some 55% of Army recruits who dropped out of high school, but subsequently passed a GED and enlisted, also drop out of the Army during the first year. That's a substantial loss to never-used training, and the Army has devised a new test called Assessment of Individual Motivation (AIM) which the Pentagon hopes will target the 45% of dropouts with GEDs who would subsequently not quit the army during the first year of their enlistment, in order that they may be enlisted and the quitters rejected.

According to Col. Patrick Snapp, chief of the Army's Enlisted Accessions Division in Washington, the AIM test is the "dominant element" in the Army's current efforts to predetermine which GED recruits will and will not also quit the Army. Acknowledging recruiting shortfalls, Snapp noted "Obviously, our recruiting is not going as well as we'd like ... there is a group out there ... we're willing to look at them ..."

Currently, high school dropouts with GEDs are limited to 10% of recruits. Observers noted that although GED enlistees from the Vietnam War-era were more likely to be schooled by the Army in menial specialties such as a clerk-typist or jeep driver and serve as a motor-pool dispatcher, many of those who completed their enlistment went on to careers as political consultants or freelance journalists.

Budget 2000: \$2.8 Billion For Anti-Terror

The federal budget for the year 2000 is slated to include \$1.3 billion for domestic preparedness, and \$1.4 billion for computer security and infrastructure defense. The funds are reserved for several systems for detecting and tracking various chemical and biological weapons, and for protecting government computer networks.

Cubans Back To Africa

Some 300 Cuban mercs are reported by *Jane's Defence Weekly* to have arrived in Congo (Brazzaville), to assist the current government with its operations against forces loyal to the previous prime minister.

Army's New Green Bullet

The Environmental Protection Agency, having determined that bullets as we know them can be hazardous to your health, has shut down hundreds of live-fire Army training sites around the country. A typical case was the shooting range at the Massachusetts Military Reservation, which was shut down in 1997 after a study showed that lead and other harmful materials were showing up in the local water supply.

In response, the Army has developed new tungsten-based bullets

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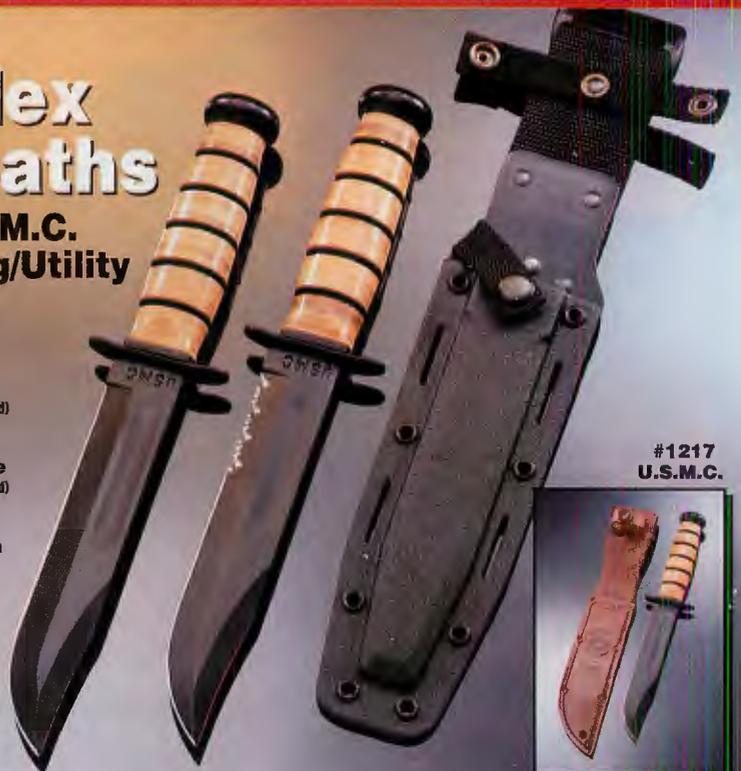
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that are just as lethal as the old lead-cored projectiles, meet with kudos from the EPA, and in the long run are going to cost less. The Army's "Green Bullet" program was an outgrowth of the larger Range 21 effort, an ongoing project to eliminate any adverse effects that its many training areas may pose to the environment. In the meantime, the EPA expressed continuing concern over the "massive amounts of hazardous materials" given off from military use of high explosives and artillery rounds during training.

One million rounds of 5.56mm rifle ammunition are slated to be issued this spring, with other rounds from 9mm to .50 under development. Overall, it is projected the new tungsten-cored bullets will save taxpayers between one and five cents per round, and the \$11-million development project should pay for itself in savings even before it is completed in 2003. The program initially explored seven possible materials for projectiles, but testing reduced the practical alternatives to tungsten/tin and tungsten/nylon mixtures. As both these rounds have performed equally well, cost will determine the final selectee.

WebWatch: Tailwind

When Ted Turner's CNN and Time-Warner alleged in June 1998 that SOG had gone after American defectors with nerve gas in Vietnam, an Internet Mike Force of Operation Tailwind veterans mobilized. After-action reports show that: Aging, but still dangerous, SOG operators can learn new tricks (use computers and the Internet); CNN couldn't deliver the facts to fulfill the fantasy; CNN producers April Oliver and Jack Smith were fired and the other usual suspects, including Tailwind Perp-At-Large Peter Arnett, still lurk in the shadows of Ted Turner's CNN. Turner feigned repentance with a pseudo-apology: "If anybody has a whip, I'll take my shirt off and beat myself until I'm bloody ... I couldn't hurt any more if I were bleeding ... It's been the most horrible nightmare I've ever lived through ... If committing suicide would help, I've even given that some consideration."

Here's what's happening now as reflected on the Web:

Forbes (7-27-98) *Media Caught in a Web:*

<http://forbes.com/forbes/98/0727/6202048a.htm> ("Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one," as Vietnam vets use Internet to humble media giant Time-Warner CNN.)

The roots of the Tailwind hoax:

http://www.worldnetdaily.com/bluesky_exnews/19980918_xex_the_roots_ta.shtml (Ho Chi Minh, Bertrand Russell and CNN founder Ted Turner's wife, Jane Fonda, claimed American use of "poison gas" in the Vietnam War in 1966 and 1972, but the story had no credibility, no legs and no footnote in most histories.)

Tailwind Info Center: The Real Truth About Tailwind:

<http://www.greenberet.net/tailwind/index.html> (SF raiding party occupies CNN, bumper stickers, Ted Turner's *mea culpa*.)

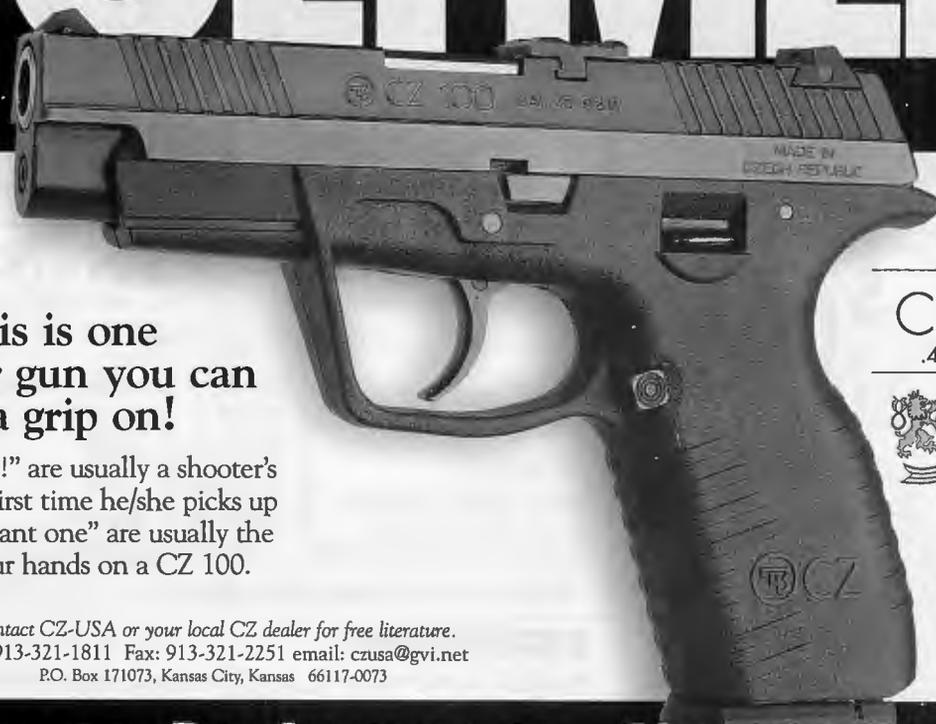
Special Forces Association Position Paper, Ted Turner Report:

<http://specialoperations.org/tailwind/>

Special Forces Association Commo Bunker:

http://www.sfahq.org/commo_bunker.htm (Tailwind letters to

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CNN from SFA, other vets orgs.)

CNS June 26, 1998 — *Special Forces Refute Allegations of U.S. Use of Sarin Gas in Laos*: <http://www.conservativenews.org/defense/archive/DEF19980626b.html>

Peter Arnett: *American True and Blue?*: <http://www.hackworth.com/14jul98.html> (David Hackworth)

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http://www.ultimatesniper.com/sog_tailwind.shtml (by John Plaster)

Operation Tailwind — *Related Media Monitors and Columns*:

http://www.aim.org/special/related_mm_col.html (good collection of related stories from Accuracy in Media.)

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In Today's Rich But Rowdy Africa

Text & Photos by
Al J. Venter



Many private organizations are involved in military work in Africa. Executive Outcomes was training these Angolan special forces (above) when the author visited the camp. (left) Things often go wrong for private contractors in Africa. Here, a private helicopter crashed in the Sierra Leone jungle after being hit by birds. (right) Group of rebels killed by Executive Outcomes irregulars after they had massacred innocent civilians. Scenes such as this are becoming common in Africa.



WASHINGTON — No matter how bad things become in Africa — and in places conditions are pretty grim — there are cities, mines, industries, businesses, communications and other necessities of everyday life that need protecting. Most of those doing this sort of work — and there are thousands of people involved in security just about everywhere on the troubled continent — are former policemen, intelligence specialists, guards, soldiers and the like, many of them from the United States. Yet, as conditions deteriorate, the demand for the services of these expatriates is likely to increase.

Conflict threatens a number of African states. Civil war has again overtaken events in Angola, as it has in the neighboring Congo and across the river in Congo-Brazza. The same situation holds for Sierra Leone, the Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda and elsewhere. In Nigeria some people are working hard to disrupt that nation's oil supplies.

For all of this, Britain, the U.S. and France continue to spend millions exploiting Africa's natural wealth. Chevron has just pledged to invest \$1 billion a year for five years in Angola. Even as the United Nations prepares to pull out, the American petro-giant Phillips Petroleum disclosed last January that it has taken a 40% stake in Angola's Block 7 oilfield in a deal worth more billions. The French oil giant *Elf Aquitaine* last year bought a bigger chunk of Congo-Brazza's oil stakes.

Similarly, in Nigeria, Royal Dutch Shell made the biggest-ever single investment in sub-Saharan Africa — about \$8.5 billion — to exploit new offshore oil resources. Details of this venture were made public in February, even as expatriate oil workers were being kidnapped in the Delta region.

In Sierra Leone, as the country staggers from one round of hostilities to another in the current bout of civil war, it was interesting that several hundred Lebanese businessmen (and some of their families) refused to leave the carnage. They needed to get back to their diamond concessions in the interior, they said. A Beirut report stated that more than a dozen Lebanese, some of them women and children, were killed by rebels during the incursion.

One of the consequences of all this is that because of a steady erosion in security — and of the ability of government services to cope with it all — many of these countries are having to take a fresh look at guarding their assets. To some of them, local people just won't do, either because they are incapable or corrupt. Barely a country in Africa isn't affected.

Bad Cops

Many of the spokesmen for the companies *Soldier Of Fortune* spoke to maintained that law enforcement in Africa had become a priority. Some said that while there were police, they were often inadequate, badly trained, illiterate and astonishingly ill-equipped. Others were unwilling to get off their butts, but at the same time were always open to "bids for favors." In most cases it

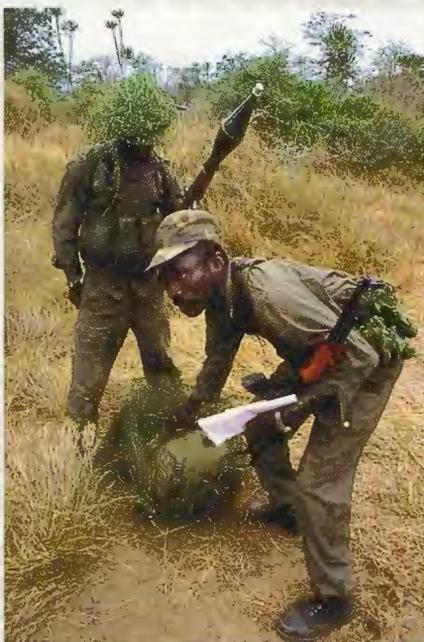
was a question of too few people being asked to do too much.

Another problem facing commercial bosses is that the local police are often not able to react; they either don't have vehicles that work or lack cash for fuel. This is an everyday problem in places like Zambia and Uganda where nobody holds his breath when he's called the cops. It's starting to get that way in South Africa. Similarly, any company in Kenya, and, to a lesser extent, Tanzania, that does not have Askari guards on duty around the clock stand to suffer losses. A factory that was left unguarded in Mombasa two years ago was stripped of almost all of its machinery because the night watchmen didn't arrive on time. Insurance assessors are still trying to establish whether the lapse was intentional.

One of the points made by a foreign company with substantial mineral interests

in Angola was that there were now more than 80 private companies offering security services in that country. Asked not to be identified (because of possible recriminations), a spokesman said that while no company likes to spend profits to maintain the status quo, there was simply no alternative. Most of the security companies in Angola are owned and run from abroad. Almost all of them had local nationals on their boards, though these people often don't do much more for their money than drive to work once a month to pick up a check.

Among the most active participants in security on the continent are South Africans as well as a sprinkling of Zimbabweans, partly because many of them not only have a military or security background, but also know Africa well, having been born there. A lot of them can identify with the problems, not least in their own countries. Other

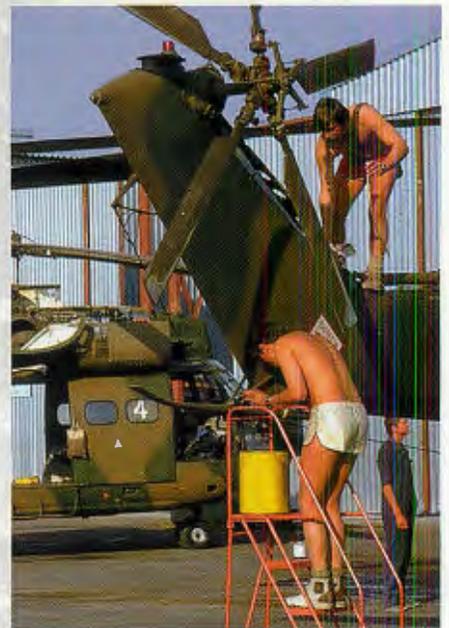


(above, left) South African instructor, armed with folding-stock AKM, puts Angolan soldier (with RPG-7V grenade launcher) through his paces in camp south of Luanda. With the right connections, this work is available in several countries including the Congo, Sudan and Uganda. (above, right) Indigenous African staff invariably earn little compared to well-paid expatriates, who are finding work in droves these days throughout security-starved Africa. While private security forces thrive, locals are sometimes required to get by on what the jungle provides for food. (below) Even those with military training contracts need to "produce the goods." All work is evaluated by the Angolan High Command.





Russian-built Mi-17 Hip (above) remains most commonplace of all whirlybirds in Africa. (right) If you have a technical skill, you will always find work in Africa. Aviation ground staff are in hot demand in every capital city.



nationalities involved include Australians, Canadians, some Americans — especially in the more specialized disciplines involving electronics — and people from just about everywhere in Europe. Interestingly, former British Bobbies are in strong demand. Historically, British nationals have always been involved in security in Africa. Most of the security guards in the Sierra Leonian diamond fields before independence came from the United Kingdom.

Big Bucks

None of these people come cheap. Take one example: the Australian, Brazilian and Angolan-owned *Sociedade de Desenvolvimento Mineiro de Angola* (SDM), which owns a large diamond mine in Angola's northeastern Lunda-Norte Province. In early January, four company employees were killed when their vehicle was ambushed by UNITA. Security was upgraded to cope with the potential threat. Consequently, SDM now employs 500 security staff to protect the 200 people working at the mine. Many are expatriates. The ratio of guards to employees is 2.5 to 1. And this is only one company among hundreds.

Why, if things are so bad, do foreign companies stay on? Because, as with just about everything else in Africa, there is almost no limit to the stakes.

SDM's Angolan diamonds, for instance, fetch up to \$200 per carat (pc) compared to similar alluvial operations in Australia and Indonesia, which might average \$4/pc. Significantly, Sierra Leone's gemstones are of even better quality. Some still find 100-carat top-quality stones in the interior of that country. Stones of 300 carats, though rare, are not unknown.

Yet, to do business in these states — some of which are ruled by the gun — can be dangerous. Companies consequently tend to employ a variety of specialists who are paid not only to keep the warlords at bay but also to prime their bosses on local politics, power struggles within rival groups as

well as new and unexpected developments which might affect business, potential threats, factional differences among local tribes, travel in the interior and health. About the only African country where these norms do not apply is Botswana, but it has always been said that the Gaborone government is a subsidiary of De Beers.

The situation was encapsulated when Mechem, a Pretoria company, obtained a contract two years ago to lift mines in Angola. One team worked in the north, the other in the south. There was trouble from



Sierra Leonian companies have depended on local hunters (Kamajors, above) for security. But armed with 12-gauge shotguns, they were outgunned by the RUF rebels and many were killed.

the start. The Luanda government wanted to impose taxes on the Casspirs and other hardware being brought into the country even though Angola was getting it all free.

Then the northern team was held up by UNITA for 103 days (at \$8,000 a day) while they argued about procedures. It was obviously a ploy, and an expensive one. Finally, some of the southern team were kidnapped by banditos and that took a while to sort out. Having cleared the mines, current hostilities in Angola have seen them all laid again.

Anti-malarial Prophylaxis

Health is an important factor in Africa and is never to be underrated, if only because it's cheaper to organize an emergency flight to get someone out of the country than to go through the sometimes horrific rigmarole of declaring a legitimate death to the authorities. In such cases the obfuscation is not only expensive, but inordinately time-consuming.

There are other considerations. For example, some of the Angolan diamond mines are only a day's drive from the last Ebola epidemic that occurred in the former Zaire, today the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Also, anti-malarial prophylaxis don't always work the way they should. The BBC disclosed on its Health File last February that there were new strains of the disease in west Africa that can kill a man in a day. Trouble is, to begin with, all the symptoms are like flu.

Then, to cap it all, you might need incentives. Achieving any result in which an African government (or its armed forces) is involved often requires a "sweetener." In Angola, in particular, it's a matter of "no incentive, no result." It's as simple as that, which could be a reason why American companies fare badly doing business on the continent. If they are found to be paying bribes by their government, they are likely to be prosecuted back home.

During two visits to Angola when Executive Outcomes maintained a military

presence there, I spent time in the company of Lafras Luitingh, one of the senior directors of EO. In Angola we always took along a little something whenever visiting any of the top brass he dealt with. Sometimes it was a case of whisky; once a powerful American short-wave radio. Previous gifts to one of the generals in Luanda included a \$30,000 diesel generator (the city is plagued by power cuts). EO also handed over a new Land Cruiser to one of the functionaries with whom it was involved for no better reason than he asked for one.

It was interesting that the generator could have powered a small town. But the general used it only for his domestic needs, which included his video games and a computer that was always on but which nobody knew how to use. All the other buildings in this outlying suburb to the south of the capital, meanwhile, had only intermittent power.

What became clear in this *SOF* survey is that security companies working in Africa must, at enormous cost, employ teams to protect property and staff.

Graft and Libation

Invariably, in places like the Congo, Angola, Nigeria, Gabon, Kenya, Senegal, Cameroon and elsewhere, these firms might find they work best in conjunction with local armies or paramilitary units. A small *cadeau* might change hands if muscle is needed and for awhile everybody is happy. The arrangement is historic; graft is as much a part of the culture as the daily libation. It is also convenient and effective, though the bigger the task, the heavier the "dash."

