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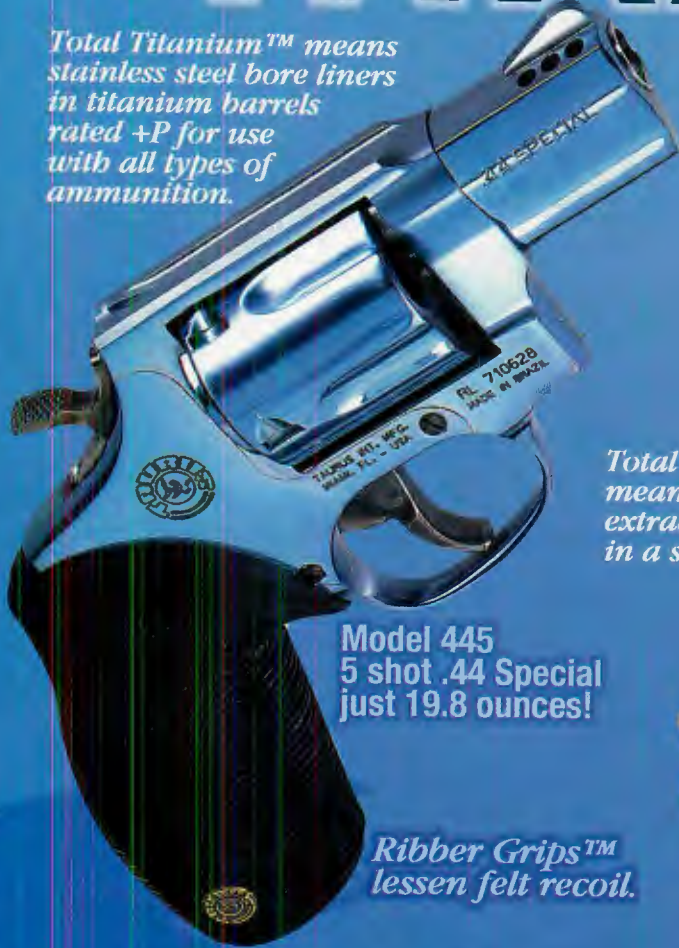
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Crisis In Kosovo

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Agence France-Press
 Digital enhancement by B. Bigler

Troops of the 82nd Airborne Division deploy near the Tirana (Albania) Airport on 20 April 99. Their mission? To provide security for the (many believe) never-meant-to-fight Apache choppers. Story on page 36.

APACHE TEARS

by Mark H. Milstein

While dazed weeping refugees stream out of Kosovo, AH-64 Apache choppers cool their heels near Tirana. What gives? A paper-tiger mission for their gung-ho crews — or another risky miscalculation by the Commander In Chief?

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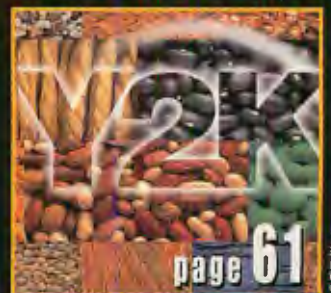
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Chris Mayer



SOF files

COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

When Doves Come Home To Roost

Now let's see here if I understand all this correctly. President Clinton has ordered our forces to engage an entrenched, politically motivated enemy, backed by the Russians, on their ground, in a foreign civil war, in difficult terrain, with limited military objectives, bombing restrictions, queasy allies, far across the ocean, with uncertain goals, without prior consultation with congress, the potential for escalation, while limiting the forces at his disposal, and the majority of Americans opposed to or at least uncertain about the value of the action being worth American lives.

"So just what was it that he was opposed to in Vietnam?"

— Lieutenant General Tom Griffin, U.S. Army (Ret.)

Telling words for all to read. Perhaps this is all part of Bill Clinton's master plan to gut the very military he admitted to "loathing" while he was evading the draft. The fact remains that President Clinton has been more successful in destroying the U.S. military than any Russian general could ever hope.

Since he took office, Clinton has reduced the active-duty rolls by 709,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. Our reserve forces have been eroded by 293,000 troops. The U.S. Army has lost eight standing divisions.

Our fixed-wing assets have been reduced by 20 Air Force and Navy wings, for a total loss of 2,000 combat aircraft and 232 strategic bombers. Our strategic forces have fared no better. Thirteen strategic ballistic-missile submarines with 3,114 nuclear warheads on 232 missiles; and 500 ICBMs with 1,950 warheads have become casualties in the Clinton war on the military. Our naval fleets

have lost four aircraft carriers, 121 surface combat ships and submarines, in addition to their support bases, shipyards and logistical assets needed to keep them sailing.

All told, the U.S. military might he has cast into the dust bin of history represents a world-class army in itself.

And let's not discount the loss of morale and prestige resulting from the misuse of American military might in such strategically unimportant places as Mogadishu, Haiti, Bosnia, and miscellaneous camel

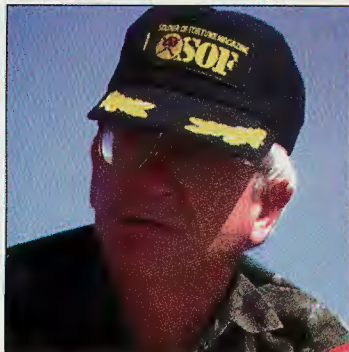
parks and sandtraps where American security interests were never seriously threatened.

Clinton has funded his feel-good social programs in the military at the expense of bullets. Our cartridge box of cruise missiles, Tomahawks and smart bombs that he has used in orchestrating his antiseptic illusions of war are not being replaced.

Then there is the geopolitical calamity of prostituting, and then abdicating, our leadership of NATO. At the very time NATO's credibility is needed to save allied, Serb and Kosovar lives, Bill Clinton has reduced the cold war instrument that defeated the Soviet Union into a high-school debate team that would barely earn a passing grade.

Clinton has handed the Russians an F117 stealth fighter — and his Chinese campaign benefactors, Pandora's box. The catastrophic hemorrhage of advanced technology and nuclear secrets to the PRC has set the stage for another 50-year Cold War.

The irony of ironies is, however, that at the very time when Clinton wants to use the armed forces under his command to create a personal legacy other than as a world-class reprobate, he is painfully discovering how hollow a military his policies have created. ☹



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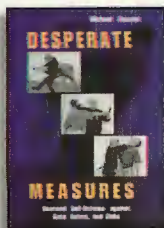
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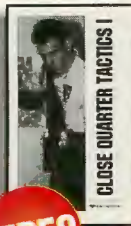
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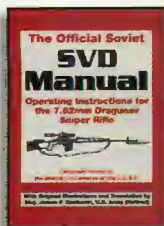
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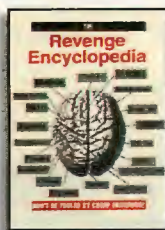
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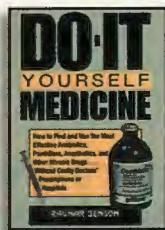


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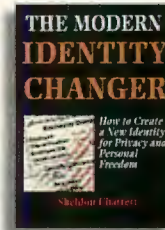
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The Longest Yardage

I respectfully request the details about the gentleman who holds the longest confirmed kill. I remember something about 5,000 yards. I have a shipmate that I was talking to about it, he said I was nuts! He being a former Marine and me being former Navy means he's always right. If you have any info about this please email me at mike-mott@bellsouth.net.

Michael A. Mott

See page 40 for a story on the record holder, and he was indeed a gentleman: Carlos Hathcock's 2,500-yard confirmed kill is the record as far as we know. Since Carlos shot him twice, if you have anything riding on this wager, you might get your Leatherneck buddy to buy off on the fact that 2,500 x 2 is 5,000 yards. The truly amazing shot of the last century was on 29 June 1875

at Adobe Walls, Texas, when Billy Dixon (MOH) made a spectacular 1,538-yard shot with a black-powder round and iron sights. There have also been spectacular precision shots fired with big guns, but as far as we know Hathcock's shot with a Ma Deuce stands as the record for small arms.

Record for Confirmed Friends

I was saddened to learn of the death of "Gunny" Carlos Hathcock. He was a true American hero. At least the pain and suffering that had been plaguing him for so many years is finally over.

I met the man only once, at a shooting match, but was truly honored. When I asked him sheepishly for his autograph, his response was, "how big an 'X' do you want?" Gunny was, by then, confined to a wheelchair. Nonetheless, the cordial hero wrote his entire name, even though his assistant told him to keep it short with "CH" or "Carlos." I

stayed for a few minutes, as I was full of questions. He answered every last one.

When I got home I wrote him a thank-you note — with a few more questions! Would you believe Gunny dictated a response letter to his wife and sent it to me? A true champion in my book. I actually felt guilty for putting him through all that!

It is not often that we are in the presence of greatness. That possibility has been greatly reduced with the passing of Hathcock. Though he had 93 confirmed kills, he had thousands of confirmed friends and fans. He will be missed.

B. Davis

UKed-Up Gun Laws

Congratulations on an excellent magazine, keep on fighting for the right to bear

Continued on page 10

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

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

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

You Know The 'Little Men'

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

Jerry Peterson Is Absolutely For Real

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Jerry Peterson

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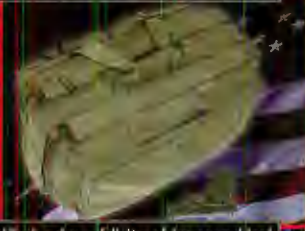
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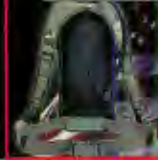
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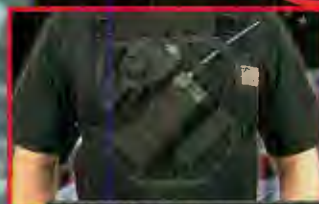
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arms. Here in the UK I have recently had my 9mm semiauto pistol confiscated due to the change in the gun laws; .22 pistols are also illegal; in fact, the only firearms legal to hold are full-bore bolt-action rifles and .22 rifles in semi or bolt-action form. However, many shooters have lost heart and given up due to the law and left-wing liberal public attitude promoted by the press. Born in this country 35 years ago, I always believed it was a free and democratic society. How wrong I was.

In fact I think it's about time to state a few facts: Britain is no longer great, it is run by incompetents and a vast majority of its people live near the poverty line; the images portrayed by the media of a green and pleasant land are long gone and probably only existed for a privileged few. I am no longer proud to call myself British.

Dale Symons

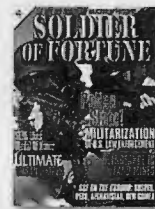


Semiauto vs. Bolt
Your recent article on semiauto sniping couldn't have been further from the truth, it isn't unfortunate that

police departments have been affected by USMC sniping doctrine, it's a blessing. We've been doing this long before any police department, so the doctrine has been tested and proven by both time and combat. It's a shame such misleading information was printed for the sake of trying to sell semiauto sniper rifles to a community that has the best weapon of all: a bolt action rifle.

Alex Popovic
8541 USMC

Since we don't have an interest in either a bolt-action or autoloading rifle enterprise, we have to take mild umbrage at your assertion that we are flogging "misleading information ... for the sake of trying to sell semiauto sniper rifles ... " Like the debate over wheel-guns vs. autoloading handguns, this debate will no doubt continue, although in most major militaries except our own, the autoloading sniper rifle has come to the fore, for the balance of advantages listed in the article. We should note, however, particularly in the field of sniping, that the man and his training and the accuracy potential of his weapon are more important than whether the weapon reloads without the operator having to jack in another round. I guess we'll have to agree to disagree. So, do you own stock in a bolt-action rifle company?



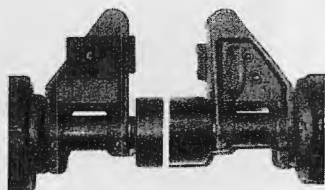
Mixed Reviews

I read your article on militarization of the police with mixed emotions. I have been a full-time sworn peace officer for 12 plus years. Prior to

this I served eight years in the Marine Corps. One of my current collateral duties is that of Tactical Team leader. I should have stopped reading the article at the first bit of misinformation I found. I was unaware the Federal Government owned STTU: The last time I checked it was a private enterprise owned and operated by Lonsdale (he is another story, check his credentials or lack of). I expected better research from your magazine. I was saddened to see terms like "local yokel" and "County Mountie" in a magazine which claims to be pro-police.

Let me be the first to say I do not want fire teams of 19-year-old PFCs patrolling my streets. That is my job. I do take offense with the idea that we are no longer caring professionals. The mission of every tactical team is the same: to save lives. Yes, we dress in black BDUs. Yes, we carry automatic weapons. Yes, we practice tactics used by military hostage-rescue teams. Why? Because they work, and we want to stay alive. If you check into it, you will find that the training between the military and

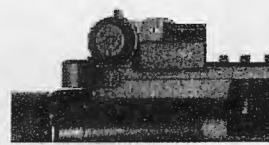
F.I.R.E. System for AR15/M16 Fully Integrated Rifle Enhancement (F.I.R.E.)



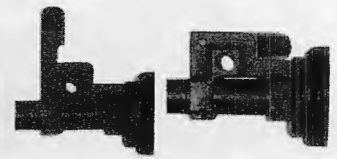
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law enforcement goes both ways. SWAT teams have been responsible for training numerous members of the military. My team has trained Marines and Army SF.

The bottom line is the police are still the police and the military is still the military. The line is not as blurry as the article makes it seem. We may wear the same clothes and use some of the same weapons and tactics but we still have two distinct functions.

WESTDOG172@aol.com

Own And Carry

Where in the Second Amendment, or the Constitution, for that matter, does it say anything about carrying a firearm openly or concealed? It plainly states "to keep and bear arms," meaning to own and carry. Because there is no prohibition in the Constitution to carry concealed, then it is permitted. Those knotheads in DC just do not get it. Since when does one need a license or permit to exercise a constitutional right? If we told those idiots that they had to get a permit to speak their mind and had to wait five days for approval and then only be permitted to do that once a month, they would have a cow and start screaming that it's unconstitutional. But without the Second Amendment, the other nine are just academic, aren't they?

Keep up the good work of informing the public of the truth. I've been reading your

magazine since day one and there is no finer source of information.

Thomas D. Klusty

Top Three Women of Century

The "ABC List of Women of the Century" — Jane Fonda on the list? No big surprise.

Pick any 100 widows of moms of men KIA in America's wars in this century, and we'll all know they rate higher than the celluloid talking heads that gratuitously dot the ABC roll-call. When the insipid program airs on TV, we plan to just "tune out," to use a '60s' phrase.

I have a list of the top three women of the century, and Janie ain't on it: My wife, my little girl, and my mom are.

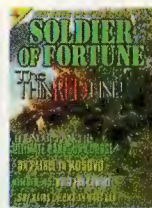
My mother, while in her 50s, ventured twice into north Laos during the war, when I was a guerrilla adviser there. When some shooting started and soldiers deserted their posts near my hooch, she picked up a carbine and a grenade, and guarded the perimeter until I came barreling up in my jeep. (Way to go, Mom!)

My wife carries a gun and defends her country every day. She's one of the quiet heroines. You don't hear about her in the press, but she and her pals do more to protect the rest of us than Jane or the current crowd in the White House ever did.

My 10-year-old little girl reads a book every night, and will do something incredible for our future — I feel it in my bones.

Jane Fonda? Can't hold a candle to them. The ABC list includes fluff — not real substance in all cases. Don't sweat the advertising. Write your own histories.

CDR Chip Beck, USNR (Ret.)



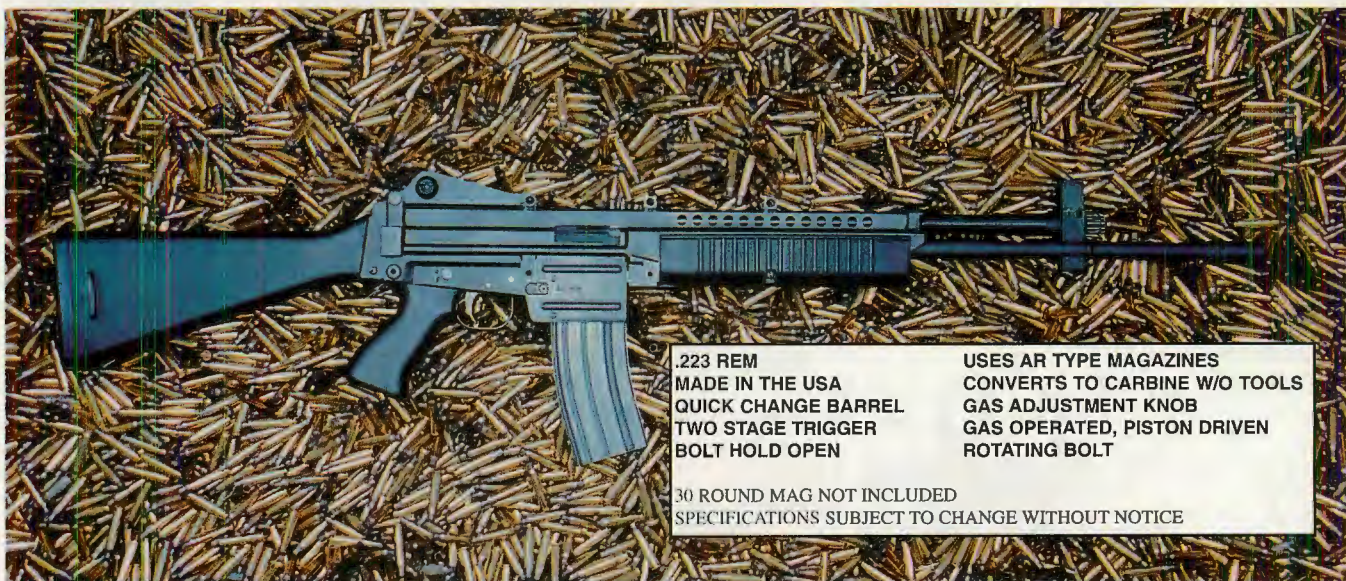
Colombian Kudos

I read your article about Colombia in your April issue and I think it is very good. I am a first lieutenant from the Colombian Army and right now I am working in a Ranger battalion helping out the training of the Rangers and the LRRS soldiers. ... For me and my Army it is very important to inform the public about our activities and the war that we are fighting, especially those who think that the U.S. should not help the Colombian Army with weapons and training. As you mention in your article, it will make a great difference in the war against communists and drugs.

When the guerrillas in Colombia deal with drugs, that makes them not only a threat for Colombia but also for the whole world.

Via email ✉

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The Slick Slope of Power

With Clinton at the helm of a war in the Balkans — one with all the makings of a classic American-style boondoggle of death and destruction in the name of no clear objective — we should examine closely the amount of power we've allowed presidents to have in placing our troops in harms way. With a character like Clinton in office — a draft dodger with no military experience, who has surrounded himself with advisers who have no military experience — anything is possible.

In a previous Slick Willie Watch, we told you how a non-fiction

book by George Stephanopoulos reveals Clinton's lack of depth regarding foreign policy matters. If you've read that, proceed to a new fiction book called *The Price of Power*, by James W. Huston.

A lawyer and former Naval aviator, Huston creates a tale in which readers begin to realize just how important Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution really is. It says "The Congress shall have power ... To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water."

The book, a sequel to Huston's block-



Brian Wunder

James Huston raises questions about presidential powers in his new novel, *The Price of Power*.

buster, *Balance of Power*, is the fictional account of Congress dealing with a peacenik president who court-martials an admiral for carrying out a congressional order to attack a group of anti-American terrorists. The admiral, torn between Congress and the president, obeys a letter of Marque and Reprisal that orders him to attack. Ultimately, Congress and the president come to a showdown in impeachment hearings.

The plot is possible, Huston explains, only because the United States, in real life, has usurped the constitutional provision for having Congress declare war. The book creates a situation in which it's truly unclear who has ultimate control over the military, Congress or the president. Huston says the process of declaring war became blurry after World War II, when the United States needed to control hot spots without launching all-out wars.

The book, Huston explains, "is almost a situation opposite of what we have now, but it raises some of the same questions. In my book, you have a president who refuses to send troops when it's of vital interest to the United States to do so, instead of what we have now, which is a president whose doctrine appears to be 'If I don't like what you're doing, for whatever reason, I'm going to beat you up.' And he's accountable to nobody."

Huston argues the Founding Fathers wanted troops used only after a declaration of war, which was to be made after serious deliberations by a representative government, not by one man responding to political whim.

"The difficulties we've had with recent military actions are caused by the fact the American people are not behind these activities," Huston says. "They are in no way involved in the decision making."

Bombing or sending troops to Kosovo, Huston says, should have been debated and decided by Congress because a matter of ideology is at stake. "We need to know whether human rights violations alone are enough to endanger American soldiers, spend our military budget, and expend the arsenal. If the answer is 'yes,' then I'd like to know when that was decided. It has never historically been the case in this country, so from all I can tell it's a matter of policy decided entirely by one man — Bill Clinton."

Huston criticizes more than Clinton's policy in Kosovo. He also says the war is tactically stupid and already lost.

"We've already failed the objective, which was to keep Kosovars in their homes," Huston says. "And from the very beginning we sent the clear message that we think this is a tar baby, so we're going to have an air war, which means we'll stand across the street and throw rocks. All our bombs can do is intimidate Milosevic, which is an ironic strategy, because the only thing he has left is the fact he hasn't buckled to intimidation by the U.S. and NATO. The idea we can effect change with an air war alone is screwy. I think Congress know that, but unfortunately Congress doesn't really have any say in matters of war."

Again, *The Price of Power* deals directly with none of this. But the author clearly understands both the political and tactical aspects of war. He's done his research and put together an extremely realistic story that should make every reader respect the intentions of our founders regarding use of American military force. The whims of Slick Willie — or the peacenik featured in Huston's book — aren't what they had in mind. ☒



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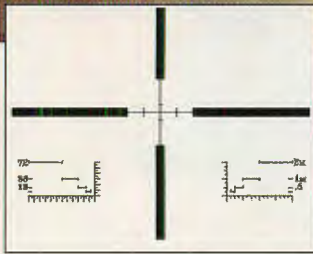
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ADVENTURE QUARTERMASTER

New Leatherwood Sporter

A Leatherwood scope is still the only rifle scope that automatically corrects the center point of aim for range without the shooter ever removing his eye from the target.

Until now, the ART system scope has been very expensive, and confined to one caliber without removing and replacing cams — but the second-generation Leatherwood Sporter™ uses a revolutionary new mechanism (patent pending) that allows the user to ballistically match the scope to the rifle's specific ammunition by caliber, bullet weight, style and manufacturer. This allows its use on virtually any rifle from .17 Remington to .375 H&H Magnum, and this means that this point of aim will equal point of impact from less than 200 yards out to more than 600 yards. The shooter will no longer need to estimate range and adjust for "holdover," as the scope adjusts for trajectory automatically. It can be set up to range in either yards or meters.



This new Leatherwood scope was developed for the sporting world, but is bound to find a place in the law enforcement market, as the Leatherwood Sporter™ is a high-quality 3-9x40mm variable-power scope that utilizes

four interconnected exterior rings. The rearmost ring is the power ring, and it is connected to the magnification mechanism of the scope. The next ring is the range ring, which indicates the range in yards at which the scope is set at any time. Next is the caliber ring, with which the shooter "dials in" the specifics of the ammunition being used. The forward ring is the trajectory ring, that acts on the base of the scope to automatically compensate for bullet drop.

For all its abilities, the Leatherwood Sporter™ is very user friendly: The shooter simply looks up the bullet caliber/weight/style and manufacturer on a supplied chart, then with a small screwdriver he disengages the rings, sets the proper code from the chart and reengages and tightens the rings. As the shooter adjusts magnification, the rings will turn together. Once the scope is zeroed at 200 yards, it is ballistically matched to the ammunition. The scope easily can be swapped from rifle to rifle and caliber to caliber with this simple procedure.

The other key to the Leatherwood Sporter™ is the new auto/range aiming reticle (see inset). The shooter increases or decreases the magnification until the target is framed. The scope has now set the distance and trajectory: the shooter places the crosshairs on the desired point of impact, and shoots. Point of aim equals point of impact — and the shooter never has to take his eyes off the tar-

get. Even a novice shooter will be able to adjust and frame the target in one smooth, fluid motion.

The scope can be mounted on any Weaver-style base without regard to slot spacing. The 1-in. tube is nitrogen filled, shockproof and waterproof; the optics are multi-coated and fog proof. At 12.25 inches long, the Leatherwood Sporter™ weighs 1.335 pounds (21.36 ounces), and it comes with a lifetime guarantee against materials and manufacturing defects.

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Compared to what you're likely to meet at an *SOF* hunting camp, a good dog makes a better hunting partner. And like a good horse or magazine editor, a dog will work until he drops in the traces with nary a whimper — so it's up to you to attend to his needs. Among other things, that means water. You carry a canteen or one of those new hotshot "hydration systems," but Phideaux has to make do with toilets if you have indoor plumbing, and mud puddles in the field.

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Now cometh Paul Jones with a pocketable dog dish that will hold a quart-and-a-half, and fold up to a round bundle only 2-3/4" in diameter by a couple-inches thick, fitting easily into hunting vest or pocket or pack. An interior spring keeps it folded or erect. The exterior is Oxford nylon, the interior is coated waterproof nylon. Called Hank's Bowl™, the dish comes in 10 colors, including Advantage Camouflage®.



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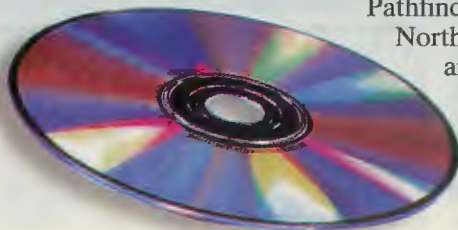
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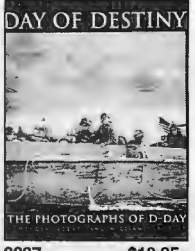
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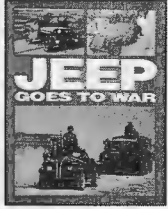
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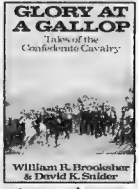
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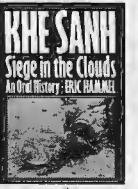
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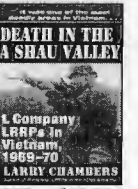
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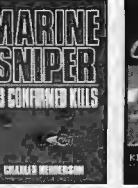
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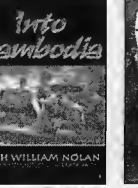
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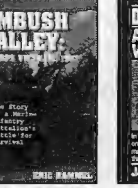
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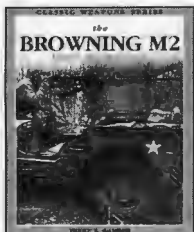


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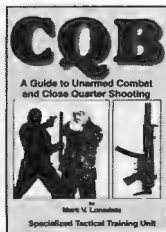


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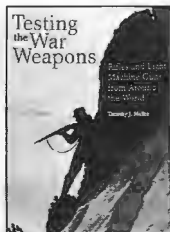
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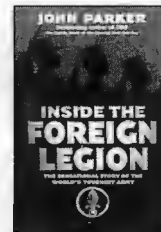
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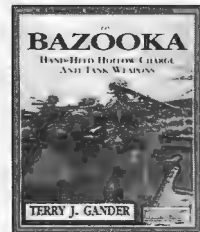
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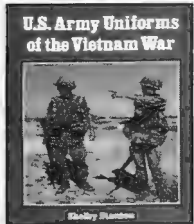
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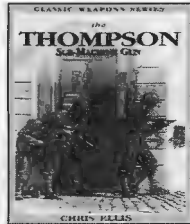
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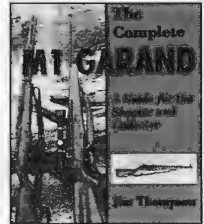
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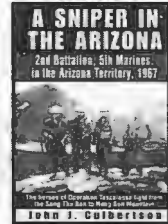
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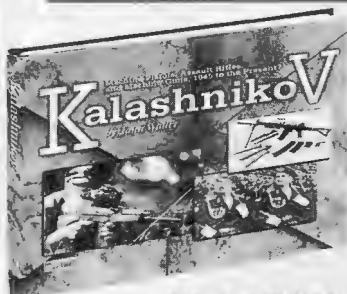
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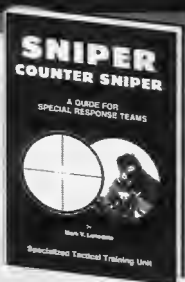
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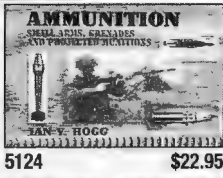
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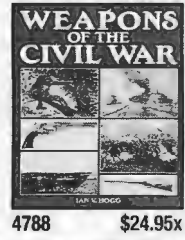
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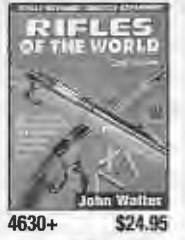
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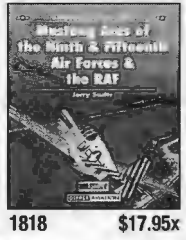
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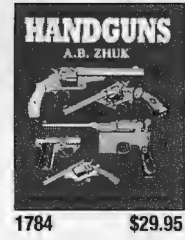
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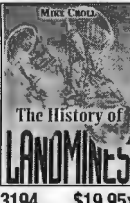
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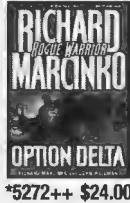
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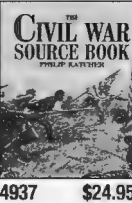
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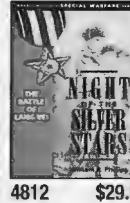
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Your target jerks abruptly and then almost simultaneously disappears behind cover and concealment. You have just blown the mission. Your 175-grain Black Hills moly-coated BTHP bullet sailed 10 inches over his head. He was actually only 300 yards away. With a 300-yard zero, the bullet will strike almost 14 inches low at 400 yards and thus because of incorrect range estimation, your reticle crosshairs were actually more than a foot below the actual point of impact at 300 yards. Out at ranges of 400 to 500 yards, every 10-yard error in range estimation changes the point of impact by 2.4 inches.

