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C O N T E N T S

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Jim Warner

Filegate

One of the enduring mysteries of the Clinton Administration has been the story of the illicit FBI files. These were the files containing the background investigations of several people who had served in either the Bush or the Reagan White House. Their presence in the Clinton White House was discovered during the investigation of the Craig Livingstone affair. The story given by the Clinton staff was that Livingstone, as chief of White House Security, was supposed to help clear up a backlog of investigations on Clinton's staff whose clearances were not complete.

In order to expedite the process, according to the official story, they used an access list to request the FBI files. On its face, this sounds plausible. However, there are several problems with the story. First, they claimed they had mistakenly used an outdated list. But some of the individuals on the list served in the Reagan White House, and left when Bush took office.

Others did not come to the White House until the others had left. Since there were people on the list whose service terms did not overlap, it could not have been one "outdated access list."

Second, the background check and security clearance process do not work that way. During the Reagan and Bush administrations, a new member of the White House staff was given a packet of forms requesting the information which was needed to begin the investigation. These forms were given at the time the staff member came on board, along with the other, usual paper work which a new employee in any institution would have to complete. In Reagan's time the staff member was told that the forms must be returned to personnel within 10 days, as a condition of being retained on the staff.

Once returned, they were taken to White

House Counsel, who opened a file for the background investigation. This file was kept in one location.

One attorney from the Counsel's staff, and one of the resident FBI agents, had access to them. These raw data were collected in folders. When every question had been answered, by the investigators, the background investigation report was drafted. When both Counsel and the FBI agents were satisfied with the report, it was given to personnel and the Secret Service. The folders were sent to FBI Headquarters.

Remember that the folder would never have gone to FBI Headquarters unless the background investigation had been completed. If the background investigation had been completed, there would have been a report in the personnel file. If it had not been complete, the folder would have been in the one secure location in the Executive Office Building.

In other words, the story told by the administration was false. We don't know what Clinton wanted with these files. However, we form an opinion by looking at the context:

Clinton has a history of using investigators, private or otherwise, to gather damaging information on his opponents. Look, for example, at the number of conservative organizations who have been subjected to IRS audits. Early in his tenure, hecklers were arrested by the Secret Service, hours after having heckled Clinton.

What we know for sure is that Charles Colson, an aide to President Nixon, went to prison for violating the confidentiality of one such file. Your guess is as good as mine why they wanted these files. And it wasn't for anything good, that is for certain.

Jim Warner is an intellectual property attorney who resides in Maryland. ✕

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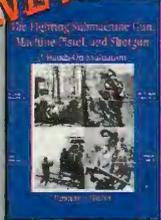
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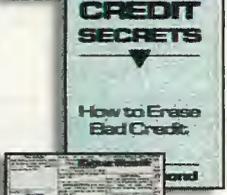
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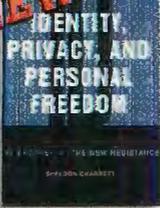
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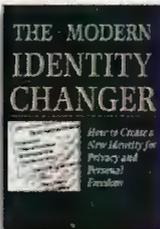
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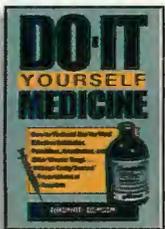
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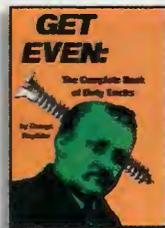
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Hit Man Hits First Amendment

The product-liability insurance company for Paladin Press decided, on the very eve of trial, that it was in its best interests to pay the plaintiffs in the *Hit Man* lawsuit to go away. Financially committed to defend Paladin through the trial and any subsequent appeals, it may well have been cheaper for the insurance company to settle than to see the suit through on First Amendment principle. This turn of events was immensely disappointing to Paladin, whose attorneys were prepared and anxious to be heard at trial, and to First Amendment devotees nationwide.

Observers note that such a settlement invites copy-cat suits from lawyers pursuing cases of more or less merit than the *Hit Man* case, and the chilling effect that this settlement will have on the First Amendment is already being seen — starting with Paladin Press, who ran the following announcement in their September 1999 catalog:

Explosives Books No Longer Available: For various reasons — including 1) the recent settlement of the Hit Man lawsuit against Paladin and the legal precedent it has set, and 2) ongoing efforts by the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that will criminalize the distribution of information on explosives under certain circumstances — Paladin has been forced to carefully evaluate some of the books and videos we sell. In light of the current political and legal climate in this country, we have concluded that it is no longer feasible to pub-

lish or sell certain titles on explosives, demolitions, improvised weaponry, and self-defense. This has been a difficult decision to make, but we appreciate your understanding and continued support.