There are other matters which need to be looked at by expatriates working there. Contingency plans should be in place to evacuate people from an area (or even a country) often at a moment's notice should things get out of hand. In recent months that scenario has played itself out in several African countries including Sierra Leone, parts of Angola, Congo-Brazza and in Nigeria with the kidnapping of foreign workers in the oil-rich Delta area.

Africa, it would seem, cannot live without the West. Conversely, it has often been said, the West is simply not able to manage without the continent's natural resources. Or can it? Africa has most of the world's diamond reserves, a lot of the oil, and it supplies almost half of the world's gold, as well as just about every precious mineral there is.

Observe what is happening in this regard in Angola. Its oil output is currently topping 800,000 barrels per day (BPD). London's *Economist Intelligence Unit* said last January that "on the basis of discoveries made thus far, earlier forecasts that national output would reach 2 million BPD by 2000 may prove somewhat conservative." To guard these assets, private industry spends a fortune to hire trained personnel who often don't have a single firearm among them.

Air Scan

Air Scan, for instance, an American company operating off Angola's Cabinda

coast (and exclusively using only former U.S. vets) conducts its own police work. It maintains an infra-red, around-the-clock airborne surveillance system that checks for insurgent groups. These people operate from specially modified Cessna 337 aircraft. The same with a British company, Defense Systems Limited (DSL), that has unarmed personnel who patrol that country's off-shore waters. If a threat is encountered, both companies call in the military.

The same situation holds for Nigeria. Oil production there is currently running at about 2 million BPD, though there are powerful political factors which, it is said, involve a foreign-driven insurgency that would like to stop that flow altogether. There has been massive dislocation in the southeast of the country around the oil terminal town of Warri. Latest news after the abduction of eight oil workers from Texaco's facil-

ities in early 1999 was the grabbing of British national Jim Simpson and his two-year-old son in mid-February. Although all of them were released after days, the brouhaha that resulted had its effect.

Lagos sources reckon that troubles within the oil industry are not home-bred. They talk of "foreign agents" who are actively stoking dissidence among the locals, and they might just be right. Unofficially, Libya is mentioned in this context for no better reason than if Nigeria were to stop producing tomorrow, crude oil prices would rocket. Not unexpectedly, after a succession of recent bomb blasts and some deaths in the southeast of the country, BP, acting independently of the Nigerian Army, promptly beefed up its security.

So, too, when conditions in Freetown were at their worst and the Nigerian-led security force ECOMOG was paralyzed in the face of a surprisingly well-armed rebel onslaught (which included some South African mercenaries) in early January, it soon became clear that Sierra Leone's diamond wealth was threatened. Again, Libya's name came up.

Power Play

The major powers stepped in. Suddenly, unmarked military C-130 transports started arriving at Lungi Airport and disgorged thousands more Nigerian troops. The insurgents were quickly forced from the coastal lowlands. It would not have done to have some of the world's richest gem-quality diamond pockets fall into the hands of a nation hostile to the West.

In South Africa, privately run security services are among the biggest in any country apart from Russia. The regular police — with about 130,000 personnel on the payroll — do not appear to be coping. By all accounts, the government is not able to handle the escalating crime and violence which, with two murders every hour and 50,000 rapes a year, according to a recent report in the *Johannesburg Mail & Guardian*, makes South Africa the most violent nation on earth.

There are now almost three-quarters of a million people employed by private security companies in the country. The money spent on security could have been better used elsewhere.

The use of private "armies," such as those deployed by the now-defunct EO, is regarded by some authorities as a possible way of countering insurrection. America's state department even conducted a symposium on the subject in Washington last year.

The reasons are obvious. It was EO that forced Angola's Savimbi to the negotiating table in 1994. EO also quickly forced peace on Sierra Leone the last time around by killing a lot of the rebels who caused the trouble. Sandline, EO's erstwhile British affiliate, would have done so again in the present phase of hostilities had it not been wracked by a parliamentary scandal last year.

Now, even the most vocal opponents of

Continued on page 71

get a job

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Contacts for military-related and security work:

Sandline International
535 Kings Road, Chelsea
London, England SW 10 OSZ
Phone and fax: +44 171 351-5555

Military Professional Resources, Inc., (MPRI)
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Fax: (703) 684-3528
E-mail: info@mpri.com
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Ashes of The A Shau



The 30th Anniversary Of The Battle Of Hamburger Hill

by Tom McCarthy

L

ocated approximately 25 miles west-southwest of the city of Hue, Dong Ap Bia overlooked much of the 2-mile wide, 28-mile stretch of the A Shau Valley, known between March 1965 to January 1969 as "Charlie Country." Its major headquarters and stronghold was Communist Base Area 611 — a nearly impenetrable safe haven for the North Vietnamese Army (NVA), inside Laos.

Without major interference from U.S. or Army of Vietnam (ARVN) forces, Base Area 611 was a major contributor to the logistical feeding of I CTZ (I Corps Tactical Zone). Communist commander, General Vo Nguyen Giap, knew he had no airpower in the South but with the cover of darkness combined with triple-canopy jungle, his NVA built a network of roads spanning throughout the valley all the way

The pucker factor was high on the morning of 10 May 1969. Allied troops numbering 1,800 departed Firebase Blaze on the edge of the dreaded A Shau Valley for one of the most savage battles of the Vietnam War.

Sixty-five Hueys formed into V-formations headed northwest for 25 kilometers to a 3,000-foot mountain on maps known as Dong Ap Bia. Ten days and 11 bloody assaults later, many would call it "Hamburger Hill." On military maps, however, it was almost innocuously designated "Hill 937."

During the entirety of "Operation Apache Snow," which included the assaults on Hamburger Hill, 132 of America's best were KIA — and a minimum of 535 were wounded (at least 44 KIAs and 297 WIAs of these totals on Hamburger Hill), grim statistics which ignited and fanned a bitter Congressional brouhaha on the human cost of this brutal battle.

Enemy losses were tallied at 625 KIA and an unknown number WIA.

east to the coast. Trailwatchers in the valley near 611 counted truck traffic in the region flowing at the rate of nearly 1,000 per-day by 1968. Charlie built hard-packed roads obscured by natural cover. All were pock-marked with turn-offs (hides) for use during "arc lights" (B-52 strikes) and maintenance stops to keep the trucks rolling.

The siege of the Marine base at Khe Sanh,

60km north of the A Shau Valley, was the diversionary precursor to the overall battle plan by Giap to assault 36 of 44 province capitals and 64 district capitals — *simultaneously* — on 30 January 68, kicking off the disastrous Tet Offensive. While stunning the Allies, it was undeniable slaughter for at least 5,000 Communist troops — an enormous tactical blunder.

But it was a cold-water reality of the Tet Offensive that made the need to reassert Allied influence in the A Shau Valley an urgent priority.

Suddenly, continued troop level increases repeatedly requested by General Westmoreland made sense. So, in 1968, U.S. troop levels peaked on 11 April with 549,500 troops in-country to meet the Communist threat. That in turn brought important changes in command and command structure. "Westy" was bumped up to the Pentagon as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, departing the field

on 10 June 68, handing-off Vietnam to General Creighton W. Abrams, the new commander of Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV). During the hand-off, Westmoreland reaffirmed to Abrams the critical significance of the Central Highlands, the DMZ and the A Shau Valley. He was aware of Giap's alleged plan of trying to split South Vietnam in half to give his Communist Politburo a significant posture for impending peace negotiations which were soon to begin.

It was time to bring smoke on Charlie in a big way and take away his supplies — now that the manpower was available.

In 1969, planning staff members formulated a series of four operations: "Operation Dewey Canyon," "Massachusetts Striker," "Apache Snow" and "Montgomery Rendezvous," to accomplish missions, which included the destruction of supplies and supply routes, massive destruction of enemy troops through sustained engagement, and reestablishing troop presence in the valley guarded by firebases strategically located to support allied troop movements. This was wishful thinking.

"Operation Dewey Canyon" commenced on 20 January 69. U.S. Marines were given the task of driving deep across the valley directly to the heart of the problem. Communist Base Area 611, that straddled the SVN-Laotian border. Three battalions, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of the 3rd Marine Regiment, leapt from the Vandergrift Combat Base on a massive search and destroy.

By late February, Marines concluded "Dewey Canyon" and damaged Base Area 611. What they found did not shock MACV HQ: 73 AAA guns, 16 122mm field cannons, nearly 1,000 AK47s, perhaps 1,000,000 rounds of small-arms munitions and 1/2-million pounds of rice. NVA losses during the six-week operation were put at 1,700 KIA, with nearly twice that number wounded. Most important, Charlie was served notice that allied troops were now willing to drive into the A Shau. Their sanctuary was now challenged. All their supplies accumulated throughout the Valley over the last four years might now be in some jeopardy. The ability of the North Vietnamese to wage war in South Vietnam on a large scale was now possibly threatened.

For the NVA, it was time to take a stand.

The next operation, "Massachusetts Striker," kicked off on 1 March 1969 in the aftermath of "Dewey Canyon." The op was targeted in the southern segment of the A Shau Valley, courtesy of the 1/17th Cav, including elements of 1/502nd 101st ABN as an airborne assault. It began with construction of firebase Whip on the eastern edge of the A Shau, and within 24 hours of initiation everything began to turn to shit. No sooner had troops landed and begun clearing the area for the firebase to support the operation than the weather went sour. Rain followed by heavy fog and more rain held things to a crawl for 10 miserable days. Then things got worse.

At the first chance for assault it was decided to insert troops by slicks into an

One Man Remembers



Clark family photo

Pvt. Paul Clark (left) talks to his 1st Sergeant at the edge of Firebase Ta Bat, April 1969 — two weeks before he was sent to Hill 937.

Twenty-one-year-old Paul Clark, of Massachusetts, was not unlike most conscripts of the '60s; he didn't like the thought of the war and sure as hell didn't wish to be involved — but when his country called him to duty, that was that.

"I had uncles and other family members who were in WW II and Korea. I didn't feel it was right if they went for me not to go. I'm just as American as them." So when his number was called in 1968, Private Clark was off to war. "I ended up with the 2nd/11th Artillery, 101st ABN, and spent much of my time working out of various firebases in I CTZ." After eight months in country he got an assignment he would rather forget.

"In early '69 shit was really heating up. Our AO in the A Shau was catching hell. Three others and myself were ordered one day to report to a lieutenant who gave us the grim news — "You four are going in to replace troops for 'Apache Snow.' We need forward observers with experience, and you're it." Clark had no way of knowing it but he was headed for the operation underway on Hill 937, later known as Hamburger Hill.

"Some of our observers on the hill were getting killed and wounded at a high rate and we were going in as replacements." This happened on day five of the 10-day assault, on 10 May 69. Clark received a rude reception when his bird landed near the command post of the 3/187th, which led the assault.

"When I jumped off the chopper, a work detail was in progress nearby. Five guys were loading bodies onto a cargo net for pick up by a Chinook. The odd-man detail made me look twice and that's all it took, "Hey, give us a hand!" I stepped up and me and this guy loaded at least 10 GIs onto that net. I'd say at least 50 bodies were in that pile when the bird came in — all Americans, no bodybags, just bodies."

From the start, Paul had nothing but bad vibes about going into this fight.

"When we had to synchronize our watches for fire control, I looked at mine and it was dead. I'd had that watch since the day I left for basic training and it never gave me a problem before then. I ended up borrowing another one."

Private Clark spent the next five days on the hill with the ARVN blocking force that held the eastern slope of Dong Ap Bia.

"I was basically a walking radio rack for my lieutenant. We handled the information to and from fire control and the forward observers. We pounded that hill almost non-stop. Eventually, they worked their way up the hill with the ARVN and on the fifth day made the summit late in the afternoon.

It was like some strange landscape, like out of a movie; everything burnt, bent or twisted. It was very unnatural. Guys were just walking around like zombies, some just sat and stared blank. That bird to take us back to base camp couldn't come fast enough."

When Paul did get back to base he wrote three letters in the days that followed, one to his dad, one to an aunt, and one to his dad's best friend.

In the latter he spoke of what it was like on Hamburger Hill. In the 30 years since he wrote those words — until this account — he never talked about it

— T.M.

abandoned firebase called Veghel. 1/502nd was ordered to combat assault (CA) into the base and conduct reconnaissance in force (RIF) until contact. They didn't have to wait.

Charlie had claymore mines strung about in the best LZ locations at Veghel pointing skyward. The first slick in, and six choppers following (all Hueys with about six troops and four crewmen aboard) were shredded and dropped to the ground. NVA infantry ringed the perimeter and the men were trapped in a shooting gallery enduring showers of RPGs and small-arms fire, opening up as the choppers' skids bumped to the ground.

When In Doubt, Call In Napalm

Dead bodies stacked up quickly, another assault was attempted by the NVA using their ancient human wave tactics, trying to overrun the location before American reinforcements could land. The second wave soon languished, dead and dying, upon the bodies of the first, their blood soaking the tree line. But Charlie again massed — for a third assault.

Knowing they could not indefinitely repel the enemy, the trapped Americans radioed in a napalm strike — just 100 meters from their positions. Two nape canisters landed so close some grunts suffered instant hair and eyebrow removal. But the rest landed square on the NVA. A pause ensued as fried Communist forces limped back allowing the next American slick to insert 3rd Platoon, much to the relief of their wounded 2nd Platoon comrades.

During the following cold wet morn-



AP/Wide World

A trooper of the 101st Airborne Division attempts to save the life of a buddy at Dong Ap Bia Mountain, 20 May 1969.

ing, Tac Air and artillery fire missions pounded the NVA positions. The Communists beat feet and headed for a high nearby ridge called Dong A Tay. Soon, the remainder of the 101st's assault force landed and conducted a massive RIF toward the mountain. What they encountered was something never before encountered by U.S. troops in Vietnam, at least not on this scale.

The location was a reinforced fortress

hidden by jungle, including a labyrinth of tunnels and trenches leading to reinforced bunkers containing crew-served weapons. The positions formed concentric rings around the ridge with interlocking fields of fire.

Once commenced, the bloody assault on Dong A Tay took three days and cost nearly 50% casualties for Alpha and Bravo companies to clear the ridge. But that was small compared to Communist losses — a base

Valley Of Death: *Thung Lung A Shau*

To American soldiers in South Vietnam, the A Shau Valley was a rugged and unfriendly place. Not that there weren't plenty of other spots which fit that description, but the A Shau was unique in many ways. Long a haven for North Vietnamese units and a heavily used logistical pipeline, the valley was a steep-sided gash through the northern Annamite Mountains running parallel for 25 miles to the Laotian border. Thick trees and brush clung to the slopes and the valley floor, and dark rain-filled clouds cloaked the bordering mountaintops, some of which soared to 3,000 feet. One road, Route 548 — an overly glorified term for the narrow dirt path — wound down the valley from the abandoned base of A Luoi to the tiny town of A Shau at the valley's southern terminus.

But Route 547 was of great concern to the South Vietnamese. Branching out of the valley near the village of Ta Bat, the road meandered northeast for 40 miles into the city of Hue. Without a doubt, the A Shau Valley was a dagger aimed at the heart of the ancient imperial capital.

North Vietnam was well aware of this when the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam in 1954. Hanoi settled down for a long war. Far from accepting the new reality of two separate countries, the communists immediately looked for ways to extend their power south of the new Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

In 1959, the North Vietnamese began building the Ho Chi Minh Trail, though in those early days it was a mere shadow of the massive supply system that it would later become. The first trail was a spider web of pathways leading across the DMZ and into South Vietnam, but because Saigon's soldiers regularly patrolled there, North Vietnamese efforts were often thwarted.

For this reason, in 1961, Hanoi shifted the focus of its infiltra-

tion from the DMZ west to the Laotian border, though the A Shau remained crucial to the war effort in northern South Vietnam, an area Saigon called I Corps. The North Vietnamese established several base areas — storage and infiltration points for men and materiel — inside Laos. One of them, Base Area 611, had its eastern terminus at the northern end of the A Shau Valley. While rugged terrain isolated the A Shau from the more populated coastal areas, it was a natural funnel into South Vietnam. Better still, from Hanoi's perspective, North Vietnamese troops in the A Shau were a thorn in the rear of American and South Vietnamese positions along the DMZ, while at the same time threatening Hue and Danang, the biggest cities in I Corps.

In 1966, in reaction to the massive U.S. troop buildup, Hanoi made the northern part of South Vietnam into an independent military region called the B4 Front (also known as Military Region *Tri-Thien-Hue*; for Quang Tri Province, Thua Thien Province and Hue). Within two years the B4 Front had at its disposal between 50,000 and 65,000 troops, all with the responsibility of protecting Route 9 (the road running east-west between Dong Ha, just south of the DMZ, and Tchepone, Laos, the entrance to Base Area 611) and the A Shau Valley, the two main spurs of the Ho Chi Minh Trail entering South Vietnam from Laos.

Not surprisingly, the A Shau's strategic position meant that the North Vietnamese would fight to keep it, and this made the American task there a difficult one. In June 1965, General William C. Westmoreland, commander of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), established three Special Forces camps in the valley. By December, it was clear that they were badly outnumbered, and two were abandoned. The third, located at the A Shau's



AP/Wide World

A paratrooper wounded during an assault against 3,000-foot Dong Ap Bia, the mountain dubbed "Hamburger Hill" by GIs of the 101st Airborne, grimaces in pain as he awaits evacuation at base camp.

hospital was discovered inside the mountain with a list of patients treated revealing over half of the NVA 700-man battalion was killed or WIA.

"Bloody Ridge," as the men called it, was a nasty preview of things yet to come in the A Shau. The show was hardly over.

The Main Event

After digesting the bitter lessons-learned of "Massachusetts Striker," the next round,

"Apache Snow," was adjusted accordingly. On a daily basis, for more than a month prior to the start of the mission, C-130s dropped 10- to 15,000-pound Daisy Cutters into the dense jungle creating instant LZs. Thirty locations were blasted clear of jungle up and down A Shau. Charlie had no idea which LZ would be selected for the apparent impending big-league operation.

On the nervous adrenaline-soaked morning of 10 May 69, "Apache Snow"

commenced, the curtain rising on a one-hour LZ prep preceding the combat assault insertion of the five-battalion force. Five LZs surrounding the mountain Dong Ap Bia — Hill 937 — became ground zero. At 0600, Tac Air arrived on station, under the guidance of ground commander Lieutenant Colonel Weldon Honeycutt, 3/187th, 101st Airborne, hovering nearby in his UH-1D and personally directing the initial air strikes. 250-pounders filled with HE, 20mm cannon and napalm lit up once-quiet positions as the assault began in earnest. Aircraft continued the softening-up and soon cleared the area before all hell broke loose. From positions east and south of Ap Bia every piece of artillery in range let go at 0650 hrs. — five firebases with 155mm main guns and almost 65 howitzers all erupting in unison. Hundreds of rounds thundered and cratered into coordinates adjacent to the five predetermined landing zones. Later, the final touchups of the LZs were added by gunships with minigun fire, rockets and flechette rounds.

While this was underway, the 65-Huey armada was thumping inbound with the first waves of Honeycutt's troops to secure the LZs and establish perimeter security. Cobra and Huey gunships, bristling with munitions, hovered near the LZs while CA teams touched down around 0710 hrs.

"Screaming Eagles" of the 101st

Continued on page 72

southern entrance, was overrun on 13 March 1966. With that battle, the North Vietnamese made it clear that they would fight all comers to the valley.

In the summer of 1966, U.S. Marines moved into the northern part of the A Shau, but a combination of fierce resistance and bad weather pushed them back. For almost two years the communists held unopposed sway over the A Shau, using it to launch two limited offensives along the DMZ, in 1967, and a concerted attack against Hue during the 1968 Tet Offensive. Stunned by the capture of Hue, Westmoreland decided to preempt further offensives by sending troops into the A Shau to punish the North Vietnamese. In April 1968, the highly mobile 1st Cavalry Division launched "Operation Delaware" but, once again, North Vietnamese tenacity, rugged terrain and atrocious weather joined forces to thwart the Americans, who nevertheless killed over 800 enemy soldiers but left without seriously harming the enemy network.

By late 1968, General Westmoreland decided to concentrate his limited manpower resources around Saigon. But he did what he could to keep pressure on the North Vietnamese in the A Shau. A procession of Special Forces reconnaissance teams were sent into the valley to pinpoint enemy bases for destruction with B-52s — but many were never heard from again.