Given match-grade ammunition, a sturdy, high-quality optical sight, a reliable and accurate rifle and a properly trained marksman, no factor in the sniper equation results in more misses than errors in range estimation.

Methods for estimating ranges by law enforcement and military countersniper teams vary from the use of maps, the "100-meter increment," "appearance of objects," "bracketing" and "range card" methods up through scopes with mil-dot reticle patterns (used in conjunction with either pocket calculators or the excellent Mildot Master analog slide rule), or, more rarely now, bulky and heavy military optical rangefinders and finally, sophisticated laser rangefinders that cost more than any organization, except possibly Delta or SEAL Team Six, could afford.

There is an excellent alternative, however, that is well within the budget constraints of any agency or individual. No one makes higher quality optical devices at lower prices than Bushnell (Dept. SOF, 9200 Cody, Overland Park, KS 66214-3259; phone: 913-752-3400; fax: 913-752-3550; web site: <http://www.bushnell.com>). *Soldier Of Fortune* was recently sent several models of Bushnell's Yardage Pro infrared laser rangefinder series for test and evaluation: the Yardage Pro Compact 600 and 800 and the new 1000 units.

A laser is a device for producing electromagnetic radiation, equivalent to light, but of considerably higher radiant energy. The word "laser" is an acronym for "light amplification by simulated emission of radiation." Infrared laser indicates that the wavelength

of the generated light falls just below visible light in frequency on the electromagnetic spectrum.

Several important factors influence the measuring range of any laser rangefinder: the color, surface finish, size and shape of the target will all affect its reflectivity, or albedo (the portion of incident electro-magnetic radiation reflected by a surface), and the range at which the unit can still accurately determine a range. The brighter the target's color, the farther away its range can be determined. Red

is highly reflective, black is not. A shiny finish provides more albedo than a matte surface. Small targets are more difficult to range than larger ones. The angle to the reflected surface of the target is quite important. A head-on angle (when the target surface is perpendicular, or normal, to the flight path of the emitted energy pulses) is best. Atmospheric conditions, such as haze, can reduce the measuring distance. And, finally, lighting conditions affect the ranging potential of a laser rangefinder. Hazy or overcast skies provide a maximum ranging environment. Very sunny days dimin-

ish a laser rangefinder's potential. As an aside, if you anticipate ever being on the receiving end, it would pay you to make note of these important target indicators.

Bushnell's Yardage Pro series of laser rangefinders use sophisticated circuitry that permits the operator to choose between two units of measurement and various targeting modes. In addition, each unit's LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) incorporates illuminated indicators that inform the user 1) when the laser is active, 2) what the reflectivity of the target is, 3) what the precision tolerances of a specific reading are and, 4) if the battery is low.

To use a Bushnell Yardage Pro rangefinder, just look through the monocular and press the button on the top right hand side of the unit once to activate the LCD. Aim the Yardage Pro at a target at least 21 yards away (this minimum distance changes somewhat with the unit) and depress and hold the button down until a range reading is displayed. Release the button. Once activated the last reading will remain on display for 30 seconds. The button can be depressed at any time to range a new target.

Any Yardage Pro rangefinder can be used to determine ranges in either yards or meters. The unit of measurement appears in the lower right portion of the LCD. To change the unit of measurement, depress the mode button, located to the front and right, and hold it down for approximately 5 seconds.

This button also allows you to utilize five different targeting



Bushnell Yardage Pro laser rangefinders.

modes in order to adjust the performance parameters of the rangefinder to suit a specific environment. These modes are as follows: The "STANDARD" mode, which has no LCD indicator, is used for targets of average reflectivity at ranges up to 600, 800 or 1,000 yards, depending upon the unit. When the LCD indicator exhibits "SCAN," the range can be continuously updated for 10 seconds when the fire button remains depressed. This mode is used to determine the range of moving objects. Note that objects farther away require a slower scanning rate than closer objects. The "REFLECTIVE" mode (shown as "REFL" on the LCD indicator) is used when targeting highly reflective objects. This will increase the effective range of the Yardage Pro Compact 600 and 800 to 999 yards or meters and 1,500 yards/meters for the new Yardage Pro 1000. However, in this mode the unit's sensitivity to targets of low reflectivity is decreased. The "RAIN" permits measurements that ignore feedback from energy pulses reflecting off precipitation particles. "ZIP THRU" ("ZIP" on the LCD) is used to ignore energy pulses reflecting off objects less than 115 to 165 yards/meters away (i.e. when distancing through brush to a target).

The LCD can display several other important illuminating indicators. Underneath "TARGET QUALITY" in the upper middle portion of the LCD are 10 squares. The higher the number of the returning energy pulses, the greater the number of squares that will be illuminated, and thus the greater the reflectivity of the target. When the word "PRECISION" is illuminated, it indicates that the distance measurement is accurate to within plus or minus 1 yard or meter. If not illuminated, then the accuracy is to within plus or minus 3 yards/meters. When "LASER" is displayed it merely indicates that energy pulses are being emitted from the rangefinder. A low battery charge is indicated when "BATT" is illuminated.

The magnification of the perma-focus monocular optical system varies from 4X for the Yardage Pro Compact 600 to 6X for the Yardage Pro 800 and the new Yardage Pro 1000. The power source is one 9-volt alkaline battery. The Yardage Pro 800 and the Yardage Pro 1000 units have roll-down rubber eye cups for those wearing eye glasses. The Yardage Pro 1000 is also equipped with a useful threaded tripod socket.

All of the Bushnell Yardage Pro laser rangefinders compare favorably with units costing literally 10 times as much. You can expect to pay between \$299 to \$349 for a Compact 600, \$349 to \$399 for a Yardage Pro 800, and \$369 to \$399 for a Yardage Pro 1000. These are outstanding bargains for laser rangefinders with this many features and of such high quality. In my opinion, one belongs in the kit of every law enforcement Selected Marksman. My personal favorite is the new Yardage Pro 1000. It remains permanently tucked into my Hathcock Sniper Pack-Mat. ☒

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Arnett Sacked

In the aftermath of the Operation Tailwind debacle, Peter Arnett has left CNN under a cloud, and signed on with an obscure website. News stories cited a "well placed source" as saying "he's got to take what's available to him." Arnett's separation from CNN was attributed to the controversy swirling around a report anchored by Arnett that falsely claimed the U.S. military used Sarin nerve agent against AWOL servicemen in Vietnam. A number of lawsuits are now pending from various service members slandered by this scurrilous report. At the time of the quickly discredited "news" report, producers April Oliver and Jack Smith were fired and senior executive producer Pamela Hill resigned.

After Tailwind, Arnett, whose contract was due to expire in 2001, was rarely seen on CNN. After Arnett went public with charges that network news was not planning to pick up a July option on his contract, CNN and Arnett "reached an exit agreement" wherein CNN bought out his contract.

Noted the *New York Post* in an editorial, "Good riddance, we say."

In related news, it has been announced that CNN is being sued by former producer April Oliver, who is claiming CNN wrongfully dismissed her last year, and that the network based its decision to do so "primarily on business and public relations concerns."

[We're not making up this next quote:] "There are issues of

honor at play here, and there are issues of fact seeking and truth finding," said Oliver.

Pentagon Seeks Authority For Civil Defense

According to a report in the *New York Times*, the Pentagon has asked the White House for authority to appoint a military leader for the continental United States, in response to what it sees as a growing threat of major terrorist attacks on American soil. The Defense Department plan envisions a military leader to be ready to order thousands of doctors, equipment and emergency personnel to be rapidly sent to areas of need. Although the Pentagon currently does not have an existing organization for such crisis missions, work has been ongoing for more than a year toward putting one together.

Both civil libertarians and some administration officials have expressed fear that such military power could be subject to mission creep that would threaten the privacy, liberty and lives of private citizens. In an interview, Deputy Defense Secretary John Hamre denied this, saying, "Our only appropriate role is in support of civil agencies that have the primary responsibility for law and order and emergency response," saying that a major terrorist strike had the potential to be "the most threatening event to civil liberties since Pearl Harbor."

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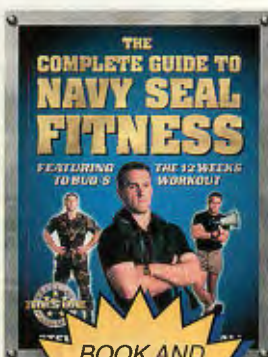
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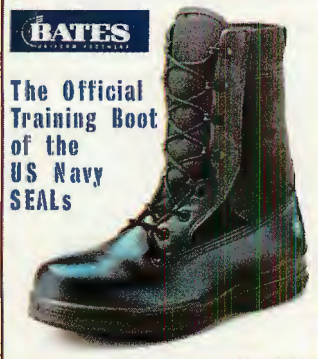


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Jews For The Preservation of Firearms Ownership, pound-for-pound no doubt the most effective gun rights organization to come down the pike, has a new address: P.O. Box 270143, Hartford, WI 53027; phone: 414-673-9745; fax: 414-673-9746; or on the web: www.jpfo.org. If you have not yet made contact with them, it is in your Second Amendment interests to so do.

"Cruising" On Empty

The Pentagon has been forced to take steps to replenish its waning stocks of air-launched cruise missiles. Air power analysts have been warning Pentagon planners for the last decade that presidents would want conventionally armed cruise missiles in order to project air power without risking a pilot, and that they should maintain an adequate supply. Observed Rand Corporation analyst David Ochmanek, "The good news is, as analysts, we've been vindicated on our positions: The bad news is, we didn't convince anybody." With more than 400 air-launched missiles fired over Iraq last December, the Air Force alone fired some 90 cruise missiles, using up nearly 40% of its inventory in one strike. The lavish use of American cruise missiles on the NATO air strikes on Serbia has further existing stocks, and with all production lines shut down, steps have been taken to convert 92 cruise missiles from nuclear to conventional munitions.

"We still have a number of these left, and we think we have enough to hit a number of high-value targets, said Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon, "but if we have to do the same thing next year somewhere else, we could be out."

Lt. Col. Frank J. Egan, USA

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Col. Egan please contact Col. Robert K. Brown (phone: 303-449-3750, Ext. 313; fax: 303-444-5617). Egan served as a member of Army Special Forces and the Cuban Task Force associated with the Bay of Pigs.

Targeting the .50 Next?

Two of the usual suspects, Dem. Reps. Henry Waxman, of California, and Rod Blagojevich, of Illinois, appear to launching a campaign against .50 BMG rifles. And in a blinding flash of incompetence, investigators from the usually competent General Accounting Office testified at a hearing organized by Waxman and Blagojevich that such rifles gained popularity during the Gulf War (the original rifles and rounds were developed in WW I) because they "can penetrate a tank's armor from a mile away" (the type of round and concept was discarded as an anti-armor weapon more than 50 years ago because it would not penetrate

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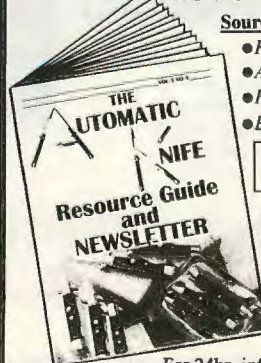
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If you cannot afford a trip to Washington, D.C., to view the Vietnam Veterans Memorial – “The Wall” — take heart: A mobile replica might be coming to a location near you. Vietnam Combat Veterans, Ltd., has three half-size replicas, each of which assembles to 252 feet long, bearing 58,213 names of our war dead and POW/MIAs. For a modest fee, the organization will bring a mobile monument to sponsoring communities. Contemporary with its week-long stay in Floresville, Texas, the *Wilson County News*, the fifth largest community weekly paper in Texas, published a very worthwhile special edition, *Vietnam Remembered*, edited by Marty Kufus, also a contributing editor for *SOF*.

For your community to apply for a slot in the busy schedule of the Moving Wall, contact VCC, 1267 Alma Ct., San Jose, CA 95112; phone: 408-288-6305; website: <http://www.iinc.com/MovingWall>. Copies of *Vietnam Remembered* are available by mail for only \$3.50 postpaid, from: *Vietnam Remembered*, Box 115, Floresville, TX 78114. Inquire for bulk prices.

even the tanks of that era at point-blank range). GAO agent Roberts Hast said the weapons were highly accurate up to 2,000 yards, and can be effective at distances of 7,500 yards. Just what they might be effective against at 7,500 yards, he did not specify.

Amazingly, the bimbo-edited new *Army Times* parroted the congressional disinformation and slavish wire-service stories, “Military sniper rifles like those used to stop Iraqi tanks during the Persian Gulf War are now in the hands of thousands of civilians, including suspected terrorists and drug dealers,” running these incredible quotes, with neither correction nor comment.

Of course, the big-bore rifles were characterized as “sniper” rifles. Look for any scoped hunting rifle to be next.

Web Watch

This month’s offering, INFOWAR on the web, explores the effects of the information revolution on the Art of War. Sun Tzu

Continued on page 29

Will you be in the DARK January 1, 2000?

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Revealing His Most Powerful (And Surprisingly Simple) Down-and-Dirty Fight-Ending "Tricks" Just to Prove That A Well-Trained Citizen (Armed Only With This Incredible Knowledge) Can Still Safely Walk In Public!

Forget switchblades or pepper spray. And leave your Clint Eastwood "Dirty Harry" fantasies at home in the VCR...

In real life, 9 times out of 10, you have to defend yourself with your bare hands... with no time to think about how to execute those complicated moves you've learned from the "experts" (*who've never been in a real streetfight in their lives*).

If you really want to be armed with the skills that will save your life in an all-out hostile confrontation (or even just a barroom scuffle), then let me introduce you to a man who has been there and done that — over 600 times! — and knows exactly what works... and what doesn't.

If you have the guts, he will teach you the skills that will give you the confidence of knowing you can handle anything that comes your way. These skills are so devastating that you'll not only end the fight practically before it starts, but...

***You Will Put the Bastards in the Hospital —
And No One Will Ever Mess With You Again!***

Interested? Please read on...

Dear Friend,

Let's be honest with each other, shall we?

We all have our "mental fantasies" of what we'd do if some criminal scumbag or a pissed-off drunken yahoo tries to mess with us, right?

We think we'd do this fancy move, or that fancy kick, or get into position to deliver an award-winning "combination" of strikes and blows that would make Bruce Lee green with envy.

But in reality? It's a whole different story.

Just ask veteran streetfighter Jim West. He's been in (and won) over 600 brutal streetfights. No, that's not a typo or a misprint. I said...

SIX HUNDRED STREETFIGHTS!

And he's never lost a single one!

Can you name anybody else alive today who has that kind of experience under his belt? I can't — and I've been on the "inside" of the martial arts world for several years now.

When I first met Jim West, I was truly astonished — both by his amazing "track record" — and by what he told me are the two most important rules to remember in any streetfight. They are...

RULE #1: There Are NO Rules.

RULE #2: Don't Ever Forget Rule #1, or You're DEAD!

You see, the bad guys are called "bad guys" for a reason: They don't fight fair! If you think you're going to have time to get one word out of your mouth, you're wrong. It all happens too fast for any clever Hollywood-style cutdowns or comebacks. There's no

dialogue — just violence. Fast, furious, and sometimes fatal violence.

Are you prepared for it? Most guys aren't. Even if you've seen a few videos on military-style hand-to-hand combat systems, you're still not even close to knowing the secrets to winning real-life streetfights.

Unlike most "experts" these days, Jim West knows how to win streetfights. As I said, he's won over 600 of them. I don't know about you, but that's the kind of guy I would go to for training.

And, as a matter of fact, I have.

My name is Bob Pierce, and I recently started a new video production company called "Underground Streetfighters Association." For the last several years, I've been working with TRS (Threat Response Solutions), which produces some very good videos on hand-to-hand combat. As you know, TRS features some of the military's top trainers on their videos — and they're damned good.

But one day I discovered that there are certain guys in the martial arts world who are actually "too nasty" even for the military to touch. These are guys like Jim "Smokey" West, whom I want to introduce to you now. What kind of guy is he? I'll give you a clue...

You'd Want Jim West To Be Your Best Friend!

First of all, Jim West is a 6th Degree Black Belt in karate. He's also a master and instructor of several other fighting styles, from Muay Thai kick-boxing to Western-style boxing to Combat Ju-Jitsu ground-fighting. He's even developed his own

streetfighting system — "Modern Karate", he calls it — and has his own full-contact school near Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Jim West spent 20 years of his adventurous life in the U.S. military — most of that in special forces — taking part in the Invasion of Panama and the action in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He was a member of the team that occupied the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait, and Jim received an award from Gen. Schwarzkopf himself for his fighting heroism in Saudi Arabia. He's even worked on special top-secret covert missions for the CIA in Central and South America, training counter-narcotics paramilitary forces, hostage rescue forces, counter-insurgency, intelligence operations, etc., etc.!

Now retired as a CW3 Chief Warrant Officer, Jim is highly sought-after for private security by corporate executives and foreign dignitaries. In fact, he was a member of the security detail for President Aristide when he regained power in Haiti.

Jim's been shot, stabbed, ambushed, had boards and bottles broken over his head, you name it — and that's just in civilian life!

Why So Many Fights?

Jim is a veteran of over 600 streetfights because he used to enjoy getting into them! Starting in his younger days, he hung around with a group of guys who would go to bars looking for trouble, and then "do their stuff" when it came their way. He'd get into fights 2 or 3 times a week — sometimes 2 or 3 times a night! — and he did that for nearly 15 years!

Plus, for a long time, Jim had a

girlfriend who was the finest looking lady you've ever laid eyes on. (*It seems that guys who can fight like Jim get girls like that!*) But no matter where they'd go, some fool would invariably try to make a pass at Jim's girlfriend, and that would be the end of that guy's evening!

Jim just doesn't mess around.

And with a track record like his — and the fact that he's *never* lost even one of the 600 fights he's been in — I'd say Jim West knows what he's talking about when it comes to streetfights! Wouldn't you? Compare that to all those silly "martial arts school" instructors who've never even walked down a dark alley in a big city, and you can see the enormous benefit of learning from a guy like Jim West instead of those "bookish" types.

That's why I brought Jim out to California a while back to shoot a video revealing his most powerful, down-and-dirty, fight-winning techniques. And here's just a *sample* of what Jim teaches on this mind-blowing, life-saving video that he and I want to send you, free of charge...

Yes, that's right, it's a **FREE** video — titled "Street Combat Made Easy" — and on it you'll learn...

- An instant knockout point on the human body that's easy to hit and works every time!
- Where to hit a person to cause so much pain, the body just shuts down completely!
- How to slam someone to the ground, just by grabbing his ears!
- How to control a person who's charging you like a bull — a simple "crank" that makes his knees buckle and lets you do whatever you want to with his body!
- A simple innovation that increases the effectiveness of your punches by 50% or more! (It doesn't take a lot of practice, either. You'll learn it in one session!)
- Where to aim when you're punching so that you always hit the person's #1 knockout point!
- Ground fighting? How to protect yourself from "bystanders" who try to kick you!
- Bones on the foot that break like a toothpick, and how to nail them!
- The life-saving secret of doing head-butts that *not one person in a thousand knows*. If you don't do this right, you will put yourself out of commission when head-butting your opponent!
- How to save yourself from a life-threatening choke-hold!
- A "guillotine" move that finishes things off real fast!
- An "open-hand" defensive technique that can instantly be turned into a lethal offensive striking mechanism!
- The proper fingers to use for an eye-

jab so that you never miss your opponent's eyes!

- How to use eye-gouges with the effectiveness of a Randall knife!
- How to grab a person's head and then head-butt them in a way that *splits their head open!* (Obviously, only to be used when you have to kill!)
- Easily-accessible pressure points on a person's face and head that will cause them a great deal of pain with just a *light amount of pressure from your finger!*
- **The 2 most lethal areas** on the body, and how to attack them!
- What we can learn from the way *apes* and *monkeys* fight in the wild — a simple technique you only want to use in a life-or-death situation!
- A special way to do a groin slap that attacks a "hidden nerve" near the scrotum. Hit this spot and the fight's over!
- How to attack the diaphragm for devastating stopping power. Even the slightest hit here will knock the wind out of someone!
- The proper way to go for the throat. With one hand, you can stop the fight before it begins!
- **Knife Defense:** a simple "cross-over" technique that will stop most knife attacks and enable you to disarm the attacker and put him on the ground!
- Why complicated "routines" look great when you practice them, but almost never work in the streets — and a simple trick that gives you the split-second advantage you need for turning the tables on your opponent!
- Joint locks and manipulations that work well even if your attacker has a knife or gun!
- Where to hit a person's arm so that he drops his knife — *no matter how strong his grip is!*

All of this — and more! — is revealed on the **FREE VIDEO** I'm going to send you (with your permission) as a way of introducing you to Jim "Smokey" West and his unique method of *staying alive* in today's increasingly violent world.

But perhaps you're wondering...

What Makes Jim West Different From All The Others?

It's very simple. You see, Jim West is miles ahead of all the other martial arts "experts" out there because he knows *what really works* in a streetfight... and *what doesn't*.

From his own invaluable experience of winning over 600 streetfights, he knows that nothing ever goes as planned. And you'd better not be relying on those complicated routines you've seen on other videos or learned in martial arts school! In real life, you need simple, quick,

devastating moves that will end the fight instantly — by taking the person by surprise and causing him so much pain, he doesn't even have a chance to get in a second blow (*let alone a first!*).

And the neat thing is, Jim West has a whole arsenal of these fight-stopping moves and "dirty little tricks" he wants to teach you. The free video I want to send you — even though it's 46 minutes long and packed with the vital skills I mentioned above — is actually just a small sample of everything Jim West can teach you!

In fact, when we brought Jim out to California for the video shoot, we weren't even prepared for how much he has to teach people! I thought we'd do a 2-hour video, like our others. But he just kept giving us more and more and more... and we ended up with an action-packed video that's almost **FOUR HOURS LONG!**

Jim's awesome videotape set is called "**Fight To Win**" — and it is *without a doubt* the most comprehensive revelation of down-and-dirty streetfighting techniques ever put on video. *Bar none!*

Let me give you some juicy samples of what you'll learn from the 4 hours and 15 minutes of non-stop incredible material Jim has to teach you. A single one will save your life if you're ever in trouble — and Jim gives you hundreds to choose from on these video tapes!. Take a look...

- The first thing you want to do in any fight. Do it right and you can actually avoid getting hit!
- How to put a little extra "bite" into each punch you throw!
- **7 crucial things** to know about throwing a punch for maximum effectiveness — plus "rhythm" drills that install these skills into your mind and body like computer software!
- How to dramatically cut down on your vulnerability when facing a hostile opponent.
- 6 areas on a person's leg where your kicks will cause the most pain possible. One will even break the guy's leg!
- The most underestimated kick in your arsenal. It's also the most effective for ending a fight immediately!
- The secret to this low-line kick makes all the difference in the world. People have actually died from the shock of being hit by one of these!
- A special "heel-hook" kick that takes people completely by surprise and causes a lot of pain!
- Shin hits that will cause most people to give up the fight almost instantly!
- Where to hit the nerves on the leg to cause the person's legs to buckle — *even with a "gentle" hit!*
- A "push and shove" technique to add to your kicks that gives **200% more power** and stopping ability.

- A “T-block” that stops cold even the hardest kicks to your groin, while simultaneously “loading” your body with explosive power that you unleash on your opponent *with lightning-fast speed!*
- How to “control” your opponent’s body so that he feels the maximum force of every punch you land!
- A way to attack the lower leg that will break a person’s knee and probably *cripple him for life!*
- The proper way to *back up* during a fight. This will keep you from getting pinned against a wall (where you’d definitely get the shit beat out of you!)
- A “probe” kick that *tricks* your opponent into dropping his guard *so you can attack his head!*
- An extremely simple forearm strike that will knock someone *unconscious* when placed in the right spot!
- Key “clues” to look for in a person’s body language that tell you if he’s about to hit you or not.

Plus, throughout the video, Jim gives you dozens of different drills that help you develop your speed, reaction, awareness, and power. You’ll acquire the ability to think under fire — because the inability to think under fire is like *signing your death certificate!*

And every so often, the video cuts to little “interviews” with Jim, where he gives you his best advice on what it takes to be a real fighter and come out on top in any brutal streetfight.

He’s One of the Best Teachers I’ve Ever Seen!

Plus, I think you’re going to love the way Jim teaches you on this video. You see, instead of just showing you *by himself* how each move is done, Jim also has 3 students on the video — a large man, a medium-size guy, and a 100-lb female — and he actually teaches them *right there on the spot* how to do each move! This way, you can watch people *who aren’t experts* — people just like you — learning it for the first time. **And you can actually learn from their mistakes!** When they do something wrong, Jim corrects them and shows them (and you) how to avoid making all the common mistakes people make when learning these moves.

This alone will really speed-up your learning process while you watch these videos at home. It’s almost like having Jim in your living room with you, watching your every move and correcting you when you make a mistake!

And Jim’s teaching style is very easy to relate to. He’s very natural, personable, and comfortable to learn from. Throughout the video, he talks to you, not to a vague “audience”. Personally, I think you’ll enjoy watching these tapes more than any others in your library. **I did!** Plus there’s something else you get from these tapes besides the “mechanics” of the moves themselves...

The Chance to Learn From a Master Streetfighter!

Just being in Jim’s “presence” — even though it’s by video — will *install* in you a streetfighter’s savvy, wisdom, and street-smarts. Jim’s hard-won knowledge and skills will now become yours. You’ll acquire his keen sense of awareness and ability to sniff out danger. You’ll adopt his tough-as-nails attitude toward self-defense. And it’ll seem like you’ve been in those 600 streetfights (*or close to it!*).

And yet, while becoming a warrior, you won’t become a thug. As you’ll see, Jim is quite the gentleman. He’s civilized, but he knows how to handle trouble when it comes his way. *Now so will you.*

And as you know, there’s a special, *indescribable* feeling of security and self-confidence that comes over you when you learn how to handle trouble. It “radiates” from your every pore. People in your presence — especially women — sense the inner strength that you project (no matter how “average-looking” you may be on the outside). It’s in your eyes, in your talk, in your walk, and in every muscle in your body. It’s more than just an “attitude” that you put on like a coat. And it’s certainly not fake or artificial. People can tell if you’re faking, because of certain little “clues” that give you away.

But when you have the real thing, you know it. Everyone knows it. Even the criminals or barroom jerks who might consider messing with you can sense it, *and they stay away*. The ones who don’t? Well, they learn the hard way.

No amount of money can buy this “Position Of Strength”, as Jim calls it. It must either be earned... or learned. It’s *earned* from hundreds of brutal streetfights, like Jim’s. Or else *learned* directly from someone who’s been in those hundreds of streetfights, like Jim.

The Next Best Thing to Sitting At His Feet!

In fact, that’s the main beauty of learning from Jim West. He’s earned his fighting strength and self-defense skills from those 600 fights. And watching this video is not only the next best thing to being one of his private students, but it’s *like sitting at his feet*, absorbing every morsel of wisdom that comes out of his mouth. You can watch it over and over and you’ll never get bored. And after practicing what he teaches you, *in no time* you will have “catapulted” your fighting abilities to levels that most guys don’t reach even after 10 or 15 years of training! That’s how powerful Jim West’s teaching really is.

But you won’t fully realize this until you watch this amazing new video. You get 4 hours worth, packed with incredibly brilliant, devastatingly effective, and surprisingly simple techniques that even a 100-pound female can execute against a 250-pound boxer — *which is exactly what you’ll see on these tapes!*

And Jim, as I said, is an excellent teacher. He’s clear, precise, patient, and thorough. He wants you to know his life-saving skills — *and do them right!* — so that he can have the satisfaction of knowing that he helped good people like you survive the vicious attacks that have become so commonplace in today’s “Warlord Society”. Jim strives to make his students “the best of the best”. He holds nothing back — giving you his all so that one day you can say...

“Jim West’s Training Saved My Life!”

That’s why he wants you to have the free video I mentioned earlier.. This way, even if you decide not to keep the other 2 tapes in the set, at least he’ll have touched your life in a lasting way that could end up saving your life some day.

Think about it...

- You’ll learn dozens of chokes, locks, holds, kicks, strikes, take-downs, breaks... you name it.
- Simple ways to tie your enemy up like a pretzel and cause him so much pain, he’ll immediately give up the fight!
- Powerful ways to increase the pain on your assailant if the idiot doesn’t give up!
- What to do if your enemy out-wrestles you. One simple trick can turn the tables in the blink of an eye!
- An amazing way to choke someone out and slam him head-first into the ground, *just by grabbing his collar!*
- The first thing you want to do when you end up on the ground, and the second move that will end the fight *instantly!*
- How to manipulate a person’s entire body — turning him any which way you please — *just by grabbing his chin!*
- Escape techniques that let you break away from any bad situation!
- How to get out of a bear hug, from the front or from behind!
- How to trip someone when they try to punch you. One of these sneaky moves will even *break the guy’s foot* on his way down to the ground!
- A foot stomp that will end most fights *all by itself!*
- Where to kick the knees for the easiest break!
- 3 excellent ways to break away from someone who grabs your shirt from the front. You’ll flip them onto the ground without breaking a sweat!
- How to hit someone with a beer bottle for maximum effect. Plus, Jim tells you about a particular type of soda bottle that’s the meanest weapon of them all!
- Amazing things you can do to someone with your umbrella!
- A “standing arm bar” that will introduce your attacker to a *whole new world of pain!*

- How to cut a much taller person down to a manageable size with a simple "bump".
- *And on and on.* Heck, if I gave you one of these "juicy tidbits" for every single thing you'll learn on Jim West's new video, this letter would be 20 pages long! I'm not kidding!

That's because you get *three and a half hours* of intensive video instruction from probably the most experienced streetfighter alive today. Plus a 46-minute video *for free* that you get to keep *even if you don't want the other 2 tapes!*

So there you have it — an honest deal from an honest man. A guy who knows how to win fights... how to avoid getting hurt... and how to make the other guy suffer for picking a fight with you!

Your Strength Becomes a Habit!

You'll use these skills every day of your life, sometimes without even realizing it. The "Position Of Strength" that you will operate from will become so strongly ingrained in your psyche and in your physique that it will soon become *second-nature... an unconscious habit.* You'll only need "flip the switch" to turn it on full blast when some stupid scumbag or "warlord" type makes the mistake of crossing your line!

Within a few seconds, he'll realize just how "bad" you are... that you're light-years ahead of him in down-and-dirty painful fighting skills... and that he should have picked on somebody else that day!

Hopefully you'll never have to teach anyone this lesson. But as you know, the world is getting more and more dangerous every day. With all the gangs everywhere — *in big cities and small towns* — our society is headed toward a "warlord" mentality, as Jim calls it...

Where Nobody's Safe Anymore!

You don't even have to piss anybody off to get attacked. You may just happen to have something they *want*. Or they may just be

going through a gang initiation. *You may very simply be in the wrong place at the wrong time* — in your front yard, at a grocery store, walking through a parking lot, even in broad daylight! There's no "time-frame" for the perfect target anymore. Nor is it restricted to the bad side of town or a sleazy barroom or a dark alley.

This is **all-out WAR!** That's why Jim keeps telling you on the video not to think of martial arts as a "sport". Those complicated routines that you learn at the local school don't work! In the real world, all you have time for are quick, devastating moves that cause *instant, excruciating pain* (and possibly death) for the son of a bitch who decided to mess with you!

So after you watch Jim's video, whenever the next gang member on an "initiation rite" chooses at random to attack you or a loved one with you, that pathetic little shit will end up in the hospital — or worse!

The local police will actually appreciate you for "taking out" the scumbags they would *love* to beat senseless!

The local ambulance companies will appreciate the extra business you send their way. So will the orthopedic surgeons... the neurosurgeons... *even the morticians!*

Don't Think It Can't Be Done!

Jim West's life history is a non-stop string of putting people in the hospital for messing with him! One drugged-out punk was on life-support for 3 weeks after Jim was finished with him!

Jim knows exactly how to win the deadliest of fights, and he teaches you how on these exciting videos.

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doubt that you'll send the tapes back for a refund — although you have that option because of our 3-month **100% Money-Back Guarantee of Complete Satisfaction.**

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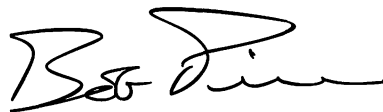
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It's your choice. You can either wake up the next day to a beautiful sunrise... or be staring at a surgery lamp in an operating room.

It's your choice.

Sincerely,



Robert Pierce
President,
Underground Streetfighters Association

P.S. If you think I'm being too dramatic about our "Warlord Society" and the need to armed with Jim West's fighting skills, let me just remind you of what happened in Los Angeles recently when a young family made a wrong turn and ended up on a dead-end street in a gang-banger neighborhood. *Those mindless animals opened fire on that innocent family, trapped in their car, and killed a 3-year-old girl inside!*

That's what our world has come to! And if you're not prepared to defend yourself from such ruthless violence that strikes innocent people like you when you least expect it, all I can say is **GOOD LUCK!** *It's been nice knowing you!*

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declared "All warfare is based on deception," and deception and surprise are achieved by masterful control of information. No wonder that forward-looking warriors relate the work of the ancient Chinese general to modern information warfare.

Gray Literature by Soule and Ryan:

<http://www.dtic.mil/summit/tb07.html>

- briefing for analysts, policy makers, and warfighters on gray literature and gray information, the untapped region of open source intelligence outside normal bookselling and periodical channels (i.e., World Wide Web and SOF contributors and readers).

Sun Tzu Art of War in Information Warfare, Notes Abstract:

<http://www.ndu.edu/inss/siws/ch4n.html>

- National Defense University bibliography.

Information Warfare: Bibliography:

<http://www.informatik.umu.se/~rwhit/IWBib.html> • many Infowar links here.

USAF Fact Sheet 95-20 Information Warfare: http://www.af.mil/news/factsheets/Information_Warfare.html

Copernicus ... Forward, C4I For The 21st Century: <http://www.stl.nps.navy.mil/c4i/coperfwd.txt>

SPAWARSYSCEN Information Warfare-Protect Systems Engineering Division:

<http://infosec.nosc.mil/code72.html>

Glossary of Information Warfare Terms:

<http://www.psycom.net/iwar.2.html> • by

Institute for the Advanced Study of Information Warfare: <http://www.psycom.net/iwar.1.html>

National Defense University, Warfare in the Information Age: <http://www.ndu.edu/inss/books/anthology1/ch19.html>

A Guide to Information Warfare: <http://www.uta.fi/~ptmakul/infowar/index.html>

An Introduction to Information Warfare:

<http://www.seas.gwu.edu/student/reto/infowar/info-war.html> • online paper by George Washington University student.

Strategic Information Warfare: A New Face of War: <http://www.rand.org/publications/MR/MR661/MR661.html>

- Rand Corp.

Strategic Assessment: The Internet:

<http://www.copi.com/articles/IntelRpt/swett.html>

- 1995 report from DoD policy wonk playing to Clinton Administration interests.

Winn Schwartau's InfoWar.com:

<http://www.infowar.com/> • Schwartau authors Infowar books.

"Infowar" part of NATO arsenal?:

<http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2231976,00.html>

- yes, but targeting Serbian radar and comm, not personal computers.

Open Source Solutions:

<http://www.oss.net/> • specialists in OSCINT (Open Source Intelligence).

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— compiled by Richard Rongstad ☞

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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Heavy Humvee combat: U.S. Army tank battalion (1-33) adopts plan to improve reconnaissance assets and enable Humvee-mounted scout platoon to survive in heavy armored combat. The scout platoon, with its 10 Humvees, is reinforced to become entire company by adding engineer section, tank platoon, two infantry squads, mortar section and some support assets, such as maintenance, medical, etc. • **Don't jump yet!** Army discovers instructions for packing new reserve parachutes could be read two ways, one of which will result in a chute *not* opening. New instructions are being written. • **Shorter enlistments?** Senator Warner proposes the military offer 18-month enlistments to gain more recruits among modern youth who consider four years too long a commitment. Military shows little interest, insisting they need 18 months just to create effective soldier. Some military officials also fear shorter enlistment option would cost Army many current 4-year enlistees.

2

RUSSIA

Russian Humvee: Russia's Gorky Manufacturing Plant (GAZ) began producing four-wheel GAZ-3937 armored truck (based loosely on BRDM-2) for use by border guards in 1986. By 1996, numerous variants appeared and vehicle began entering service with regular army units due to its low cost and easy maintenance, although orders for significant numbers of these vehicles have not been forthcoming. All of these vehicles, known in Russia as the *Vodnik*, are recognized by the large (bulletproof) glass windows in the front. • **New Treaty:** Russia and NATO close to deal to rewrite Conventional Forces in Europe treaty. This would allow Russians to keep 760 vehicles they have over the limits in the Caucasus in exchange for allowing NATO to station two divisions in each of the three new member countries. • **Free speech:** Tadjikistan sentences seven followers of renegade Col. Makhmud Khudoberdiyev to 14 years for 1997 coup.

5

CANADA

Army overhaul: Canada plans to reorganize army units, reduce size and number of different vehicles in service. Today, each of the three brigades have two mechanized battalions (mixed M113 and Grizzly 6x6 APCs), a light infantry battalion, tank battalion, artillery battalion and various support units.

6

GERMANY

New submarine: Government displays design of new Type-214 submarine, which is basically a Type-209 ocean-going boat with advanced systems of shorter-ranged Type-212. Type-214 is diesel-electric sub with auxiliary air-independent propulsion system. Vessel designed for 50-day missions with 30-member crew, and can sprint at 16-20 knots during typical mission.

9

CAMBODIA

Khmer Rouge: United Nations continues trying to negotiate international involvement in Cambodian court trial of Khmer Rouge leaders. Hun Sen rejects any kind of UN supervision or "standards" and says he might allow UN "legal experts" to assist in some administrative tasks. General Ta Mok admits he financed Khmer Rouge army by running lucrative businesses in Thailand.

10

SOMALIA

Anarchy and fighting: Country remains in anarchy, with new fighting in Baidoa between RRA and Aidid, and several clashes in Mogadishu. Aid workers remain target of kidnapping and murder.

14

HONDURAS

Murdering the Left: CIA document confirms Honduran presidents from 1980-84 knew their military was abducting and murdering leftist leaders.

15

INDIA

Strategic ice: Government may hold onto Siachen Glacier for more than pride or stubbornness. Glacier is closest Indian-held territory to Chinese nuclear test ranges, and battle positions there overlook Karakorum highway that would be primary supply route from China into Pakistan in the event of a future war, reports *Jane's Intelligence Review*.

16

MEXICO

American protests: Two Americans ordered out of country for taking part in demonstrations in Chiapas, even as another judge ruled that expulsion of 12 pro-rebel foreigners was illegal. • Police arrest 21 soldiers who protested corruption in armed forces. • Mexican senators demand former President Salinas be investigated in 1994 murder of presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio.

3

CHINA

Missiles to Iran: China's C802 anti-ship cruise missile uses French-built TRI-60 engine built by Microturbo SA, which sold the complete engines to China. China sold more than 100 of the missiles, with their French engines, to Iran, and France later sold Iran several dozen TRI-60 engines which it used to build its own C802s under license from China, according to U.S. intelligence sources. • **Spies in U.S.:** Clinton assigns Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board to investigate security and Chinese spying at U.S. nuclear laboratories; appoints former Congresswoman Jane Harman to board. Harman is former paid lobbyist for Chinese government. • **Self-restraint:** China pledges self-restraint in dispute over Spratlys, but rejects Philippine demands it not build more structures on Mischief Reef or other islands.

4

CUBA

Just a game: United States dismisses political implications of 28 March baseball game between Cuban All-Stars and Baltimore Orioles (No U.S. team had played in Cuba since 1959). • **Human rights:** U.S. Congress passes resolution calling on Clinton to seek UN condemnation of human rights in Cuba. Cuban courts sentence Salvadorean Otto Rene Rodriguez Llerena to death for setting off a bomb on 4 Aug 1997.

7

NIGERIA

Death sentences: Eight soldiers sentenced to death for 1990 coup have been pardoned. Former officials of the Abacha Junta return \$64 million they stole from government. • **Private sector:** Abubakar Junta says it will proceed with privatizing government-owned businesses and try to make it hard for new civilian government to reverse the process. President-elect Obasanjo furious that junta sold off best oil concessions to companies owned by military officers.

8

UGANDA

Peace talks: Government trying to arrange peace talks with (northern) Lord's Resistance Army rebels, which would be first talks since 1994. LRA political affairs chief, David Nyekorach-Matsanga, quits group, saying it was only a "fifth column for the Sudanese army."

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SUDAN

SPLA news: Sudan says it was quietly negotiating with U.S. to restore normal relations. SPLA releases two Red Cross workers arrested in February. Arab League says "foreign plots" trying to destabilize Sudan. SPLA repulses government attack on Ulu, killing 400. Four Red Cross workers killed during government raid on SPLA camp where they had been held.

11

DEMOCRATIC CONGO

Elections and massacre: Under heavy diplomatic pressure, government agrees at OAU summit to discuss elections with rebels. • Zimbabwean MiG shot down at Kabolo. • More government troops and civilians flee fighting into Zambia. • Human rights groups say rebels slaughtered 200 civilians in South Kivu Province.

12

ISRAEL

Ultra-modern sub: First ultra-modern Dolphin-class submarine raises Israeli flag in German shipyard in spring. Israel anticipates delivery this summer.

17

ETHIOPIA

Artillery duels: Front line remains relatively calm except for brief clashes and artillery duels on central and several fronts. Both countries continue to claim the other is importing weapons and expelling citizens of the other. OAU efforts to mediate conflict fail.

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.

I Was There

by Ray Pezzoli, Jr.



courtesy author

Enemy — And Friend

"Doc, is she any better?"

"No, her pulse is more irregular."

"Can I do anything for her, maybe give her some of my water or put something under her to make her more comfortable?"

"You can dab some water on her lips, but don't let her drink, she's got that round in her stomach. Wipe her face with a wet cloth. Don't let her move, she's been moved too much."

"Will she make it, Doc? Will she last 'til we get her a Medevac?"

"Don't know, I don't know. There's still a pulse. The wounds in her legs have stopped bleeding. The gut wound has stopped externally hemorrhaging, but there's probably internal bleeding."

American troops were endangering their lives, noisily hacking the trail in enemy territory that could easily be followed.

I was amazed no one complained that their hardships resulted because they were trying to save the life of a Viet Cong who 30 minutes prior had been trying to kill them.

Frequently one of the men asked the medic about the girl's condition and volunteered to assist carrying the stretcher or to clear the trail.

We couldn't make the clearing by sunset, so a night perimeter was established at 1900. Everyone was alert for the attack we thought imminent because of our obvious noise and movement. The men had their hopes — if contact was not made that night — that it would be easy extraction for the Medevac chopper the next morning.

The medic chopped a small enclave in the dense tough bush and erected a shelter over the girl with an overhead canopy of vines, branches and moss obscuring the camp from the sky. We didn't need friendlies dropping their loads on us after mistaking us for the bad guys.

Just prior to stumbling onto the enemy base camp, the author and his interpreter (and friend) enjoy a break.

March 1966.

I was patrolling the volatile jungles of Tay Ninh Province with the 1st Infantry Division, interdicting the flow of communists filtering south along the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Meters ahead we spotted an enemy base camp and squad of VC, one of whom lifted a tunnel hatch-cover camouflaged with grass and yelled something. We assumed we'd been seen and that back-up troops were being summoned to do a terminal number on us.

Not waiting for their cavalry to arrive, our pointman, two GIs to his right and myself to his left opened up with three M16s, each spitting six rounds per second, and a 12-gauge pump shotgun — loaded with 00 buck — striking them down like bowling pins.

The camp was eerily quiet. We immediately secured the area while men began to recon the tunnel complex with flashlights and .45 caliber pistols. One had slithered some 35 feet along a narrow shaft when his flashlight beam illuminated black pajamas crawling a few meters ahead. He fired four times and the figure stopped moving. Cautiously, he snaked his way toward the now-moaning casualty, ripped away its AK and then pulled the WIA with him as he squirmed backward like a human spider through the tiny passageways.

After the troops hoisted the wounded soldier to the surface, they recognized the target: an 18-year-old girl.

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The medic did his best to treat her three leg wounds, before noticing that she was gut-shot in the lower abdomen. If she didn't get near-immediate hospital treatment she was no doubt going to die. But we couldn't hang around. Enemy troops were likely already beating feet our way. It was time to E & E and disappear ourselves toward the closest clearing, about a mile distant, secure it, radio HQ and await the Medevac's arrival.

Doc devised a makeshift stretcher out of his poncho draped over two legs of the enemy's table. Six men carried the stretcher while two others hacked a 3-foot wide swath to make this journey as comfortable as possible for the dying girl.

Humping through the bush was more difficult for the infantrymen doing the carrying and hacking. In addition to carrying the girl and their 65 pounds of equipment, they fought the 105-degree temperature and 99% humidity. We wanted desperately to make the clearing before sunset.

Frequently, a guy asked our medic about the girl's condition; others volunteered to assist in carrying the stretcher or clearing the path.

At 1900, we realized that reaching the LZ was a no-go, so we put out perimeter security and waited.

During that endless anxious night, practically every one of the 45 men on the patrol shuttled in to check on her. Our makeshift "visiting hours" continued well past midnight.

But at 0130, her pulse stopped; her labored breathing ceased. Her face grew cold. Our prayers went unanswered.

Early in the morning we dug a grave and buried her on the precise spot where she left the earth. Each of us paid our respects, and many wild flowers floated down to her grave.

I was asked to write about her death. We did not want her to be forgotten.

Perhaps we could have moved faster — perhaps we could have rendezvoused with the Medevac before dusk. Perhaps it would not have mattered.

Cold sorrow flowed through our veins. But we had tried.

Circumstances abound where GIs risked their very lives to aid their captives. For every My Lai, there were many redeeming incidents where saving a life, enemy or civilian, betrayed our alleged hearts of darkness.

The American philosophy of life is generally humanitarian, even in the cruelty and desperation of war. My war just happened to be in Vietnam.

This is Ray Pezzoli, Jr.'s second contribution to SOF. His first, "Scene From The Other Side Of The Tracks," appeared in the January 1999 edition.

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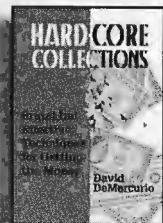
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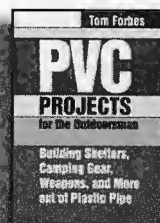
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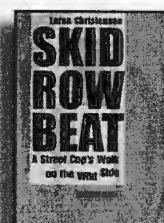
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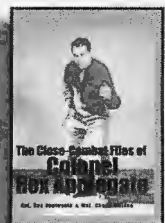
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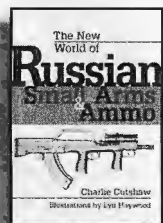
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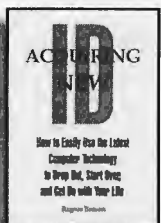
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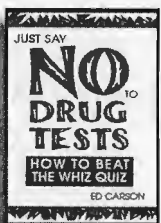
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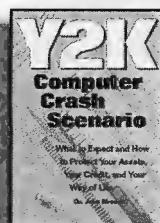
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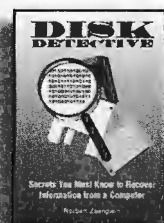
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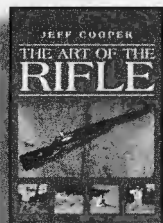
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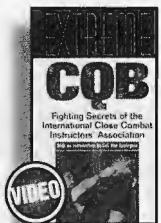
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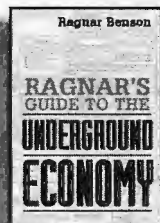
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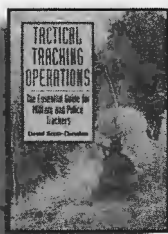
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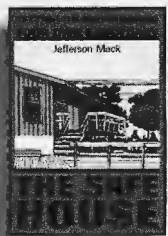
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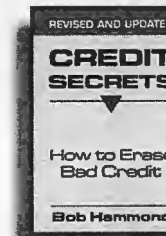
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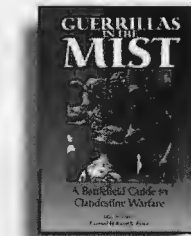
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Apache Tears

Text & Photos by
Mark H. Milstein

The Balkanization of The U.S. Military



Rinas, Albania — It's Day 32 in the NATO campaign against Yugoslavia, and instead of being kicked to sleep in a jail cell by Serbian ministry of interior police — as was the case two weeks earlier — I'm standing on the wind-and rain-swept tarmac at a NATO-controlled airfield outside the Albanian capital of Tirana, waiting for the arrival of the first U.S. Army ground troops and AH-64 Apache helicopters.

This is the first hot war in NATO's history, a conflict which will probably be remembered as being the first war where the weapons really were "smart," where airpower alone couldn't force the withdrawal of a low-tech, civilian-slaughtering enemy and where Murphy's Law finally caught up with the United States Army.

When it came to rapid reaction, the Army — not the Marine Corps — was supposed to have had it all figured out. Pre-positioned supplies and battle-ready battalions, each with its own airlift and artillery, always trained, always at the ready to deploy with little or no warning to wherever trouble brewed.

(above) Six U.S. Army Apache helicopters of the 11th Aviation Brigade, based in Germany, land at NATO-controlled airport outside Tirana to be part of Task Force Hawk. As we go to press they are yet unused. (left) At the end of a three-day journey from her home outside of Mitrovica, Kosovo, this ethnic Albanian woman collapses with her children at a refugee camp. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians have been made refugees by Serbian security forces.

The problems of the early days of the Gulf War — when American airborne units sat in the Saudi desert for weeks with little or no support — were long behind the Army, or so it claimed.

The creation of the Southern European Task Force (SETAF) based in Vicenza, Italy, and the re-structuring of the 1/508th Airborne Battalion Combat Team from the old 325th Airborne, the successful rapid deployments to Bosnia at the beginning of the IFOR mission in December 1995, and then Kuwait in February 1998 certainly proved the Army had finally gotten its act together.

So why was it, then, that Pentagon planners took weeks to deploy the first company of U.S. Army military police and nearly another week to get the first three companies of an eventual battalion-sized deployment of 82nd Airborne Division troops to Albania, when armies of such caliber as the French had ground elements sent to Macedonia at the drop of a hat?

“The Army maintains contingency plans for missions such as this, and the contingencies spell out which units will go where and be tasked with what,” an Army spokesman from USAREUR (U.S. Army, Europe) headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, told *SOF*, “and the units assigned to Task Force Hawk (The U.S. Army-NATO operation in Albania) were not at full strength and had to wait for airlift to get them there. The other element involved here is that of safety. We didn’t want to rush in there, have men and women on the ground without proper support and force protection then, God forbid, something happens and someone gets hurt.”

Club Mud

On the ground at Rinas, the talk among soldiers slogging through a U.S. Air



(top) USAF security team lands in Rinas, Albania, as part of eventual 4,000-strong American force in support of NATO operations against Yugoslavia. (left) A U.S. Army soldier with the elite 2nd Battalion 505th Parachute Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division stands guard at a NATO-controlled airfield outside Tirana. (above) U.S. Air Force personnel guard the main airport outside Albanian capital of Tirana. (below and inset) USAF C-17 transport disgorges troops and supplies at NATO-controlled air field outside Albanian capital of Tirana.



Force-built housing area — nicknamed “Venice” because of the ankle-deep mud and open drainage canals — was a little more forthcoming.

“The main problem behind why we didn’t roll in here like gang busters and send a real message to the Serbs is the military’s ‘cover your ass’ policy which has totally infested every level of planning,” an Army NCO attached to Task Force Hawk told *SOF*. “No one, and I mean no one, wants to be responsible for a screw up. Blame our lack of speed on the Air Mobility Command. Blame the lack of manpower on cutbacks and downsizing. Blame readiness problems on increased emphasis on simulated training against time spent at a field exercise. Blame anything or anyone except yourself or someone above you. That’s it in a nutshell. The Army said it would create more units like SETAF, but everyone’s too scared to rock the boat.”

After four days of doing tarmac watch at Rinas, all of *SOF*’s patience finally paid off when a C-17 from Ramstein AFB, Germany, landed around midday and offloaded about 50 Army 18th Military Police Brigade troops.

The Army had finally arrived.

“Hell yes I’m ready to fight,” said an 18th MP Brigade sergeant as he guarded a short convoy of Hummers standing on the tarmac. “I think the Serbs need a good ass kicking from us.”

Other GIs that *SOF* spoke with that afternoon were just as gung-ho, reflecting a strong sense among U.S. troops that NATO’s fight against Yugoslavia wasn’t some sort of White House stunt to shift attention away from the president’s personal or domestic problems ...

“I don’t think I’d want to be here if people back home were not in favor of this,” said Air Force E-4. “I mean if people were protesting against our involvement it would certainly not help things much. But we take



(top) U.S. Navy CH-53E Super Stallion at Rinas, Albania, to offload men and materiel for the U.S. part of the NATO buildup in Albania. (above) Fresh KLA recruits from southeastern England, among thousands of expatriates from Great Britain and the United States who have returned to fight Serbian security forces in Kosovo, take a minibus to Yugo border from Durres, Albania.



Kosovar Albanian children await arrival of Dutch army chopper with food, medicine and relief supplies, at refugee camp just klicks from border with Yugoslavia. Hundreds of thousands have fled homes in wake of Serb security forces’ atrocities.

our orders from the folks in Washington, and whatever they say we have to do.”

Rangers In Rinas

There was also a strong belief at the time that NATO would soon order the large-scale buildup of troops needed to launch a ground offensive against Serb forces in Kosovo.

Over the next few days things at Rinas finally came up to speed with C-17s landing about once every 15 minutes, offloading tons of supplies, U.S. Army Rangers, some SF elements and the first companies of troops from the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Within hours of their arrival, soldiers from the 82nd were providing security for the offloading of crates stuffed with rockets for the Army’s Mobile Rocket Launching System (MRLS) launchers which had arrived earlier in the week.

They were also busy searching through pallets of cases clogging the tarmac looking

for their flack jackets which had arrived separately on another C-17 flight, while still others spent hours cleaning out the years of dust and dirt that coated every inch of the former custom’s warehouse which now served as their temporary quarters.

At least four Bradley fighting vehicles were deployed around the perimeter of Task Force Hawk to beef up security, and talk was that MIAs would soon be sent to Albania and roll up towards the border with Kosovo, as soon as the majority of refugees could be bussed south to more secure locations.

“Tomorrow we’ll begin doing log pats [logistics patrols],” said 82nd AD Alpha Company Captain Don McFarland. “I suppose we’ll also be setting up perimeter security for the Apaches and riding shotgun for the MRLS guys when they go out.”

“I don’t know what the Rangers or SF guys are doing here,” said an 82nd AD Lieutenant, in an answer to our question about the rumor that the Rangers and SF troops in Albania were here to pick up a recently captured Yugoslav army lieu-

tenant and train the Kosovo Liberation Army in how to use burst transmitters and paint Serb targets. "I can only speak about this company."

Good Will Gift

When *SOF* approached the Kosovo Liberation Army, its spokesman Agim Rashani said the KLA had turned over the lieutenant as a gesture of goodwill and thanks to the United States for helping Kosovars. "It would be good if the Americans trained the KLA, but I don't know if this is true," Rashani told *SOF*. "We will help them if they ask, but until now I don't know."

From what *SOF* was able to piece together, the Yugoslavian army lieutenant was captured by the KLA and turned over to the U.S. Army at a KLA base near the Kosovo border with Albania. The lieutenant was then flown to Rinas, questioned and taken out of Albania to an unknown destination. Geneva Convention rules, we were reminded by Army press officers, prohibits NATO from parading the Yugoslav POW in front of our cameras and using him for propaganda.

SOF also heard from reliable sources that indeed, the Army did have plans to make contact with the KLA to facilitate any possible ground assault against Serb forces in Kosovo. However, whenever we brought up the subject, everyone from top to bottom feigned ignorance or flat out refused to even discuss the matter.

"Security for that op is so tight hardly anyone knows anything about it," said an Air Force Staff Sergeant. "I heard a little through the grapevine, but I listen to CNN for the rest of my news."

It was time for a change of plans.

The Army was also supposed to have it all figured out when it came to tank-suppressing rotor-wing aircraft — read: the AH-64 Apache. For nearly two weeks it trumpeted the imminent deployment of 11th Aviation Battalion Apaches to Albania.

Serb armor, the Army told the press, had finally met its match. Within days the Germany-based Apaches — which had successfully destroyed 500 Iraqi tanks during the Gulf War — were expected to be flying missions from the NATO-controlled airfield at Rinas to the killing fields of Kosovo.

The Allies were finally going to wean themselves from high-altitude bombing and go after the tanks, armor and troops responsible for the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

But as luck would have it, the realities of battle in a region devoid of endless desert and near-perfect year-round flying weather, shot holes in the Army's PR about the Apache quicker than you could say Slobodan Milosevic.

Days went by with no sign of the Apache's highly publicized imminent deployment. Two thousand five hundred Army and Air Force support troops at Rinas were all dressed up with no where to go. The press was getting antsy, and the Army wasn't talking.

Rumors quickly began circulating that

Delayed Deployment: Doubts, Dichotomy, Deception or Doctrine?

The slow deployment of the Apache helicopters as part of the American "rapid reaction" force from Germany to nearby Albania, and lack of its use for its stated mission, has inexorably lead to much speculation in the press as to what the plan really may be. Or if there is one. The support-intensive but highly lethal AH-64 tank killers, given favorable terrain as in the Persian Gulf, have proved to be a deadly foe of armor. The remarkably destructive, and for-its-genre accurate, MRLS can wreak havoc on massed troops, such as an assault force at or near a vulnerable border, and are great for prepping an area prior to a combined assault by air and ground assets — but are tactically, and doctrinally, unsuited for the precise destruction of targets proximate to vulnerable collateral personnel or property.