During 1969, limited operations kept the valley from becoming the exclusive domain of the North Vietnamese, but there was no attempt to permanently push the enemy out. In January, the 9th Marine launched Operation "Dewey Canyon" north of the A Shau, but history repeated itself. Despite inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy, the Marines met stiff resistance and failed to disrupt the logistical pipeline.

In March, the 101st Airborne Division tried the same thing in the southern part of the valley. Fighting bad weather, hostile terrain and a ready and willing enemy, the paratroopers still managed to find and destroy several supply caches and troop complexes. It was these

discoveries that convinced the division to go ahead with "Operation Apache Snow" in May 1969.

In 1970, while most attention was turned toward the Cambodian border west of Saigon, the 101st Airborne Division maintained a handful of its bases near the A Shau Valley. The beginnings of the U.S. troop drawdown were being felt on the battlefield, prompting commanders to come up with new ideas for stretching their manpower. One plan was to emphasize fire support bases, self-contained islands of artillery strategically placed to dominate the terrain. Mobile warfare was falling by the wayside. One such base opened by the paratroopers was Firebase Ripcord, built in April 1970. But the North Vietnamese would not allow this threat so close to their logistical lines, and they spent most of the next few months attacking it. By summer, the larger part of a regiment surrounded Ripcord, conjuring up memories of a Khe Sanh-style siege. On 23 July the base was abandoned.

For the next year-and-a-half, only special operations teams and the South Vietnamese 1st Division ventured into the valley. Then, in the spring of 1972, Hanoi launched its *Nguyen Hue Offensive* (termed "The Easter Offensive" by Americans), sweeping the South Vietnamese army from northern I Corps. Hanoi's troops also launched another attack against Hue from the A Shau Valley, but failed to take the city.

The South Vietnamese clawed their way back to Quang Tri City — the country's northernmost provincial capital — but their counteroffensive sputtered before reaching Route 9. With the road from Laos now in their hands, the North Vietnamese were not so dependent on the A Shau Valley.

As they marched toward Saigon in 1975, the North Vietnamese Army no longer needed the jungle trails snaking through the rugged A Shau Valley — they drove down the country paved roads.

But the "Valley of Death" had served its purpose.

— Dale Andrade

TERRORISM

Murder, Mayhem and Sniveling Cowards

by Richard L. Sherrow

In the first of a three-part series, *Soldier Of Fortune* examines the violent and murky world of terrorists and terrorism. Terrorism is a relatively new threat to world peace and new laws must be passed immediately to protect us ... *not!* Terrorism isn't new. The concept of terrorism has been around for hundreds of years. What *has* changed are the tools now available to carry out the attacks, and equally, if not more importantly, the means by which the populace learns of the terrorists' actions.

A complete history of international and domestic terrorism would require an encyclopedic endeavor. However, as *Soldier Of Fortune* examines the past, present and future of this phenomenon we call terrorism, we will inspect a representative cross-section of individuals, groups and their areas of operation.

While the definition of what a terrorist is can seem clouded to some, this writer's opinion is very basic: When you attack a foe who can defend himself, you may or may not be considered a freedom fighter or guerrilla. When you murder and maim innocent noncombatants, children, the aged or infirm, you are a terrorist. And a sniveling coward as well.

Terrorism (mis)Defined

When it comes to defining exactly what terrorism is, or what constitutes a terrorist act, disagreement abounds. One end of the spectrum contends that terrorism is directly related to the overthrow of governments. On the other end we find those who would tack a terrorism label onto everyone and everything that doesn't fall into lock step with their own narrow views. In some cases, courts are holding that what was once free speech is now terrorism.

The FBI's latest definition says, "Terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian populace, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

It may look good on paper, but is the definition so sweeping that it will lay waste



(top) The terrorist: shadowy specter haunting the late 20th century, here in the form of a hooded "Black September" terrorist looking over the balcony at Olympic Village in Munich, during September 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes. Simple dramatic weapons that can cause dramatic results (above, left) have always appealed to terrorists. Bombs are a



favorite: Four people were killed aboard TWA Flight 840 from Rome to Athens in 1986, by a small explosive device placed under seat cushion. (above, right) Individual targets of terrorism are attacked when most vulnerable — often when traveling in a car.

to individual liberties and due process of law, thus creating a police state, under the guise of combating terrorism? That depends on how far authorities are willing to stretch the wording to fit a given circumstance.

Since 1995, special congressional appropriations have given the FBI more than *half a billion* dollars and nearly 2,000 additional personnel slots, all under the new counter-terrorism umbrella. That figure is soon to reach into the billions of dollars. In order to hang onto such windfalls they will be expected to offer up a terrorist headcount. How far will the words "force" or "intimidate" be stretched, not to mention, "or any segment thereof"? And just who is going to set the parameters on "political or social objectives"? With big bucks on the line, we had all better be vigilant of new changes.

And it's not just the feds who are getting financial increases to fight the newly perceived terrorist threat. State and local agencies are also seeing a greening of their coffers. But the same rules will apply. As those in the bounty hunting business say, "no bodies, no booty." In response we are already seeing some pretty loose interpretations as to what constitutes terrorism. Just recently, in a large metropolitan Arizona city, a drunk rammed his pick-up truck against the side of the police station. He was charged with, that latest of buzzwords, "terrorism."

If all this sounds a little cynical, and maybe even a bit paranoid, just look at the ongoing "policing for profit" under the RICO statutes that daily rape and pillage constitutional search and seizure protections, all in the name of the so-called "war on drugs."

Your Hero, Our Terrorist?

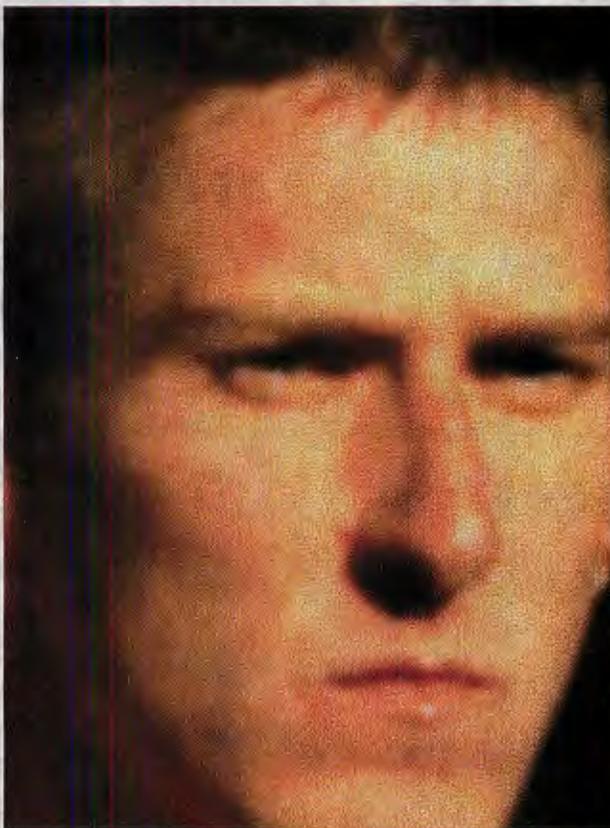
All that said, what does define a terrorist? Could it really be, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter"? It's an old cliché that riles many politicians and terrorism experts. "That's bullshit," they angrily proclaim. "A terrorist," they say, "is simply a terrorist!" Maybe so, but then again it often depends on whose ox is being gored.

In fact, today's terrorist may well be tomorrow's schoolteacher, president, prime minister, or even Nobel laureate. Farfetched? Recent history demonstrates otherwise:

• **Menachem Begin:** In 1946, as a leader of the terrorist group *Irgun*, one of Begin's many violent actions was directing the bombing of British military headquarters in Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Ninety-one people were killed, including 45 Arabs, 28 British soldiers and over a dozen Jews. In 1977, Begin was Prime Minister of Israel. In 1978, he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

• **Nelson Mandela:** In 1988 the United States government listed the socialist African National Congress and its military arm, Mandela's own *Umkhonto we Sizwe* (Spear of the Nation) as terrorist groups. Supported by, among others, the Soviet Bloc, Cuba and Libya, *Umkhonto we Sizwe* was responsible for years of indiscriminate bombings and murders which left scores of blacks, as well as whites, dead in South Africa and neighboring countries.

In 1990, after serving 27 years in prison for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the South African government, Mandela was released. Immediately he became the dar-



AP/Wide World

The most appalling single act of terrorism on American soil was the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. Timothy McVeigh was convicted and sentenced to death, but his former defense attorney Stephen Jones is convinced there was a broader conspiracy.

ling of the liberal left. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993, Mandela went on to be inaugurated president of South Africa the following year.

• **Yasir Arafat (Abu Ammar):** Current president of the Palestinian Authority and winner of the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize, Yasir Arafat's dark past follows close behind him. Founder (1957) of *Al Fatah*, the military arm of the PLO, Arafat spread international terrorism far and wide. *Al Fatah* (then known as Black September Organization) is perhaps best known for its 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, which left 11 Israeli athletes dead. Although perceived by many as being strictly anti-Israel, it has been an equal-opportunity terror group. Examples include the 1971 assassination of Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi el-Tal, the 1972

attempted attack on Jordanian King Hussein's London residence, and the 1978 attempted assassination of the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations.

• **Angela Davis:** Avowed communist and racist Black Panther Party member, Davis was on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list in the 1970s for her part in the shotgun murder of a California judge and three prisoners during a failed escape attempt. Today, Davis is a professor of History Consciousness at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

• **Bernardine Dohrn:** During the late '60s and early '70s, Bernardine Dohrn was a leader in the Weather Underground. This leftist-terrorist group was responsible for scores of bombings, armed robberies, and the murder of police officers across the United States. In the '90s Dohrn became co-chair of the American Bar Association's Litigation Task Force on Children.

Reformed, Or Successful?

So, who really knows? Given mankind's tumultuous moral history, is it possible, however ridiculous it may seem now, that today's Osama bin Laden or Timothy McVeigh may be tomorrow's U.N. Secretary General or United States Senator?

Showman Robert Ripley may well have had world politics in mind when he made his lasting observation, "Truth is stranger than fiction." But then again, maybe that other famous showman, P.T. Barnum, had a better handle on it.

Understanding the driving forces behind terrorism is no more difficult than figuring out why wars are fought. Taken to the lowest basic level, somebody's not happy with something. Since there will never be a day when all's right with the world, you need to be aware of why things are, and how to survive in the mine field we call life. Philosophy aside, what are the causal factors of terrorism? The root motivations for terrorism boil down to some very basic factors, which by themselves or combined with any of the others, can light the fuse to disaster:

• **Politics/Ideology:** Governments have consistently waged long and bloody wars for political reasons. In the age of nuclear and advanced chemical/biological weapons, full-scale waging of war "the old fashioned way" could have devastating effects on all sides of a conflict. While it didn't invent terrorism, the former Soviet Union was quick to recognize the long-term benefits of exploiting it. Through its covert, and sometimes not-so-covert, support and guidance of various international terrorist groups, the Soviets were able to inflict costly and burdensome damage on the western powers, while effectively keeping its own skirts clean.

Additionally, smaller countries with grievances, who would stand no chance in a pitched battle against a larger and more powerful foe, found terrorism to be an effective weapon with which David could give Goliath a bloody nose and pretty much get away with it.

- **Religion:** One of the strongest of all violence-producing factors is religious conviction. The long and bloody Crusades pitted Christians against Moslems. The infa-



U.S. Army

August 1970, the group exploded a Ford Econoline van packed with several 55-gallon drums of ANFO (ammonium nitrate-fuel oil) explosive on the University of Wisconsin campus. Their target, Sterling Hall, which housed the U.S. Army Mathematics Research Center, was severely damaged, one postdoctoral student was killed and three others injured.

- **FALN** (*Fuerzas Armadas Liberacion Nacional*) and **Los Macheteros** (*Erjercito*

U.S. Government



amous 1605 Guy Fawkes (Catholic) Gunpowder Plot to blow up King James I (Protestant) and the British Parliament was equally religious. Without a doubt, religious fervor has been a leading cause of more bloodshed than perhaps any other factor in man's history. Look no further than Northern Ireland or the Middle East.

- **Ethnicity:** Simply put, if you don't belong to my tribe, village, race, etc., you are my enemy. I may not be exactly sure why, but I know you are. A quick trip to Africa or the Balkan States, or a dozen other world hot spots will rest the case.

- **Hate:** Last, but not least, good old-fashioned hatred. By itself, or combined with any of the above, hatred has opened many a jugular vein.

Home Front U.S.A.

The bombings of the World Trade Center in New York City and the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City turned a page in American history. To most it was the first time that terrorism had reared its ugly head on our shores. Or was it?

Recently I'd quizzed several media acquaintances on terrorism in the good old U.S.A. Oh sure, there was the UNABOMBER, who had begun to take on almost cult status. And maybe some random "right-wing zealot" incidents, but that was all they could think of. When I threw out a few names ... Mark Rudd ... Bernardine Dohrn ... Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, all that came back were blank stares.

In fact, the history of the United States is loaded with cases of domestic terrorism. Want large ANFO (ammonium nitrate-fuel oil) truck bombs blowing up government buildings? We've had 'em. How about hundreds struck down by ter-



Author's Files

rorist, biological agent attack? Had that too. Right, left, and beyond the Twilight Zone, let's look at a small cross-section of our own turbulent history:

- **KKK** (*Ku Klux Klan*): Not content with a long history of racial, religious and ethnically motivated shootings, lynchings, bombings and arsons, the infamous KKK sunk to a new low in September 1963. On a quiet Sunday morning in Birmingham, Alabama, Klansmen detonated a large dynamite bomb under the front steps of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. The blast, timed to go off as church services ended, killed four children and injured many more.

- **Weathermen/Weather Underground:** A violent offshoot of the leftist SDS (Students For a Democratic Society), the Weathermen were responsible for more than 40 bombings, arsons and attacks on government agencies and police across the country during the late '60s and early '70s. On 24



Author's Files

(clockwise from top) Red Army Faction attacked Mercedes occupied by U.S. Army Europe commander, Gen. Kroessen, in 1981 with this result. What remained of U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon after 1983 truck bombing by elements of *Hezbollah*. The Japanese Red Army, lead by Fusako Shigenobu (aka Marian Fusako Okudaira, Miss Yuki, Haruo Wako) did not limit its attacks to Japan. Nearly every society has produced terrorists since WWII. Colombian M-19 (19th of April Movement) terrorists, armed here with Czechoslovak M-25 and Israeli Uzi, are now part of coalition of groups threatening Colombian stability.

Popular de Boricua — Popular Army of Boricua): During the '70s and '80s both groups fiercely espoused Puerto Rican independence. Operating primarily on the mainland, the FALN or Armed Forces of National Liberation, was the most prolific of all domestic terrorist groups — responsible for well over 100 bombings of political and military targets in the midwest and on the east coast.

Operating mainly in Puerto Rico, the *Macheteros*, or "Machete wielders," declared war on the United States government. In addition to killing U.S. servicemen, the group attacked an Air National Guard base in Puerto Rico in January 1981. Blowing up eight jets and damaging two others, they caused approximately \$40 million in damage. Their 1983 robbery of a Wells Fargo armored truck depot in Hartford, Connecticut, was one of the largest heists in U.S. history, netting \$7.2 million.

Communist Connections

In an interesting side note, in 1983 and 1985 the *Macheteros* fired M72 LAW rockets into U.S. federal buildings in San Juan.

Tracing determined that the rockets were part of the stores U.S. forces left behind in Vietnam. Further intelligence determined that the LAWs made their way into the Macheteros' hands after being shipped to Cuba by the communist Vietnamese government.

• **JDL (Jewish Defense League):** Founded in New York in 1968 by Rabbi Meir Kahane, the JDL's original goals were to protect orthodox Jews from attacks by street hoodlums. In short order, the group graduated to vandalism, arson, shootings and bombings. Despite its constant denials, law enforcement agencies have tied the JDL

to at least 50 violent acts in its first 20 years of existence. In August 1985, a Boston Police Department bomb squad officer was severely injured while attempting to render safe a suspected JDL bomb planted at the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) office in Roxbury, Massachusetts. On 11 October 1985, ADC regional director Alexander Odeh was killed in the explosion of a booby-trapped pipe bomb as he opened the door to his Santa Ana, California, office.

• **Rajneesh Foundation International:** Booted out of his native India in 1981, the

more-than-shady "guru," Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, headed for the United States. Along with a group of followers, he purchased 60,000+ acres of land near the small town of Antelope, Oregon for his "sexually open" commune. Taking advantage of Oregon's lenient voting laws, the Rajneeshes bussed in more than 1,000 homeless derelicts from across the country to "stack" the vote. After taking political control of Antelope, they changed the name to Rajneeshpuram, installed their own

Continued on page 70

Mention the name Ilich Ramirez Sanchez or even pass around his photo and you will receive blank stares in return. Invoke his *nom de guerre*, however, and the lights suddenly snap on. In a world where name recognition counts, Carlos the Jackal rates a 10-plus.

Forty-nine years old, Sanchez, a self-described "professional revolutionary," was born in Caracas, Venezuela. The first-born son of a millionaire Marxist lawyer, his life was a dichotomy from the start.

Carlos the Jackal

At the same time that he professed to be a hard-line Marxist, he was reveling in the good life: wine, women and the "niceties" that money, a ton of money, could buy.

At 17, Carlos headed off to camp, Campo Matanzas that is. Located just outside of Havana, the curriculum at this "camp" was geared less toward basket weaving and sing-alongs and more toward satchel charges and shoot-outs. It was here that he caught the eye of his future KGB handlers.

By 1968, he had moved on to Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow, where he was to polish his skills in international hell-raising. Evidently Carlos misunderstood that the hell he was expected to raise was outside of the socialist, fraternal countries because his wild and crazy ways got him expelled for "hooliganism." Despite this, or maybe because of it, he was still a rising star in the eyes of the KGB and Cuban DGI, and would soon form the Organization for Armed Arab Struggle and be recruited by various other terror groups, not the least of which was the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Although his actual deeds were often clouded in over-glorifying myth, a few of the many terrorist acts attributed to Carlos the Jackal include:

• **May 1972:** Following Carlos' directions, three Japanese Red Army terrorists attack Lod Airport in Israel. In the ensuing hail of machine-gun fire and grenade fragments, 27 people are killed and 75 wounded.

• **December 1973:** *Euzkadi ta Askatasuna (ETA)*, the Basque separatist group, using explosives supplied by Carlos via the Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA/PROVO), employ a buried, remote-control bomb to assassinate Spanish Prime Minister Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, his chauffeur and a security officer, blowing Carrero's car over a five-story building.

• **September 1974:** Again with the assistance of Carlos, the Japanese Red Army seizes the French embassy in The Hague. In exchange for their 11 hostages, the terrorists secure the release of their comrade, Furuya Yukata, \$300,000 and a plane ride to safe haven in Syria.

• **December 1975:** PFLP leader Carlos and his gang of multinational cutthroats storm the Vienna headquarters of OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Within minutes two security guards and an elderly Austrian policeman are gunned down and 70 hostages are taken. Despite orders from his PFLP boss, Wadi Haddad, Carlos fails to carry out the assigned assassination of Saudi Oil Minister Sheik Zaki Yamani.

Although disputed in some circles, Carlos has been linked to a planning role in both the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and the 1976 Air France hijacking to Uganda which led to the famous Israeli commando rescue, "Raid on Entebbe." All in all, Carlos has been directly responsible for more than 80 killings and scores of terrorist bombings, kidnappings and murders.

A wanted man by so many for so long, his luck finally ran out. With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the world political stage changing acts, Carlos and his loose-cannon ways had become an embarrassment to many of his former mentors.

Some of the details are a bit sketchy, but the final demise of The Jackal follows this trail: Uncomfortable with his presence in that country, Syria's Hafez Assad has Carlos shipped off to Sudan. Then, attempting to curry a bit of U.S. favor, drops a dime on him. Washington, however, worried about possible fallout, slides the coin over to France, who had long wanted the elusive butcher for bombings and mayhem in their backyard.

On 14 August 1994, Carlos is in a Khartoum hospital for a little minor surgery; some say for a "tummy tuck," others maintain the good life had caused a pesky varicose vein to develop in one of his testicles. As he settles in for a little trim, French commandos, (having greased the palms of Sudanese officials), barge in, drug him, stuff his pudgy, Cohiba cigar-smoking butt into a sack, and slap him

on a plane to Paris.