This apparent dichotomy of Apaches deployed but not used has led to conjecture in the European press that the Apache and MLRS [Multiple Launch Rocket System] units have not been deployed for their stated purpose, but for other missions which are speculated to be everything from defending Albania against a Serbian invasion, to merely being part of a show-of-force to weaken Serbian will to resist. More informed speculation has begged the question, if rapid reaction for the protection of Kosovar refugees was the rationale, why not insert a Marine force of Cobras? Surely the refugees would have opted for whichever would be the quickest.

The slowness of the Apache's deployment and the lack of combat use since then has also lead to untoward speculation in the Stateside press that the Pentagon was intentionally dragging its feet because it either considered this not to be a good use of these assets, or did not consider these assets to be combat-ready. Like armor, armor killers will go where they can win. The terrain, the restrictive and known access routes and other terrain features, plus the climate in southern Kosovo, may not be that place for Apaches. Although equipped with sophisticated HARM missiles, Apaches remain vulnerable in tight quarters to a ground-pounder with a heat-seeking, shoulder-fired SAM. They are designed to operate, and their pilots train, as a ground-and-air team.

As we go to press, the Apache and MRLS assets remain unused and a clear picture of the rationale of their deployment is yet to come into focus. We have repeatedly been assured that armor on the ground in Albania is strictly for force protection. Failing Serbia throwing in the towel, the question begs: If not these assets, then which? And when? Why deploy Apaches and not use them? (Some have speculated the deployment was approved only to illustrate the decline in readiness.) Will Britain's call for ground forces win out over German and other NATO-allies' objections? Or will Milosevic cave and the question be moot? Or will forces not deemed up to the mission train in situ to the point that reluctance to use them changes?
— D.M.

the Apaches had already deployed to secret bases in northern Albania. Maybe Rinas wasn't where the Apaches were going to make their grand entrance, the press openly wondered. Other rumors had it that the Apaches were going to land at Rinas after making a surprise attack against Serb forces in Kosovo so as to land before the cameras with a notch already carved into their holsters.

None of the rumors even came close to the truth.

Wet LZ = No LZ

For days, *SOF* learned from NATO sources in Italy, the Apaches were kept from

deploying to Rinas because the airfield lacked suitable space for the helicopters to land. So, to solve the problem, Army engineers went ahead and began laying down pre-fab surface material to act as helipads. Then they discovered to their horror that the ground below the helipad was so soaked with water that the Apaches would sink under their own weight if they touched down. Plans then had to be made to clear a large swath of the airport's taxi-way of relief supplies earmarked for Kosovo refugees, so that the Apaches would have a hard surface LZ.

Continued on page 72

White Feather

America Loses A Legend

by John Hogan

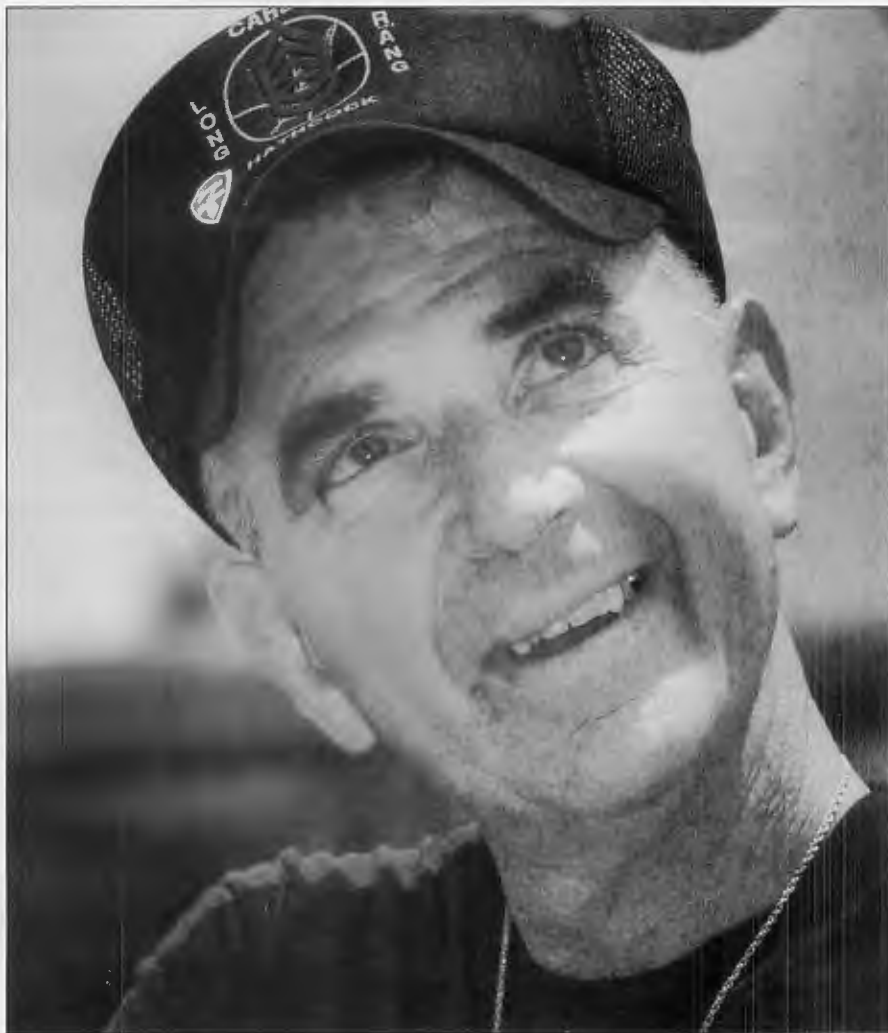
Photos courtesy Iron Brigade
Publishers' "Death From Afar" series

He was a husband, a father and a sniper who saved American lives. When Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Norman Hathcock died on 26 February 1999, an American hero passed on to become a legend that will never die. Hathcock, beyond question, forever changed the way American snipers — be they cops or soldiers — do business. Hathcock was 57.

To anyone who knows much about the shooting sports or matters military, it's easily understood why the world has lost one of the best snipers in the history of warfare. To save the lives of U.S. Marines operating in the 1960s in South Vietnam, Hathcock made precision long-range shots under the most difficult conditions that amazed the world's very best riflemen.

Hathcock's shooting days began at age 10, when his grandmother gave him his first rifle, a .22 caliber J.C. Higgins single shot. Seven years later, he signed up for the Marines on 20 May 1959, and entered service the moment he turned 18.

Shortly thereafter, he began a life that would forever improve the under-appreciated military and police art of sniping — an exercise that can do immeasurable damage to enemy battle plans and morale, saving the lives of American troops. Even after being diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1970, and later with Parkinson's Disease, Hathcock continued as the world's leading force behind advancements in police and military sniping techniques. In retirement, he enjoyed shark fishing for a short time. But in 1981, 10 years after being diagnosed with a debilitating disease, Hathcock went back



The late Gunnery Sergeant Carlos N. Hathcock, II, USMC, was known as our nation's ultimate Scout Sniper. His feats with a rifle are legendary. His heroism has been rarely matched on — or off — the battlefield.

to work full-time teaching marksmanship to the Virginia Beach Police Department.

To this day and for the foreseeable future, Hathcock is the subject of books, magazine articles and lectures about sniping. Two major sniper ranges were named in his honor before his death, and it's likely many more will bear his name in the future.

The Early Days

Major Edward J. (Jim) Land, USMC

(Ret.), Secretary of the National Rifle Association, knew Hathcock for more than 40 years. Land started Hathcock's career as a sniper, served as his commanding officer, sniping partner and close friend.

"The first time I laid eyes on Carlos Hathcock was in Hawaii at the second sniper school we were running for Fleet Marine Force, PACIFIC. He came over as one of the students and he acquitted himself fairly well. He wasn't an honor graduate or

anything like that, but he was obviously a good shot. His battalion then sent him back to shoot in the division matches. We were competitors on opposite teams who won medals in the matches. As a result we were both sent on the same team back to the Marine Corps matches at Quantico. After that he joined the Marksmanship Training Unit. We were both on the Marine Corps Rifle Team from 1962-64. I then became Captain of the Marine Corps Pistol Team and Carlos stayed with the rifle team.”

Both Hathcock and Land represented the Marines at the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, in 1965, and it was there that Land saw Hathcock display some of the characteristics that set him apart from his fellow shooters and made Hathcock a great sniper.

Hathcock was shooting for the Marine Corps in competition for the Wimbledon Cup. That match is viewed by many in the shooting culture as the world’s championship in long-range rifle competition. Riflemen fire magnum rifles from the prone position with telescopic sights at targets 1,000 yards distant.

There are many stories about Hathcock’s last shot that day, but Land was in the crowd watching and this is how he explains it. “During the Wimbledon you win your relay and then you go into a shootoff. The targets are pulled into the pits, the range master tells you to load and then you have three minutes after your target comes out of the pits to fire one shot. None of the targets are pulled or marked until the end of the three minutes and then all of them disappear.

“The announcer then says all misses will be marked, and it is rare for a target to come up. Then he says, at this time all threes will be marked, and perhaps one or two targets will come up. At that time the individual whose target it was, rolls up his mat, picks up his rifle and walks off the firing line. Then they do the same for the fours and the fives. If anyone has hit center “V” which is higher than a five, they stay on the firing line while the fives depart. Then the targets come up, there is three minutes for one shot, and the announcer goes through the whole litany again.

“That year, after going through this procedure four times for the four shots, only two shooters remained on the firing line. It was Carlos and an Army shooter. They both loaded and had three minutes after the targets came up. I punched my stopwatch at that time and we sat there and waited. The wind was swirling around and the conditions were pretty bad. Both Carlos and the other guy lay there looking through their spotting scopes and after about two minutes, the other guy fired.

“At that point Carlos hadn’t even put his rifle to his shoulder, then after about 15 seconds he shouldered his rifle and lay there watching the wind. It seemed like he lay there and lay there, and the tension was building, as the stopwatch hand kept moving. You could hear people in the audience saying: ‘Shoot! Shoot!’ And finally, bang.



Hathcock in 1967, with his specially made scope mount and Unertl 8X scope, during Operation Desoto, near Duc Pho in the Republic of Vietnam.

And it was just like that was the command to pull the targets in the pits. He fired and all the targets went in the pits. Then the announcer went through the litany and the Army shooter shot a four while Carlos shot a five just off the “V” line.”

It was the highly focused concentration Hathcock displayed that day that made him such a great sniper. “I’m going to tell you something,” said Land. “Carlos was a fine rifle shot. But all of the top Marine Corps shooters and probably the Army shooters could beat him on any given day. Carlos was consistent but he really wasn’t one of our top shooters as far as winning matches.

“What made Carlos different, particularly in Vietnam, was that ability to concentrate. I don’t necessarily mean concentrate when he was looking through the sights. Rather it was his ability to concentrate his edge. After awhile in combat everyone develops an edge. It is where to look, how to be ready, that sort of thing. We all developed that sixth sense, and all of us on the sniper team over there developed that sense



Major Edward J. (Jim) Land, USMC (Ret.), was the 1st Marine Division’s Vietnam primary Sniper School organizer and in many ways Carlos Hathcock’s mentor. Land proclaims strongly that the men he chose to be snipers were carefully evaluated to make certain they were not fanatical, did not hate, and were in no way inclined toward sadistic behavior.



Hathcock (standing at center) at the Scout Sniper School, Camp Stone Bay at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Transferred there in 1972, Hathcock became rifle coach for the 2nd Marine Division.

to a fairly high degree, but Carlos went above and beyond that. All of us on the team learned to operate in the environment. Carlos became part of the environment.

"Everything meant something to him. Every bird, every breeze, every sound and color. They were all indicators to Carlos," said Land. What set Hathcock apart from everyone else was his unusual ability to concentrate on all the indicators in an environment and pull it in analytically. It was that ability to concentrate that allowed him to always take a target out after he acquired it. That was when he was in what he termed his "bubble."

Landing In Vietnam

In mid-1966, Captain Land reported to First Marine Division headquarters in Da Nang. The commanding general told him that he wanted snipers operating in the Division territory and that he wanted them killing Viet Cong. According to Land the general told him he didn't care how it got done "even if you have to kill them yourself." Land had no people, no guns and no range. What he did have was a list of the very best USMC rifle and pistol shots in Vietnam, and the authority to put them to work. Hathcock was one of the names he had on his list and Land quickly pulled him out of the MPs. Carlos Hathcock became the third man assigned to the new sniper team.

Until the Third Marine Division and then the First Marine Division began sniper operations there had been no formal sniper units in the U.S. military since the Korean War. During all of the nation's wars, snipers have played a significant tactical role, but between conflicts, that skill had been de-emphasized, and fallen into disrepair. So that what Land and others were actually doing was blazing trail for all of the sniper

Gunny Hathcock motivating students at early morning stress shoot at a Virginia Beach school in 1990.



Gunny Hathcock in front of his hooch on the Virginia Beach range, in 1989. The snipers are from Virginia Beach Police and Norfolk, Virginia, Police Departments.

efforts of the Vietnam War as well as the tactical emphasis on that skill which has become prevalent among the world's military structures.

The standard that Land established for the sniper team was one minute of angle or one inch at 100 yards for men and equipment. It was the equipment part that was a problem. Most of the rifles were M1Cs with 4X and 2.5X scopes, but they were later accurized and some other rifles were acquired. Training was with olive drab artillery powder canisters that were long and thin and tough to see.

Most of the sniper training however, was on the job. Within two weeks after he started, Land had snipers on the terrain hunting the enemy. There was a famous VC sniper team lead by the "Apache" operating on

Hill 55, inflicting casualties on the Marines. They had a major enemy sniper problem: taking 30-50 rounds into the regimental command post every day. Analyzing intelligence information, Land decided that Hill 55 would be a good place to break in the new Marine snipers. "We began operating on the assumption that it takes a sniper to catch a sniper, and we began to hunt them down one by one."

Land recalls one incident in which a patrol of Marine cooks and clerks sent out for the experience came under fire and one Marine was captured by the Apaches. The leader of that unit was a woman who had been well-known for torturing prisoners. "She cut on this young man about two hundred yards out from our wire, just to make him scream. Carlos had to be physically

restrained from going out there. The next morning, just before sunup, she emasculated that kid ... and turned him loose. When he came running up to our position it was Carlos who went out and got him. Of course that Marine bled to death before he could be saved. It heavily affected Carlos."

Not long after that, Land and Hathcock were teamed up watching a trail alongside a river. "A Viet Cong started down the trail about the time we were changing over. It was my turn on the rifle and his to observe. He started sliding the rifle over when this guy came along. I guess we both got buck fever and started struggling for the rifle. Carlos ended up with the weapon, but by that time the VC had disappeared. I always thought that guy would be amazed if he knew what had kept him alive that day.

"Anyway, we were lying there and along came a group of about five at about 1,200 yards. We called in artillery. The first rounds landed just over them and they took off running. The VC woman leader of the Apaches and one man came running right toward us. She was ahead. She got about 700-750 yards away and then stopped and turned around. As she squatted down, Carlos dumped her. Once a reporter asked Carlos what I had said when he shot her. Carlos told him that I had said: 'Put another round in the bitch.'"

Carlos also killed her accomplice. After about three weeks, Hathcock and the other snipers had decimated the sniper unit led by the Apaches and had moved on. The snipers began to be noticed by both the Marine Corps and the enemy.

Once, when Land was away from the unit for a short time, the Marine Public Information Office did a story on the sniper team. One of the team members had recently killed 11 VC and the article named him and the rest of the snipers. Land was furious, of course, and managed to quash any future plans for stories. In addition, he prohibited photographs of the snipers as long as he was in command. When *Stars and Stripes* published the story, a price was put on Carlos' and Land's heads. But the enemy wanted Carlos Hathcock, in particular, and they almost got him.

Sniper vs. Sniper

As a result of the article, North Vietnam sent one of its very best snipers down south with the specific mission of hunting down and killing Hathcock. Intelligence had a lot of information about that guy; they called him the "Snake Eater" because he literally lived off of the land.

"Carlos was out with Corporal John Burke," said Land, "and this guy ran across them. They started hunting each other is what it amounted to. I was in the area at the time and saw part of what went on. Carlos and Burke worked very carefully trying to get the sun to their back. The North Viet took a shot at Burke. He saw the contour of the canteen, thought it was Burke's head, and shot it. Burke let out a yell that he was hit. And we yelled at him, 'Move, move!' and he rolled. He felt the warm water run-

ning down his legs and he thought he was bleeding, but he wasn't hit.

"Anyway, they worked their way around until the sun was at their backs and Carlos happened to be looking through his scope at just the right time. He saw the reflection of the scope on the Snake Eater's Mosin Nagant and he fired at it."

During that now famous incident, that has been recreated in various Hollywood productions, Hathcock's bullet passed



The "D" Range (above) at Camp Stone Bay, N.C., was officially renamed Hathcock Sniper Range. (below) Despite his infirmities, Carlos always had time for friends of all ages. Shown here at the Secret Service pistol matches in 1996, Hathcock speaks with the sons of a Maryland State Trooper.



through the enemy sniper's scope before it entered his eye and killed him. Both snipers had exact aim on each other's scopes. It was a remarkable feat of sharpshooting. Working under the stress of being hunted in difficult terrain by someone who clearly knew what he was doing, Hathcock had made a one-quarter-minute of angle or better shot at 450 yards.

The engagement took place over about four hours in an area of about a quarter of a mile. It may very well have been the most intense and skilled sniper duel in all of military history. Still, Hathcock remained modest, Land recalls, saying "I guess I was just a little heavier on the trigger."

Land was amazed, looking at the enemy

rifle missing the telescope glass. It was tagged for return to Hathcock, Land says, but was stolen before Hathcock would receive it.

Hathcock vs. 120

During another famous incident, Hathcock and Burke kept an entire North Vietnamese company of perhaps 120 men pinned down for five days. The unit was trapped between two rice paddies and the two Marines kept them there. "They just happened to catch these guys who were obviously pretty green, on their way to ambush some Marines. I think that Carlos and Burke figured they had knocked down between 30 and 40."

None of those kills however, were ever confirmed. When the two Marines pulled out, they called in artillery fire and that fact would probably have made it difficult to determine which holes had been caused by 7.62x51mm NATO bullets.

Hathcock is credited by the Marine Corps with 93 confirmed kills. For a time, that record was thought to be the most in the history of United States military snipers. But another Marine sniper was found to have more confirmed kills. The one record Hathcock set that has not been eclipsed was when he used a .50-caliber machine gun with a scope mounted to it, to knock a VC off a bike at more than 2,000 yards.

On his way to an operation, Hathcock hitched a ride on an amphibious tractor. He was sitting on top when it ran over a 500-pound box mine. Although he was wounded by the explosion, Hathcock repeatedly went back into the burning vehicle to pull Marines out. He too received burns over 60% of his body.

By example, Hathcock has passed down his selfless, humble warrior skills to future generations. His son, Carlos Hathcock, III, became a Marine Corps Distinguished Marksman in 1996.

"I learned from my father that, 'No matter what happens to you, you must look out for your fellow Marines.' Perhaps that caring for his comrades is my father's finest example to me and to those who read about him," said Carlos III, in the book *Carlos Hathcock: White Feather*, an authorized biography by Norman Chandler. "Although my dad always says, 'I was just doin' my job,' his ability and willingness to remain in the inferno of the exploding Amtrak to rescue Marines will remain sharp in my memory for as long as I live."

For decades after Hathcock's Vietnam heroics, a number of people — including us at *Soldier of Fortune* — worked to get Hathcock some sort of a medal or recognition. A number of people were of the opinion that one of the great warriors of modern times ought to at least get *one* medal. After a great deal of effort, Hathcock was recommended by the USMC awards branch for the Medal of Honor. Nearly everyone official signed off on the idea, but — mysteriously — the medal was downgraded to a

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Omega PROVIN Ground

CZ75

Several years back, during the last days of the Warsaw Pact, a Brit friend and I drove north out of Vienna, Austria to Czechoslovakia. He had me bring along a carton of distinctly American cigarettes and as we approached the border, I arranged individual packages of Winstons across the dash and storage tray of his right-hand-drive English Ford. The border guards at that time still gave lip service to the credo of Karl Marx, but once we stopped at the checkpoint they literally drooled on the windows and windshield when eyeballing the array of new smokes.

I asked my English friend if we shouldn't give them a couple of packs when they turned away to examine our passports and papers. "No!" he stated firmly while maintaining a disciplined stare forward. It wasn't until we were well on our way to Uhersky Brod that I asked why we didn't give them some cigarettes?

"The problem is not getting into this country. The problem may be getting out!"

That was back in the bad old days, but we were making a trek to the home of the one good auto-pistol to come from a Communist country. The Ceska Zbrojovka factory, commonly referred to as simply "CZ," used to be located in Czechoslovakia. Now, it is located in the Czech Republic. The town, Uhersky Brod, remains the same, however, it's just the country and the politics that have changed.

The CZ75 was a revelation when it first appeared and it received a grudging endorsement from no less an authority than Jeff Cooper. Despite its origin from a member of the Communist Bloc, it was designed from the beginning as a pistol for the West. In fact, it could be argued if politics hadn't got in the way, this pistol would have earned a major share of the self-defense market.

That it didn't, had to do with the realities of Cold War policies and



not its inherently good design. The CZ75 was one of the first double-action/single-action auto-pistols to feature a frame-mounted safety.

The provision of the frame-mounted safety allows the CZ75 to be carried "cocked and locked," which at the time of its introduction was an entirely new feature in the world of double action 9mm auto pistols. However, criticism

has been leveled at the CZ design because it lacks a decocking system once the hammer has been cocked. For experienced shooters this is not a big problem. For inexperienced shooters, it is potentially dangerous. The main thing to remember is to always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction. Then, carefully and firmly grasp the hammer, while gently pulling the trigger and lowering the hammer to a position of rest against the slide. The pistol is now able to fire through a complete double-action trigger pull.

The CZ75, and later the CZ-85, copied the slide-to-frame fit of the SIG P-210 in that the frame fits outside of the slide rails. Many commentators have argued this is stronger and creates a more accurate pistol.

For our testing, I was provided with a CZ75 Compact in 9mm Parabellum caliber. The Compact version features a slide that is approximately three-quarters of an inch shorter than the full-size CZ75 and a grip that is a half-inch shorter than that found on the full-size pistol. The difference between the CZ75 and the CZ-85 variants is the lack of ambidextrous controls on the CZ75 for the

manual safety and the slide release. On the test sample these controls were found only on the left side of the frame. The frame and slide are forged from carbon steel and the grip panels are black plastic. As per the current federal requirement, the magazine capacity is restricted to 10 rounds, but it was soon discovered that older pre-ban magazines for the full size CZ75 and many of the Italian-produced imitations will fit and operate reliably in the pistol.

Of particular note is the inability of the magazine to fall free when the release button, located on the left side at the junction of the grip and trigger guard, is depressed. This is the result of a flat spring-like device in the rear of the mag well. The magazine brake covering the mainspring assembly prevents the magazine from ejecting completely from the grip. However, it can be replaced by a flat "drop free" spring available from CZ-USA.

The double-action trigger pull measured 13 pounds, while the single-action trigger pull measured five-and-a-half pounds. The sights feature the now standard three white dots, and although not

tritium powered, these dots are painted from luminous paint that glows faintly in extremely low-light conditions. The rear sight is a substantial blade with a square cut U-notch.

Shooting the CZ75 Compact revealed a well-made self-defense pistol of the first order. Capable of keeping 10 rounds inside of 2-1/2 inches at 50 feet, the trigger featured a distinctly two-stage pull-in single action that took some getting used to. One thing was without question, however, and that was its reliability. This pistol worked without malfunction throughout the entire 300 rounds I fired through it on both outdoor and indoor ranges.

I've been a fan of these guns since my visit to the factory many years ago. Oh yeah, it turned out we *didn't* need the cigarettes to leave the country after all. But they were nice to have along as convenient "gifts" for our new-found friends, even if neither of us smoked.

For more information contact CZ-USA, Inc.; phone: 913-321-1811 or 800-955-4486; fax: 913-321-2251. —Frank W. James

Colt's Police Model, Detective Special Folders

Further in the new series of Colt professional-quality knives that are named for classic models of their various firearms, are the *Police Model* and *Detective Special*. These liner-lock folders are essentially identical, except for dimension.

The Police Model is 5" closed and features a 3-11/32" blade, and as you would expect from the name, the Detective Special is 4-7/16" closed and has a 2-7/8" blade. As with anything bearing Colt's logo, they are both implements that are good to go.

Both feature a 440 stainless steel blade from nominal 3/32" stock (although our mic says they are closer to a full 1/8"). These blades are slightly dropped at the point, with a false edge on top and a pleasing, almost serpentine, overall shape. The blades came shaving sharp and held a good edge through all the usual suspects such as C-rat cans, leather, wood, various fabrics and types of cordage — and they came through the tests nick-free and resharpened with facility. Not being subject to casual nicking, and capable of holding an edge, yet resharpenable with relative ease, can be indicators that heat treating was done properly and the steel was not too hot and not too cold when quenched; you know, like would please Goldilocks.

The blades are accurately shaped and polished, then bead blasted for a non-glare finish. Liner locks have been around for a long time — we have a WWII Case folding machete with a liner lock — and in the past few years they have undergone an energetic revival. These two new knives from Colt both feature liner locks and handy thumb studs for one-hand opening. These opening and locking systems are a good combination for a duty knife, since often as not one hand is otherwise engaged, and the nature of the work is such you do not want a knife folding up on you before the task is completed.



The grip scales are precisely made from aluminum alloy, and coated with Colt's Magna-Grip rubber coating — a consideration in freezing climes, especially if you wear a duty knife outside your uniform. To further insulate the grips and provide better grasp, inlaid in the left scale is a soft, textured rubber panel. The right scale mounts a sturdy spring-steel clip, and the knives' smooth lines and excellent finish make them pocketable, as well. The top rear of the blade is coarsely but precisely serrated to provide a purchase for the thumb when thrusting, and there is a positive finger notch on the bottom of the grip to further enhance control.

Each is also available in a silver finish: Whichever model or color option one might choose, he will find them serviceable and attractive, both good choices for a duty or field folder.

Available exclusively from United Cutlery or their dealers, Dept. SOF, 1425 United Boulevard, Sevierville, TN 37876; phone: 423-428-2532; fax: 423-428-2267.

—Don McLean

Paperwork comes with the territory for today's peace officers — and like any other professional's paperwork, the paper impedimenta of police work is less burdensome and more productive if it can be kept organized from the onset. And today's "paperwork" is not your daddy's yellow tablet and stub pencil: forms, tags, tickets, cell phones, recorders and a laptop computer are likely to be found in a modern police valise. Keeping this modern gear useful means keeping it squared away.

Police Office

As part of their Sidekick Professional line of law-enforcement gear, Michael's of Oregon has introduced a police briefcase with internal holster that keeps a modern cop's tools of the trade secure, organized and instantly accessible.

The large (18" wide x 9" high x 3" deep), lockable center compartment holds ring binders, legal files or a laptop, and it is water-resistant and lockable. By unzipping a cover flap, the center folder opens to 6" wide at the bottom for even more room,

such as to carry photo gear.

A weather-resistant flap covers the front of the case and is secured by two quick-release buckles, and the flap also has a large zippered compartment. The special quick-opening hidden compartment contains a universal, ambidextrous holster that is fully adjustable for position and secured by a large hook-and-loop panel inside the compartment. The holster can also carry a spare magazine, folding knife or multi-tool. The outside of the panel has another pocket for papers or a sheet of cardboard to prevent a handgun from imprinting.

Opening the cover flap exposes a panel with secure pockets and a clasp for any number of appurtenances such as business cards, a citation book, cell phone, note pad, writing instruments, flex-cuffs,



hand-irons, chemical agents or whatever the occasion demands.

Made of tough, all-weather woven fabric, Michael's new briefcase has a web-reinforced carry handle and a detachable web shoulder strap. It is lightweight, strong, ergonomically designed for service, and handy whether half-full or stuffed. Recommended.

Michael's of Oregon, Dept. SOF, 1710 Red Soils Court, Oregon City, OR 97045; phone: 503-655-7964; fax: 503-655-7546; e-mail: info@michaels-oregon.com. — Don McLean

Light For the Millennium

No accessory you can add to your urban rifle, shotgun or submachine gun is more important than a flashlight specifically designed for use with fighting firearms. Flashlights attached to a shoulder-mounted weapon or used in conjunction with a handgun should be powerful — very powerful. Goblins like to move at night, and not necessarily when the moon is full.

Lights of this type are most definitely not aiming devices. They do not replace the weapon's sights. These lights are used to illuminate the target and permit proper target discrimination, to prevent popping a family member or fellow officer. They backlight the weapon's sights and permit their proper use. If powerful enough, they can also be used to momentarily blind your opponent. Self-luminous tritium sights do not assist target discrimination in total darkness.

Common sense is required in the tactical application of flashlights. They should be turned on only long enough to identify a potential target — fire, if required — then turn the light off and move. In the presence of potential danger, these devices should never be used as searchlights to visually clear an area. They will only serve to compromise the mission and draw fire if used indiscriminately.

The most meaningful measure of the power of a flashlight for comparison purposes is the total amount of light it produces, which includes both the focused and wide-angle portions of the beam produced by the flashlight. This is measured by an instrument called an "integrating sphere" and given in "lumens." This is a much better measurement for comparison purposes than "candlepower" because, as commonly used, candlepower is merely a measurement of the intensity of the hottest spot in the beam. This can be misleadingly high for flashlights having either larger reflectors or



irregularly focused beams with "hot spots."

Laser Products (Dept. SOF, 18300 Mt. Baldy Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708-6122; phone: 800-828-8809; fax: 714-545-9537 — to purchase products or locate the closest dealer/distributor in your area) have come to dominate the field of combat flashlights ever since their introduction in 1987. Their latest product, the Millennium Weaponlight for the Colt Carbine series, is an outstanding example of

combat flashlight technology at its cutting edge. I used one of the new SURE-FIRE M500A Tactical Lights during my recent participation at Thunder Ranch's Urban Rifle. I installed it on my M16A2 which is equipped with an upper receiver (from the Colt law enforcement AR-15A3 Tactical Carbine, #AR6721) that features a 16.1-inch heavy barrel.

This is a three-battery (9-volt), lithium-powered system that produces a superb beam of light. The batteries are held three abreast, keeping the system compact. A most important feature is the presence of three switches to control the light. A master disable switch in series with the other two switches prevents accidental turn-on of the light. The disable switch is a rotary-knob-type for positive, "in-the-dark" activation. A pressure switch on the right side of the two-piece housing will turn the light on as long as pressure is applied. It is protected by a side rail. Finger or thumb pressure anywhere along its length activates the light. A two-button on/off switch on the left side will turn the light on and keep it on until the off button is pressed. This later is a low-noise, low-friction design which is also protected by a side rail.

The MH500A Tactical Light Housings replace the top and bot-

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(right) Stage Five of Winter Range was called "Cisco's Cantina" and involved 10 rifle and 10 revolver shots.

(right below) Doc Pili fires his black-powder single-action revolver at steel plates during a stage at Winter Range.



Arizona Happy Jack whittles wood, waiting for trouble to start outside of Cisco's Cantina.



Many women (above) participate in Cowboy Action Shooting and some are superb shots.



WINTER RANGE SHOOT OUT

Three-Gun Match – Cowboy Style

by Peter G. Kokalis (aka Poison Pete)

Photos by Chris Mayer



The Dirty Half Dozen, from left to right: Arizona Happy Jack, Buho Grande, Poison Pete, aka Slim, Smokin Stew and R.V.

Arizona Happy Jack shoots in the Duelist class.



aka Slim shoots the final position of stage five at Winter Range. (below) Smokin Stew fires from "horseback" at stage nine, which was called "Ambush."



Poison Pete with Judge Roy Bean, SASS #1, the man who was instrumental in starting the Single Action Shooting Society and who competed in early *Soldier Of Fortune* Three Gun Matches.

Cowboy Action Shooting is the fastest growing firearms sport in the country. It permits participants to dress up like their grandparents and play like their children. It attracts all levels of society: men, women and youngsters of every income, occupational and ethnic group. Shooting pre-1900 firearms, or replicas thereof, at non-humanoid steel plates, it is completely politically correct. For that reason alone, it's giving the leftist anti-gun types fits. And that is reason enough for me to love it.

Cowboy Action Shooting competition always consists of a three-gun match; revolver, rifle and shotgun. Revolvers are all of the single-action type. Most prevalent are the Colt SAA, Ruger Vaquero and the Uberti replicas of Colts and such esoteric items as the Model 1875 Schofield break-top, automatic ejector revolver. You need two revolvers to compete. Mounted horseback competition makes use of cornmeal blanks fired at balloons.

Lever-action rifles used in Cowboy Action Shooting matches are of pistol caliber and often match the caliber of the shooter's revolvers. Marlin and Uberti's Winchester and Henry replicas prevail. But some compete with original Winchesters. A separate long-range rifle competition is conducted using rifle-caliber and pistol-caliber

rifles of the lever-action, rolling block and Sharps types.

Two types of shotguns will be found in about equal numbers: replicas of double-barrel "coach guns" and the ubiquitous Winchester Model 1897 slide-action. If you use the Model '97, you can only load two rounds at a time. I have also seen older original double-barrel shotguns. By far 12-gauge is most popular, but some shoot the 20 gauge. Usually, a light birdshot, hunting load is used on the spring-loaded reactive steel shotgun targets.

While the .45 Colt still rules with the average competitor, many of the top competitors shoot .38 Special "wimp" loads. However, most people shoot in these matches to have a good time and enjoy themselves. No more than a handful dance to the frenzy of winning. The really old and obsolete handgun calibers, such as .45 Schofield, .44 Russian, .44 Special, .44 Colt, .44-40, .41 Colt, .38 Long Colt, .38-40, and .32-20, are making a strong comeback principally because of Cowboy Action Shooting.

Competitive categories include Blackpowder, Duelist (one hand only), Gunfighter (a revolver in each hand),

Junior, Men and Women Modern (single-action revolvers with adjustable rear sights), Men and Women Traditional (single-action revolvers with fixed sights), and Senior.

In February of this year, the National Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting, called Winter Range, was held at the Ben Avery Shooting Range north of Phoenix, Ariz. There were more than 500 competitors and many thousands of spectators in attendance. The event is sponsored by the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS, Dept. SOF, 1938 N. Batavia St., Suite M, Orange, CA 92865; phone: 714-998-1899). I competed in the match and *SOF* staff photographer Chris Mayer was on hand to record some exciting images of this fascinating event. Surprisingly, a substantial number of those who compete in Cowboy Action Shooting also shoot in the annual *Soldier Of Fortune* Three Gun Match.

Why is Cowboy Action Shooting continuing to grow in leaps and bounds with no sign of diminishing popularity? In my opinion, the answer is quite simple. The basic American myth is that of the frontier. Our hero is the frontiersman, the gunfighter, the cowboy. It's always been this way and, God willing, it always will be. As Americans, this is our single greatest uniqueness, no matter what pallid eastern-seaboard urban liberals may tell you. ✂



(left) Poison Pete drops some bad guys with his Marlin .45 Colt Cowboy lever-action while in the saddle of a rather tame horse.

(below) Arizona Happy Jack demonstrates that wood isn't the only thing he can carve up outside of Cisco's Cantina.





Policymakers talk constantly about the lessons of the Vietnam War. There are many — perhaps as many as there are policymakers — but one in particular seems to surface every time U.S. troops head overseas: Involvement in local conflicts risks getting bogged down in an endless guerrilla war. And guerrilla wars, we're told by the Vietnam experience, are "unwinnable."

Witness the political debate over the ongoing war in Yugoslavia. NATO steadfastly resists the idea of introducing ground troops in Kosovo, preferring to let air power do the job. Lurking behind this reluctance is the myth of the invincible guerrilla. If NATO troops go in, they will face a long war in the mountains of Yugoslavia. Vietnam is inevitably conjured up, but many politicians and pundits are also looking to the Balkans themselves for lessons. During World War II, Germany invaded Yugoslavia, giving birth to one of the most enduring legends of the war — Tito and his "partisan" guerrillas. They rose from the destruction of the Nazi assault to fight in the mountains and eventually prevail against overwhelming odds.

The story is oft repeated at the highest levels in official Washington. "In World War II," opined Republican Congressman Randy Cunningham as he argued against sending ground troops to the Balkans, "Germany had 700,000 troops in Kosovo. The Chechens [sic], with one half the force that Milosevic has, killed those Germans." Historians will be shocked to learn these "new" details, but there's an even larger problem here: Cunningham's goofy history lesson really does lie at the heart of the policy misperceptions that seemingly drive the Clinton administration's decision-making.

First, the history lesson Cunningham should have learned about World War II

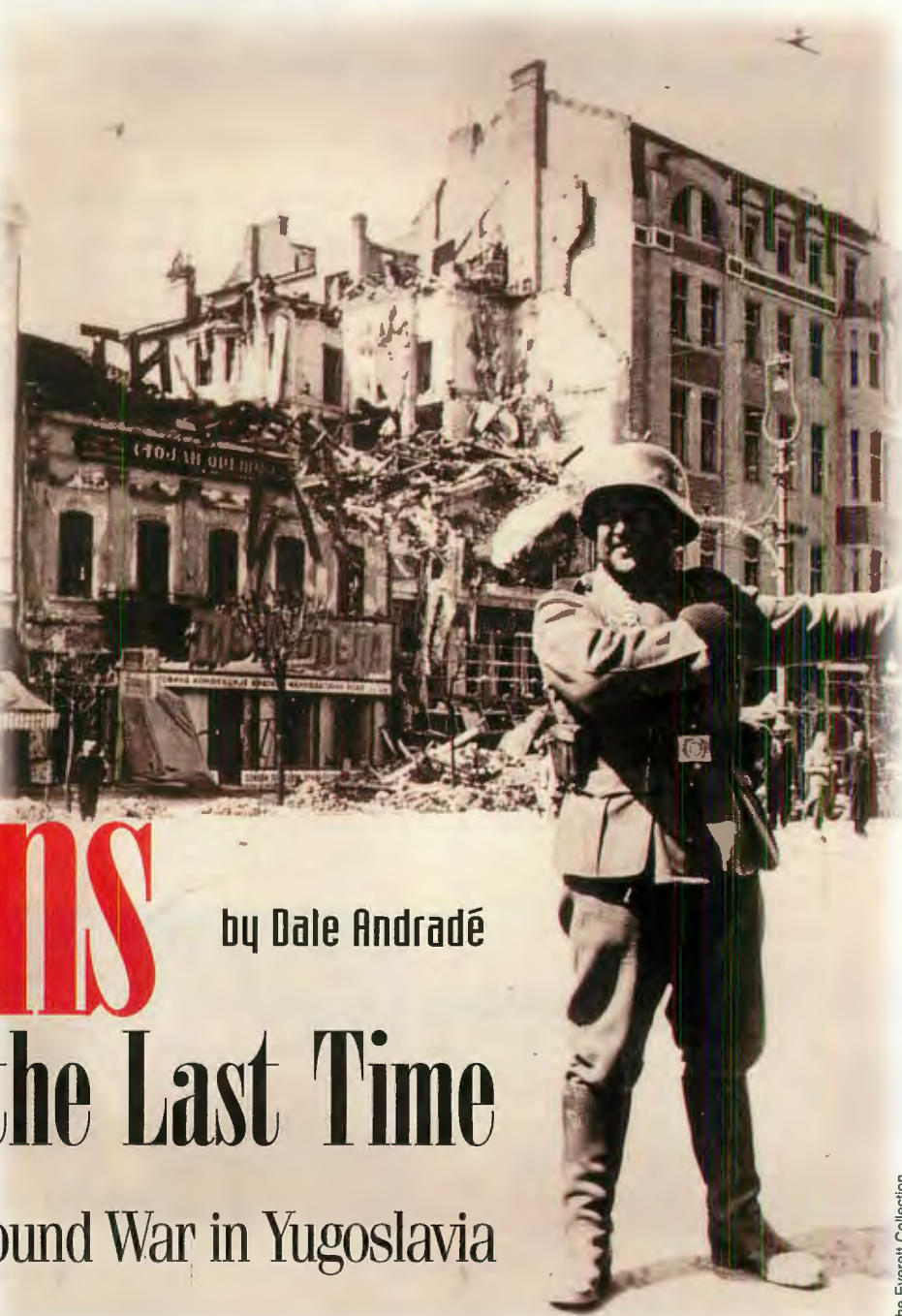
Yugoslavia: Germany used fewer than 700,000 troops to take all of Yugoslavia — which it accomplished in less than two weeks with a loss of fewer than 200 men; most units were then withdrawn to fight elsewhere. The "Chechens" — in reality Chetniks — were Serbian guerrillas who, while they did cause the Germans trouble, spent much of their time bickering with the communist Partisans controlled by Tito, a Croat. When the Germans did choose to leave Yugoslavia in 1944 (they were not all "killed"), they did so in good order, barely hampered by the guerrillas. The Allies had hoped those troops would be battered during their retreat so they could not be used on other fronts. So much for the invincible guerrillas.

The real lesson here — one that should be considered by decision-makers — is the traditional fragility of the Yugoslav political

and military system, not the specter of guerrilla war. For it is a conventional army that NATO will face on the ground if it enters Yugoslavia, not insurgents. Hitler encountered some of the same dynamics in 1941 as exist today: an army equipped with obsolete weapons and short on combat experience (massacring civilians in Bosnia and Kosovo does not count), political leaders driven by nationalism rather than national interests and a population riddled with ethnic hatred. When the German war machine rolled into Yugoslavia, it did so unhindered by the army or by the rugged terrain. And this was no surprise attack; the Yugoslavian Army knew it was coming.

The Balkans During World War II

When war broke out in Europe in 1939, conquest of the Balkans was not one of



LESSONS

by Dale Andradé

From the Last Time

The German Ground War in Yugoslavia

Hitler's primary goals. Here was a hotbed of political intrigue and historical conflict, a region that everyone would just as soon stay away from except for the fact that all the competing powers — Germany, Italy, the Soviet Union and Great Britain — had conflicting interests there. From the beginning, Adolf Hitler professed to hold no territorial ambitions in the Balkans.

The Soviet Union, which maintained an uneasy peace with Nazi Germany, eyed the Balkans as both a buffer zone and a pathway to the warm-water ports that it lacked. But Hitler tried to keep communist leader Josef Stalin's attentions turned elsewhere, encouraging him to fulfill age-old Russian ambitions in the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea instead. But Moscow also had designs on the Dardanelles and the Danube area, where their political and military aspirations clashed with German economic interests. Stalin often took advantage of Germany's preoccupation with its campaign in Western Europe to bully the Baltic states.

Italy, a charter member of Hitler's Axis alliance, had very definite ambitions in the Balkans, and took immediate steps to fulfill them. Italian leader Benito Mussolini moved on Albania and Greece in 1940, but his incompetent military soon became bogged down. Hitler was furious. Sensing that Italian aggression would attract the British to the region, he warned Mussolini that his failure "struck a blow at the belief of our invincibility, that was held by friend and foe alike." Nor did Hitler like having an enemy in his rear — the soft underbelly of Europe — even one as small as Greece. Since Italy had proved itself unequal to the task, Hitler would take it on himself.

Germany could not move directly on Greece because four countries stood in the way: Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. The first two were in Hitler's pocket; in fact their cooperation with the Third Reich meant German troops were already stationed there. And Bulgaria, though not as pro-Nazi as Hungary and Romania, had been pressured into joining the Tripartite Pact on 1 March 1941. Hitler could strike at Greece through Bulgaria, but that might leave him vulnerable to Yugoslavia, the one Balkan country still uncommitted to the Axis cause.

Wooing Yugoslavia

Greece was Britain's primary concern in the Balkans, which made the German threat to Yugoslavia London's business. By February 1941, British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden believed that Germany had the "obvious intention of invading Greece" and he encouraged Yugoslavia to join the Allies.

Hitler also invited Yugoslavia to join his alliance, but Belgrade tried to sit on the political fence. Nazi threats and promises failed to convince Prince Paul, the Yugoslav



AP/Wide World

German soldiers execute a hostage in Krusevac, Serbia, after conquering Yugoslavia in less than two weeks with a loss of fewer than 200 men.

regent, to give his allegiance to the Reich. Hitler tried once more in February, inviting the reluctant regent to Germany so he could personally woo him. Prince Paul was tempted by German promises to guarantee Yugoslavia's territorial integrity, but his sympathies for Greece (his wife was Greek) and his dislike of Italian ruler Mussolini made the decision a tough one. In the end, however, the prince decided to sign the Tripartite Pact, but only if Yugoslavia would not be expected to lend military assistance or allow German troops to pass through its territory.

Hitler was not pleased, but he accepted the conditions. On 25 March the Yugoslav Crown Council signed the agreement — a move greeted by public outcry and a coup led by a former Yugoslav Air Force commander, General Dusan Simovic. Two days later the rebels had overthrown the government and installed the youthful heir to the throne, Peter II, as king.

Decision to Invade

The coup caught Hitler by surprise. Taking the reversal as a personal insult, Hitler called together his generals on 27 March and railed at them, demanding that they launch immediate attacks from the north and east. Field Marshall Wilhelm Keitel, chief of the *Oberkommando der Wehrmacht* (OKW, the German armed forces high command), pointed out that this was impossible as German troops were still secretly planning for the invasion of the Soviet Union, Operation Barbarossa, and units already in Bulgaria were too weak for such an attack. Hitler waved aside the objections. "Now I intend to make a clean sweep of the Balkans," he told his officers, "it is time people got to know me better." The solution, Hitler concluded, was "to smash Yugoslavia militarily and as a state."

Joachim von Ribbentrop, the German foreign minister, cautioned that a final ultimatum should be issued before attacking, but Hitler would not be deterred. "Is that how you size up the situation?" he screamed. "The Yugoslavs would swear black is white. Of course, they say they have no warlike intentions, and when we march into Greece they will stab us in the

back." The attack was to begin at once, Hitler insisted, and would be "carried out with merciless harshness and that the military destruction would be done in the *Blitzkrieg* style" so as to frighten the Greeks and nearby Turkey.

Hitler then summoned the Hungarian and Bulgarian ministers, promising them territorial gains if their countries cooperated in the invasion. But the carrot concealed a stick. "Whom the gods would destroy," warned Hitler, "they first make mad." Even without this threat, neither country would likely have stood in Hitler's way, and they quickly agreed to the plan.

That night Hitler issued Directive Number 25, calling for simultaneous attacks on Yugoslavia and Greece. He cabled Mussolini with news of his plan (the Italian leader had been kept out of the loop). *Il Duce* was "to cover the most important passes leading from Yugoslavia to Albania with all available forces and to quickly reinforce the Italian troops along the Italian-Yugoslav border." It was Mussolini's job to protect the German flank.

Hitler expected his troops would have little trouble dispatching Yugoslavia, but dealing with the troublesome Slavs meant that the invasion of the Soviet Union would have to wait. More than anything else, this delay angered the Fuhrer and he demanded that the offensive be fast and furious. "The storm," he promised, "will burst over Yugoslavia with a rapidity that will dumbfound those gentlemen!"

Yugoslavia's Defenses

Geography was Yugoslavia's best defense. The Balkans extend from the Danube River to the Aegean Sea and from the Black Sea to the Adriatic, with Yugoslavia forming the northwestern and central portion of the peninsula. The Yugoslav coastline along the Adriatic runs for 400 miles, backed by the Dalmatian Alps. Stretching across the peninsula, roughly from east to west, are the Balkan Mountains — high ranges cut through by several passes, but with poor roads.

Yugoslavia's inland frontier extended some 1,900 miles and bordered on seven countries. With a land surface about the size of Oregon, Yugoslavia's population in 1941 was about 16 million — almost 7 million Serbs and more than 3 million Croats, the country's two largest ethnic groups (the remainder were Slovenes and other minorities). Belgrade, the capital, was home to 400,000 people, and Zagreb, the largest Croatian city, held about 200,000.

Yugoslavia would be hard-pressed from the onset. Belgrade's army was stretched along the frontier, leaving virtually nothing in reserve. On paper, the armed forces had 1 million men in 29 divisions under arms, but the reality was that only a fraction were mobilized, most of them near the Bulgarian border. To make matters worse, internal



Hostages in Pancevo, Yugoslavia, are executed by soldiers of the *Wehrmacht* in 1941. In making decisions about NATO war in the Balkans, policymakers should consider traditional fragility of Yugoslav political and military system, not specter of guerrilla war. It's a conventional army NATO will face on the ground if it enters Yugoslavia, not insurgents, just as Hitler encountered in 1941.

friction between Serbs and Croats undermined combat effectiveness.

The Offensive

Before dawn on 6 April, the first wave of German planes droned over Yugoslavia on their way to attack Belgrade. Flying from airfields in Austria and Romania, 150 bombers pounced on the sleeping city, raining down bombs for almost an hour-and-a-half. The Yugoslav Air Force and the city's anti-aircraft defenses were quickly destroyed, and 17,000 civilians perished in the bombing. Only two German planes were shot down. There was no concern for "collateral damage." The devastating blow wiped out much of the Yugoslav Army's communications and only narrowly missed killing much of the general staff. With Belgrade out of the way, the *Luftwaffe* could devote its efforts to supporting the German ground attack.

Beneath the curtain of bombers, the Second Army, commanded by General Maximilian von Weichs, crossed the border from Hungary. Its objective was not to head straight for the capital, but to secure the bridges across major rivers so the rest of the army could move unhindered. The XLVI Panzer Corps established bridgeheads along the Mura and Drava Rivers, meeting little resistance from the Yugoslavs. Much of the area was under the control of Croat troops, many of whom welcomed the Germans as liberators from the Serbs.

Early on the morning of 8 April, the Twelfth Army's First Panzer Group, under General Edwald von Kleist, raced out of

Bulgaria. Crossing the border near Pirot in southern Yugoslavia, the XIV Panzer Corps, spearheaded by the 11th Panzer Division, advanced northwest toward the town of Nis. Behind the tanks was another armor division, the 5th Panzer, as well as the 294th Infantry and 4th Mountain Divisions. Despite rain, mud and some stiff resistance from the Yugoslav Army, the German tanks broke through the lines by the end of the first day and rumbled into Nis. During one sharp battle, more than 5,000 Yugoslav soldiers were captured. Without pausing, the Germans then headed for Belgrade, speeding up as the roads improved through the Morava Valley nearer the capital. By 12 April the spearhead was less than 40 miles from the capital, overrunning part of the one wing of the retreating Yugoslav Army in the process.

A second armored thrust, this one from Romania to the north, crossed the border near the town of Vrsac, a mere 45 miles



Mighty German tanks rumble through one of Belgrade's main thoroughfares after the Yugoslav capital was crushed in May 1941.

from Belgrade. This was the XLI Panzer Corps, led by *Gross Deutschland* Motorized Infantry Regiment, closely followed by the 2d SS Motorized Infantry Division. They had very little trouble reaching Belgrade's doorstep by 11 April.

The third attack came from the Second Army's XLVI Panzer Corps launching from the north out of Hungary and Slovenia on the evening of 6 April. They established bridgeheads across the major rivers, but found that most of the enemy units were Croats, many of whom refused to resist the Germans. By 12 April the corps' 8th Panzer Division, with the 16th Motorized Infantry Division following behind, was 12 miles from Belgrade.

All three attack forces were converging on the capital. Early on the evening of 12 April, SS *Obersturmfuehere* (First Lieutenant) Klingenberg of the 2d SS Motorized Infantry Division took a patrol across the Danube River and hoisted the Nazi flag above the German embassy. Two hours later the mayor of Belgrade handed over the city to Klingenberg. By the next morning most of the three spearheads had also reached the capital.

After the fall of Belgrade the Germans concentrated on chasing and destroying remnants of the Yugoslav Army, especially near Sarajevo in the heart of Yugoslavia, which was taken by the 8th and 14th Panzer Divisions on 15 April. Leaving only a few units to garrison the town, the German tanks wheeled and raced south in pursuit of other fleeing enemy troops.

On 17 April it was all over. Yugoslavia surrendered unconditionally to the Germans the following day. Hitler had believed the campaign would take at least two months, but the German Army had taken just 12 days to conquer the country, with only 151 men killed and 392 wounded. Yugoslav losses were unknown, but 254,000 were taken prisoner.

What did it all mean? Was this just another Blitzkrieg victory in Germany's early march toward victory in Europe? The answer is a yes ... and no. German tactics had once again carried the day, but there were some significant differences that set the Yugoslav campaign apart. Most significantly, this marked the first time Hitler had to plan an impromptu offensive and execute it using a coalition. Previous campaigns in Western Europe had been carefully planned affairs, but in Yugoslavia, circumstances demanded that the Germans strike before their forces were fully assembled. Nor was Hitler used to arranging his plans to suit other nations, in this case Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania. Troops from all these countries played a role in the fighting, though it was clear from the beginning that the German Army would command the campaign and bear the brunt of the fighting.

The Yugoslav offensive was also one of the first times that the German Army had to take primitive roads and rugged terrain into account. There would be plenty more of that

AP/Wide World

The Everett Collection

in the months and years ahead, but many of the lessons were learned in the Balkans. The campaign was really more about overcoming obstacles than vanquishing enemies. Key objectives were always rivers and mountain passes; getting to them before weather or the enemy closed them off. Once this was achieved, the traditional German tactics of armor and speed took over, allowing them to reach the Yugoslav rear.

Yugoslavia knew it had no chance against the German juggernaut. The army relied on the weather and terrain, but this was not enough. After the coup, there could be little doubt Germany would invade, yet the Yugoslav military failed to mass their forces around strategic points and natural terrain barriers, choosing instead to scatter units along the country's frontier. By attempting to hold everywhere, they failed to hold anywhere.

Perhaps even more instrumental in Yugoslavia's defeat were the deep ethnic rifts within the army. The Serbs opposed Germany, while the Croats, looking for a friend to help them rebel against the Serbs, welcomed the invaders. Entire Croat units threw away their weapons in the face of the German attack; in some instances they even joined in attacks on Serb units. In one instance, Croat troops attacked the headquarters of the Yugoslav First Army Group and held its staff prisoner until they were rescued by Serb troops.

The Germans naturally took advantage of this ethnic rift, though Hitler could care less about their national ambitions. "That is none of our business," he reportedly remarked. "If they want to bash each other's heads in, let them go ahead."

But while ethnic tensions helped speed the German victory, they also contained the seeds of insurgency. Winning a campaign against an enemy army is one thing, "pacifying" the hostile population is quite another. The German Army's easy victory led it to underestimate the true fighting spirit of the Yugoslav people, though they quickly learned of their mistake. Taking sanctuary in the mountains, various ethnic groups formed guerrilla units and began harassing the occupiers. By the end of 1941 Hitler regarded this as a threat. "Before next spring," he wrote to Mussolini, "every nucleus of insurrection must be wiped out or else we run the risk of having to fight a subsidiary war in the Balkans."

Easier said than done.

Guerrilla War

Hitler's attention was focused on the Soviet Union, which he planned to invade in June 1941 — less than two months after the fall of Yugoslavia. Since there was neither the time nor the manpower for prison-

ers of war, the Germans freed them and withdrew most of their troops. Hitler realized that unemployed and disaffected soldiers were the seeds of a resistance movement, but there was little choice.

Yugoslavia was dismembered — parts went to Italy, Hungary and Bulgaria — but Germany was concerned mainly with exploiting the Balkans' natural resources, which were used to feed the German war machine. To keep the peace and enforce its interests in Yugoslavia, Hitler left only the Twelfth Army, commanded by General Wilhelm List, which was whittled down from 12 divisions to four — the 704th, 714th and 717th Infantry Divisions in Serbia and the 718th Infantry Division in Croatia. More units would be added in late 1943, but most came and went as the situation demanded.

Guerrilla warfare began almost immedi-



German tanks stage review in streets of Belgrade, in April 1941, after German occupation of Yugoslavian capital. Pentagon and NATO officials considering ground troop options for Yugoslavia are studying history of Yugoslav resistance during World War II.

ately, and like everything else in Yugoslavia, it was hampered by an internal national and ethnic cleavage. Croats backed Germany, forming the Ustashi collaborationist regime which performed much of the Nazis' dirty work. Many members of the Muslim minority also helped the Nazis; in 1943 Germany formed a division of Bosnian Muslims called the *Waffen-Gebirgs Division der SS* to fight the guerrillas. Like the Ustashi, the Bosnian SS unit was involved in many atrocities against the Serbs (not that the Serbs were blameless — they also tried to destroy the Muslim minority during the ensuing guerrilla war).

The main guerrilla resistance followed two leaders. A Pan-Serb movement under the command of former Yugoslav Army Colonel Draza Mihailovic gained momentum in mid-1941, and soon became the armed force of the Yugoslav government in exile under King Peter II. Called Chetnik after the groups that fought Turkish domi-

nation before World War I, they tended to favor sabotage and small-scale action in order to prevent horrifying reprisals from the Germans and their Croatian allies.

The other major guerrilla group took the name Partisans. Commanded by Josip Broz — better known as Tito — they were communists with strong ties to Moscow. Tito's men were ideologically driven — rather than nationalistic — so they were less likely to be tied to any single area. As a result, they struck far and wide, often in areas where German reprisals would hit Serbs loyal to Mihailovic. Chetnik and Partisan drifted farther apart until much of the fighting was among themselves rather than against the Germans.

General List launched his first offensive against the guerrillas in November 1941. Tito's partisans bore the brunt of the fighting before being forced to retreat into the mountains of northwestern Yugoslavia. German and Ustashi reprisals were horrific: Thousands of Serbs were executed — including more than 400 school children — and thousands more driven into forced labor camps. Four more major offensives followed before the German retreat from Yugoslavia in late 1944. According to Yugoslav figures, the country lost 1.7 million people during the German occupation, or about 10% of its total population.

Although the guerrillas were undoubtedly a thorn in the German Army's side, they were not decisive. According to one U.S. Army report published after the war, "Suppression of the resistance movement became and remained for over two years a makeshift affair, with the guerrillas being pursued from one area to another, suffering heavy casualties, but never being destroyed." Despite guerrilla efforts, duty in Yugoslavia "was regarded as relatively safe ... not as pleasant, perhaps, as assignment to occupation duty in France, Belgium or Holland, but definitely preferable to service in the Soviet Union or North Africa." Indeed, when Germany was forced out of the Balkans it was mostly due to the loss of its Italian ally in 1943 and by the worsening situation on the Eastern Front against the Soviet Union.