On 23 December 1997, a Paris court finds Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (aka Carlos the Jackal) guilty of the 1975 murders of French counterintelligence officers Jean Donatini and Raymond Dous, as well as his own former chief aide, Michel Moukharbal.

Sentenced to life in prison, Carlos still faces additional French charges for a string of bombings across Paris and Marseilles. In addition, Germany wants him for bombing the French cultural center in Berlin as does Austria for the OPEC siege.

While not the "super-terrorist" many claim him to be, neither is he the put-upon innocent some leftist journalists portray. There is no doubt that Carlos the Jackal has been there and done that and caused untold misery along the way. Even today he remains outspoken, most recently supposedly staging a hunger strike in support of Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Barring any unforeseen events, Carlos should remain prisoner number 872686X for a long time to come.

—R.L.S.



Author's Files

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez (aka Carlos the Jackal) in his passport photo circa 1975. He now resides in relative luxury in a French jail.

Black Hawk Down!

Horrors And Heroism In Mogadishu

by Dale Andradé

PHOTOS COURTESY ATLANTIC MONTHLY PRESS



A contingent of United States Army Rangers and Delta Force operators were inserted by helicopter into Mogadishu on 3 October 1993. Their mission was to capture members of a Somali clan regarded by Washington as standing in the way of bringing peace and order to this fragmented country. They had done it before, moving in and out of the hostile city before most people knew they were there.

Fast-roping into the city from UH-60 helicopters, they moved in and arrested their target. It should have taken them an hour, but this time things went wrong. Pinned down, they spent a harrowing night in the hostile city, fighting for their lives against a swarming Somali militia. When it was over, two Black Hawks had been shot down, 14 American soldiers were dead and more than 70 wounded.

Mark Bowden, a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, has written what is arguably the definitive account of this battle. He evokes the horror of war, as well as its heroism. Battle is savage, messy, and confused — boys become men when the bullets fly — and Bowden captures it on paper. *Soldier Of Fortune* talked with Bowden about what he learned while writing *Black Hawk Down!*

SOF: What made you write this book?

Bowden: Well, I'm always looking for a good story — that's what I do for a living — and this one struck me as very powerful and dramatic. I remember reading about American soldiers pinned down in Mogadishu, surrounded and fighting for their lives. It conjured up images of the Alamo or the Little Bighorn. So that's what got me interested in it.

A year or two later, while working on a different story, I met

(far left: left to right) Rangers Tommie Field, Bill Cleveland, Ray Frank and Mike Durant outside of the Black Hawk Super Six Four in Mogadishu. (above) Ranger Keni Thomas aboard Black Hawk heading out on mission. (right: left to right) Ranger Joe Harosky, Air Force Combat Controller Dan Schilling, and Ranger Mike Pringle posing before their Humvee, topped with a Browning M2 HMG, which led the lost convoy through the city. (far right) Group shot of Task Force Ranger without Delta Force. Humvees are in rear.

the father of one of the young soldiers killed in that fight, Jamie Smith. And it was really in conversation with Jim (Jim Smith was a Ranger officer in Vietnam, where he lost a leg in battle) that I became determined to report the story. Jim initially introduced me to young Rangers who were in the battle.

SOF: Did the Defense Department cooperate with you?

Bowden: The only cooperation I got from the Defense Department was when they arranged interviews with Rangers down at Fort Benning and, subsequently, at Fort Campbell with some of the UH-60 pilots. That was considerable help, but then they got kind of irritated with me because I kept asking for more interviews. At that point, my requests began to fall on unfertile ground. Nevertheless, the soldiers themselves and many guys who were no longer in the Army were enthusiastic to help. Each of the guys I talked to had the names of others who were there, and eventually I had scores of people to talk to.

Then I went to Mogadishu to interview Somalis and see the battlefield. I think the trip enhanced my credibility with high-ranking officials in Washington. I met many officials, all the way

up to General Colin Powell, and some of them were willing to give me access to documents and information about the battle. This included an official account prepared by USASOC (U.S. Army Special Operations Command), which gave a precise chronology and figures about men and equipment; this was very helpful. Eventually I was able to listen to tapes of radio broadcasts of the fight, which, when you squared them against the detailed chronology, gave an extraordinarily precise view of what was happening moment by moment during the fight. I also viewed some of the videotape shot during critical moments of the battle from observation helicopters flying over Mogadishu. This was very dramatic, and confirmed the mental picture I had of the fight. I also got a detailed list of all the wounded and killed. So, where some of the Delta Force soldiers had not been identified — the Army does not even acknowledge that they exist — I was able to match up names on the list. Also, an Army historian went to Mogadishu in the days after the battle and debriefed many of the soldiers, and a number of the SEALs and Delta Force operators wrote accounts of their role in the fight within days after it happened. Eventually I was able to get my hands on that as well.

SOF: *Let's go back in time. You don't go into much detail in the book about how America got involved in Somalia in the first*



place. How did it happen?

Bowden: With the best of intentions. In 1992 Americans were treated to television images of starving Somali children. America responded — George Bush responded — to prevent further famine. That was why we initially intervened in December of 1992.

SOF: *Once American troops were on the ground, things began to fall apart. This is not uncommon. When the British first went to Northern Ireland they were welcomed. That soon changed. When American Marines went to Beirut they were welcomed, but they were driven out by suicide bombers. In Somalia, how did attitudes change?*

Bowden: Initially, the factions that were upset by the UN intervention — which was basically an American intervention — were outnumbered and outgunned, so they laid low. What U.S. troops saw when they first arrived were those Somalis who wanted the fighting to end. The people who greeted them were genuinely happy to see someone end the clan stalemate and get the food distributed. I think it's important to remember that the intervention did end the famine. Very quickly. The Marines went in there and turned that country around in a matter of days. I think that is a historical fact that was been overshadowed

by subsequent events.

Mohamed Farah Aidid and his clan were obviously not pleased with the intervention, but they were in no position to contest 20,000 foreign troops in their backyard, so they laid low and bided their time. As the famine ended, I think that UN officials on the ground knew that Aidid was just waiting for them to leave. Unless they were able to reach some sort of agreement with the warring factions and set up a coalition government, the fighting would just resume as soon as the UN pulled out.

In the spring of 1993 they encouraged the groups to sit down and talk. Of course, the minor warlords were very pleased with this because it gave them leverage against Aidid. But Aidid wanted to rule the whole country. He had been the prime force involved in overthrowing the previous dictator, Siad Barre, and he saw himself as the rightful ruler of Somalia. So Aidid was not inclined to share power with anyone. He began making trouble right from the start. Basically, when the Marines pulled out, in March 1993, Aidid began fighting with UN troops, none of which were as strong or well-trained as the U.S. Marines. In June, his clan ambushed a Pakistani patrol and horribly mutilated their bodies. From that point on, the UN declared Aidid an outlaw and decided that the only way they could have a coalition in Somalia was to get rid of Aidid.



The initial efforts were clumsy because they lacked the ability to move quickly on Aidid. So Jonathan Howe, a former U.S. admiral who had been hired by the UN, asked Washington in the summer of 1993 to send Delta Force. The idea was to locate Aidid and arrest him with a minimum of casualties. There was actually an advance team of Delta operators sent to Mogadishu in June 1993 to check out the situation. They decided that it would be fairly easy to take Aidid at that point. But the Clinton Administration and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were opposed to sending Delta Force, and while the UN was blundering around trying to arrest Aidid, he obviously became aware that he was being targeted and went to cover. By the end of August, after four U.S. soldiers were killed and several were wounded in Somalia, the Joint Chiefs changed their minds and sent Task Force Ranger, but by then Aidid was not going to be easy to grab.

SOF: *Clearly the new mission was quite a bit different than before — adversarial rather than humanitarian.*

Bowden: Efforts to grab Aidid that summer had resulted in the deaths of many Somalis, alienating most of the city. Even moderate Hadr Gidr members became very anti-UN and particularly



anti-U.S. So Task Force Ranger's mission was never humanitarian. It was warlike. They went to Somalia to arrest Aidid and take apart his clan.

SOF: Which might explain the many acts of callousness you describe in your book. You write that the helicopters swept low over the city, throwing dirt and dust over everyone and making lots of noise. You said that "Mogadishu felt brutalized and harassed."

Bowden: Yes, and I think that is fair to say from their perspective. There were probably very good reasons why American forces were doing that, but I try in the book to capture both the American and Somali perspectives. If you want to understand why the Somalis were so filled with hate and anger for U.S. troops, you have to see from their perspective what touched that off.

SOF: You spend a great deal of time with the emotions of men in battle. When the fighting became more desperate, you give several horrifying accounts of American soldiers shooting women and children. Obviously this was not something they wanted to do, but they came to view them as a threat. That must have been difficult for many of them to talk about.

Bowden: You know, it wasn't. I think they were painful mem-



Rangers in Humvee topped with Mark-19 auto grenade launcher.

ories, but I think they wanted to talk because they were troubled by it, but at the same time they knew that they had to do what they did.

SOF: As the battle swirled, the Rangers called for help and it took a long time for the UN troops to respond. There seemed to be an undercurrent of anger among the Rangers and Delta operators pinned down in the city.

Bowden: It wasn't anger so much as surprise. And the surprise was, I think, felt mostly by the youngest soldiers, the Rangers. They saw themselves as part of the most powerful military force on earth and they were shocked. They were shocked because it was their first combat and because they found that they were vulnerable. As elite units, they thought they could operate with impunity; they had done six previous missions in Mogadishu and had gotten in and out with no trouble. Suddenly people were dying. They were being shot to pieces: why was this happening?

The older guys, the veterans, I think, did not experience it that way. They had a much more realistic view of what they were going into and so they were not so surprised. But I did not pick up any anger from these men over how long it took to mount a rescue. I think they understood how difficult it was.

SOF: There is a good discussion in the book about how different American units regarded each other. Delta seemed to see the Rangers as lightweights, and in turn the Rangers regarded the 10th Mountain Division "legs" as poorly trained. Did those atti-

tudes have any effect on the overall mission?

Bowden: I don't think so. But there was definitely a hierarchy. The Rangers were young and inexperienced compared to the well-trained and seasoned Delta operators. I write about the friction between Delta and the Rangers, who no one really anticipated being thrown together like that. The result was that there was no clear person in charge on the ground. Anyone who knows military tactics realizes that this is not good. But I don't think that caused anybody to die. It would have been better if someone had been clearly in charge, but I think it's just a reality of the way the armed forces are structured.

SOF: Captain Mike Steele, the Ranger commander on the ground, plays a big role in your story. You describe him as being very by-the-book, which caused some resentment among his men. On the other hand, by not following the rules on this occasion, they got in trouble. The Rangers left their night-vision equipment behind, even though it was standard operating procedure for them to take it. And they did not have enough water.

Bowden: I think that was a lesson that Steele learned. Personally, I think that Steele was an excellent commander. As he points out, if he had any failings, it was that he was not strict enough in the way he ran that company. And he had occasion to



Rangers Brian Heard (left), with M60 GPMG, and David Floyd, with M249 squad automatic weapon, in hangar prior to a mission.

regret having given in on some points — like bringing in water and night-vision devices. I think that the way he was viewed by his men was fairly typical; it seems to make sense that a bunch of 18- and 19-year-olds who were being ordered to do very difficult things would resent the person making them do it.

Steele also irritated Delta Force, but I think that was due to the two different cultures. Delta is made up of mature veterans who were selected and trained to act independently. They run their unit very differently than the rest of the Army operates. I think you can have that kind of unit as long as it's small, but when there are young recruits with less training — like the Rangers — you need the order that discipline provides.

SOF: Early in the book you write about a spy ring that was passing information to the Americans. Could you tell us a little about that?

Bowden: Actually I've learned more since I wrote the book. Basically, that's what the CIA and other agencies in the U.S. government do — they recruit people who can comfortably move in those countries and act as spies. Prior to the deployment of Task Force Ranger, a human intelligence net was up and running. Whenever the United States commits troops to a region — as we are now in Bosnia or as we probably will in Kosovo — one of the things that's done is that you set up an intelligence net and recruit people so you at least have a shot at understanding what's going on in the community where you are sending troops.

So the spy ring was up and running by the time Task Force Ranger was sent to Somalia. I am told that they provided very effective information.

SOF: Americans were shocked by television images of dead American soldiers being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu. You mentioned that this sort of behavior is counter to Islamic beliefs, and that some people tried to stop the barbarism.

Bowden: All of the educated Somalis I talked to were horrified by the spectacle. But angry mobs do horrible things. Americans saw mob violence on the television. The educated people, some of whom I write about in the book, went out and tried to stop it, but they couldn't. There was an instance when a Saudi Arabian UN patrol confronted one of the mobs dragging an American body and accused them of being poor Muslims. This was done at great risk to themselves, and they were unable to stop it.

Clinton's special envoy, Ambassador Robert Oakley, immediately sat down with members of the Habr Gidr clan leaders and told them that we intended to get Mike Durant (the captured helicopter pilot) back, and that if we had to come looking for him, there was going to be shooting — and a lot more than there had been before. The clan promptly freed Durant.

SOF: You call the battle a "pyrrhic victory." In what way was



President Clinton with Ranger Scott Galentine at Walter Reed Army Hospital. Galentine had a severed thumb sewn back onto his hand. (at right) Ranger Lorenzo Ruiz, armed here with M16A2 (at reader's left) and shotgun (at right). Ruiz was killed after taking a wounded man's place in the Humvee turret.

it a victory for the Americans and in what way was it a victory for the Somalis?

Bowden: It was a victory for the Americans in that they accomplished what they set out to do, which was arrest Omar Salad and Hassan Awale, who were two key members of Aidid's inner circle. That was the mission, and it was accomplished. Obviously, it was a pyrrhic victory because it was accomplished at a much greater cost than anticipated.

It was a victory for the Somalis because they drove off the most powerful military force in the world. The day after this battle, President Clinton decided to end Task Force Ranger's mission. He did not want any further efforts to arrest Aidid or to take apart his clan. In a matter of months, America had withdrawn from Somalia, and all the Habr Gidr clan leaders who had been arrested were released.

It's sort of the Third World theory of dealing with America: You can't beat us in battle, but if you can kill some of our soldiers, and horrify the American public, you can drive us off. We will give up and go away. Somalia is a case study in that. Today, Somalis celebrate October third and fourth — they call it "the day of the Rangers" — as a big victory. And in a sense, they are right, though from a purely practical standpoint, the battle dealt

a devastating blow to the military capability of their clan. If the United States had stayed the course, there is every indication that the Habr Gidr was on its last legs. But we'll never know the answer to that.

SOF: This battle came at a time when the United States had come through the Gulf War with fewer than 100 Americans killed in action. From then on, the American public began regarding any loss of American life in military missions overseas as unacceptable. Colin Powell reflected this new thinking when, after the battle in Mogadishu, he said that "eighteen dead would not even have warranted a press conference in Vietnam."

Bowden: I think that this is an important lesson. Americans have to understand — our leaders have to understand — that when the United States intervenes militarily, people are going to get hurt. If soldiers go into combat, some of them are going to get killed. That's the nature of war. I think that you have to make that decision up front. If the mission is important enough for people to get killed, then you go ahead. If it's not, then don't send troops. But if our leaders decide to send troops, thinking that the mission can be accomplished without anyone getting killed, then they condemn the United States to looking foolish.

SOF: What was the perception of U.S. policymakers? Did



they regard it as a success or a failure?

Bowden: They see it as an embarrassment and a failure. And I think unfairly so. Major General William Garrison, the Task Force Ranger commander, was scape-goated, his career ended as a result of this. Yet there was very little that he did wrong, and many things that he did right.

Admiral Jonathan Howe was the architect of U.S. involvement in Somalia in the summer of 1993. He was the one who believed that the solution to the problem there was to get Aidid. We'll never know if he was right or wrong. If we had managed to capture Aidid and take apart his clan, if we had stayed in Mogadishu, then

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BULL IN THE CHINA SHOP

Does Clinton's Policy Amount To Treason?

By James L. Pate

By the time you read this, the Clinton Administration either will have been dealt a blow with more ominous implications than the recently concluded impeachment circus. Or, more likely, that big, affable oaf from Arkansas will have buck-danced once again out of reach of the not-so-long arm of the law.

But if a few courageous Republicans in the House of Representatives prevail, a 700-page top-secret report will be public, writ-

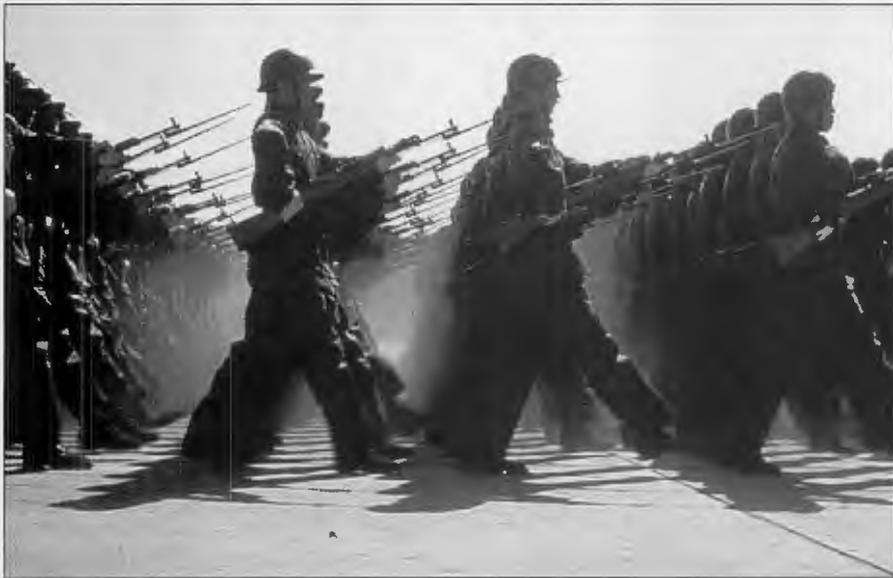
ten by a special House committee investigating damage to our national security by Bill Clinton's military and commercial deals with the People's Republic of China.

The deadline was 1 April, when Congress adjourned for its spring recess. That's when the investigative authority of the Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China was set to expire.

To be fair, the committee chairman, U.S. Rep. Christopher Cox, the California Republican who chaired the special committee, was forbade by law from releasing the classified report without authorization. And it is the Executive Branch — i.e. Bill Clinton — which authorizes any disclosure, and prosecutes anyone who leaks secrets without his permission. Catch 22.

The other wild card was a tail-wagging-the-dog situation in Yugoslavia's break-away Kosovo Province. Despite a lack of clear support on either side of Capitol Hill, President Clinton committed U.S. military troops to combat during the last week of March, knowing that Congress historically is reluctant to criticize any president's foreign policy when lives are at stake.

But a week before bombs started falling in Yugoslavia, questions among members of Congress about Clinton's policy toward Red China, and its implications for U.S. national security, had already produced the chill of an old-fashioned Cold War spy



"The PRC's targeting of sensitive U.S. military technology is not limited to missiles and satellites, but covers other military technologies," Cox said, echoing what *SOF* had already reported. "Sensitive U.S. military technology has been the subject of serious PRC acquisition efforts over the past two decades, and continues today."

scandal, evoking the specters of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, a New York couple executed in 1953, after their espionage convictions for giving our atom bomb plans to the Soviet Union in the 1940s.

U.S. Sen. Robert C. Smith, a New Hampshire Republican who chairs the Senate Armed Services subcommittee on strategic forces, said China's acquisition of plans for our most advanced nuclear weapons, allegedly by a U.S. scientist of Chinese ancestry working at the laboratories at Los Alamos, New Mexico, is the gravest security breach since the Rosenberg spy case.

Impetus to form the Cox committee began last summer, with revelations that a U.S. corporation, Loral Technologies, received a waiver from Clinton to launch a satellite in the PRC, despite being under criminal investigation for unauthorized transfers of missile guidance technology to China. Subsequent reports by the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency confirmed that Loral's transfers enabled the communists to extend the range of their nuclear missiles to hit U.S. targets.

Adding to suspicion that there was a *quid pro quo* involved, Loral's CEO, Bernard Schwartz, donated \$2.2 million to Clinton's re-election campaign, after donating only \$12,500 for his first-term election in 1992.

Up Your Ante

But after Schwartz upped the ante, two changes took place in the Executive Branch. Final approval authority for export of sensitive technology to potential enemies was taken from the Pentagon and the State Department and given to the Department of Commerce. Second, Clinton's national security adviser, Samuel "Sandy" Berger, who had only recently left his job as chief Washington lobbyist for China's trade office, convinced Clinton to repeal export controls on the export of militarily useful satellites to the PRC.