Germany suffered about 24,000 killed and 12,000 missing (Tito claimed to have killed more than 100,000) during its conquest and occupation of Yugoslavia, most of them during the retreat from the Balkans. The German Army lost more soldiers during its six-week campaign against France in June 1940. The Allies had hoped that Tito's Partisans could stab away at the German withdrawal, but most units managed to

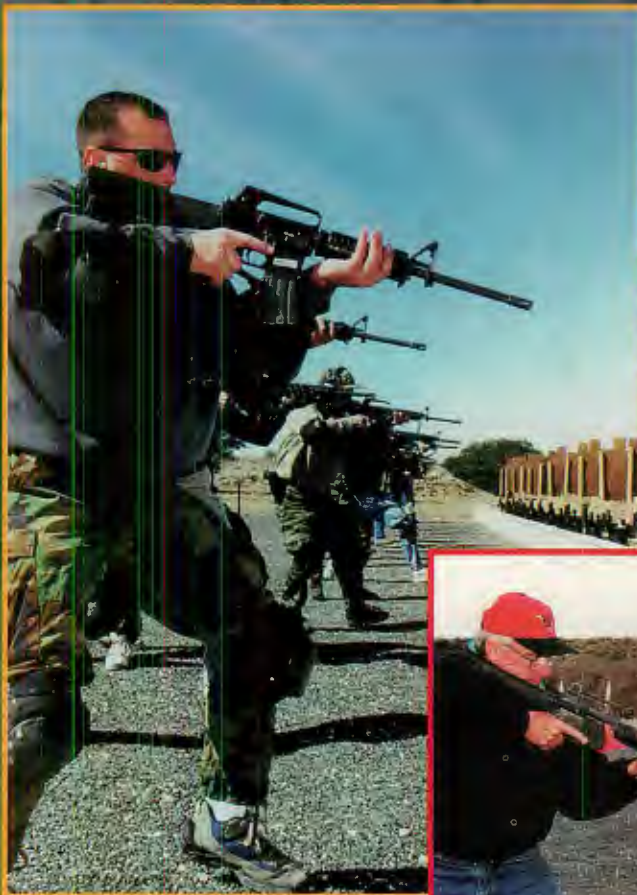
Continued on page 71

“We’re all gonna die, but it’s not gonna be today!”

Thunder Ranch — Urban Rifle Course

by Peter G. Kokalis

Photos by Chris Mayer



(clockwise from top) Thunder Ranch instructor Bill Jeans demonstrates the “California” kneeling position using the “wall” for cover, as Clint Smith discusses this position’s salient features. Students drop to kneeling to clear “bolt-over-base” stoppages. Thunder Ranch instructor Bill McLennan (left) and Clint Smith demonstrate weapon retention technique. Thunder Ranch’s Urban Rifle course covers the use of a rifle at pistol ranges. That usually means close in, quickly moving targets that require rapid target acquisition.

Urban rifle” or “tactical carbine.” To me they’re just politically correct terms for the most feared and hated item on the political left’s anti-gun agenda: *semiautomatic-only* versions of military assault rifles. By definition, the latter are relatively lightweight, chambered for an intermediate-size cartridge (usually either 5.56x45mm NATO or 7.62x39mm), and equipped with selective-fire capability. Remove this last feature and you will most often encounter in law enforcement agencies throughout the U.S. some variant or another of the Colt AR-15.

The fabled Thunder Ranch’s Urban Rifle course covers the use of a rifle at pistol ranges. That usually means close-in, quickly moving targets that require rapid target acquisition. Since April 1986 Clint Smith has taught more Urban Rifle classes than any other. Strangely enough, prior to this time there seemed to be little interest in this type of training. This is, coincidentally, the date of the Miami, Florida shootout, in which two well-armed perpetrators laid waste, before expiring, to a substantial number of FBI agents, armed mostly with handguns. One of the bad guys



(counterclockwise from top) Bill Jeans watches closely as students advance and fire at rotating target on White Range. Instruction at Thunder Ranch is most often close-in and personal as Clint Smith discusses firing and weapon manipulation with the right hand only with an Urban Rifle student. Thunder Ranch instructor Bill Jeans talks Michael Emery through the roll-over prone position at the "wall." Students practice weapon retention technique under the watchful eye of Bill McLennan.



(above) Two police officers fire on clothed, rotating targets as they tactically withdraw. (right) SOF's Technical Editor, Peter G. Kokalis, went through Thunder Ranch's Urban Rifle course armed with an M16A2, equipped with an upper receiver that features a 16.1-inch heavy barrel, and an Aimpoint Comp M-XD red sight. Note Vortex flash hider.



was armed with a caliber .223 Ruger Mini-14.

Instructors

Thunder Ranch's highly respected honcho, Clint Smith, is a Marine Corps veteran with two infantry tours in Vietnam. His experience includes seven years in law enforcement, during which time he served as head of his department's FTU (Firearms Training Unit), as well as the senior countersniper on the SWAT unit. He was Operations Officer for Jeff Cooper's API and both started and

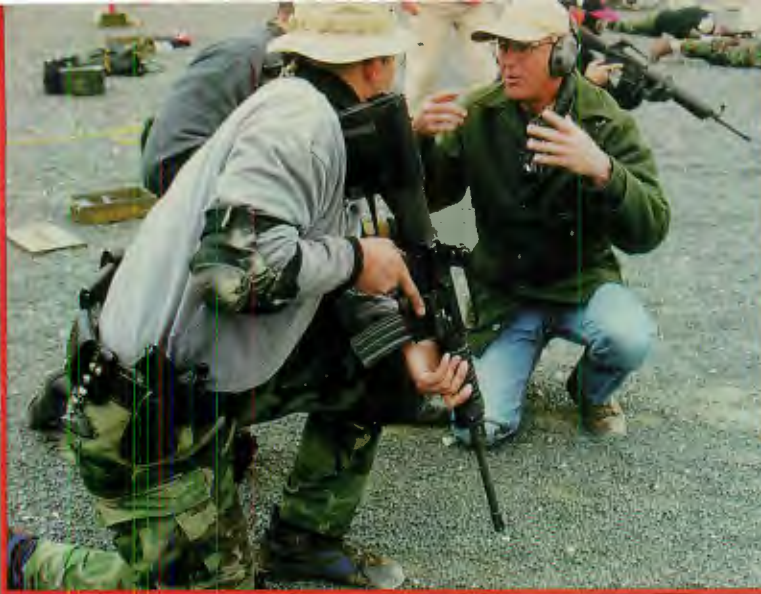
served as director of Heckler & Koch's training services division. Together with his wife, Heidi, he runs the Thunder Ranch Training Facility (Dept. SOF, HCR 1, Box 53, Mountain Home, TX 78058; phone: 830-640-3138; fax: 830-640-3183; web site: www.thunderranchinc.com) with its busy 34-course schedule and still finds time for off-site training through International Training Consultants, Inc., a highly regarded mobile training program.

Thunder Ranch has a guest staff of about three dozen instructors. The five, including Clint, who taught our Urban Rifle course brought an impressive array of experience to the table. Bill McLennan retired from the San Antonio Police Department after more than 30 years of service, the last six and a half of which were spent as OIC of firearms training. McLennan's unflappable demeanor, dry Texas wit and encyclopedic knowledge of gunfighting tactics are tremendous assets in any course he instructs. Bill Jeans, former Operations Manager for Gunsite and a Vietnam-era combat Marine, spent 21 years with the Clovis, Calif., Police Department. Ray Coffman, who served as a grunt in the Marine Corps in the 1970s, was active in USMC rifle squad competition and ended his military career in a Force Recon reserve battalion. He was involved with site security at the DOE and was chief of firearms and tactics at the Central Training Academy (CTA). Jack Furr, former Senior Rangemaster at Gunsite, spent many years as a homicide detective in Louisiana and as an instructor at CTA. Jack is one of the most highly respected firearms and tactics instructors in the country.

Thunder Ranch classes never contain more than 20 students, as that is the number of firing positions on each range. This provided our class with a student-to-instructor ratio of 4-to-1. No other recognized firearms training facility can boast of such a low ratio of students to instructors. Our Urban Rifle class was composed of five police officers, two security personnel from Mexico and 13 civilians dedicated to fighting smart if the need arises. Students always get more than their money's worth at Thunder Ranch, as there is none of the usual down-time associated with firearms classes run in relays. You can expect to fire about 1,200 rounds in the Urban Rifle course. You will also need a handgun and holster for transition drills. However, no more than several hundred rounds of pistol ammo are required.

Urban Rifle

Mornings of the first day at Thunder Ranch are almost always spent in the classroom discussing the important concepts that will be applied during the rest of the course. In this instance on the White and Orange Ranges, Terminator, Thunderville and Tower. Armed with Clint's statement that, "Most people in a fight can't run their gear; they're shooting because it makes them feel good," we march off to the White Range after lunch to establish zero from the prone at 25 yards and then at 50 yards, firing at bullseye targets. Subsequent to 25-yard offhand shooting, we move to 100 yards for more prone shooting



(clockwise from top left) Clint Smith discusses tactical movement with two police officers during a "wall" exercise. There was one Chinese Norinco semiautomatic-only AKM in the class. Student with early Costa Mesa Armalite AR180 demonstrates the "rice paddy prone" position, also known as the old USMC squatting position. Thunder Ranch instructor Ray Coffman commences a demonstration of the tactical reload for an AR-15. (inset, below) Firing from one of the upper level positions at Thunderville.

on silhouette targets to end the day. As we drive to our cabin I contemplate Clint's final observation in the morning lecture. "There are two questions no training facility can answer for you: They don't know what the threat will look like or what it's going to take for you to win."

We commenced the second day with the various kneeling positions and then offhand from 50 yards. By the way, there are no distance markers on any of the ranges at Thunder Ranch, so all of the distances I describe are approximate only. Clint says he'll install them when they do so in the real world as well. At 100 yards we fired from prone, kneeling and offhand. Then back to about 25 yards for off-hand shooting with right and left lateral movement and withdrawals. The difference between "searching" and "scanning" was emphasized. When you search the flanks for a target, the rifle moves in constant alignment with the head and eyes as they move to the left and right. When scanning, the head and eyes move briefly to the left and right while the rifle remains pointed at the target, presumably a downed, but not necessarily out, opponent.

Another point of emphasis was the difference between the rifle's bore line and the line of sight, especially on a Colt AR-15, which can be as much as 3 to 4 inches using either the iron sights on the carrying handle or an Aimpoint Comp M-XD (Extreme Duty) mounted on an A3 flat-top receiver's Mil-Std-1913 rail. If this is not taken into consideration, with the consequent proper elevation in the point of aim, a shot intended for the brain cavity will impact in the target's mouth. Worse yet when firing over a barricade, you might not "clear the muzzle" over the obstruction.

A portion of the afternoon was spent practicing malfunction drills. Malfunctions such as those resulting from a magazine not locked by the catch/release, or a stovepipe, are handled by the

same "tap, rack, bang" procedure used to clear out a M1911A1 pistol. However, what the U.S. Military calls a "bolt-over-base" stoppage — an empty case fails to extract and the bolt rides over a loaded round cocked sideways in the receiver just above the magazine — is unfortunately fairly common (usually because of a defective magazine or weak extractor spring) and difficult to resolve. If possible, you should transition to your handgun.

But that isn't always possible and the procedure for clearing a "bolt-over-base" stoppage is as follows: First, slap the magazine upward and then retract the bolt. If that doesn't solve the problem, drop or move to cover and roll the weapon so you can inspect the chamber in a tactile (by touch) manner. If you determine that you are faced with a "bolt-over-base," retract the bolt and activate the hold-open device. Remove the magazine. Insert the fingers of your support hand into the magazine-well and clear the stoppage. Cycle the bolt group at least twice. Insert a different loaded magazine. Cycle the bolt again to chamber a round. Continue to "shoot what's available, as long as it's available or until something else becomes available." Why? Because as Clint correctly says, "When you turn and run, then the killing really begins. Don't turn and run, you're going to die anyway." We finished the day firing at high-speed turning targets.

During any course at Thunder Ranch, they invariably turn up the pace on Wednesday. By that time most of the students are both physically and mentally in better condition than they were on Monday morning. Starting again at the White Range, we began the day firing standing-to-kneeling drills after movement. This was followed by standing-to-prone after movement and finally standing-to-kneeling- (with two shots to the body) to-prone (one shot to the head). These exercises were all conducted



at about 25 yards, as were the “battlefield pick up” drills we practiced, which involved running to your grounded weapon and getting it into action as quickly as possible.

Up Against The Wall

All of this was a mere prelude to the dreaded “wall” exercise. Starting with your partner about 5 yards in back of a stepped barricade, each one in turn moves rapidly in a crouched position to the wall to fire consecutively from a crouched standing, kneeling, sitting, prone and roll-over prone position. Each shooter alternates between every position, withdrawing each time to the starting point as he is talked back by his partner. Throughout the rest of the week, when we assembled at White Range to await rotation to one of the simulators, we practiced on the wall. It was not my favorite exercise. However, this drill not only hones shooting skills, but provides emphasis on teamwork. Furthermore, you will do in fight what you do in training and programming is largely a function of repetitions.

Weapon retention is an all-too-often neglected topic. With the bolt out of the rifle and red surveyor’s flagging through the magazine well and ejection port, we practiced retaining the rifle by use of a circular motion as our partners grabbed and held the muzzles. Everything, especially including drills such as this, is performed with great emphasis on safety. Clint believes that “Injuries defeat the intent of training.”

Clint Smith correctly maintains that, “There’s a remarkable difference between a national championship and a gunfight.” So, subsequent to this, we reassembled the rifles and moved to the firing line for a reality check with some “shake ‘n’ bake” drills. With the partner holding the front end of the sling and the shooter’s belt, both move rearward together. At the command “release,” the partner releases the front end of the sling while the operator shoots a Plan C. At Thunder Ranch shooting a “Plan A” means firing at the torso, or the body’s energy source, the number of shots determined by the threat. Firing a “Plan B” indicates a shot to the head — the body’s computer, while a “Plan C” signifies the first two zones plus shooting at the pelvis, which should affect your opponent’s mobility. Before the lunch break we fired Plan C sequences offhand from about 25 yards and kneeling at 50 yards, after right, left or withdrawal movement.

After lunch we assembled at the Terminator for a tactics lecture by Clint. While the primary rule remains “Always Win, Always Cheat,” the tactical movement concept of “slicing the pie” is all-important in successfully clearing a building complex and that is, of course, an adjunct of properly using cover and concealment.

A salient feature of instruction at Thunder Ranch is the amount of individual

attention provided to the students. During my initial dry run through the Terminator, Jack Furr pointed out that I was holding my right arm in the normal offhand position - parallel to the ground. This projects the arm away from the body and provides an opponent with a clear target indicator as you carefully pie and enter a room. This type of instructor observation is training input at its highest level of constructive criticism.

Back on the White Range at the “wall” and from the kneeling position, we fired first with the right hand only and the left hand completely disabled. This included inserting a loaded magazine into the magazine well, retracting the bolt, firing twice, releasing and dropping the magazine and clearing the rifle. This was repeated with the left hand.

Wednesday ended with a “downed officer drill.” A bag or object representing a downed officer is placed 15 yards down-range from the approximated 50-yard line. Two men move down range, one providing suppressive fire, the other covering only. Upon arrival at the fallen officer, the man providing suppressive fire calls “out”



Peter G. Kottalis

Vortex flash hider — the best and most effective flash suppressor ever fielded, bar none.

(“You’ll be in the fight until you’re out of ammo,” says Thunder Ranch’s boss), slings his rifle, picks up the wounded officer and begins to withdraw to the cover provided by the wall. The other man provides suppressive fire for the withdrawal to cover.

Welcome To Thunderville

Day 4 started, as usual, at White Range for series of offhand, kneeling and prone drills firing at rotating camouflage targets from about 50 and then 25 yards. After firing head shots at 5 yards, some of us went to Thunderville.

Thunderville is an elaborate, day or night, in-depth facade over 200-feet in length representing a two-sided street setting. It’s used in all of the rifle programs that present dynamic scenarios. With over 60 target options, as well as movers, hostages, runners and wobblers, Thunderville features computer-controlled lighting, doors, movement, timing and hit documentation. This simulator has been designed to test decision-making and target identification under maximum stress.

Thursday evening found us back on White Range for the night shoot. Using ambient light for as long as it lasted, a flashlight, a law enforcement flashing light bar and also in my case and Chris Mayer’s night vision equipment, we practiced malfunction drills, firing in conjunction with movement and from behind barricades. I ended the evening with a successful run through Thunderville using a Litton M983 third-generation night vision pocket scope mounted on a GG&G Integrated Rail System, directly in back of an Aimpoint Comp M-XD.

Friday, the last day of the course, is a frenzied blur in my mind. First, to White Range for our beloved wall drills, then off to Orange Range for work on chargers. Back to White Range for the wall again and then over to the Terminator, where I picked up two valuable lessons, albeit somewhat painful to my ego.

In my first run through the Terminator, Jack Furr slipped an empty case in the middle of my magazine full of frangible ammunition. After successfully engaging several targets, I sliced the pie around a corner to find a hostage situation requiring a head shot. Both the hostage and I went down because I failed to check the rifle, either visually or in a tactile manner, before rounding the corner. I’ll never do that again.

In my second run, Bill McClellan set up a scenario where tunnel vision on a target down a long hallway resulted in my failure to check a room containing a bad guy. Training in a simulator, such as the Terminator, is not supposed to be a demonstration of how great you are, it’s supposed to be a valuable learning experience.

In the afternoon, we climbed the outside ladder on the Tower to the second floor to pick up a magazine of frangible ammo. A bomb scenario was projected. You had two minutes to work your way rapidly down the inside stairs of the Tower before the bomb detonated. A suspected terrorist was supposedly remaining in the building in a possible hostage situation. Afterward, leaving no time to mull this over, we then moved quickly to Thunderville.

Moving behind a building facade as fast as possible, up and down ramps, stairs and poles and shooting from windows and floor-level openings at targets that remain exposed for no more than 2.5 seconds, is very much a “deep breathing” experience. Engagement distances at Thunderville are, on the average, about 25 to 35 yards. Urban Rifle ended where it began, on White Range with wall drills and a final brass call.

Clint Smith says, “If you want to scare ‘em, put on an ugly mask. Only hits help.” Thunder Ranch’s superb Urban Rifle Course is designed to maximize a student’s hit probability with the Colt AR-15 and other rifles of this type. But, it

requires a full physical and mental effort on the part of all those who participate.

Equipment

Clint says, "If I'm going to fight, I'm going to fight with the biggest gun I can get my hands on." For the 20 students in the Urban Rifle class that *Soldier Of Fortune* staff photographer Chris Mayer and I attended, that meant 18 Colt M16A2/AR-15 variants, one early Armalite AR180, made in Costa Mesa, Calif., and one Norinco semiautomatic-only AKM.

My M16A2, equipped with an upper receiver (from the Colt law enforcement AR-15A3 Tactical Carbine, #AR6721) that features a 16.1-inch heavy barrel (chrome-lined with 1:9-inch twist) and removable carrying handle, was the only selective-fire rifle in the class. I fired two-round bursts only twice, at very close ranges. "Proximity deletes skill." In the law enforcement arena you must account for every round you send down range. Second and third rounds in burst-fire will usually impact high and to the right. This is not usually a desirable feature for most law enforcement or civilian defense applications.

Two of the AR-15s were "post-ban" rifles and had no muzzle devices. The flash signature from these rifles is horrendous. In my opinion, this variant is useless. Five of the Colt rifles were equipped with Vortex flash suppressors, both the older straight-prong and the newer helical type. The Vortex flash hider is made by Smith Arms International (Dept. SOF, 1701 West 10th Street, #14, Tempe, AZ 85281; phone: 602-964-1818). It is, quite simply, the best flash hider ever fielded. With even the shortest barrels, the Vortex almost completely eliminates the flash signature, regardless of the propellant.

Clint says, "A rifle without a sling is like a handgun without a holster." I personally feel that the so-called Giles Sling is the best available. Designed by Giles Stock, a retired sergeant and SWAT team armorer for the Phoenix PD, it is manufactured by, and available from, The Wilderness (Dept. SOF, 5130 N. 19th Ave., Suite 7, Phoenix, AZ 85015; phone: 602-242-4945 or 800-775-5650; fax: 602-242-8260).

Fabricated from heavy, 1.25-inch, black nylon webbing with 1.25-inch Delrin buckles, the sling is stitched with heavy polyester thread, which is more sun-resistant than nylon thread. Available for the Steyr AUG, Colt AR-15 series, Ruger Mini-14 and the Benelli and Remington Model 11-87 and 870 shotguns, the Giles sling is also custom-made for other shoulder-mounted weapons which must be fitted in the shop.

It can be used as a carry, shooting or hands-free sling (in the manner of the H&K combat carrying sling). Most important, the Giles sling permits the operator to correctly and safely transition to his service sidearm in a combat environment. The AR-15 model costs \$49.95.

There was an interesting assortment of optical sighting equipment in this class. Two rifles were fitted with Trijicon reflex sights and one with the well-known Trijicon

ACOG scope. There were three Aimpoint red dot sights. One was the Comp M model and it does not provide a red dot of sufficient intensity for use in bright sunlight. The U.S. Army has adopted Aimpoint Comp M-XD electronic reflex sights for the M16A2E4 rifle and M4 carbine series. Known as the M68, This sight is now the primary aiming systems for these firearms. Both feature a 3 MOA (3 inches at 100 yards) dot. The optics used in the Comp M and M-XD have band pass reflection coating for compatibility with night-vision equipment. The Aimpoint Comp M-XD, which I used through the last three days of Thunder Ranch's Urban Rifle course, has a red dot of sufficient intensity for even the



Since 1986, Clint Smith has taught more Urban Rifle classes than any other type. Here is holds a student's Colt AR-15 which is equipped with a Trijicon reflex sight to demonstrate a point.

brightest sunlight. There's no doubt that the Aimpoint Comp M-XD provides for much faster target acquisition than iron sights. However, these units are powered by batteries and batteries will eventually fail, usually at a most inappropriate moment.

Ammunition

Two different intermediate-size assault rifle cartridges were used by the students in our Urban rifle class: 5.56x45mm NATO (.223 Remington) and 7.62x39mm. They differ markedly in wound ballistics performance. A great deal of misinformation has been published about the reasons for the both the Vietnam-era 55-grain M193 and newer M855 62-grain 5.56x45mm projectiles effectiveness. It was determined at the U.S. Army's Wound Ballistics Lab that the large permanent cavity produced by these bullets is primarily a consequence of bullet fragmentation.

As long as these FMJ bullets travel point forward their wound track remains small and there is little tissue damage. However, after from 2 to 6 inches of penetration, the projectiles will yaw to 90 degrees, flatten and break apart at the cannellure (crimping groove). The bullet point remains as a flattened triangular section, retaining about 60% of the original bullet weight and penetrating about 13 inches in soft tissue. That portion to the rear of the cannellure breaks into numerous fragments

that penetrate up to 3 inches radially away from the main wound track.

These multiple fragments perforate and weaken tissue. Tissue between two perforations is often completely detached when subsequently subjected to the sudden stretch of temporary cavitation. Weakened tissue may be split by stretch that would otherwise be absorbed by the tissue's elasticity.

There is a direct correlation between the bullet's velocity and the fragmentation pattern. At a range of 100 yards, these bullets generally break into two large fragments. At ranges more than 200 yards, M193/M855 bullets flatten somewhat and only a few small fragments squeeze out the base. If one of these bullets pass through an arm or leg without striking bone and before it yaws and fragments, the damage will be minimal. In my opinion, the 5.56x45mm NATO cartridge is most effective at ranges under 100 yards.

Both Chris Mayer and I used 68-grain, Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP), moly-coated ammunition provided by Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 3090, Rapid City, SD 57709-3090; phone: 605-348-5150; fax: 605-348-9827 — call for information about purchasing direct at retail if there is no Black Hills distributor near you). Heavier bullets provide greater accuracy potential in the faster twist 5.56x45mm barrels. Moly-coating produces a protective surface in the barrel with a number of important benefits. Moly-coated bullets will reduce both chamber pressure and muzzle velocity because of the reduction in the coefficient of friction. When fired at identical velocities, moly-coated bullets will provide flatter trajectories at long range than untreated bullets. Accuracy is also significantly enhanced. And, especially important, is the incredible almost twofold increase in barrel life.

In its boattail configuration, the 7.62x39mm bullet travels point-forward about 10 inches in soft tissue before significant yaw occurs. At that point the bullet will yaw to less than 90 degrees, then come back down to a point-forward position, and, finally, yaw 180 degrees and end its travel in a base forward position. Bilobed yaw cycles of this type are commonly observed with pointed non-deforming bullets. Total penetration in living tissue is almost 29 inches. Abdominal shots usually exhibit no greater tissue disruption than that produced by a .38 Special revolver bullet since, after 10 inches of travel without yawing, the bullet has generally passed through the abdominal cavity. Of course, this round is capable of inflicting such damage at far greater ranges than a handgun. Flat-based bullets in this caliber are considerably more effective. They will commence their yaw cycle after only 3 to 4 inches of penetration. This will cause more damage to the abdomen, liver, spleen or pancreas because the bullet passes through these organs at a larger yaw angle. ❧

Gun Control Doesn't Work

Proven Solutions to Ending School Shootings

PHOTOS COURTESY PATRICK KRAMER / LONGMONT TIMES-CALL

This exclusive interview with Dr. David Th. Schiller is repinted with the kind permission of Mr. Aaron Zellman, Founder and Executive Director of Jews For The Preservation of Firearms Ownership, copyright © by Jews For The Preservation of Firearms Ownership (JPFO, P.O. Box 270143, Dept. SOF, Hartford, WI 53047; Tel.: 414.673.9745; Fax: 414.673.9746). It puts to rest the ongoing debate of how to deal with the ever increasing violence and bloodshed in America's schools, by showing proven solutions to the problem. Rest assured the answer is not in more gun control, as the gun prohibitionists would want to brainwash America into believing. In fact, the problem is gun control.

JPFO: Tell us about your background, and your involvement with firearms, and the

right to keep and bear arms.

Schiller: The name is Dr. David Schiller, currently residing in the little town of Nassau, 70 km northwest of Frankfurt [Germany]. I work as editor-in-chief of *VISIER*, a 168-pages-strong general-interest gun magazine, which I started 11 years ago in Stuttgart and which has now grown to be the most influential and best-selling gun magazine in all of Europe. Of course with a gun magazine published in Germany, politics are at the forefront of our editorial work, and we have an eye toward the past. NRA's Steve Halbrook has been just over here, and I was glad to help him with his research on Jewish resistance during WW II.

I was born in [West] Berlin in '52, moved to Israel in '72 and served in the Israel Defense Force's Airborne, which means I am a veteran of the '73 war, the Lebanese war, and a number of border raids

and actions in the occupied territories. Wounded in 1973 on Suez Canal, I later studied political science at West Berlin's Free University and mastered with a thesis on the origins of the Civil War in Lebanon and a Ph.D. in '82 with a work on the Palestinians' "love affair" with terrorism and paramilitary activity. When I returned to Germany in '74-'75 for studies I was called upon by the Berlin police department to consult and teach their SWAT team, which just came into being after the Munich massacre during the Munich Olympics. Over the years this extended into a whole series of work obligations with various police departments in Germany and other

A crowd estimated at a few thousand fills west side of Capitol lawn in Denver, Colorado on Saturday, 1 May 1999, during anti-gun demonstration. Many later walked to Adam's Mark Hotel to protest NRA's annual meeting.



Lewis Geyer/Longmont Times-Call

places in the world. Due to my work in the Israel Defense Force (IDF), as a drill instructor and weapons specialist, and through my academic interest, I had something to teach to these people. I also worked some years for the terrorism research department of Santa Monica's RAND Corporation, and have continued my academic pursuits.

Over the years I published a number of books on shooting, police, terrorism, military history etc., most of these under the pseudonym of "Jan Boger." You probably might find a photographic journal of mine in English on the IDF, called "To Live in the Fire ...," published in 1977 by the John Olson Publishing Co., in New Jersey.

As you can see, I experienced violence and gun control from both ends of the barrel, one might say. And, of course, I grew up to be a strong believer in the personal right to self-defense, especially as I spent my childhood in the Berlin equivalent of the Bronx.

JPFO: *What kind of advice could you give the U.S.A. to combat the recent school massacres that seemingly have become quite common upon our soil?*

Schiller: Now for Jonesboro and the U.S. gun control laws in regard to schools: Way back in 1973, I lived in a Kibbutz in Northern Israel, called Ramat Yochanan. During Passover week in '74 we in Galilee experienced the first of a number of specific PLO attacks targeting specifically schools and children, houses, kindergartens, school buses and the like. It started with an infiltration in Quiriat Schmoneh on the Passover weekend, where the perpetrators found the school empty and locked (of course, during the holidays!) and took over a nearby residential building, shooting people and in the end blowing themselves up.

A few weeks later the worst of this series of incidents took place in Maalot on May 15th. Three PLO gunmen, after making their way through the border fence, first shot up a van-load full of workers returning from a tobacco factory (incidentally, these people happened to be Galilee Arabs, not Jews), then they entered the school compound of Maalot. First they murdered the housekeeper, his wife and one of their kids, then they took a whole group of nearly 100 kids and their teachers hostage. These were staying overnight at the school, as they were on a hiking trip. In the end, the deadline ran out, and the army's special unit assaulted the building. During the rescue attempt, the gunmen blew their explosive charges and sprayed the kids with machine-gun fire. Twenty-five people died, 66 wounded.

After this a controversial debate erupted in Israel in regards to guns, self-defense etc. We heard, of course, the same dumb arguments by some good people, you always hear on these occasions like. "We do not live in the Wild West here!" Or, "Guns don't solve problems!" or simi-

lar silly things.

JPFO: *Were there any gun laws in Israel in those days?*

Schiller: Now, one has to remember, that Israel still had — and has — most of the old and very strict gun laws dating back to the days of the British Mandatory (1918-1948) on the books, and we in the promised land have, meanwhile, grown our share of idiotic bureaucrats and dumb politicians, too. But with the help of some smart people, not the least the then-Commander-in-Chief, Northern Command Paratroop General Rafal Eytan, all the reservists on



(top) A mother is reunited with her son after large group of Columbine High School students were released after being freed from the school by police, Tuesday, 20 April 1999, in Littleton, Colorado. Students were put on busses and brought to local elementary school to be reunited with family members who were told to meet at the school.

the settlements were issued their personal weapons, and whoever had a clean track record could get a concealed weapons permit. I, for instance, had, and still have one.

JPFO: *What happened then?*

Schiller: Teachers and kindergarten nurses now started to carry guns; schools were protected by parents (and often grandpas) guarding them in voluntary shifts. No school group went on a hike or trip without armed guards. The Police involved the citizens in a voluntary civil guard project "Mishmar Esrachi," which even had its own sniper teams. The Army's Youth Group program, "Gadna," trained 15- and 16-year-old kids in gun safety and guard procedures and the older high school boys got involved with the Mishmar Esrachi. During one noted incident, the "Herzliyah Bus Massacre" (March '78, hijacking of a bus; 37 dead, 76 wounded), these youngsters were involved in the overall security measures in which the whole area between

North Tel Aviv and the resort town of Herzliyah was blocked off, manning road-blocks with the police, guarding schools kindergartens etc.

No problems with gun safety there, as most kids in Israel grow up used to seeing guns on the street (in the hands of army personnel; on leave every soldier takes his/her gun home when on leave!). When the message got around to the PLO groups and a couple infiltration attempts failed, the attacks against schools ceased. Too much of a risk here: Terrorists and other evildoers don't like risks.

But what does all that teach us? Schools/kindergartens make for very attractive targets for the deranged gunman, as well as for the profit-oriented hostage gangsters or terrorist group, because: Everybody sane will cave in to the demands of the evildoers. Even somebody as hard-nosed as Golda Meir, may she rest in peace, said during the Maalot incident, that one does not make politics on the backs of one's children. Nobody wants to play the principles-game when kids are involved. Kidnapping has thus often resulted in the paying of ransom demands.

If you crave media attention, as for instance the PLO did in the 70s, nothing will catch the headlines better than an attack on a school-full of kids.

Now that is the underlying "reason" behind each and every incident that involved killing sprees in schools from Maalot to Dunblane to Jonesboro. Only recently the French had a hostage/barricade incident in a kindergarten: The guy wanted money, and the French authorities solved that problem very neatly with a stealth-type approach by one of their special teams and a .357 bullet in the head of the perpetrator, when he refused to surrender. No follow-up imitations occurred in France.

JPFO: *Were there any similar incidents in Germany?*

Schiller: Germany has some of the strictest gun laws this side of Britain and Japan and, needless to say, they are a continuation of the Nazi gun laws, even using the same wording. Still, we have a multitude of illegal guns on the streets. Currently, the police estimate that there are 10 million legal, licensed guns and 20 million illegal — in a total population of less than 80 million people! And we had our school massacres, too: In the early 60s, one incident took place in Cologne involving a deranged person who, not having access to guns, built himself a flamethrower. In another incident a few years ago, in the vicinity of Frankfurt, another crazy individual shot his way through a school with two handguns, and later committed suicide.

Also, prior to the Lockerbie plane bombing (which was only one item in a whole spree of planned and coordinated terror attacks most luckily foiled by the authorities), German security services detected in September '88 that a Palestinian splinter

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PREPARING FOR



20 Twenty Things To Do Before The Lights Go Out

by Pratt N. Whitney

Paranoia aside (and *aside* is the best place to put paranoia if you want to get anything done), all reasonable indicators point to a storm at the end of the year due to the Y2K impact on computers, and computers' impact on modern life. But like the winter, Noreasters that can either give us a lovely Christmas or slam us to the ground depending on which way the wind blows, no one knows for sure just what the real impact will be on nations as nations, and on us as individuals. But the good news is, this time around *we know when the storm will hit us and we have time to prepare.*

Here in the Northeast, people have a tradition of self-reliance and of pulling together through tough times. The sensibly challenged among us notwithstanding, North Americans have always been a people of great common sense. The right attitude and common sense, coupled with preparation, has always gotten us through any hard times, and it will again. And, in retrospect, the "hard times" usually have only been as hard as we let them be.

Preparing for the various possible problems as the year 2000 rolls around is about 90% simply taking the prudent steps you should even if there were no Y2K apparition threatening us from the horizon. We have compiled our favorite list of 20 areas to attend to, and they are below in the order of their importance to us. Initial problems are likely to be loss of infrastructure: utilities, transportation, police/fire service, followed by bolluxed distribution channels for goods such as petrol and food. So, prepare for

shortages and high prices by buying ahead when supplies and prices are normal. If there are subsequent financial ramifications, the principles are very simple: You will keep what you own, lose what you owe. Plan accordingly.

Every person's situation is different as to what they have that is vulnerable, and their ability to take steps to protect it: Old folks needn't lay in a supply of baby formula, and young families don't need to stock up on Geritol and Viagra. Our family didn't have to worry about rearranging our stock portfolio, as we don't have one. Our neighbors don't worry about fuel for their generator, as they have their own mini-hydro plant.

The specifics of one man's plan, however, readily translate to generalities that will serve as a checklist for most. A great deal of preparing for any event consists of putting together material goods: start now putting together what you reasonably think you will need, before there are shortages and while prices are normal, and while you have time to shop for the best deal. The rest of preparation is planning, studying and doing — all activities most efficiently done at a methodical pace.

Here are what we think are 20 good ideas: We hope you will find some useful to your needs.

1: Get several yellow legal pads and stenographer's note pads, a good supply of #2 lead pencils and a handful of ballpoint pens. We find them very useful in lieu of brains for keeping track of what needs to be done. Checklists are great.

PREPARING FOR Y2K



Rolland Safe Co.

A cheap safe is a waste of money, and the best safe is one a yeg never sees. Top-quality hidden safes such as these from Rolland Safe are the best bet for your Y2K money or trade goods, irreplaceable papers, or crucial medicines.



2: Put away enough cash to cover three months' mortgage, utility and other predetermined bills. Hide it where it will be safe from thieves, fire, etc. Remember, thieves first look in the bedroom, then the icebox, then your bookshelf. You can do better. Be creative.

3: Store enough water for drinking for 3 months. Water for washing is secondary, and can be recycled for flushing. Y2K will be upon us in winter, and if that means snow where you will be, you can melt snow for wash water. Non-potable or uncertain water can be filtered and decontaminated by chemical (bleach, iodine tabs etc.) or boiling. Water stores best in clean bleach jugs, large plastic pop bottles second, plastic drums are another good option.

4: Put by food for at least 3 months. Once upon a time most

folks put by food for the whole winter. If you garden, make this year's garden heavy on easily kept veggies such as winter squash, or carrots/onions/garlic/turnips/beets and similar root crops that can be mulched in and harvested as needed. Small food driers are cheap, and dried food will easily last through the winter. If you grow no food, lay in a supply of what you usually like that is in a form that will keep. If you stock up on frozen food, be sure you can keep it frozen. For very little money you can lay in rice, peas, beans and etc. for the whole winter. Freeze-dried, nitrogen packed "survival" foods have a shelf life of decades, and



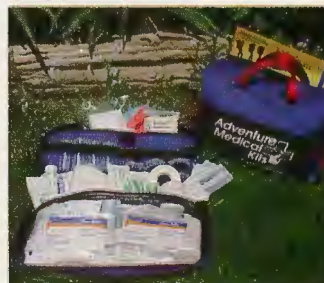
waterbanks.com

An adequate supply of food, in a variety of types and storage, is next on your list. Buy it or put it up yourself, but you must have food.

if you have the money to invest they are worth considering. If you're traveling on the cheap into the next millennium, you can make it on dry dog food if that's all you can afford. And of course if you have fur-bearing family members, lay in food for them since if they are kept healthy you can always, in dire straits, wok your dog.

5: Lay in a stock of any prescription medicines you regularly take, and sidle up to a friendly medical professional and get a supply of broad-spectrum antibiotics and instructions in their use. Get the full spectrum of patent medicines from aspirin to 'roid cream, denture glue to whatever cosmetics you feel you need. Stock up on all the vitamins you usually take.

Make sure you have a good "home medical adviser" book or a copy of the *Merck Manual* or *The Physician's Desk Reference*.



waterbanks.com

Whether you do herbs, aspirin or prescription drugs, get a supply ahead.

6: Get a good book on first-aid and emergency medicine, and all the attendant supplies needed as outlined in the book. We are working on the assumption you will need to do for yourself and that at least for a time medical supplies might be unavailable. On the subject of books, now is the time to study up. Myriad books are available on all aspects of preparedness. Examine before you buy; buy the ones that operate within a zone of reasonableness and offer real-world suggestions. If the book says you have to buy this book or the black helicopters will get you, pass on to the next book.



Study up in advance: preparedness skills, medical knowledge will always stand you in good stead.

7: Having done this, at least you can now eat and drink and you know what happens next: Lay in a supply of toilet paper, friends. And even if you have stored, or can access, enough water for flushing and sanitary purposes this supply can be interrupted, and sewerage systems can go down: Therefore, some sort of chamber pot can be helpful. It doesn't have to be fancy (a 5-gallon plastic bucket and a garbage-bag liner will do), but indoor plumbing even of the outdoor technology would be nice when necessary — remember this will be in January. And while you're at it, get some lime to dust the deposits in the bucket as you will have to take the lid off to use it and things can get intense. OK, so it gets intense — anything beats diapers. Just keep it in your brother-in-law's room.

8: After food, water and medicine, comes shelter. Assuming you already live in a house, put together any materials you reasonably might expect to need to keep it together and functioning: the usual construction and repair materials and tools you probably already have, plus spares, and some contingency supplies such as tarps, heavy plastic sheeting, tar-paper and tar — and lots and lots of duct tape. As Red Greene notes, it is the handyman's secret weapon.



Harbor Freight Tools

9: Adjunct to having shelter is keeping it lit and warm. Light is cheap and easy: candles, Coleman-type lanterns, kerosene lanterns, flashlights and lots of batteries. If you live in detached housing of some sort, as in house, consider a generator to keep freezers frozen and to keep useful any power tools you might need. And if you get a generator, remember spares like fuel filters, oil, an extra starter rope and spark plug. If any in your family are on medical appliances, determine what sort of backup power they need and get and test it.



Photos: Harbor Freight Tools



Old technology via kerosene, new technology via rechargeable emergency lights; whichever your choice from candles to Coleman lanterns, you will need your own light.

IMPORTANT: Before you attempt to hook any generator to your house wiring (as opposed to running a freezer via cord from the generator) you have to isolate your house from the power grid, or you'll send your electricity out into the grid. It's simple to do, but get an electrician to show you how to do it, or have him install a switch to do it. If you have the misfortune of living in an apartment, get up with the building super and explore getting a generator suitable to keeping the building going.

10: Heat will be a consideration to more than half the continent next January. Bear in mind that most central heating systems (whether coal, oil or gas) will not function without electrical power for the blowers and controls. You can probably bundle up and survive with no problem except losing the geraniums on the kitchen windowsill, but freezing pipes are a disaster when they break and then thaw. Learn how to shut off and then drain the pipes in your house. Houses with wood as a primary or alternate heating source are in good shape as long as you maintain a supply of wood. Kerosene room heaters can be a lifesaver — and they can be a killer if you forget that they burn up the oxygen you also need, so stay ventilated. If you get one or more of these units, lay in plenty of kerosene (it has a good shelf life) and learn how to use them beforehand.

Adjunct to heat for comfort is heat to cook. A Coleman-type stove is best, although you might make do on the back porch with a gas-fired BBQ grill.

Heat to cook, heat for warmth: Wood stoves are hard to beat for providing both, butane or liquid-fuel units are a good option for cooking.



Photos: Harbor Freight Tools



PREPARING FOR

Y2K

Wood cook-stoves have worked for hundreds of years, and they still do just fine — as does an iron pot hanging in the fireplace. You can boil a can of water for a bowl of instant soup over a kerosene lamp. You have many

options if you plan ahead. Whatever you choose, be sure you have fuel on hand for it. The other side of the cooking coin is refrigeration, which can be addressed in many parts of the country that time of year by a simple animal-proof outside storage box. Also, an open 5-gallon bucket with packed snow and a little salt on it will turn a fridge into an icebox, and as long as you don't stand staring at the open door, it will keep food cold.

11: Now that your home is dry, warm, lit and cooking you should keep it secure. Probably the best way is to keep a low profile — having the only visible lights in your block and a noisy generator is not keeping a low profile. Get a roll of black plastic and enough duct tape to black-out windows in lit rooms. Know who you wish to invite, and do not appear inviting to others. My personal preference is to stockpile more beans and less "hard rice" and to be able to share rather than fight to defend what some starving soul needs, but this is a philosophical consideration every man will have to decide for himself. Suffice it to say, you do not owe anyone else your life. Small-caliber arms and pepper sprays are for deterrence; for defense of life and limb you will need the best of whatever your conscience and the local arbiters of safety allow. And lots of ammo, which can be a very good currency for barter as long as you stick to common calibers.

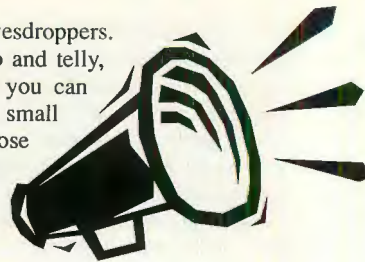
Rational predators — as opposed to crazy people and druggies — will seek out weak and juicy targets; do not appear weak or juicy and they will target somebody else.

12: Speaking of somebody else, now is the time to make some friends. If you do not know your neighbors, quit being a stranger. Build a working relationship with the worthwhile folks in your vicinity. Get to know them and how you can help each other in any scenario that Y2K problems might bring. Two heads are better than one; it's always good to have someone to watch your back; one hand washes the other; many hands make light work, and all the other cliches of your choice. Saskatchewan barnraisings were community affairs, as are volunteer fire departments: Folks of good intent working together can do just about anything from taking care of their own to handling worse-case scenarios of marauders coming into your neighborhood. And as you get to know those that you can work with for a mutuality of benefit, you'll also get to know which people you might want to keep an eye on if things turn sour.

13: Know how to contact neighbors via phone, CB or hollering across the back fence. Armed forces surplus field phones or cheap kids' battery-operated phones have a surprising range if you can string wire to the neighbors, as in a situation where there are old folk or shut-ins in your neighborhood that you need to keep track of. Expect CB bands to be busy, but a good CB radio can be invaluable. Even a bosun's megaphone can extend voice range to a block or



more if you don't mind eavesdroppers. Get a battery-operated radio and telly, and plenty of batteries, so you can keep up with the news. A small crystal radio, or one of those tiny solar-powered radios, is a cheap addition to your commo closet and they run forever independent of any power source.



14: Transportation is a consideration in a scenario where traffic controls have quit and fuel pumps don't work. The obvious first steps are to lay in a supply of motor fuel, and make sure your wheels are in good mechanical condition. For reasons of fire safety, several 5-gallon cans in different locations are better than a 55-gallon drum in your garage. Depending on your situation, a bicycle or motorcycle may be worth its weight in gold for transportation as they can get through or around traffic jams, and use very little precious fuel. If you have a regular place to be at a regular time, scope out in advance the route that has the least potential problems (large intersections, choke points, etc.). Public transportation might go down, so plan to party at home that New Year's Eve. We personally do not plan any air travel that night.



Manco Products, Inc.

When fuel is scarce and highways are in a knot, a fuel-efficient, go-anywhere motorbike like this Honda XR650DL, or small ATV, might still get you through.



Honda

15: Handling the utilities is simple enough: Learn where every shut-off is and make sure you can shut it off (note that it may take a special wrench to shut off the water or gas, and you should get one in advance). As noted above if the house freezes, you don't want your pipes to freeze, and you'll need to shut off the water and drain the pipes. If you live in an apartment, get plastic sheets or tarps to cover your furniture because if the upstairs neighbor's pipe freeze then thaw, it can bring the gypsum-board ceiling down on your furniture. If gas service is erratic, you may not want to leave the gas on continually, but turn it on when you need to use it. If the electricity goes out, or browns out, you may want to isolate yourself from the system: Low voltage in a brown-out can ruin electrical motors and devices, and high-voltage surges can do likewise, but instantly. Another option during a brown-out is to use only the electric lights or heating elements, but nothing with a motor.

16: Seek out people who need help, or community programs that might need volunteers. Every neighborhood, or family, will have

members who will need help. Some because they are infirm, or have special needs, others because they are too broke to prepare, or some that are too dumb to get it together. Help make sure they are taken care of, in that order.

Police auxiliaries may need additional people to direct traffic, volunteer groups who take chow to the elderly might use a hand, and hospital auxiliaries or similar help-your-neighbor programs are all the sort of community efforts that may be able to use your particular talent. If you already belong, for example, to a police or fire organization or to some sort of military reserve, then make sure your family is prepared when you are called to duty. A tip from your local chowhound: If you anticipate going out-of-pocket on such missions, lay in a bigger-than-you-think-you'll-need supply of pocket food — granola or fruit bars, candy, nuts or whatever blows your skirt up.

17: *Gung ho* is Chinese for “work together.” It’s also a very good plan. Aside from the natural synergism of people working together, many problematic areas of preparedness become easy with a team working on the problem. For example, getting a \$3,500 diesel generator might be a bit steep for one family, but if four neighbors chip in and get one to go where the four backyard fences meet, they can share time on the machine and all be set, but for much less. If several families or friends get together to buy storage food in bulk, they can each buy a lot more for less money. If things get dicey, neighborhood-watch type groups working together can enhance security (no, we’re not talking interlocking fields of fire here, but pooling skills, tools, talent and training). The granny next door who you fix up with a power drop would be glad to mind your kids while your significant other mans a traffic con-



Harbor Freight

A small generator will give you light, a medium-capacity generator can run your house. A larger generator may serve as a small electric co-op for city or suburban dwellers — providing mutual support as well as electricity.



Skylar Group, Inc.

trol point. The electrician down the block you help with his projects might be glad to help you isolate your house from the grid and set up alternate power. You get the idea. You’ll get back what you give from most folks, and the others, well, they don’t matter much in the scheme of things.

A group of people working together not only gain from a sense of community: people who look out for each other and look like a team are much less likely to be singled out as targets for robbery or anything else.

18: Strive for normalcy. We put emphasis on getting gear and supplies we’d use anyway, but which will be of particular help in a Y2K scenario. It is this writer’s opinion that there is too much profit at stake for the movers and shakers to not get things back to normal as soon as humanly possible. So our plan is to avoid the cata-

strophic and be able to weather out material and societal problems in reasonable comfort. And stay flexible.

19: Tend to your vices. Anything more than minor aberrations in everyday life and commerce will stress you out. Put by a supply of coffee, tobacco, booze or whatever keeps you wherever is normal for you. These are all good things to quit ... but this is probably not the time.

20: Remember Murphy: Get more duct tape and more hand tools. Make sure those in your trusted circle share information on what tools and abilities they have to offer. Even if you are an apartment gnome, you should have the bare basics such as a hammer, pliers, wrenches, hacksaw and blades, files, carpenter’s glue, epoxy glue (we like JB-Weld for almost everything), assorted fasteners (screws, nails, light nuts and bolts). You get the idea.

The possible loss of infrastructure, particularly fire-protection, has been mentioned above, but in case the point was not obvious, we will belabor it: Have fire-fighting equipment at hand. A dry powder extinguisher should be immediately available in the vicinity of lanterns and liquid-fuel stoves. Plastic buckets of water (salted so not to freeze) and/or buckets of dry sand with small shovels should be in the vicinity of any flame source. About 1/4 of an old blanket kept immersed in a bucket of salted water (with lid open for instant access) should be in the vicinity of any kids with candles — and away from small children who can drown in a bucket. Get as many of the best extinguishers as you can afford, and learn

how to use them, before you need them.

Now, go back to item #1 and start working on those lists. Involve your whole tribe, as involved people are more helpful, and no one person has all the good ideas. Then involve the neighborhood.

Good luck. Don’t forget the duct tape.

Pratt N. Whitney is a machine shop instructor in the Northeast.



Harbor Freight

Put emphasis on getting gear and supplies you’d use anyway, but which will be of particular help in a Y2K scenario. No matter what your wife says, you can never have enough tools.

Points of Contact

There are many sources for preparedness materiel. Although the ones referenced in this story are not the only ones, we deem them reliable dealers of quality products. Their telephone numbers are:

American Honda Motor Co.:	310-783-3745
Harbor Freight Tools:	800-905-5220
Manco Products, Inc.:	219-432-1596
Rolland Safe & Lock:	214-243-3711
Skylar Group, Inc./RJK Power:	913-432-4664
watertanks.com:	888-742-6275

Press, Lies And Video Tape

How The Serbian Media Report The War

American newspaper readers were recently regaled by Serbian news releases quoting officials as claiming that NATO was paying ersatz "refugees" \$5.50 a day to march in an endless circle before the world's press, to create a false impression of their numbers, apparently harking to the emperor of yore who invited his hostile neighboring potentate to sit with him while his minimal number of troops paraded in an endless belt before the reviewing stand, out one end of the coliseum and then back in the other end, to create the impression of a mighty force. Inasmuch as Serb forces are busily mining the Kosovo border in anticipation of an attack, we doubt if a NATO official standing in the mud offering \$5.50 for anybody who would go back and do it again would have many takers. Apparently the author of this child-like assertion operates outside any zone of reasonableness, and never heard of aerial photos. One would think that after 50 years of rule, the remaining communist propaganda machines would have at least gotten good at it. Apparently, that is not the case.

Readers in the West tend to view with skepticism what they read, not necessarily trusting the objectivity nor technical expertise of those who report the news. Well we should. The Peter Arnetts of the world are still out there. But perhaps the reader will feel better after reading the following Serb news releases from last April, sent to us "over the transom."



by **Jaroslav
Mecar**
Photos:
SOF Files

THE SERBIAN PEOPLE WILL PREVAIL AGAINST AGGRESSION

The Yugoslav Army's Third Army District has managed to fully preserve its materiel, technical and combat means in the Kosovo-Metohija, and NATO has suffered great losses, declared in Pristina Colonel-General Nebojsa Pavkovic, commander of the Yugoslav Army's Third Army District.

Interviewed by Radio Pristina, General Pavkovic said that the Yugoslav Army had managed to respond to assaults by 19 countries of the world, which have attacked Yugoslavia with the most modern military technology, while members of the Third Army District alone have managed to hit and down 16 aeroplanes, five helicopters, 46 cruise missiles and four pilotless aircraft. The effects of NATO's aggression against Yugoslavia are negligible, said General Pavkovic, stressing that the aggressor has not achieved its goals to cause a mass armed rebellion in Kosovo, or to destroy the Yugoslav Army and security forces. The third goal they have set, to bring in ground troops, cannot be achieved without great casualties, stressed the commander of the Third Army District, pointing out that there are more than 150,000 people under arms in this province. Even if every third rifle hits its target, General Pavkovic warned, this will be the price the aggressor will pay if he tries to come to Yugoslav territory.

THE LAW WILL PREVAIL IN KOSOVO-METOHIBA

Serbian Minister of Police Stojiljkovic declared that the evil force of NATO and the even worse terrorists have synchronized their activities, emphasizing that, since the beginning of the bombardment, 150 terrorist attacks have been carried out on towns and villages, along major roads and on facilities and units of the Serbian Interior Ministry. In these attacks, the Serbian minister of police added, a number of Interior Ministry members were killed, and even a larger number were wounded. The response by the police was energetic and resolute, and terrorist gangs have to come to answer before the law, said Stojiljkovic, adding that the remnants of the terrorist gangs continue constantly to keep police on alert until even the last terrorist is caught.

ALBAN TERRORISTS RECRUITED IN U.S.A.

A further 100 Americans of Albanian origin arrived in Tirana on Saturday 17 April, in order to fight in collusion with Albanian terrorists for the cessation of Kosovo-Metohija, according to a Reuters news report which cited a source close to the so-called KLA terrorists.

As reported by the same source, upon landing at the airport

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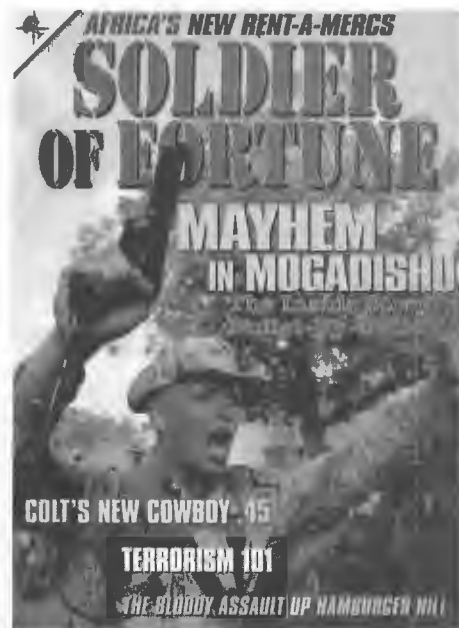
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in Tirana, transfer was arranged for the newly arrived hooligans. Since last spring between two and three thousand Americans of Albanian background left the U.S.A. to participate in the terrorist actions in Kosovo-Metohija.

55 YEARS AGO

Friday April 16th marked the 24th day since the beginning of the U.S.-led NATO aggression against sovereign Yugoslavia. This Friday also marked the 55th anniversary of the bombing of Belgrade by the Allies at the end of World War II. On the pretext that they are bombing Nazi military targets and manpower, the Allies' planes have razed residential districts and greatly added to the number of civilian casualties in Belgrade. American and British planes have in only two days on the 16th and 17th April 1944 dropped over 1,500 powerful bombs on Belgrade and destroyed 687 buildings. Over 1,100 victims of bombing raids were recovered from under the ruins and there were over two thousand injured. The Yugoslavs whose lives have been in danger of NATO bombs and missiles for four weeks, on this day pay their respects to the victims of the 1944 bombardment by the Allies.

CRIMINAL NATO AVIATION HITS CIVILIAN TARGETS

In an attack by the criminal NATO aviation against civilian targets in the broader Kursumlija region early on Sunday, 18 April, six persons were killed and another 23 were wounded, the Alert Center and the Municipal Red Cross announced. An 11-month-old infant and its father Bozin Tosovic are among the killed, whereas its mother, Marija, was heavily injured and transferred to Prokuplje hospital. It is feared the number of casualties is even greater since the clearing of the destroyed facilities is under way. Of the injured persons, six have been tended to in Prokuplje hospital and another 17 in Nis.

At 0500 the enemy — NATO aviation — launched one missile on the village of Turekovac, west of Leskovac. More than 20 buildings were smashed. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported.

In the course of Saturday night, aggressor NATO aircraft flew over Kosovo-Metohija and bombed several civilian and military targets in the province, the Media Center announced. Fifty destructive missiles landed in the vicinity of Pristina alone. On several occasions, Pristina airfield was targeted by 30 missiles. The Clatina airfield building was almost completely destroyed while the runway was partly damaged. Several NATO missiles were downed in the vicinity of the Belacevac colliery and near the village of Konjuh, the municipality of Lipijani. Air-raids were also carried out on civilian facilities in the village of Merdare, a few kilometers from Podujevo. Initial reports said a number of civilians were killed and wounded and great material damage was inflicted.

During the NATO strikes, groups of Albanian terrorists attempted to cross over from Albania to Yugoslavia. Yugoslav frontier guards repelled the attacks killing and wounding the terrorists. No casualties among the border-guards have been reported. At 2300 hours on Saturday, the criminal NATO aviation shelled civilian facilities in Kraljevo damaging a school, sawmill and family houses. Fortunately, no casualties have been reported. Some time after midnight, NATO criminals targeted for the fourth time the village of Pricevic situated on the slopes of Mt. Medvednik near Valjevo. The aggressors hit the facilities in the border village region on which they have launched 12 missiles in the past 17 days. The Yugoslav Army's anti-aircraft defence downed an aggressor aircraft in the vicin-

ity of Backi Brestovac, between Sombor and Odzak, Tanjug news agency reports.

Tanjug also reported two strong explosions were heard in Macedonia throughout Saturday night, which shook Tetovo and the neighboring region early Sunday morning. NATO aircraft are presumed to have been escaping from the Yugoslav Army anti-aircraft defence and unloading their lethal cargo, not paying much heed to the fact that they were jeopardizing Macedonia's security.

SPY NETWORK CRUSHED

Vigilant Yugoslav security bodies stopped a spy network under the command of Major Steve Pratt, reports Serbian Radio and Television (RTS): Under the guise of the C.A.R.E. International humanitarian organization, before the aggression against our country, Major Pratt gathered intelligence on the movement of army and police forces, and about the bombing effects during the period of aggression. Steve Pratt said before RTS cameras that he was born in 1949 in Australia, whose citizen he is, and that he had worked in northern Iraq, Yemen, Zaire, Rwanda and Kenya before he came to Yugoslavia. "When I came to Yugoslavia I conducted certain intelligence jobs in this country. My work focused on Kosovo-Metohija and the effects of the bombing. I took advantage of my Yugoslav personnel in gathering information," said Pratt.