The only campaign contributors whose donations exceeded those of Schwartz were illegal straw-man proxies for the PRC.

One was the Riady family, head of a mysteriously wealthy Indonesian banking conglomerate, identified in U.S. Senate hearings as being operatives for PRC's spy network. A former Riady banking executive, John Huang, became a high-ranking U.S. Commerce Department official with access to sensitive U.S. secrets.

Other big contributors besides Schwartz included Johnny Chung and Ya Lin "Charlie" Trie, both Chinese-Americans, who gave millions to the Democratic National Committee that had been provided to them by suspected Chinese spies, including Liu Chaoying, trained in industrial espionage and the daughter a retired top People's Liberation Army general.

As the tide of outraged congressional critics began to swell, with one damaging revelation after another in the spring of 1998, the president delivered in May, during a trip to England, a craftily crafted non-denial that is vintage Clinton-Speak.



The fruits of technology China has bought and stolen from the U.S. — including nuclear, biological and/or nuclear weapons technology — have been passed along at additional profit to the PRC to such benevolent states as Libya, Iran, Syria and North Korea. China's export of nuclear and ballistic missile technology to Pakistan set off the biggest arms race ever with India.



"I don't believe you can find any evidence of the fact that I have changed government policy solely because of a contribution," Clinton said. "All the foreign policy decisions we made were based on what we believed — I and the rest of my administration — were in the best interests of the American people."

It all came to a head on Clinton's return, when the tide turned into a tempest on Capitol Hill. In a near-unanimous vote on 18 June 1998, the House voted to create, authorize and fund the Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with the People's Republic of China.

While the report remains classified top secret as this issue goes to press, what little information that has emerged from anonymous sources, quoted in various media outlets, confirms what *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine readers have known for more than a year, that sensitive U.S. weapons labs, from Aberdeen to Lawrence Livermore, for some time have been heavily penetrated by Chinese and other foreign intelligence agents.

(See the following back issues of *SOF*: "The Mother Of All Cover Ups," December '97; "Spies, Lies and Computer Tapes," February '98; "The China Syndrome," October '98; "Dragon Dollars," November '98; "Clinton's Techno-Treason," February '99; "The Manchurian Presidency," March '99)

While Cox was limited in what he could say publicly, it is clear that his committee's classified report tracks very closely to those reported in *SOF*.

"The investigation quickly turned to classified matters when it became clear that far more was involved in U.S. technology transfer to the PRC than just isolated cases," Cox told reporters at a news conference in late December, announcing completion of the report. "The classified and unclassified information [was] so intertwined that we would risk inadvertent disclosure of classified information if we did not first submit

the report... to staff review.

"The PRC's targeting of sensitive U.S. military technology is not limited to missiles and satellites, but covers other military technologies," Cox said, echoing what *SOF* had already reported. "Sensitive U.S. military technology has been the subject of serious PRC acquisition efforts over the past two decades, and continues today.

Based just on unclassified information — not considering what additional details of treachery were gleaned from reading classified cables, intercepts and other intelligence documents, many of which had to be translated from Chinese into English — "we have found that national security harm did occur," Cox said. "We have investigated these questions more thoroughly than any other part of the U.S. government."

While he could not elaborate further, the usually reserved lawmaker later made comments suggesting the extent to which Bill Clinton and Al Gore have compromised U.S. national security interests to the biggest and most populous communist totalitarian state on the planet.

In a speech in late-January to the Republican National Committee, Cox described Clinton's policy toward China in much the same way as Clinton characterized his relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky: a one-way cheat. She had sex. He did not.

The "Full Lewinsky"

So it is that the Cox report describes a diplomatic trysting between Red China and Uncle Sam — some dating back to the Reagan Administration — one in which the communists got much, and we got little or nothing. But in his speech to fellow-Republicans, Cox was more graphic in describing the intense escalation of the U.S. policy toward China — and what the communists actually gained — since Bill Clinton and Al Gore took office.

It was, as Cox implied, a relationship in which Clinton and Gore apparently proscribed U.S. national security interests for the

figuratively felatinal benefit of our smiling Asian adversaries.

"The Clinton-Gore policy is called engagement," Cox said in his 22 January speech at the The Capitol Hilton. "But surely that is an understatement for a policy that gives China's ruling Communists everything they want, and withholds all criticism and sanctions, no matter what ... the kind of warm, wet kiss-up to the Communist dictatorship that — when administered by Clinton and Gore — can only be described as 'the full Lewinsky.'" "

Only two copies of the top-secret, five-volume report were printed, one sent to the White House and the other locked in a safe in a specially secured room on the fourth floor of the Capitol, where it has been available to a few select members of Congress. During its six-months, the special committee met 34 times, held 22 hearings and heard more than 200 hours of testimony from more than 75 witnesses. More than twice that number of people were interviewed for a total of more than 700 hours. The bipartisan panel issued 21 subpoenas and immunized four witnesses.

Despite all that, and issuing its report, with 38 secret recommendations, on time and under budget; anonymous critics in the White House called their favorite media toadies, blasting the committee for allegedly using false claims of secrecy to conceal the fact that the committee had found nothing. Then, in a diversionary ploy often used by Clinton's lieutenants when bad news is about to break, they made a preemptive release of a "sanitized" version, with White House responses to 18 of the 38 committee recommendations.

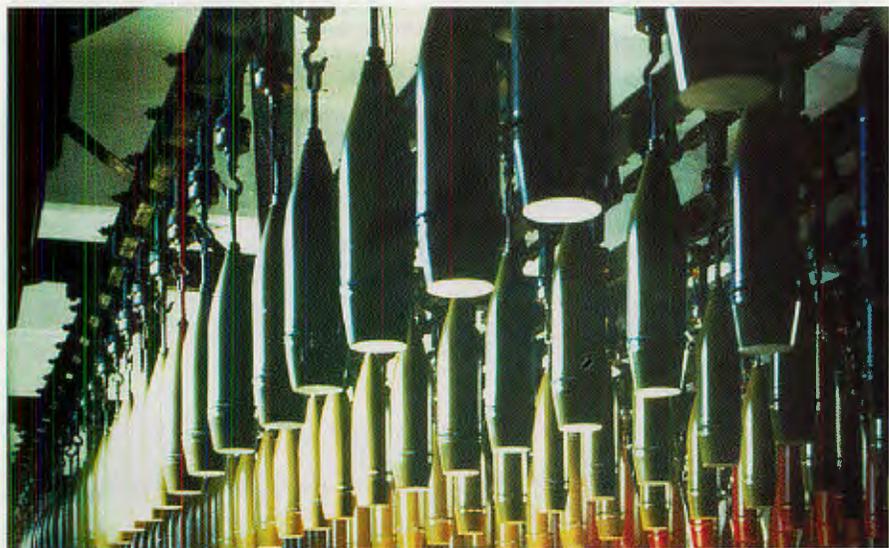
Cox "was mad as hell" about the White House release, said one unnamed source close to the congressman who was quoted by *Insight* magazine. The anger was understandable, the source said, because all nine members of the special committee — five Republicans and four Democrats, unanimous in their findings — were "hammered for not releasing any information, even to other members, about what's in the report.

"And suddenly, without advance notice, the NSC (National Security Council) releases a statement about it, plus the recommendations," *Insight* quoted its source as saying. Consequently, Cox and other panel members "looked like fools."

Over the last several years, President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have promised their policy of "engagement" with the PRC would accomplish five goals essential to U.S. national interests.

First, the argument goes, the Clinton Administration policy would encourage the world's most populous nation to import more goods and services from the United States. This, in turn, would nudge the planet's largest and most powerful communist government toward a free-market economic system.

Third, in so doing, the process will naturally temper the totalitarian state's iron-fisted attitude toward human rights, and nurture the heavily oppressed fledgling democ-



Chinese bomb factory. "We have found that national security harm did occur," Cox said. "We have investigated these questions more thoroughly than any other part of the U.S. government."

Summer productions

racy movement in the PRC. Fourth, a more mellow China would pose less of a threat to the United States and, finally, this would accomplish another high-priority goal often proclaimed by Clinton and Gore, the non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

As recently as last summer, Clinton proclaimed the success of this five-part foreign policy while speaking to a diplomatic summit in Beijing. The mandarins of the Chinese Communist Party must have been amused, but they were too wise and inscrutable to do anything other but smile benignly and smile and nod in polite approval. And why not?

Founding Fathers

No leader of Red China — not founding father Mao Tse-Tung, nor reformer Deng Xiao Ping — have done more to awaken the one-time sleeping giant and turn it into a modern economic and military global power than have Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

Despite the claims of Clinton and Gore to have put U.S. economic interests on a more solid footing in Asia, and to have made that part of the world a safer and saner place, “the fact is, however, the opposite is true,” Cox told fellow Republicans when he spoke to the RNC.

As to Clinton’s claim that our solicitous posture toward China’s communist leaders would prompt them to engage in more bilateral trade with the U.S., it is only half true. China’s getting the gold mine. We’re getting the shaft.

“New protectionist measures and currency controls by the Middle Kingdom are making it tougher for U.S. businesses to operate in China,” *Business Week* recently reported.

The United States racked up a record trade deficit of \$169 billion in 1998. The trade deficit for January was \$17 billion for January 1999, up \$2.9 billion from the month before, and February was another monthly record. The projected deficit for this year is another record: \$200 billion. Of that, more than \$60 billion of the deficit went to the PRC. And no wonder. The PRC exports four times more to the United States than it imports. We sell them high-end weapons technology worth billions at fire sale prices, and they send us cheap baubles, trinkets and flashy-but-trashy trade goods.

So much for Clinton’s hope that his one-sided trade will promote a free-market system in China. Instead, the modest reforms of Deng Xiao Peng have been abandoned and, as Cox explained it, “the Communist Party plans massive new state spending on government programs and state-controlled industries.... The rationale for these moves is purely ideological. The Communist Party fears that genuine economic liberalism would weaken its grip.”

What about the third tenet of Clinton’s China doctrine? Has the communist state improved its tolerance of political dissent, and its behavior on human rights? Perhaps one should judge from the words of no less



(left) Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin at a joint press conference in June 1998. Clinton, not Zemin may go down in history as the father of modern China. (right) “I don’t believe you can find any evidence of the fact that I have changed government policy solely because of a contribution,” Clinton said later. “All the foreign policy decisions we made were based on what we believed — I and the rest of my administration — were in the best interests of the American people.”



U.S. Rep. Christopher Cox, (R., Calif.). Impetus to form the Cox committee began last summer, with revelations that a U.S. corporation, Loral Technologies, received a waiver from Clinton to launch a satellite in the PRC, despite being under criminal investigation for unauthorized transfers of missile guidance technology to China. Subsequent reports by the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency confirmed that Loral’s transfers enabled the communists to extend the range of their nuclear missiles to hit U.S. targets.

an authority than Chinese Communist Party Chairman Jiang Zemin.

“The [communist] system must not be shaken, weakened or disgraced at any time,” he said in a party speech during an anniversary observance in December. “The western mode of political systems must never be copied.”

Not surprisingly, since Clinton has supplicated China’s masters for favor, they have begun the biggest crackdown on human rights activists, religious leaders and political dissenters since the Tiananmen Square massacre a decade ago. The crackdown came in the wake of China’s leaders signing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in October. But instead of adhering to the U.N. treaty, the CCP used it to smoke out troublemakers.

The day before Clinton’s trip to China last year, Wang Youcai, apparently believing the CCP’s pledge to the U.N. treaty, publicly proclaimed formation of the Chinese Democratic Party. He hoped Clinton might meet with him.

Clinton declined to meet with Youcai, then failed to even mention him in public speeches. He instead praised Zemin as a “visionary” and proclaimed the CCP as “the right leadership at the right time.”

The communist mandarins got the message. The day after Comrade Clinton’s departure, they began their crackdown, arresting Youcain and two fellow-organizers, sentencing them to 10 years in prison for “attempting to overthrow state power.” And that was only the beginning.

More than 100 church leaders and their followers were arrested, and priests were tortured. The crackdown in the wake of Clinton’s visit was far-reaching, with five devotees of the Dalai Lama arrested at a remote mountain monastery in Tibet. A labor leader in the “Worker’s Paradise” was arrested in Hunan Province and sent off to the slam for 110 years, and a web page designer named Lin Hai got the same sentence for merely exchanging e-mail addresses with an anti-communist group in the United States.

“Neither Bill Clinton nor Al Gore has uttered a word of condemnation in the wake of the communist government’s crackdown,” Cox complained. “Both Bill Clinton and Al Gore have remain deaf, silent and blind when it comes to the PRC’s repressive actions.”

So, does the fourth tenet hold? Has China become less bellicose towards the U.S. and U.S. interests, thanks to Bill Clinton and Al Gore?

China has seized the Spratley Islands, thousands of miles from the closest point of mainland Chinese and claimed by the Philippines. The tiny islands are being beefed up with heavy concentrations of military might, including a huge airstrip. They are located along one of Japan’s major shipping routes.

Thanks to Loral and other Clinton campaign contributors, China can now reliably target U.S. cities, and the number of missiles aimed at tiny Taiwan has more than quadrupled since Clinton came to power.

So, what about non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction? When Clinton’s China policy came

Continued on page 73



At Home On — And Off — The Range

TEXT & PHOTOS BY PETER G. KOKALIS

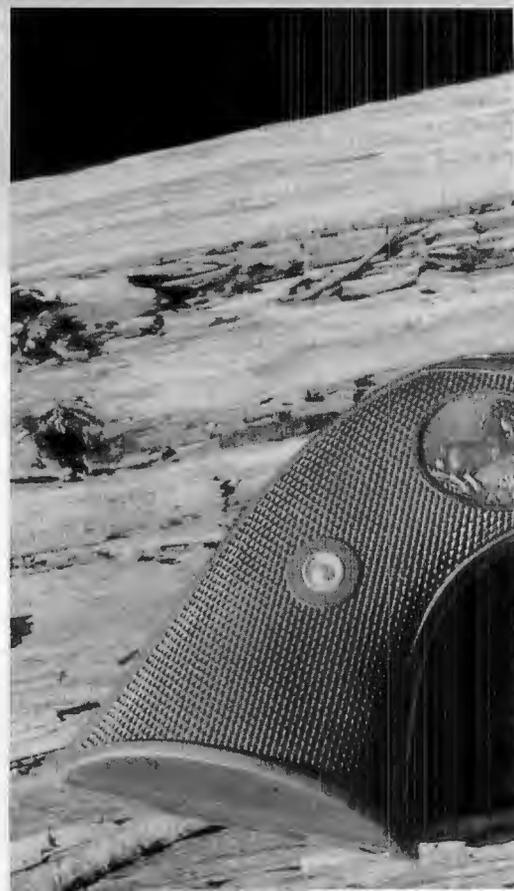
“**G**od made man, but Samuel Colt made them equal.” More than any other, it was the gun that won the west. No handgun in the world has ever attained the level of notoriety reached by the Colt Single Action Army (SAA) revolver — often called the Peacemaker. After more than 125 years it still remains in production and because of cowboy action shooting competition it is more popular now than at any time in the last half-century.

In 1866 the U.S. government began extensive experiments with center-fire cartridges. That same year Hiram Berdan patented his method of primer ignition and the British adopted the Snider-converted Enfield rifle and the Boxer cartridge. The self-contained center-fire cartridge was on

its way to dominance in the field of small arms ammunition.

New cartridges called for new fire-arms. Development of the Single-Action Army revolver commenced in 1871. By early 1872 it became obvious to U.S. Army Ordnance that the Colt Open Top .44 was unacceptable for use with the new center-fire cartridges. Several months later the Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company submitted the SAA, which featured a solid frame designed principally by William Mason, a blued and case-hardened finish, a 7½-inch barrel, walnut grip panels and a caliber .45 chambering. The revolver was tested in November and an order was placed in 1873 for 8,000 for use by the cavalry. Between 1873 to 1891, 37,063 were obtained by the U.S. government.

The SAA (Factory Model P) combined





The best features of the Open Top .44 and so-called Navy-size percussion and cartridge conversions with the solid frame required to withstand the pressures generated by the new center-fire cartridges, a barrel threaded to the frame and a new ejection system. The single-action mechanism developed by Samuel Colt in 1847 for the Walker Dragoon was retained in its entirety.

In more or less the same form, a so-called *third generation* of the Colt Peacemaker is manufactured today by the Colt Custom Shop. As a great deal of hand work is involved in its production, — and this to no small extent provides this classic handgun with its unmatched character — it is expensive.

The incredible, and to some, unexpected, popularity of cowboy action shooting competition has focused renewed attention on the Colt Single Action Army revolver. While a substantial number of those involved in this activity shoot “real” Colts, a significant number compete with Italian Uberti Colt clones and an even lesser group with the Ruger Vaquero. The Uberti’s chief appeal is its price, as in quality it falls far short and almost always requires extensive gunsmithing.

In 1996 Colt’s Manufacturing Co., Inc. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06144-1868; phone: 800-962-COLT; fax: 860-244-1449; website: <http://www.colt.com>) decided to produce a single-action revolver

(left) Colt Cowboy revolver has the shape, form, feel and handling of the original Model 1873 revolver, but is priced competitively. Left-side view. (below) Colt Cowboy grip panels are exact duplicates of the gutta-percha grips found on first-generation Model 1873 SAA revolvers.



with the Colt SAA quality and feel that would be priced more competitively. The project, staffed by Colt's top engineers, centered on designing a revolver with the old feel, but made by modern techniques.

The result is the new Colt Cowboy, which is manufactured and assembled by

Colt without any off-shore components (when first conceived the revolver was to have been produced by a well-known European manufacturer, but their quality fell far short of Colt's standards), and largely using the same production techniques involved in the manufacture of third-gener-

ation SAAs. Also, unlike many of the foreign copies, there are no aluminum parts of any kind in the new Colt Cowboy. Three dimensional CAD (Computer Aided Design) software was employed to copy the shape, form, feel and handling of the original Model 1873 revolver. Several significant improvements were made to the 125-year-old SAA.

The Colt Cowboy cylinder (mounted on a removable axis, or base pin in the solid frame) was subjected to CA (Computer Aided) finite element stress analysis and subtly redesigned to handle modern factory full-power ammunition. However, those who shoot the original SAA are still well-advised to avoid hot loads.

A ratchet machined into the center of the rear cylinder face provides a bearing point against which the hand can exert pressure to rotate the cylinder as the hammer is cocked. The hand has two points, one directly above the other. The upper point presses up against the ratchet as the hammer goes back and the cylinder begins to turn. The geometry is such that the hand moves in a perpendicular plane, while the ratchet rotates in the arc of a circle. The lower point on the hand picks up the next tooth on the ratchet as the upper point loses its hold on a ratchet tooth, so the cylinder will continue to rotate until a chamber is in alignment with the bore. The cylinder can be freely rotated for loading by placing the hammer in the half cock position. This mechanism has been taken directly from the original Model 1873.

The frame, with the same size, balance and handling qualities as the original, is a carbon steel, ordnance-quality investment casting. The back strap, trigger guard and hammer are also mill-finished investment castings. The original SAA is both heat treated and color case hardened in one step using animal bone. The metal is heated to 800 to 900 degrees Centigrade by means of animal charcoal and then plunged into cold water. A special two-step process was developed especially for the Colt Cowboy. A carburizing process is used for heat treating the frame and it produces a very deep, strong hardened case. The color case is achieved by a subsequent quenching operation in the heat-treat furnace. It looks significantly darker and deeper than that found on the SAA and this will undoubtedly result in some whining by gun store gurus. Personally, I think it's quite appealing.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent a new Colt Cowboy (serial no. TF00077) for test and evaluation. Chambered for the .45 Colt cartridge, it came with a 5 1/2-inch barrel. The top of the barrel is roll marked "COLT'S PT.F.A. MFG. Co. HARTFORD, CT. U.S.A." as usual. The left side of the barrel is roll marked "COLT COWBOY 45 COLT" and the left side of the color case hardened frame carries the rampant Colt escutcheon, but with no patent dates. The six-groove barrel has a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches, standard for this caliber. The barrel is made on the same equipment and using the same steel as that of the SAA.