CRIMINAL AVIATION FALLS TO RESOLUTE DEFENDERS

A U.S. A-10, which sowed death across Yugoslavia, was hit by two projectiles on Friday, April 16, and forced to land at the Skopje, Macedonia airport it was confirmed in Skopje. NATO spokesman in Skopje, Erick Munjo, confirmed the aircraft had to make emergency landing on the Skopje airfield, but gave no further details, except that technical malfunctions were alleged to be the cause.

FOUNDERING LIES

After the increasingly obvious failure in the hitherto propaganda war in the aggression against Yugoslavia, NATO is seeking help from Alistair Campbell, press/propaganda adviser to British Prime Minister Tony Blair, it has been confirmed in London. Campbell has already paid a visit to Brussels where he met Javier Solana, and also gave new instructions to NATO spokesman Jamie Shea.

NEO-NATO HUNGARY BLOCKS HUMANITARIAN AID

Russian Minister in charge of Extraordinary Situations, Sergey Shuigu, urgently departed for Hungary where a column of Russian lorries with humanitarian aid for Yugoslavia had been delayed.

The Russian Foreign Ministry lodged a protest with the Hungarian authorities delaying the passage of 75 trucks with humanitarian aid from Russia and Belarus intended for Yugoslavia. The convoy had been stranded on the Hungarian-Ukrainian border for a full 24 hours, and the Hungarian authorities had discarded every single proposal forwarded by the Russian side, not even allowing Russian fuel tanks to return to Ukraine. The head of the automobile unit of the Russian Ministry for Extraordinary Situations, Vladimir Rashkirtsev, said the Hungarian authorities were deliberately delaying the column.

WORLD PRESS CONDEMNS NATO AGGRESSORS

[Yugoslav Media Quotes Selected Foreign Media]

The war in Kosovo has not been provoked by the Serbs, but it has rather been carefully planned and conceived by the creators and promoters of the New World Order, and launched by Bill Clinton for the benefit of American "death merchants" and the military industry, writes the *Wall Street Journal*. The American newspaper came to this conclusion on the basis of a statement by former U.S. Army General John Heard, who is currently serving in Macedonia as the director of the power supply, services and construction sector of "Brown and Root Services." Heard said that the U.S. Army had instructed him to build a military infrastructure in Macedonia that could be in use between three and five years time, writes the *Wall Street Journal*. According to the newspaper, the U.S. Army, under the guise of NATO, has entered Macedonia and it obviously intends to stay there at least three to five years. Why is the American nation always the last to learn about such adventures abroad into which our government is dragging us, wonders the commentator of the *Wall Street Journal*.

France requested the right of veto to the decisions of the aggressor Alliance in choosing targets which are being struck in Yugoslavia night and day, claims the Paris paper, *Liberation*, quoting sources at the Elysée Palace. It is believed in Paris that the essence of the latest request lies in the increasingly frequent and tragic mistakes made by NATO's pilots, targeting and hitting civilians and civilian facilities. Out of the numerous mistakes, two have left a particularly nauseating impression in France: the shelling of the international passenger train in Gredelica Gorge, and the bombing of a Kosmet Albanian refugee column, which was returning to its home under the escort of the Yugoslav Army.

Now that the NATO bombs have killed the Albanian refugees, the question is now wide open: What is the reason for the bombing? concludes the *New York Times*, which, together with the *Washington Post*, loudly criticizes the American media due to the increasingly obvious propaganda campaign conducted at the Pentagon and in Brussels.

Itar-Tass news agency has been told by an expert from the Russian military and diplomatic services that over 600 vehicles with Albanian refugees returned from Macedonia and the border regions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Pristina and the surrounding villages on April 6 and 7. Immediately after that, NATO carried out a massive air strike and missile attack on the outskirts of Pristina and the surrounding inhabited places. In the night between April 6 and 7, the fierce bombardment of civilian facilities in Pristina itself ensued. Having learned about the plans for the return of 20,000, the NATO headquarters immediately ordered massive strikes on downtown Pristina, knowing very

well that this can only cause human casualties, which is actually their main and only goal, said the expert.

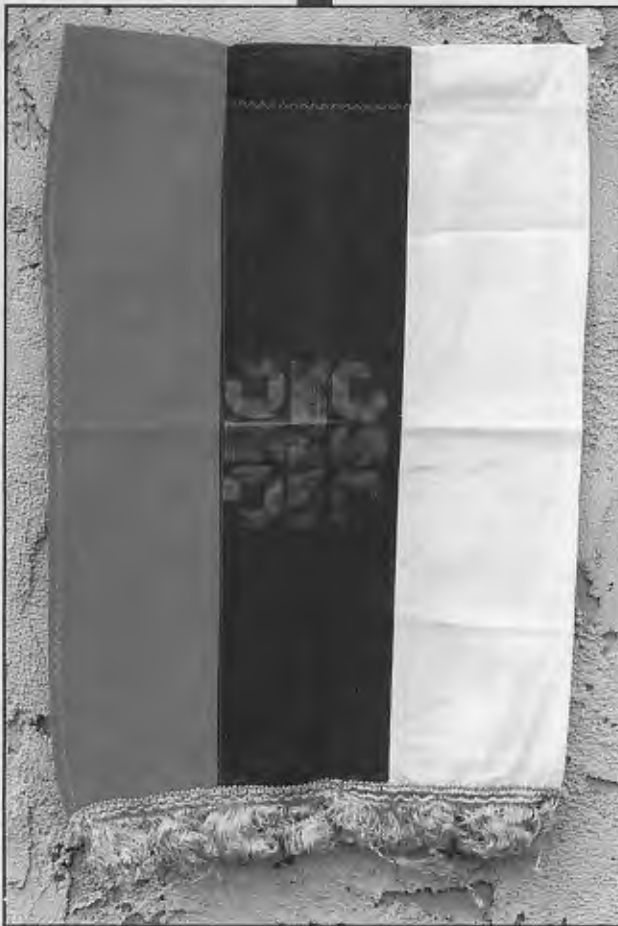
The *London Daily Observer* wrote that the terrorists of the so-called KLA are the NATO's main ally in the aggression on Yugoslavia. According to this British newspaper, the terrorists send field information from Kosmet to NATO, which the alliance uses in airstrikes. In the light of this information, is the fact that this NATO-terrorist coalition is striking civilian targets in Kosovo as well, razing residential facilities, and killing women and children. This information published in the *Observer's* Sunday issue shows concern by part of the British public and politicians that the terrorists of the so-called KLA are thus becoming NATO's informal ally in the aggression on Yugoslavia. The question arises as to whether it is possible that

the powerful NATO war machinery is relying on terrorist groups led by criminals and drug dealers? This issue of the *Observer* shows that this is, as it seems, quite possible.

The Spanish *Estrella Digital* electronic newspaper, under the heading "Albright — Shooting Target" writes that Malicious Madeleine Albright is under fire from the Pentagon, CIA and her fűehrer, Bill Clinton, for the simple reason of the complete failure of NATO's criminal attack on Yugoslavia. The Spanish paper claims that the conflicts within the American establishment has been smoldering for a long time, and that they have reached their peak several days ago. On the occasion, at one of the numerous meetings of the representatives of the Pentagon, CIA and administration members at the White House, occurred an open conflict with "Charming Madeleine." Albright was accused of conducting a bad foreign policy, of not respecting expert analyses and of taking risky steps. After that ensued a feeble and unconvincing attempt at "washing the blood off one's hands" in a *Larry King Live* show on CNN. The CIA got

involved as well: "We cautioned, together with the Pentagon, that Yugoslavia was not Iraq. She did not listen to us." *Estrella Digital* cites the claims of CIA experts that they had warned Albright about all the consequences of the aggression against Yugoslavia, especially of the numerous refugees who would be caught in the bombing.

Under the headline "Serb Victims" *The Washington Post* published a commentary by American Walter Roberts, who presented the American public in the so-far clearest and most concrete manner, with arguments and audacity, the truth about the Serbian nation. Roberts pointed to the fact that NATO was pushing lies and fabrications while conducting a policy of destruction in the Balkans, annihilating and demonizing an entire nation. The commentator points out that the U.S. media are exploiting to the hilt the pictures and stories about refugees, Kosmet Albanians, whereas they spoke not a single word when the Croats expelled over 300,000 Serbs from Croatia with the help from the U.S. in 1995. ☒



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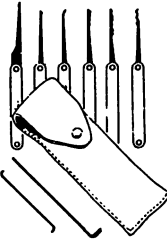
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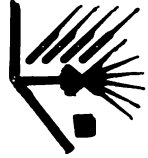
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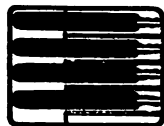
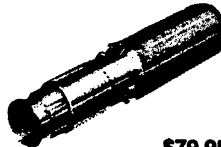
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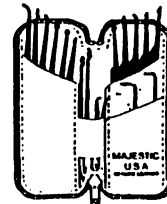


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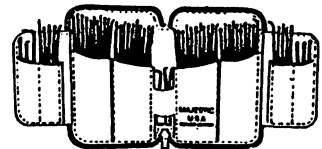
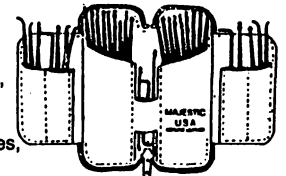


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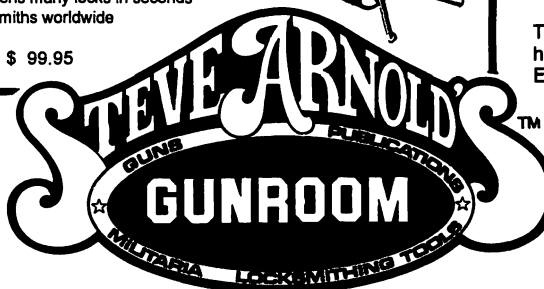


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tom handguards on the Colt M16A2 M4 Carbine. Be advised that they are 90- to 110-thousandths larger than the issue handguards. Installation and removal of any handguards for the M16 series requires perseverance and patience.

Two high-pressure xenon/halogen lamp assemblies are provided. The MN10 lamp generates 125 lumens. This compares to the 60 lumens of the popular 6P SURE-FIRE flashlight and the 105 lumens of the larger 9P. Extended running time of the MN10 lamp is one hour. The MN11 MAX lamp assembly will give you 225 lumens. Designed for intermittent operations of no more than 2 to 3 minutes, it has a run time of approximately 20 minutes. Reflector assembly bezel diameter of the M500A is 1½ inches.

For those who literally need knock-down light power, the M500B Magnum Millennium Weaponlight offers both 250 (MN21 lamp for extended run time) and 500 (MN21 MAX lamp) lumens of light power. Reflector assembly bezel diameter of this unit is 2.5 inches. The tightly focused beam on this unit was designed for dynamic entries -- to blast in and blind the opponent. No one can return fire with 500 lumens of dazzling white light searing through his eyeballs into his brain. Non-complying prisoners or suspects turn to putty and can be controlled like sheep when this type of non-lethal force is applied. In addition, 500 lumens offers the light power required to reach out to the longer distances encountered by rifle operators outside buildings and in rural areas. The M500B Millennium Magnum Light runs on six lithium batteries (18 volts).

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Lessons From Last Time

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leave the Balkans relatively intact. In the end it was the Soviet Red Army, not Chetniks and Partisans, that liberated Yugoslavia.

The Next Balkans War

It could be argued that there were two conflicts in Yugoslavia during World War II — the German conquest and the guerrilla war that followed. Those looking for lessons can take their pick. Clearly, policy-makers have chosen the guerrilla lesson, but it is the conventional warfare one that most closely fits the current situation. If NATO does decide to launch a ground war it will face a standing army, not guerrillas, as the first order of business. And, unlike the Germans, NATO has no intention of forcing the surrender of Belgrade; it only seeks to make Kosovo safe for a return of the Albanian Muslim refugees. Considering that 90 percent of Kosovo is (or was) Albanian, there would not be much of a sea in which the Serb guerrillas could swim.

Terrain is also an issue. No army can overestimate its ability to overcome rugged mountains and poor weather, but the Germans proved it could be done, even with heavy mechanized units. They attacked in the spring, during the rainy season, but sound planning prevailed over muddy roads. In the case of a NATO ground war, rugged terrain will be less of a problem. With only Kosovo to consider, allied forces can take advantage of several open valleys, though they will also have to consider the mountains that surround them.

Perhaps most importantly, a NATO "incursion" into Kosovo will have none of the characteristics of the German occupation of Yugoslavia. The Nazis used Yugoslavia to fuel its war machine, sucking the economy and natural resources dry, while NATO will undoubtedly inject millions of dollars into the devastated region in an attempt to nurse the country back to health.

One aspect of a NATO ground war might actually be more difficult than the German offensive: Where Hitler could threaten neighboring countries into supporting, or at least acting as staging grounds — Clinton and NATO must reason with them. Austria has already said no, Hungary is reluctant to stand against the Serbs, and Greece and Macedonia have so far refused to be used as stepping-off points.

So when members of Congress and other policymakers start throwing out historical analogies, they would do well to look at all the evidence. A ground war in Yugoslavia will not be easy, but in the final analysis, the obstacles are political, not military.

Dale Andradé is a military historian and a senior SOF correspondent, living in Virginia. ✕

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Apache Tears

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Then finally, when the Apaches did arrive, someone forgot to inform the pilots that half the world's media was there to cover the event and the helos touched down far on the other side of the airport, with their tail rotors, to the cameras in, what many thought, was a sign of embarrassment.

For the next 48 hours the Army tried to repair their bruised image, arranging for the press to meet with Apache pilots and photograph the aircraft, but events were soon going to supersede good intent in a way that no one could have foreseen.

Less than 72 hours after first setting down at Rinas — while on a night training exercise — one of the crews clipped the branches of a tree and the helicopter burst into flames and was destroyed. Thankfully, the crew was able to get out safely.

"I was with this battalion in the Gulf War," said Scripps-Howard correspondent Michael Hedges. "I had done this interview with their commander, a lieutenant colonel, who told me that they were very concerned about friendly fire deaths, etc. I wrote the story and then forgot about it. Not a few weeks later, during the first hours of ground operations against Iraq, do I hear that this lieutenant colonel was himself responsible for a friendly fire death. I was stunned."

Hedges wasn't the only one with reservations about the 11th Aviation Battalion. Not a week before the first Apaches actually deployed to Albania, *SOF* became privy to an email circulating among Pentagon planners describing the performance of the 11th in less than stellar terms.

Critical Message

"Great. Another piecemeal escalation," the email began. "And AH-64s? Correct me if I'm wrong but wasn't this the same outfit who came here [to a target range in Germany] less than 30 days ago and couldn't find the target on their first 'deep operation?'"

"Even after we constructed mockups, put thermal signatures on each piece of equipment, surrounded them with a live MRC and put them in a designated engagement area in a training area 15 x 10km and they were the only force in the box, they couldn't find the target," the email continued. "And wasn't this the same unit that on the next operation 48 hours later in the same training area, with a unit moving down a designated route, with a known start time didn't hit 50% of the targets?"

"Oh yeah, don't let me forget to say that prior to their first operation they flew a daylight recon over and around the training area. And we are sending these guys to Albania? Let's all hope that the training did them some good and their performance in combat will be better than at the Burger King Training Center. 'Hope is our method' — the new motto of the U.S. Army Europe." Unfortunately for one Apache crew, better

training might have actually saved their lives. Less than two weeks after deploying to Albania, without even having flown one combat mission, the 11th AB lost its first air crew over northern Albania during a training mission which took it through some of the most rugged terrain anywhere in the Balkans.

When *SOF* tried to speak with the Army about the 11th Aviation Battalion and all of the problems they have had with this deployment we received a large dose of runaround.

"Sorry, I can't answer those questions," said Army Captain Jeff Settle, Task Force Hawk press officer. "You're going to have to refer them to USAREUR."

When *SOF* called USAREUR, we were told that all of our questions were being referred back to either Capt. Settle or Lieutenant Colonel Garrie Dornan, "because they are the best people to answer them."

Not Forthcoming

But when *SOF* again tried to speak with Lt. Col. Dornan we were told by an aide that he was busy dealing with NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw, who was on base that afternoon talking with troops.

SOF played a game of phone tag and can't-answer-that ping-pong for nearly two days before a USAREUR civilian press officer called us back, saying, "I spoke today with the 11th Aviation Battalion commander Colonel Oliver Hunter, and he said although the unit has sustained losses they were still functioning and would soon commence combat operations."

"He also told me that he didn't know how many hours on average each pilot flew per month, but he did say the Battalion had done live fire exercises at Grafenwohr, Germany, at least twice in the past year."

"What about the bad luck the Battalion had suffered during the Gulf War and now in Albania," we asked?

"We don't want to discuss that now, if that's OK," the press officer told *SOF*. "Today we held the memorial service for the two airmen who died the other day when their Apache crashed in Albania."

While our reporting and investigation reflected a little bit on why the Army didn't show up on time and gave us a small insight into the troubled 11th Aviation Battalion, there were many more questions waiting to be answered about Task Force Hawk and its mission than we even imagined.

The Rumor Mill

Was it possible, as we had heard from many observers on the ground, that the Apache deployment and the creation of Task Force Hawk was a feigning movement by NATO — like the rumors of a Marine landing on the beaches of Kuwait during the Gulf War — or that the troops tasked to Hawk really were in Albania for another, yet undefined mission?

"Who really knows?" a civilian staffer with AFOR, NATO's Albania Force command headquarters in Tirana, Albania, said. "They could be here as the first troops of a

potential Kosovo invasion force. They could be here for something that we don't know about, or they could be here to protect the Albanian government from internal threats."

The Albanian government, while democratically elected, faces internal threats from various factions, including the growing power of the Kosovo Liberation Army — which uses Albanian territory in the north of the country to launch strikes against Serb forces in Kosovo — as well as any number of Mafia factions which rule parts of the country with iron fists.

"The idea that the Apaches are here to fool the Serbs carries some weight," our AFOR source told us. "I mean they haven't flown a single [combat] mission in nearly a month, the force protection they have around them includes tanks and Bradleys. Why do you need armor to protect a civilian airport a hundred miles from the front? And from whom? The KLA? The Yugoslavian army? Why would you have the 82nd Airborne Division here? Wouldn't another unit do just as well?"

"Also, look at where the Army is," our source went on. "They're all concentrated in Tirana. If they were here as the vanguard of an invasion force, why are there no elements in northern Albania? The Army hasn't even made serious reconnaissance in the area. Lastly, look at who is here. These aren't the kind of units you would bring in for an invasion force. Christ, if anyone can figure this out, please let me know," our NATO source concluded.

These are interesting points in view of the fact there has been no reaction from these deployed "rapid reaction" forces to cross-border incursions by the JNA, and that Task Force Hawk repeatedly assured us the armor was there solely for force protection.

While the make-up of Task Force Hawk continued to be a subject of much argument, the Army steadfastly refused to answer questions on any of the points brought up by *SOF* and other media.

When In Doubt, Train

However, as *SOF*'s latest foray to the Balkans wound down, we learned from sources within Task Force Hawk that Apache pilots had been spending much of their flying time running simulated missions and doing live fire exercises in northern Albania, leading many to once more speculate about the real mission of Task Force Hawk.

Was it possible, then, we mused, that the Army was using the Apaches to protect northern Albania from cross-border incursions by the Yugoslavian army or protect the KLA's supply routes into Kosovo? Or are they training for the specific hazards of an assault into Kosovo.

"The Army has made it very clear what the mission of Task Force Hawk is," said Brian Temple, a USAREUR spokesman in Germany. "There's nothing more to it."

Mark H. Milstein is *SOF*'s chief foreign correspondent. ✕

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Gun Control

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group had made plans for a raid on the Jewish kindergarten in Munich. We found the photos, ground plans etc. Apparently, the planning of the attack was pretty far along.

For years, schoolbuses, kindergartens, schools etc. were targeted by PLO terrorists. Prior to the Pan Am 103 bombing, we here in Germany (this was in 1988) got intelligence information that a certain PLO splinter group had made a photo recce of the kindergarten. Also, a few weeks later, we learned that a major hostage/barricade situation was planned for the main synagogue in Frankfurt. Here a safehouse was detected nearby which already contained hand grenades, explosives, ammo and a whole variety of automatic firearms (AKs). All that was missing was the hit team coming in from Beirut. This was supposed to be one in a series of incidents planned for autumn/winter of 1988, targeting Jewish/Israeli installations all over Europe. The attacks were foiled thanks to early intelligence and a wave of arrests (operation "Autumn Leaves"), but that did not prevent the downing of the Pan Am flight, and later, a French plane in North Africa.

So you do not have to be a prophet to foresee, that we will see more school-shooting incidents in the U.S., or other Western nations, where media attention is focused on these things and where every incident is replayed second by second, umpteen times on the tube, thereby creating in the minds of certain viewers examples to follow ...

Now, can we stop the media from playing out these scenarios in full-color and gruesome details for hours and hours, again and again? Certainly not. We in the terrorism research field have argued for decades that it was exactly the media coverage that spurred more and each time more violent and extreme terrorist incidents. Could we stop the media from advertising the terrorist message? Certainly not.

That is apparently one price we have to pay living in a worldwide *infotainment* society. The airplane hijackings in the 70s and 80s are a case in point.

Nothing much we can do with the media these days, they are the "New World Order," so to speak. During the height of international terrorism we have argued again and again with media people to down-tone terr attacks in their reports, to no avail. Similarly, what can we do with Hollywood moviemakers who provide the blueprint for disasters like Littleton? Nothing much; not as long as they bankroll the election campaign of people like Clinton.

What can you do about it? The Jewish communities in Germany maintain their own guard network and apply for gun-carrying licenses.

Protect possible victims? Laws written in books will not achieve that. Never have, never will. Enough said. I rest my case. ☒

White Feather

Continued from page 43

Silver Star. Those few higher-ups in USMC with close ties to the Clinton administration were of the opinion that Hathcock was lucky to get even that, for strange political reasons. Perhaps, some have speculated, those who make up the Clinton administration — who have combined military experience of none — just don't get the significance of military sniping. It's possible they don't view Hathcock as the life-saving American hero he truly was.

Despite that insult, Hathcock didn't want for recognition. Two ranges carry his name, including the Hathcock Sniper Range, at Stone Bay, and the Virginia Beach, Va., Police Range. For most of 30 years after he left active-duty service, he continued addressing crowds as an honored speaker, and was constantly appearing as the hero in newspaper and magazine stories. Clubs have been named after him near military establishments all over the world.

Gun stores, surplus stores and military supply outfits carry Hathcock memorabilia. Knives are engraved with his name, as well as T-shirts, hats and drinking cups. Rifle scopes and other products have been named in his honor. Talon Corporation produces the Carlos Hathcock line of White Feather ammunition in .30 caliber, and is proposing a line in .50. And the list could go on and on.

Before he left the Marine Corps just a few months shy of 20 years' service, Hathcock served as the first NCOIC of the USMC Scout Sniper school, an institution well known as the very best of its kind. While serving in that capacity he and several others conceived the USMC mildot reticle for sniper scopes, which is widely acknowledged as one of the major achievements in long-distance marksmanship.

Carlos never viewed himself as a killer. "He used to often say that someone would have to be crazy to just go out in the woods to kill people. He always said that he was just doing a job trying to save the lives of Marines. It is one thing to say that," said Land, "but Carlos viscerally believed it."

"What I would really like people to understand is that Carlos had total integrity in all things," says Land. "He was one of the most honest people I've ever met. There was absolutely no bullshit about him. For example, he shot an enemy officer out of a boat. I was debriefing him and when he got to the part where he described the officer's uniform and said he thought he might have been Red Chinese, I said, as Marines sometimes do: 'Carlos, you gotta be shittin' me!' His eyes crackled and he said, 'No sir, I don't tell no lies.'"

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

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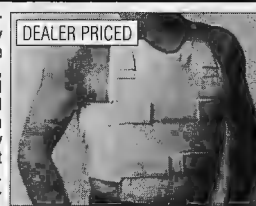
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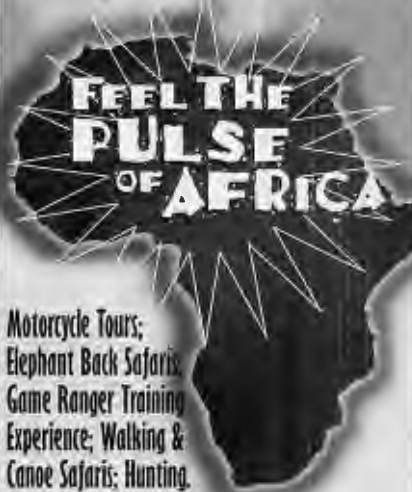
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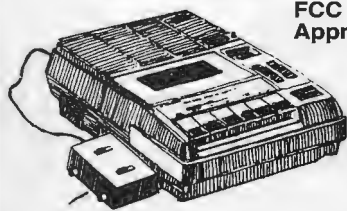


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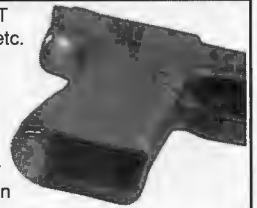
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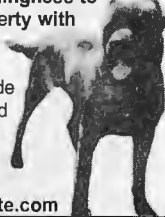
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Clark and Vietnam II

NATO's Wesley Clark is not the Iron Duke. Nor is he "Stormin' Norman." Unlike Wellington and Schwarzkopf, Clark is not a muddy boots soldier. He's a military politician, without the right stuff to produce victory over Serbia.

Known by those who've served with him as the "Ultimate Perfumed Prince," he's far more comfortable in a drawing room discussing political theories than hunkering down in the trenches where bullets fly and soldiers die. An intellectual in warrior's gear.

A saying attributed to General George Patton was that it took 10 years with troops, alone, before an officer knew how to empty a bucket of spit. As a serving soldier with 33 years of active duty under his pistol belt, Clark's commanded combat units — rifle platoon to tank division — for only seven years. The rest of his career's been spent as an aide, an executive, a student, a teacher and a staff weenie.

Very much like Generals Maxwell Taylor and William Westmoreland, the architect and carpenter of the Vietnam disaster, Clark was earmarked, and then groomed, early in his career for big things. At West Point he graduated No. 1 in his class, and even though the Vietnam War was raging and chewing up lieutenants faster than a machine gun can spit death, he was seconded to Oxford for two years of contemplating instead of to the trenches to lead a platoon.

A year after graduating Oxford, he was sent to Vietnam, where, as a combat leader for several months, he was bloodied and muddled. Unlike most of his classmates, who did multiple combat tours in the killing fields of Southeast Asia, he spent the rest of the war sheltered in the ivy towers of West Point or learning power games first-hand as a White House Fellow.

The war with Serbia has been going full-tilt for more than two months and Clark's NATO is like a giant standing on a concrete pad wielding a sledgehammer crushing Serbian ants. Yet, with all its awesome might, NATO hasn't won a round. Instead, Milosevic is still calling all the shots from his Belgrade bunker, and all that's left for Clark is to react.

Milosevic plays the fiddle and Clark dances the jig. "Stormin' Norman," or any good infantry sergeant major, would have told Clark that conventional air power alone could never win a war — it must be accompanied by boots on the ground.



Col. David Hackworth, (Ret.) also writes a syndicated weekly column titled "Defending America." "Hack" doesn't pull any punches and many liberal rags won't carry his writing. If your local paper falls into that category, call the editor and let him know you'd like to see "Defending America" on the Op-Ed page. It's syndicated by King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, NY 10017.

German air power didn't beat Britain. Allied air power didn't beat Germany. More air power than was used against the Japanese and Germans combined didn't win in Vietnam. Forty-three days of pummeling in the open desert where there was no place to hide didn't KO Saddam. That fight ended only when Schwarzkopf unleashed the steel *ground* fist he'd carefully positioned before the first bomb fell.

Doing military things exactly backwards, the scholar-general is now, according to a high-ranking Pentagon source, in "total panic mode" as he tries to mass the air and ground forces he finally figured out he needs to win the initiative. Mass is a principle of war. Clark has violated this rule along with the other eight vital principles. Any mud soldier will tell you if you don't follow the principles of war — you lose.

One of the salient reasons Wellington whipped Napoleon in 1815 at Waterloo was that the Corsican piecemealed his forces. Clark's done the same thing with his air power. He started with leisurely pinpricks and now is attempting to increase the pain against an opponent with an almost unlimited pain threshold. Similar gradualism was one of the reasons for defeat in Vietnam.

Another mistake Clark's made is not knowing his enemy. Taylor and Westmoreland made this same error in Vietnam. Like the Vietnamese, the Serbs

are fanatic warriors who know better than to fight conventionally in open formations. They'll use the rugged terrain and bomber-bad weather to conduct the guerrilla operations they've been preparing for over 50 years. And they're damn good at partisan warfare. Just ask any German 70 years or older if a fight in Serbia will be another Desert Storm.

It's the smart general who knows when to retreat. If Clark lets pride stand in the way of military judgment, expect a long and bloody war.

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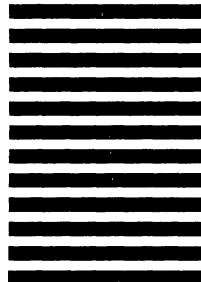
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