HISTORY OF THE .45 COLT CARTRIDGE

The history of the .45 Colt (often incorrectly referred to as the ".45 Long Colt") cartridge is inexorably interwoven with the development of the Model 1873 single action revolver for which it was designed. However, this round actually lasted only a brief time as an official US Government type. It was manufactured at Frankford Arsenal from 1873-1874. The Smith & Wesson Schofield revolver was adopted in 1875. As the .45 Colt case was too long (approximately 1.26 inches) for the S&W Schofield cylinder, the shorter .45 S&W Schofield cartridge (approximately 1.10 inches) was adopted for use in both revolvers.

The .45 Colt cartridge also must not be confused with the Model 1909 .45 Colt round which it closely resembles. Six thousand Colt New Service revolvers were purchased by the government in 1909 and sent to the Philippines. The ammunition supplied with these revolvers was made only in U.S. government arsenals and never available on the commercial market. It differed from the earlier .45 Colt case by virtue of an increased case rim diameter.

While commercial production of the .45 Schofield round was discontinued in about 1939, the .45 Colt cartridge, now 126 years old, continues to march straight into the millennium. It was, and remains, one of the most effective handgun cartridges ever developed. Throughout its long history, the most commonly encountered factory load was a 255-grain, lead-alloy, round-nose bullet with a flat point (RNFP) that left the muzzle at approximately 860 fps. While that is not fast enough for today's ballistic speed freaks, the fact is that this round has done great execution and has never been found wanting as a man stopper. Its large, heavy bullet makes a big hole and penetrates deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the human body's vital structures and organs. Remember, once we've obtained the required penetration, the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage.

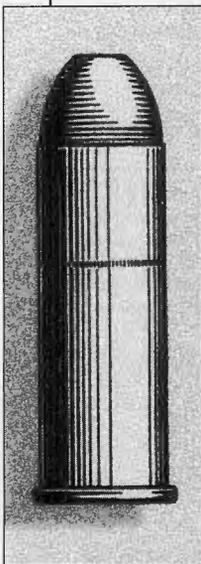
Prior to World War II, most Colt revolvers in this caliber had a bore diameter of 0.454-inch. After production resumed in 1956 (so-called *second-generation* Colt SAAs), bore diameter was reduced to 0.451-inch, which duplicates that of the .45 ACP. The SAAMI maximum average pressure for this cartridge is 14,000 psi. Due to the Colt Cowboy's enhanced and strengthened cylinder, it should, in my opinion (not necessarily Colt's), safely handle all of the more moderate reloading information provided by the Hornady, Speer and Sierra reloading manuals for this caliber.

While the original factory load was 40 grains of black powder (granulation not specified) over a 250-grain lead projectile, this was eventually dropped to 35 grains (Frankford Arsenal used 30 grains) for safety reasons. Today, about 8 grains of Alliant Unique propellant will provide about 900 fps with a 5 1/2-inch barrel.

Those (including myself) who are involved in cowboy action shooting sometimes prefer kinder gentler loads than those facing the harsh realities of modern towns with paved streets. Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150 — call for the location of your nearest dealer, if there is none, Black Hills will ship to you at retail) has once again become the clearly recognized leader in this highly specialized arena.

Black Hills offers cowboy action shooting ammunition in .45 Colt (250-grain RNFP), .45 Schofield, .44 Russian, .44 Special, .44 Colt (for the Richards cartridge conversion of the Colt Model 1860 Army revolver), .44-40, .38 Long Colt (for the Richards/Mason cartridge conversion of the Colt Model 1851 Navy revolver), .38-40, .38 Special, .357 Magnum and .32-20. All of Black Hills cowboy ammunition is packaged in authentic-looking pre-1900-type boxes. Most of the brass is manufactured for Black Hills by Starline and Double A, Ltd. provides bullets for several of the calibers. The quality is superb and I use Black Hills ammunition exclusively in cowboy action shooting competition.

—P.G.K.





(above) Roll mark on left side of Colt Cowboy barrel. (right) Roll mark on top of Colt Cowboy barrel is that of third-generation Model 1873 SAA revolver.

COLT'S PT. F. A. MFG. CO. HARTFORD, CT. U.S.A.

Except for the left side roll mark, it is identical (including the threads) to the Model P barrel. Overall length of the revolver is 11 inches. The weight, empty, is 42 ounces.

Initial examination of our test specimen indicated that both lateral and side cylinder play were minimal. The timing (cylinder indexing) was satisfactory. The cylinder-to-forcing-cone gap was 0.007-inch. The industry standard for this dimension is 0.003-inch to 0.008-inch. The ejector rod was slightly too long and we had to disassemble the ejector system and remove several thousandths off the end of the rod before we could withdraw the cylinder from the frame.

The sights are exactly those of the SAA. The open square-notch rear sight is machined into the top of frame directly in

PACKING IRON: COWBOY HOLSTERS TODAY

A substantial number of premier holster makers now feature a line of cowboy-style leather. Tony Kanaley at Milt Sparks Holsters and Galco are two of the best that come to mind. There are also several outfits that offer inexpensive leather for cowboy action shooters which more or less duplicate the old designs. All of the latter that I have examined appear to be no more than one or two grades above cardboard. Most of the jaspers who make these insubstantial rigs are located near the border, so assembly in Mexico is an almost certainty. Stay away from this junk; after one match you'll be ready to discard it. While cowboys had access to some mighty fine iron, the holster quality available in the 19th century was mostly just plain woeful.

About a decade ago, during the war in El Salvador, I started using custom holsters made by Sam Andrews (Andrews Custom Leather, Dept. SOF, Route 4, Box 48, Alachua, FL 32615; phone: 904-462-0576 — send \$2 for catalog).

Sam has been crafting custom combat holsters for 21 years. Located in north central Florida, near Gainesville, and just one hour south of the Georgia border, his customer base now circles the globe, with a significant percentage of law enforcement personnel and now an even larger clientele of civilians, as a consequence of the spate of concealed-carry legislation passed throughout the United States in the last several years.

Sam uses only number one grades of oak-tanned cowhide. All of his holsters are hand-molded and stitched with heavy, bonded nylon thread, which is sealed to protect against the environment. Many of his hol-

sters and belts feature a suede lining.

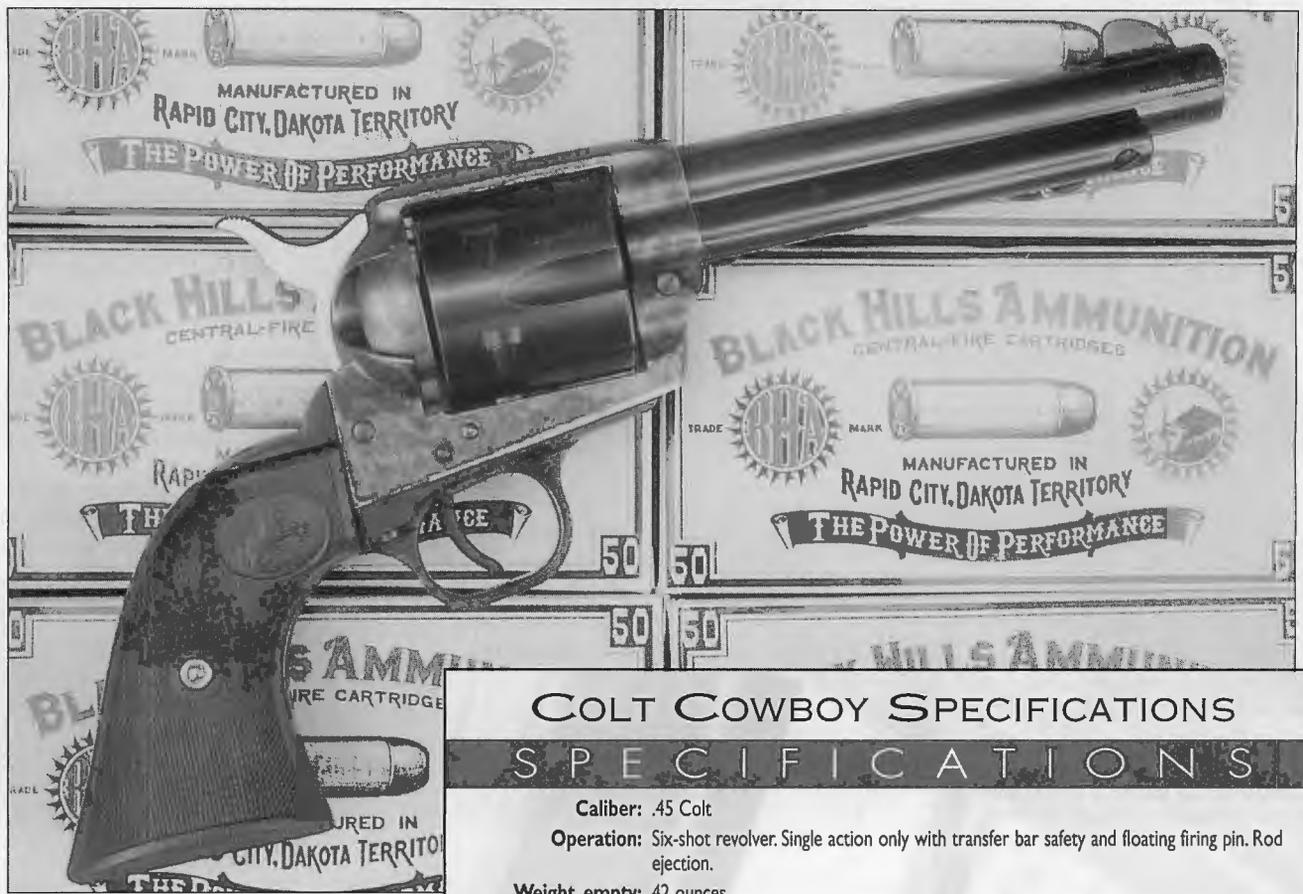
Not so well-known is the fact that Andrews hand crafts an extensive line of cowboy leather goods well-suited for cowboy action shooting competition. The holster and belt combinations include the Gunfighter, Great Plains, Vaquero, Arizona and Big Jake rigs. Sam also makes a competition fast-draw rig and a belt and two-holster cowboy action setup. Most of the holsters are of the banded type and plain oval, initial, buckle or concho bands are available. For those who prefer shoulder holsters, the Wes Hardin faithfully reproduces a type commonly used in the old west, although it is far more substantial. Shoulder rigs and cross-draw holster were far more prevalent in those days than they are now. Andrews' belts are available in the so-called ranger style or with a taper end. He also makes deluxe rifle scabbards, saddlebags, cartridge bandoleers and a fanning palm for slapshooters.



Sam Andrews' Big Jake rig is popular with those who shoot in cowboy action matches. It provides traditional appearance with the highest quality modern custom craftsmanship and reasonable price.

I use the Big Jake rig for cowboy action shooting competition. The strong-side holster (in which I carry a Colt M1873 caliber .45 Colt with a 5 1/2-inch barrel) is designed for carry just behind the hip. This is complemented by a Big Jake crossdraw holster with a medium cant (severe muzzle forward cants do not qualify for cowboy action shooting combination) in which I tote a Colt M1873 caliber .45 Colt with a 7 1/2-inch barrel. I prefer initial holster bands and the belt and both holsters are suede-lined with fancy stitching and a border stamp. The Big Jake rig costs \$180 for a 5 1/2-inch barreled revolver. Add \$95 for a Big Jake crossdraw holster to accommodate a revolver with a 7 1/2-inch tube.

— P.G.K.



front of the hammer. A large blade-type front sight is attached to the barrel at the muzzle end. The pivoting loading gate, with the same ball-shape as the rear of the frame, also duplicates that of the Colt SAA.

For liability reasons a transfer bar safety system has been installed on the Colt Cowboy. As a consequence, there is no firing pin attached to the hammer. A spring-loaded firing pin has been installed in the frame by means of a staked bushing. The transfer bar itself rides in two slots milled into the frame. A spring-loaded pin at the rear of the cylinder base pin impinges against the transfer bar and keeps it spring-loaded. A trigger plate has been attached to the trigger by means of a cadmium-plated steel rivet. This projection, a notched piece of steel, interfaces with a pin on the end of the transfer bar. When you pull the trigger rearward, and then only after it is fully depressed, the transfer bar moves upward and the falling hammer strikes it. The bar, in turn, then transfers the required energy to the spring-loaded firing pin so it can strike the primer with the force necessary to ignite it. Even with all of this, our Colt Cowboy has a very crisp trigger pull of only 4.25 pounds right out of the factory box. That's excellent.

While the transfer bar safety permits safely carrying six rounds in the cylinder, for cowboy action shooting competition you will still have to load only five beans in the wheel. The safest way to do this is to load one, skip one and load four.

The black synthetic grips (checkered and with the rampant colt escutcheon on each panel) supplied with the Colt Cowboy have

COLT COWBOY SPECIFICATIONS

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber: .45 Colt

Operation: Six-shot revolver. Single action only with transfer bar safety and floating firing pin. Rod ejection.

Weight, empty: 42 ounces

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

Barrel length: 5½ inches

Stocks: Black synthetic checkered grip panels, each with rampant colt escutcheon; exact duplicates of first-generation SAA gutta-percha grips.

Sights: Exactly those of the SAA: an open square-notch rear sight machined into the top of frame directly in front of the hammer; large blade-type front sight attached to the barrel at the muzzle end.

Finish: Blued barrel, cylinder, back strap and trigger guard with color case hardened frame.

Suggested retail price: \$600

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

Ammunition: Black Hills Ammunition, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150.

Holsters: Andrews Custom Leather, Dept. SOF, Route 4, Box 48, Alachua, FL 32615; phone: 904-462-0576 — send \$2 for catalog.

T&E summary: Manufactured by modern techniques, but successfully copies the shape, form, feel and handling of the original Model 1873 revolver. Cylinder redesigned to accommodate more powerful factory ammunition. Reasonably priced.

a fascinating origin. Colt's project engineers went into the vaults and located some first-generation gutta-percha (a rubbery substance derived from the latex of several tropical trees of the genera *Palaquium* and *Payena* — often used for grips and pistol cases at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century) grips. Molds were made and digital photographs taken. An exact duplicate was designed by Colt and is now manufactured for them by Hogue for use on the Colt Cowboy.

At a recent small cowboy action shooting competition, I had about 20 competitors use the Colt Cowboy. All were favorably impressed with its performance and most commented favorably on its trigger pull weight. The only negative comment was that it shot slightly high. The point of impact can be brought down by shooting

somewhat lighter bullets. Light bullets will almost invariably shoot to a lower point of impact in revolvers than heavier bullets, irrespective of their propellant charge weights or velocities.

The manufacturer's suggested retail price for the Colt Cowboy revolver is \$600. The first production run will feature 5½-inch barrel lengths and the .45 Colt chambering. Subsequently, 7 1/2-inch and 4¼-inch barrel lengths will become available, as will other popular cowboy calibers, such as .357 Magnum. Many who shoot Colts will continue to prefer second- and third-generation SAAs. However, many now shooting Italian stallions can be expected to jump on the Colt Cowboy's horse. This is a fine revolver and it will become popular at the expense of its competition. ✕

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— Robert K. Brown



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omega PROVINGground

SSK Industries AR-15 T-SOB

The biggest shortcoming with any red dot sight, beside their disproportionate size, is the fact they rely on batteries. Naturally, just when you need this sight the most, the battery is going to die, disconnect, be too cold to operate, or any of a number of things that contrary electrical devices decide to do at painfully inappropriate moments: It's a law of combat.

The problem has always been how do you employ these gadgets reliably in applications with serious consequences and results?

J.D. Jones of SSK Industries (Dept. SOF, 721 Woodvue Lane, Wintersville, OH 43952; phone: 740-264-0176) has come up with a mount and application for a red dot sight that may actually be the answer of how to reliably apply this technology in real world law enforcement and military scenarios. It's called the SSK AR-15 T-SOB, and that acronym stands for just what you think it does — the AR-15 Tough — Son Of a Bitch.

The AR-15 T-SOB is a redundant system that retains the original iron sights. If the battery dies on the red dot sight, then all you do is get a good cheek weld, align the iron sights by looking through the dot-less tube and proceed to finish the problem with the proper trigger press.

J.D. Jones freely admits he was not the originator of this idea. He credits Vietnam veteran Mike Bodner, a sniper in Vietnam who used an M-14 equipped with a Starlight scope — so he understood the

need for a redundant sighting system. Nor is this the first alternative sighting system that cuts the "suitcase handle" away leaving the original iron sights in place. Jones acknowledges that as well, but he is quick to point out the attributes and advantages of the T-SOB.

First of all, some of the other designs require cutting the suitcase handle off the top of the AR-15/M-16 receiver, securing the mount to the receiver with only two screws and then modifying the charging handle to insure it clears everything.

In contrast, SSK Industries secures their mount to the upper



SSK AR-15 T-SOB installs red dot sight in place of suitcase handle on AR-15 upper receiver. Original iron sights remain in place. If bat-

tery dies, or red dot sight malfunctions in any way, all shooter has to do is align front and rear sight and continue target engagement.



(above) Ultra-Dot red dot sight is one of few that J.D. Jones feels has no parallax or the least parallax of those currently available in the market.

receiver through use of four screws. Three of them are flat head screws attached from the inside up through the receiver. The fourth screw is installed down through the mount. The charging handle is not modified because everything is out of the way.

There are actually two AR-15 T-SOB mounts because many of the more common red dot sights have a problem with parallax. Many of the lower-cost red dot sights are not intended for shooting at objects hundreds of yards away. There are, however, three different red dot sights that Jones feels are, if not parallax free, then at least offering the least parallax problems of those currently available. The Aimpoint Comp M-XD is one example, the Bushnell Hologist is another and the Ultra-Dot is the third.

A pre-ban Colt Sporter with a barrel featuring 1 in 7 twist rate was shipped to SSK Industries. This particular Colt Sporter, a personally owned and favorite rifle for many years, has always been exceptionally accurate, even though it was absolutely box-stock. (An important point for anyone considering this modification to remember is this installation will not make an inaccurate rifle shoot tighter groups.)

Jones had his people install the Ultra-Dot sight (Ultra-Dot Distributing, Tom Roach, Dept. SOF, 2316 Northeast 8th Road, Ocala, FL 34470; phone: 352-629-7112) and the reasons are twofold. First, it's a good, tough scope. Jones has mounted Ultra-Dot scopes on 454 Casull handguns and never experienced a problem. He swears they will endure an unbelievable amount of abuse.

The second reason is the Ultra-Dot has a tube diameter of 1 inch. The #1 T-SOB is built for the Ultra-Dot or any of the 1-inch tube or 30mm tube red dot sights. The #2 T-SOB is built for the Aimpoint QD and the Bushnell Holo scope because they require a different mounting height.

Is this a perfect system? No. You still have to turn it on.

And because of that single, simple fact it's still possible to get in a lethal force situation and the device wouldn't do you a bit of good. But it is an improved system, because if that did happen you would have the factory iron sights that came with the gun and you can still solve the problem the old fashioned way — by centering the target over the front post, aligning the post in the rear aperture and completing the trigger squeeze. All you have to do now is look through a vacant tube between the front and rear sight.

It's just that if you remember to turn the sight on, if the batteries are up to power, and if all the connections are made, you can do it faster and easier by putting the red dot in the center of the tube on the target. Either way, you win.

— Frank W. James

Ontario's SP16 SPAX

Ontario, a major supplier of GI cutlery, has introduced their Spec Plus line of military and sporting knives: American made, solidly built for service, representing exceptional value. Those for whom knives are working tools and who buy them themselves will be pleased, as these have much to offer men with thick callouses and thin wallets.

The SP16 SPAX is formed from 1/4" carbon steel, with full tang design and a comfortably grooved Kraton grip, exhibiting good heft and swing. Patterned after an earlier era's crash/rescue tool, this chopper is eminently suited for cutting, breaching, prying and other tasks associated with rescue or dynamic entries.

The widely radiused face is shaped to also perform most cutting and slicing duties, and the head may be comfortably gripped with two or more fingers through the triangular cutout of the cheeks. No large game is in season as we write this, but it has the cutting/slicing/chopping capabilities useful in dressing large-boned game. The face comes obtusely ground in the chopping mode, but if anticipating more cutting and slicing and less chopping, the edge could be sharpened more acutely.

The back of the head features a 1/2" chisel point on a 2 1/2" shaft: Although odd-looking, this is a serious feature. Assuming this vestigial detail was from the tool's crash/rescue lineage, we tried it on an aircraft carcass. The face rent the skin as if it weren't there, and when we reached the heavy structural aluminum angle we simply reversed our grip. With the force of the swing concentrated on the 1/2" wide chisel point, it pecked through with about as much effort as sharpening tent stakes with a hatchet. It is also a good pry bar, as an accurate swing will get it between the pieces to be pried apart, and the 13 1/2" handle gives good leverage. The rounded, triangular cutout serves as would a shackle-pin wrench, or to turn square or hex-head nuts, assuming you have something solid to stuff in behind the nut. A brass grommet in the butt allows use of a lanyard

when your work takes you in the air or under water.

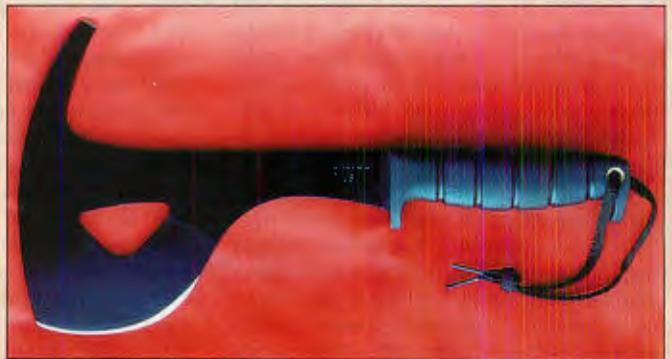
During the creative-abuse segment of our test we used the tool as a spade, drove a 16d nail with the flat and otherwise did what we could to test the limits of its usefulness, finally concluding the limits of this tool's usefulness would be constrained only by the limits of the user's imagination.

Carbon steel is a material we favor for knives and tools of this type, and in consideration of those who fret about rust, Ontario has given their entire Spec Plus line a 1095 epoxy powder coating. An additional benefit we have found from this coating on a chopper is it makes them quieter in use. The SPAX comes in a leather/Cordura sheath with belt loop.

This tough, capable tool belongs in every pioneer, rescue, and dynamic entry kit — or any hunters pack that would ordinarily have a common hatchet, as it will do it all.

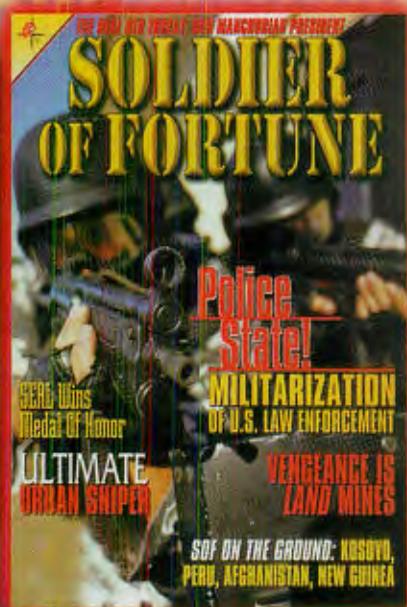
Ontario Knives, Dept. SOF, Box 500, Franklinville, NY 14737; phone 716-676-5527; fax: 716-676-5535.

— Don McLean



Counterpoint & Kudos

Reader Response To "The Thin Blurry Line"



Fitch Graulich

Our article "The Thin Blurry Line" in the March issue apparently touched a nerve, as readers responded with scores of letters, pro and con. Unfortunately, the volume of letters was far greater than the amount we have room to print. Here, we present a selection of letters, some edited down to save space, that we hope is a fair representation of the positive — and negative — response this article generated.

The vast majority of letters were from readers involved in various levels of law enforcement. Soldier Of Fortune editors want to make one point perfectly clear to everyone on both sides of this issue: Author Wayne Laugesen and other SOF

editors did not set out to criticize law enforcement personnel with this article, which argued that the growth and misuse of military-style police units, and the use of military in policing roles, may have dangerous ramifications to the republic of the United States. SOF has been pro-military and pro-cop since its inception. It continues that tradition, and always will. We support any actions men and women in law enforcement use to protect their own lives in the line of duty. What we questioned in this article, and will continue to scrutinize, are the changing sets of rules and orders police and military personnel are being forced to obey.
— SOF Staff

I would like to take the time and compliment you on your fine publication. I must take exception, though, to the article written by Wayne Laugesen entitled "The Thin Blurry Line."

I served in the Marine Corps for four years as an infantryman, and have spent the last ten years as a street policeman in the Los Angeles area. First of all, police are justifiably armed today with MP-5s and AR-15s (both of which I instruct) because those are the same weapons used against us. As far as the uniforms go, the woolen blue suit certainly looks nice, but its merits end right there. It is completely impractical for any duty other than standing on the street corner and waving to children. To this day, I have never run after anyone, nor even quickly wrestled them to the ground, without wind-

ing up with a nice tear in the crotch or knees of my \$120 wool pants.

As a matter of interest for Mr. Laugesen, the presumption that someone is "innocent until proven guilty" only applies to prosecutors, judges and jurors. Miranda doesn't even enter into the picture until the subject is interrogated while in custody. On the street (the criminal's home ground), police officers can only operate on the theory of "this guy will try to kill me if he gets the chance." All things considered, any other mindset would be naive in the extreme.

With regard to Zeke Hernandez being killed by U.S. Marines along the frontier with Mexico, if he was a simple goat herder callously (or even mistakenly) gunned down, then the incident truly was a tragedy. If Hernandez did fire on our forces and then

raised his rifle to do so again, even Mr. Laugesen would surely have to agree that the response by the Marine in question was appropriate. I wasn't there; neither was Laugesen.

Mark A. Galindo
Downey, California

I am writing in response to a feature article in the March 1999 issue, "The Thin Blurry Line."

This article was outstanding. Your Foreign Correspondents do great work, and I always enjoy reading about the rest of the world. But I have often wondered if SOF was aware of what is happening here in the good old U.S.A. This article let me know

that you are. Please continue to include feature articles of this nature. And thank you for printing this one.

John S. Ogg
South Milford, Indiana

Well done for the outstanding cover article in the March 1999 issue, "The Thin Blurry Line," by Wayne Laugesen. The issues the author raised have been on my mind for quite some time. The article focuses much-needed attention on the dire threat to American citizens' freedom that an increasingly militarized police force represents.

American gun owners have traditionally been strong supporters of the police. As the militarization of the police continues, when will the police cease to be the gun owner's friend, and begin to be his enemy? Will it be merely the signature of one more gun control law, by a president who uses the Constitution as toilet paper, instead of as his guide to protecting American freedom? It could be.

Since no totalitarian regime in history has gone lacking for men to do its killing and dirty work, all we are seemingly waiting for is the stroke of the legislative pen, to turn the full fury of American SWAT teams against people who are today law-abiding gun owners.

Mark Dickey
address withheld by request

Please tell Mr. Wayne Laugesen to take off his rose-colored, dope-smoking glasses and to quit sucking on his crack pipe long enough to find a clue! I can tell he has never spent one day with a SWAT team or one hour on patrol with a police officer in the inner-city drug areas. If he had, he would not have written the bullshit he did. Please stay with writing about firearms and military subjects and not all this anti-government crap.

David Sims
Augusta, Georgia

Why are Wayne Laugesen and others putting down law enforcement in America with semi-military training? SWAT units are composed of highly trained teams of professional police, sheriffs, etc., which target high-crime areas that need special enforcement actions to resolve crime problems. More importantly, SWAT (or SRT, ERT, MERGE or whatever) is also responsible for handling hostage and barricaded suspect situations and assists conventional police in serving high-threat search warrants.

These men and women should be praised and not criticized by those armchair cops who don't respond to a hostage situation or some drug-crazed loon armed with an M60E3, grenades, wearing body armor

and harming people because he enjoys getting off on the misery of others. Remember that military training is modified for police, not diluted. SWAT is not infantry nor SF; deadly force is a last resort and that is usually because the crook doesn't give SWAT any other alternative. We need SWAT. That's the bottom line.

John Rodriguez
Jacksonville, Arkansas

P.S. Marines are not new-age cops nor extremists. They are MARINES.

Pertaining to the excellent and badly needed article "The Thin Blurry Line." Statements made on page 55 are far from reality. It states, "Had Zeke been shot by a traditional cop, there would be hell to pay." The truth is that traditional cops kill (murder) frequently, and hell is paid by their victim. Anyone killing a cop gets life or the death sentence. How many cops are in prison for killing someone?

I'll be the first to admit that most shootings by police are justifiable, but it's the others that are worrisome. When the victim is dead, only the cop's side of the story gets told. In the last few years, cops have killed seven people in Boise, Idaho. For years the flag-wavers screamed about "the commie threat." We even "supposedly" fought two wars over it (Korea and Vietnam). Where are those loudmouths now that America is gradually moving toward becoming a totalitarian communist police-state dictatorship?

What was in the past the land of the free, home of the brave, has become the land of the increasingly unfree, home of the cowards. The social engineers have given us women's lib, gay rights, presidents who are chosen for you rather than who you vote for, our television sets buried with cop-propaganda programming, and drugs. And the phony war on drugs is just the excuse to bring about what is stated in the article.

Richard K. O'Brien
Casper, Wyoming



Jennifer Poole

In your article "The Thin Blurry Line," the author, Wayne Laugesen, mentions the use of Marines as a violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, if legislation had not been changed under Reagan and Bush. This is incorrect.

The U.S. Navy and its sister, and sometimes unfortunately subordinate, service, the U.S. Marine Corps, are not restricted by the Posse Comitatus Act. It is actually Department of Defense and Department of Navy policy to abide by the regulation of the Posse Comitatus Act. This is taught to all DoN security personnel.

The Army and the Air Force are restricted by the Posse Comitatus Act, as they should be. The DoN assets are used on the high seas, with the Coast Guard, to enforce international laws ranging from anti-smuggling to anti-piracy. The use of the Marines has always been limited due to their limited force structure.

I do not agree that the U.S. military should be used in domestic law enforcement. It is also illegal to use U.S. troops in foreign law enforcement. When these actions occur, it is the job of legislators to investigate and punish the branches of government responsible. And cows might fly.

GM2 Edward Middendorf,
USNR

I served four years in the Army, 1985-89 and after college, I am now a "local yokel," as Mr. Laugesen referred to in his article "The Thin Blurry Line." While my military training makes me a prime candidate for my department's SWAT team, I choose not to participate. But I believe that they are a vital part of law enforcement today.

Mr. Laugesen referred to the Sesame Street World. Well, I would like to tell Mr. Laugesen that it isn't Sesame Street out here anymore. On the streets of even mid-size cities and small towns, Big Bird is carrying a 9mm pistol and wearing body armor. Mr. Laugesen's reference to crowd control seems to take for granted that all crowds have gathered to demonstrate for democracy and exercise their free speech. I have been in several crowds and near-riot situations. The people were usually upset that someone was going to jail. The worst I was involved in occurred when 100 or so participants were there because we were arresting a convicted drug dealer who had just shot up a rival's house.

I do agree on two points in the article. 1) The fallacy of using the military of the United States as a police force either on domestic or foreign soil. 2) The growing power of national agencies, e.g. FBI and ATF, to intervene in situations which should be handled by local agencies. These agencies are growing more militaristic in nature.

O.L. Norcutt Jr.
Gretna, Virginia

Continues on next page

I read with interest your article "The Thin Blurry Line," regarding the militarization of U.S. law enforcement. Indeed the police who were intended to control the criminal element are now controlling the populace. I believe that any threats we may face from Y2K are minor in comparison with the police state that we are already faced with.

Last week I viewed Janet Reno on C-SPAN. She testified to a Senate committee about the "Quick-Response Teams" that have been set up in 18 major U.S. cities to combat domestic terrorism, and the FBI agreement with the Defense Department to provide quick transport for those teams to any place they may be needed. I found this information chilling, coming as it did from a federal official whose hands are covered with innocent blood.

To quote your article, "History is replete with stories of governments and societies toppling in the wake of martial law." I fear we may already be past the point where anything short of insurrection will reverse the growing powers of the American police state.

Paul Netto, RN, CCRN
California



Mark Mirko

I'm a cop with three decades of experience; 25 of those years I was either a member or a commander of our SWAT team. When I started in 1970 there were no SWAT teams or other specialized units to deal with heavily armed felony suspects. This resulted in more officers being injured and killed as well as the suspects and even innocent bystanders. Law enforcement needed a coordinated response to these situations and SWAT teams provided the answer. Unfortunately, there can be too much of a good thing. What I've seen in the last 10 years is an increasing use of SWAT tactics for virtually every situation, down to misdemeanor traffic warrants. I blame the exploitation by the media of guns and the self-driven paranoia that is endemic to being a cop. We used to knock on the door and take the person into custody. Now I see the door being knocked down and then we take the person into custody.

What I really have more concern about is the federalizing of local enforcement and laws. The federal government seems to be more involved with laws that used to be the providence of local and state law enforcement. Even the National Park Service has their own special tactics team. Mr. Laugesen's concern should be more with the immense power that a central govern-

ment law enforcement agency wields.

As I approach the end of my career, I don't like what I see developing, particularly in the federal law enforcement field. I remind officers continually that they are citizens first and cops second. Their allegiance should be to upholding the constitution and the rule of law. This, sadly, is something lacking in the current administration of our country and some of its law enforcement agencies.

Robert Burnett, Lt.
Westminster, Calif., PD

I was encouraged by your article "The Thin Blurry Line." As a former Libertarian candidate I have tried for years to spread the word that the War on Drugs was a bad idea, fueled by government lies and growing in power over the citizens it was supposed to protect. *SOF* has in the past run "I Was There" articles from our drug warriors on the front line. While I will be the first person to state that the drug smugglers are mostly thugs, these articles seem to reinforce this notion that all drug users are bad. If you would switch the words drugs and guns you will see that the same arguments to ban have been used for both of them. The government has said that marijuana, for instance, has no medical value. The government also has said some whoppers about firearms too.

Gary Sweeney
Cincinnati, Ohio

I am a plankowner with *SOF*, having subscribed prior to issue #1. Back then, *SOF* had "The Journal of Professional Adventurers" proudly printed below the logo. That phrase no longer appears there, and I believe would no longer apply anyway, because more appropriate would be: "The Journal of Whiners and Snivelers" or maybe "The Journal of Idiotic Conspiracy Theorists."

Here are some bits of news for the author of "The Thin Blurry Line":

1. The US military has been used many times in the past to quell riots and keep the peace here inside our borders, and this is hardly a new phenomenon. And as far as having the military acting as policemen abroad: Central America in the 1920s and 1930s certainly comes to mind.

2. American law enforcement has a history of using military weapons. Look at the G-Men of the '20s using Thompsons and BARs to battle the gangsters of that time.

3. The current "militarization" of US law enforcement has to do with a move toward professionalism that began in the late 1960s, and coupled with a nationwide trend toward more violent criminals. SWAT teams quickly became commonplace around the country. By the 1970s, most agencies were beginning to re-equip officers with semiauto handguns, and this was complete by the mid 1980s. The end of the cold war brought about some significant downsizing of the military and this

was a boon for law enforcement, providing agencies with a large quantity of quality equipment.

Of course none of these truths fit into the author's perverted theory, so they were conveniently ignored. In closing, I would like to be on record as saying I am sick of seeing reshaped articles about Ruby Ridge, Waco, and ATF corruption. How long can you continue to beat those dead horses? And what I would like to see in the future from *SOF* are some articles giving cops the honor they are due, and covering some real hot spots right here in the U.S.A.

Follow me! Come spend some time with those of us who have continued to be Professional Adventurers.

Greg Roberts
Long Beach, California

Following my military service, I got into civilian law enforcement as a dispatcher, police officer, deputy sheriff, detective and now as a trainer and SWAT officer with my current employer. *SOF* has always been a source of information for me to keep up with weapon trends, world politics, etc.

I understand that your magazine has not always supported some law enforcement endeavors, but what makes this country great is that a forum for differing ideas exists, especially *SOF*. I have to take issue, however, with Wayne Laugesen's article on the militarization of police. I don't know how long it's been, if ever, since he was in the line of fire of "bad guys," but even in the last 10 years, things have really started to go to shit for law enforcement. If anyone wishes that different tactics weren't required to handle situations, it's the police who also have families and a life off the job. I am of the mindset, however, that the bad guys set the rules and we have to adapt to what their tactics are within the letter of the law. Just last night, a deputy in a neighboring county was nearly run over by a suspect who had managed to steal his Jeep Cherokee patrol vehicle as well as the bad guy's female counterpart in another vehicle. The male was already arrested at the time and handcuffed.

Laugesen points out problems primarily with federal law enforcement. In doing so, he lumps those of us who do the bulk of law enforcement into a group of folks who don't do real police work. SWAT works for municipal and county departments a lot more efficiently than he gives credit to. As for the military, with Clinton as president, what would you expect other than a FUBAR performance in a non-traditional role. The "ninja suit" reference only fuels the fire to folks teetering on the edge of supporting and working against law enforcement. A uniform doesn't make or influence what we do out here. It is training and good management skills that keep SWAT an honest part of law enforcement.

Mark Mosier
USA

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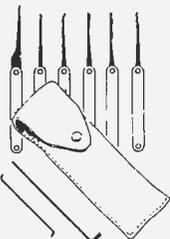
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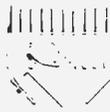
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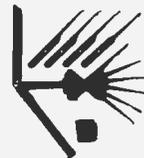
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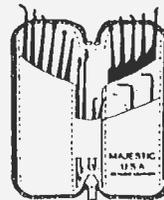


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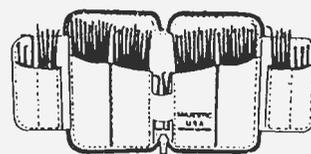
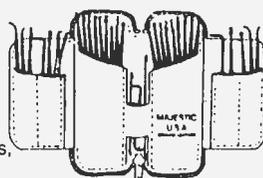
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I Was There

Continued from page 12

injuries my co-pilot sustained but when I tried to reach him I could only see a wall of darkness. Although it was still daylight, my mind wouldn't permit me to see the right side of the ship.

I also had a clear foreboding that these were my last few minutes of life. My pistol was gone, removed for the sake of freedom of movement, so the quick relief of a bullet was not to be my destiny.

More rounds cooked-off. I stood and lifted my left leg through the hole that used to be my windshield. I stood and looked into the flames and made my peace. The war was over for me and there was a sense of sadness as I thought of my family and friends and lamented spending my last few minutes on earth in extreme terror — not from the approaching enemy but from friendly "fire."

As the flames gnawed through my Nomex flight suit and my underwear, my right hip and foot jolted free from my boot and the wreckage.

I fell back aghast and nauseous and stared at the smoldering flesh that had been my right leg. Some one yelled for me to get farther away from the wreck. I looked up at a grunt who was unable to vault through the flames to rescue me. So I summoned my final morsel of strength and crawled.

While I was crawling, I spotted another chopper overfly the wreckage and hover above the LZ. It was a crew from my company who came to help in spite of the danger from flames and exploding ammunition.

A quick inventory of the injured gave me the scope of the tragedy. There were four of us — the doorgunner, two grunts, and me. This left six missing and presumed scorched to ashes. The gunner was in serious condition and later succumbed after a long and valiant struggle. The others who died there in that lonely deadly jungle reside permanently in my mind.

As for me, I spent four months in treatment and recovery, including almost a dozen skin graft operations, at the Brook Army Medical Center's burn treatment center in San Antonio, Texas. To add insult to near-fatal injuries, the Army found "pilot error" to be the cause of my chopper's crash — since the wreckage burned for three days, thus obliterating evidence of mechanical failure.

I was grounded and ordered to Fort Knox, where I served for eight additional months, until I was placed on the "permanent disability retired list" with an 80% disability rating.

When Robert S. McNamara wrote that we were looking for a way out and Nixon spoke of peace with honor, the lives of my crew and the severe injuries sustained by countless others, as well as myself, were part of the currency they bartered for their goals.

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Black Hawk Down!

Continued from page 51

maybe we would have been able to establish a coalition government that would still be ruling peacefully today. But that never happened and we won't ever know the answer. I think that Howe has suffered because he was the author of what turned out to be a very embarrassing episode. In a sense I think that was unfair — he was a victim of history.

This battle has never been studied in detail or discussed because there is a reluctance to examine something that is considered such a failure. But, in my opinion, the battle is a textbook case of what can go wrong when the shooting starts. The disaster that occurred that day was not a forgone conclusion. It came within minutes of being accomplished without losing any helicopters or soldiers.

SOF: Success and failure can be measured in inches. In this case it fell on the failure side.

Bowden: Yes, and I think that this is another reflection of the unrealistic expectations Americans have of combat. It's nice that we have lowered our tolerance for losing American lives, but I think it is also unrealistic to accomplish anything without anyone dying. I've been to Mogadishu, and the idea of sending troops into that city in broad daylight to arrest someone, when everyone on the street is opposed to you doing so — that's a very difficult mission. I think it was foreseeable that there would eventually be trouble.

SOF: In the book you mentioned that there were Islamic veterans of the war in Afghanistan in Somalia. Did they play a role?

Bowden: I think they did play a role, but it was not a significant one. Osama bin Laden was probably one of many fundamentalist militants who were helping to support Aidid. There probably were veterans of the Afghan war in Mogadishu who were able to advise Aidid's militia on how to attack helicopters.

SOF: Your book raises many questions about military interventions in general. Are there any lessons from Somalia that apply to future U.S. missions?

Bowden: Every situation is so different; it's difficult to say. I quote a Clinton administration official — who asked not to be named — as saying that Somalia was a watershed. He said that we used to think that some countries were victimized by thuggish leaders who oppressed decent people. Get rid of the leaders and the society would change. But now, after Somalia, observed this official, we see that in many of these cases, everybody is caught up in the hatred and fighting. In places like Somalia — or Bosnia or Kosovo — the hatred and killing continue because they want it to. Or because they don't want peace enough to stop it.

Dale Andradé is a senior SOF correspondent. ✕

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Terrorism 101

Continued from page 47

police force and drove out many of the town's original residents.

In September and October 1984, in another larger scale attempt to "fix" elections in Wasco County, the Rajneeshees sickened 750 people when they intentionally contaminated salad bars in 10 restaurants in The Dalles, Oregon, with *Salmonella Typhimurium*.

• *Omega 7 (Commandos Omega 7)*: Formed in 1974 by members of various Cuban exile groups in the U.S., Omega 7 was considered the most militant of all the anti-Castro factions. Based in Miami, Florida, Omega 7 ran operations from New York, New Jersey, and Miami. From 1974 to 1983, the group orchestrated an aggressive campaign of bombings and assassinations directed against the Cuban government and those who supported the communist Castro regime. In addition to planting bombs on Soviet and Polish ships in U.S. ports, Omega 7 targeted the vessels of other nations which were trading with Cuba.

Hailed as freedom fighters by many in the Cuban exile community, Omega 7 was considered a prime thorn in the side of the Castro government. Even the United States government wound up with egg on its face when it was revealed, during court proceedings, that part of the group's training and funding may well have come from the CIA.

All The World's A Stage

Mention international terrorism and the image of a wild-eyed Arab, *kaffiyeh* snaked around his head, waving an AK-47 automatically pops into most western minds: Foreign terrorism is a Middle Eastern phenomenon. Or is it? Long before Osama bin Laden began trekking the Afghan hills, explosions of dissent were ripping through the capitols of Europe, South America, Asia and Africa.

From Japan's *Aum Shinryko* sect to Mexico's *Zapatistas*, the list is long and not so distinguished. As one group falls, others spring up to fill the void. Is the light at the end of the tunnel the glow of victory against terrorism ... or the flash of just one more bomb blast? Is there an answer? Or, are we back-paddling madly down the river of no return?

As this series continues we will look at terrorism, past and present, around the globe. We will examine the perspective role played by the international news media, as well as look at a Who's Who of anti-terrorist forces, the threat of chemical-biological and nuclear terrorism, and what the future may have in store.

Richard L. Sherrow is SOF's Contributing Editor for Forensic Sciences, a former Army EOD technician and trainer and former Treasury Department explosives and arson investigator. ☒

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the use of "hired guns" are willing to concede — in light of the carnage and thousands of deaths that followed the latest rebel incursions in and around Freetown earlier this year — that the lesser of the two evils would have been a strong mercenary presence. Certainly the country would have been spared a lot of grief. Without them, just about everybody agrees, it is going to take Sierra Leone years to recover, even with unstinting foreign aid (which is not on because of corruption).

Defense Systems, Limited

Defense Systems, Limited is one of the best examples of an organization that turns a good profit by protecting privately-owned economic assets in troubled countries around the globe. In an interview at their London headquarters, the company's CEO, the Honorable Richard Bethell, told *SOF* that not one of its staff working in dozens of countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Americas was armed. The company works in many countries where violence is a way of life, including Colombia, some of the Arab states, Algeria, Kenya, Indonesia, Angola and elsewhere.

Even then, things don't always work out. The Canadian diamond combine, Southern-

Era Resources, reported last January that it was closing its two operations in Angola. A spokesman for the company said security problems had made life untenable. The mines were no longer profitable.

Also, hiring former mercenaries to protect your assets can bring trouble of another sort. DiamondWorks, whose Yetwene mine in northeastern Angola was attacked late last year by a force numbering about 50, again believed to have been UNITA guerrillas, is an example. Altogether 21 people were killed in the encounter. Others were wounded. Quite a few were abducted but later found to be safe, though a few are still missing.

One of the messages purported to have been received afterward was that the attack took place because Tony Buckingham, the controversial head of Branch Energy, holds 25% of that company's shares. Buckingham, it will be recalled, brokered the anti-UNITA mercenary organization Executive Outcomes presence in Angola. Africa doesn't forget such things easily.

It is of note that DiamondWorks security in Angola is provided by Teleservices, a Luanda-based joint venture part-owned by a South African firm, Gray's Security — which has no known mercenary links — and the Angolan company, *Mboji*.

Exploiting Wealth

Then there is De Beers. That huge international diamond conglomerate disclosed recently that the procedures for exploiting

Africa's wealth were different from anywhere else in the world. They were not only lengthy, the company said, but costly, as well.

Bill McKechnie, De Beers' exploration manager for Africa, disclosed in a report in a Johannesburg newspaper that in setting up a joint venture with *Endiama*, the government diamond body, to explore for gemstones in Angola, they first had to create a security team that not only spoke Portuguese but also had some military experience. This was necessary if only because it was the military that they were obliged to deal with.

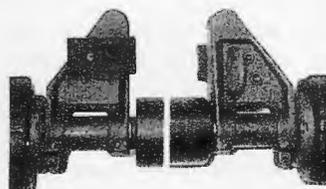
These people needed to interview villagers in the area in which they intended to work (as well as the local military commanders). They did so to get a picture of the threats they might face. Only then did De Beers start organizing an airborne survey of the territory earmarked for exploration. As part of the process, the aircraft they used were vividly sprayed in blue with white crosses.

McKechnie explained that a lot of Angolans tend to associate any aircraft with hostilities. Helicopter gunships and jet fighter-bombers are the only aircraft that most Angolans have seen. And because there are a lot of guns around, and exploration aircraft generally fly at tree-top height — about 70 meters off the ground — "we couldn't take any chances."

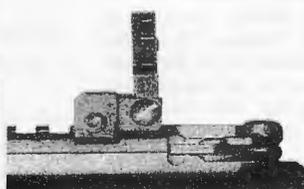
Al J. Venter is a senior foreign correspondent for SOF. ✕

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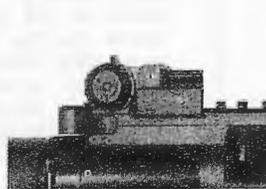
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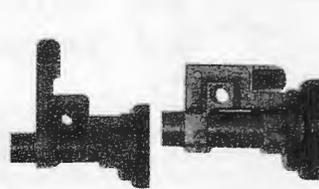
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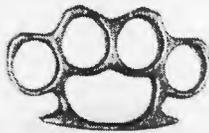
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Ashes Of The A Shau

Continued from page 43

Airborne Division led the CA on Dong Ap Bia inserting companies Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta 3/187th, as well as the battalion CP (command post), into an LZ 1,800 meters northwest of the summit. Other battalions in the CA included elements of the 2/506th and 1/506th which landed south of Ap Bia, while the 4/1st ARVN and 2/1st ARVN landed as a blocking force east of the mountain.

Ground commander, Lt. Col. Honey-



AP/Wide World

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., as he addressed the World Affairs Council in Boston (October 1969). Kennedy said the United States should announce "an irrevocable decision" to withdraw all ground combat troops from Vietnam within one year, and other forces by the end of 1972.

cutt was a man on a mission that day. He had joined the Army at 16 and had risen from private to captain in five years. He served with the 187th Regiment (The Rakkasans) during the Korean War under General Westmoreland, commanding a rifle platoon. Honeycutt was simply hardcore. Once, it's alleged, when a new officer assigned into his command announced his dissatisfaction with the Vietnam War and refused to go to the field, Honeycutt grabbed the scumbag by the collars and bodily threw him from his CP. The local HQ commander hearing the commotion appeared and was greeted by the enraged Honeycutt who bellowed, "Get this miserable traitor out of my sight. Cut him orders and send his ass to Laos, now!"

Honeycutt, never shy about a fight, had come to the right place at Dong Ap Bia.

More Fortress Than Mountain

The NVA had been reinforcing and building positions here since 1964 and if one were to strip bare the externals, one would see the mountain was layered with

concentric rings of bunkers and trench lines with interlocking fields of fire that concealed hundreds of spider holes. Trees not only prevented observation but provided 100-foot sniper nests with dense concealment, as well as deadly claymore mine locations. Some bunkers were connected to internal tunnel complexes that spiderwebbed inside the mountain. A major hospital, ammo resupply depot and food caches were all underground and out of sight. The west-to-southwest side of the mountain provided access for porters who ferried in supplies from the Ho Chi Minh Trail only 2 miles across the border. The Trail would also provide an escape route into Laos — which would be utilized frequently in the coming days.

From 11 May forward, troops had trouble locating the enemy. Ap Bia had at least 1,200 men of the 29th NVA Regiment, who were ordered to stand and fight. Three thousand-foot Ap Bia was the high ground overlooking the A Shau Valley. Thus, whoever controlled Ap Bia influenced the entire valley.

Ten assaults in eight days, by the five battalions attacking various positions around Hill 937, failed to capture the summit but succeeded in locking horns with the NVA in a hell of a battle. Every inch of ground was hard-won with heavy dues paid in blood and suffering. For 10 days continuous artillery fire and Tac Air sledgehammered the mountain while infantry battled in close-quarter combat between barrages.

The high-ground advantage of the NVA infantry proved murderous. American airborne infantry troops were pinned tight by crew-served weapons fire from reinforced bunkers or pelted by RPGs from the trench lines. Small squads of NVA infantry would swarm in flanking actions — cutting up any friendly units which stayed in place.

When the Americans would fall into retreat, NVA in the spider holes, hidden below ground, would pop out and ambush withdrawing warriors. Honeycutt ordered his troops to assault, engage, fight for ground, clear bunker positions and trench lines and — when unable to advance due to the volume of hostile fire — pull back and call in artillery on enemy positions.

Arty and Tac Air effectiveness was repeatedly marginal due to how well the bunkers were fortified. The NVA also frustrated the assault force by reappearing in the same bunkers after they supposedly had been cleared since some defenses were interconnected by a tunnel complex. The internal defense system inside Dong Ap Bia coupled with resupply from porters who came and went from the southwest side of the mountain made it appear that there was no end to the NVA.

But on 20 May 1969 — on the 11th assault — the 3/187th crested Hill 937 by 1200 hours. All other units, including many walking wounded, reached the summit later that day.

The prolonged intensity of the battle for Dong Ap Bia was some of the worst in the history of warfare. Consider this: Troops who landed in the initial assault wave on 10 May spent 10 consecutive days on a hill that received around-the-clock shelling and air strikes. Whenever the men were not engaged in contact or assault action, soldiers were either crawling up or down a 30-degree slope under a blanket of wicked small-arms fire, engaged in ambush ops in dense jungle or battling 100-degree heat and high humidity every day except one. On the eighth day of assault it rained a deluge when Allied forces were only 75 meters from the crest and were washed back down the mountain.

AP/Wide World



Maj. Gen. Melvin Zais, commander of the 101st Airborne Division in South Vietnam, defended his decision to make the fight for Dong Ap Bia, the mountain where 46 Americans were killed in the 10-day battle. Zais spoke at a 22 May 69 news conference to answer criticism by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., that the battle for the mountain was "senseless and irresponsible."

Few words could describe how tired and shattered some of the men were — some wandered about zombie-like and could coherently go no further following the battle.

Defenders of the mountain, the 29th NVA Regiment, were almost obliterated, according to an enemy POW captured on the final day of battle who stated, "The 7th and 8th NVA Battalions were all but completely wiped out." The hospital, regimental CP and other underground facilities yielded a staggering loss for communist forces. 152 individual and 25 crew-served weapons, 75,000 rounds of ammo, thousands of mortar and RPG rounds and more than 10 tons of rice were captured. Men were pushed as far as they could go — some too far. But the NVA were pushed the furthest — across the boarder into Laos, out of the A Shau and off their mountain.

Tom McCarthy owns Freelance Photo Journalism, in West Brookfield, MA. ☒

Bull In The China Shop

Continued from page 55

under intense fire on Capitol Hill last summer, White House officials told two separate congressional committees that "the controversy about American satellite deals with China is overblown," the *Washington Post* reported, "and that allowing U.S. spacecraft to be launched aboard Chinese rockets helps persuade the Beijing government to stop selling weaponry to other nations."

If he believes that, Clinton *must* have inhaled. To the contrary, the fruits of technology China has bought and stolen from the U.S. — including nuclear, biological and/or nuclear weapons technology — have been passed along at additional profit to the PRC to such benevolent states as Libya, Iran, Syria and North Korea. China's export of nuclear and ballistic missile technology to Pakistan set off the biggest arms race ever with India. China's sale of cruise missiles to Iran must have escaped Al Gore, since he co-sponsored a law that specifically mandates trade sanctions against any country such as China who sells such weapons to Iran.

Instead, Gore continues to be an apologist for Clinton and his China policy. While in Beijing in 1997, Gore offered a generous toast to Li Peng, who ordered the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square, leading to a wholesale massacre.

"... Having a relationship with [China], within which we can try to affect their behavior and improve human rights, eliminate unfair trade practices and bring about the kinds of change that will lead to further democratization in China, these things are in our interest," Gore said earlier this year. "We do that without compromising our principles in any way."

Like Clinton and Gore, Chinese leader Zemin understands that words and deeds are distinctly different; the former means to a political end, the latter to instill loyalty and/or fear. Bill Clinton and Al Gore and Jiang Zemin have at least one thing in common. Some of Clinton's harshest critics might suggest this would be political ideology.

Perhaps. If nothing else, though, they share a consummate skill in using tricky language to subvert real meaning. And they understand the immensely persuasive propaganda power of picture imagery.

On a visit to the U.S. in late 1988, Zemin gamely donned a tri-cornered hat worn by our Revolutionary War patriots, smiling and posing for photographers in front of no less a shrine than Philadelphia's Independence Hall, proclaiming his profound respect for democracy, etc., etc., *ad nauseum*.

"When the Republican Party meets in Philadelphia next year to select the next candidate for president," Cox cautioned his fellow GOP members, "we should keep in mind how China's Communist leader disgraced that shrine of freedom — and how the Clinton-Gore policy has rewarded his regime for doing so." ☒



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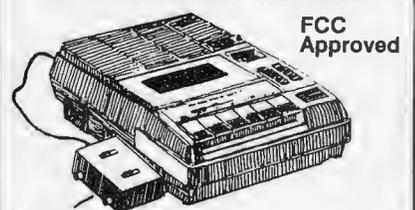
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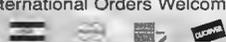
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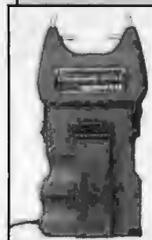
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PARTING SHOT

by James L. Pate

Windy City's Anti-Gunners Gush Hot Air

The newest darling of the anti-gun movement is Tom Diaz, a "senior policy analyst" and ersatz-academic at the Violence Policy Center in Washington, D.C. This goof-ball's latest bugaboo is the laser site. Diaz was trotted out for a January dog-and-pony press conference in Chicago by U.S. Rep. Rod Blagojevich, who wants to outlaw private ownership of the targeting devices.

The choice of Diaz, and the location of Chicago, are not coincidental. It is just one of the latest media events in an orchestrated gun control gambit to restrict the access of law-abiding citizens to firearms by trying to financially bury gun manufacturers with a blizzard of lawsuits.

Along with New Orleans, Chicago has spearheaded a national effort to use judicial tyranny to accomplish what the gun control movement has been unable to do through legitimate legislative means: Get rid of guns. The ploy is to bankrupt manufacturers with crushing legal bills from defending scores of lawsuits in so many jurisdictions simultaneously. Their theory is that, even if they don't win their cases, they win their war against the Second Amendment.

Diaz is author of *Making a Killing: The Business of Guns in America*, an emotionally charged, but factually starved, argument that gun manufacturers are callous merchants of death who will stop at nothing to push their products, all at the expense of public safety. Laser sites are but one example Diaz uses in trying to convince readers that greedy gunmakers are designing more "lethal" products.

Diaz conveniently ignores established facts that contradict his thesis, and fails to provide hard data to advance his own argument. He criticizes laser sites for enhancing accuracy, but doesn't make the connection that more accurate guns are safer guns. He ignores the fact that Chicago — which has some of the most restrictive gun control laws in the nation — also is the U.S. murder capital. Nor does he tell the reader that statistics prove that, among the 43 states allowing concealed handguns, those states issuing the most permits have had the largest drop in violent crime.

Instead, Diaz makes personal attacks on rock star Ted Nugent, a National Rifle Association board member, and movie star Charlton Heston, the NRA's president. He attacks Bill Ruger, whose company is one of the nation's largest firearms manufacturers, as some sort of ruthless robber baron, but all the reader really learns is that Ruger belongs to a couple of nice country clubs.

Diaz criticizes Ruger and other gunmakers for what Diaz seems to think are unreasonable profits, but he doesn't tell the reader how much those profits are. (Securities and Exchange Commission filings show Ruger's company, with a work force of 1,900, made \$25 million in 1998, not just from guns, but from all its sporting equipment. Ruger isn't exactly a Rockefeller or a Kennedy.)

Pseudo-intellectuals, like Diaz and all gun control advocates,

are pandering fairy tales to a gullible, frightened and easily manipulated public.

If the mainstream news media were not so biased on the issue, they would spread more ink and provide more air time on real scholarship, such as John R. Lott's seminal work, *More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun Control*. Sadly, Diaz and his ilk are less interested in understanding than the advancement of their political agenda.

Lott is a professor of law and economics at the University of Chicago. His appearance at the Chicago press conference would have been much more informative, not to mention less expensive, than jetting in Diaz from Disneyland-on-the-Potomac.

Lott doesn't ignore the fact that guns are used in crime. To the contrary, he tells us that firearms were used in 450,000 crimes, including 10,744 murders, in 1996. But he also includes tells us that "Americans use guns defensively over 2 million times a year, and 98 percent of the time, merely brandishing the weapon is sufficient to stop an attack."

Instead of vaguely defined implications that are based on heart-wrenching anecdotes about the tragedy of children involved in gun accidents, Lott tells us that 30 children under 5 and 200 under 15 died in accidental shootings in 1996. Unlike Diaz, however, Lott provides context and perspective.

"With 80 million people owning 200 million to 240 million guns, accidental deaths from guns are far less likely than those resulting from many other consumer products," Lott wrote recently in *The Washington Times*. "Children die at much higher rates from pools, bicycles, residential fires and cars. More children under the age of 5 die from fires they start with cigarette lighters ... than from all accidental gunshots. Even accidental drownings in five-gallon buckets surpassed accidental gun deaths" of children in 1996.

The intellectual cant of the Diaz book tilts from shoddy to sleazy when he rails against sport shooting programs designed to educate children on gun safety — and then describes anyone advocating the positive aspects of private gun ownership as "racist."

Try that argument on poor blacks who live in Chicago's crime-ridden public housing projects and who, under strict guidelines implemented by the Clinton administration, are forbidden as public housing clients from owning guns to defend themselves from the social predators from whom liberal social engineers can't — and won't — protect them.

Cops don't get there until it's too late and, sadly, in Chicago, it is corrupt cops who sometimes sell criminals the guns with which they prey upon poor minorities, according to an ongoing federal investigation into police corruption (see "Vice and Valor," *SOF*, April 99).

Public debate needs fewer emotional heat-seeking bombs like Diaz's book and more intellectual light like that offered by Lott. ✕



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