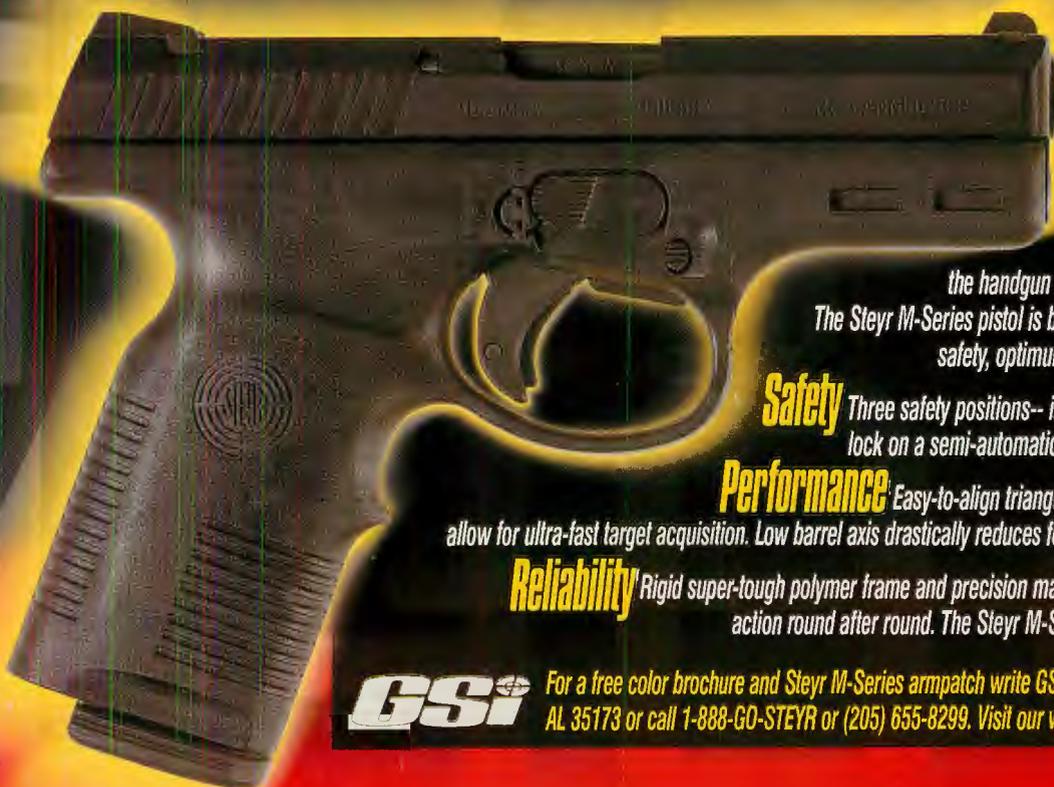
The announcement was followed by a list of some 80 titles which have been censored from Paladin's backlist. Also cited in the catalog was the fact the Senate has recently passed the "Juvenile Crime Act," which attempts to deal with a publisher's "intent" when distributing information, particularly dealing with explosives.

Will the future bring further slashing attacks on the First Amendment? Will the millions of books on explosives now in print be rounded up for Nazi-style midnight book burnings? Will the federal government itself become subject to liability suits and be held legally culpable if a criminal gets the information or technology he needs from a \$1 patent copy, or from microfilm of the National Technical Information Service, or if he FOIA's copies of military manuals? Will the *Encyclopedia Britannica* have to worry about this turn of events?

The First Amendment was specifically written to protect the unpopular in the marketplace of ideas, not to make work easier for any successors to the various agents of the Crown. The entire Bill of Rights is under increasing, direct attack. Is this driven by a need to make law-enforcement's job easier — or driven by a need to dumb-down the populace for the benefit of would-be tyrants? Only time will tell ... and we live in interesting times.

Continued on page 10

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Dear Friend,

Did you know it is possible right now to possess MORE real fighting knowledge than the most 'Grandmasters' in any martial art? In fact knowing these closely guarded secrets instantly allows you to defeat any opponent... regardless of your size or strength. More importantly did you also know these secrets completely eliminate any feelings of FEAR? Yeah right, you say? Who could possibly have the balls to make that bold, seemingly outrageous statement? Well, I'm about to introduce you to a man who's made his livelihood for the last twenty years proving that the biggest lie out there is that it takes years to become a deadly fighter.

In Mere Hours My Men Were Destroying 'Gurus' With 20 Years In The Martial Arts

I'm a former Navy SEAL (the US Navy's Elite Commandos) and in 1987 we were introduced to one Jerry Lee Peterson. This guy came to us from some, let's just say, 'highly credible' sources within our government. At the time the SEAL's were searching to standardize the way they taught hand-to-hand fighting to the hard charging SEAL combat platoons. We faced the same problems you face today; we didn't have twenty years to become effective fighters. Our guys needed a program, which got them to fight with or without weapons and guaranteed they could not be defeated, no matter what the attacker knew about fighting. It needed to be quickly learned and easily retained, based on natural body movement and had to work regardless of size or strength.

Needless to say EVERY martial art and fighting system we tested (and we tested them all: Karate, Kung Fu, JKD, Jui Jitsu, Sambo...) all failed the test. They either took way too long to learn, could not handle modern weapons, failed against multiple attackers or required excessive athletic coordination. More importantly these 'arts' or 'sports' were all DEFENSIVE in nature, a term we didn't know was a problem... until we met Jerry.

This guy comes in and takes 14 SEALs with very little hand-to-hand experience and announces after a few hours of training them we could put his guys up against the most highly experienced fighting gurus of the SEAL Teams. I mean some of these 'gurus' had been trained practically from birth in the martial arts. These dudes were feared within the tight community of the SEALs and anyone who has spent anytime around the "Teams" knows SEAL's fear next to nothing. But Peterson insisted and the demo went on; to the amazement of all in attendance the Peterson-trained SEAL operator DESTROYED each and every of the 'gurus' quickly and effectively. Not only that, these guys easily adapted whether the attackers used fists, kicks, grapples, chokes or weapons... it just didn't matter. Jerry's fighters seemed to just focus on taking out

the attacker (more about this in the FREE report). And you too can be just like the Peterson-trained SEAL commandos, when your armed with the knowledge of his AMAZINGLY effective yet simple to learn fighting system (more on that later).

The One True Ultimate Fighting System

So who is this Jerry Peterson dude and what can his revolutionary fighting system do for YOU? Only give you the confidence to never waste another day of your life fearing another man. Ya see this system of his wasn't developed by some ancient 'grandmaster' with some mystical (or should I say questionable) background. Nor was it something that was watered down into some 'ultimate competition' that pretends to be real yet has rules and a ref. No this system was developed in the harsh jungle combat of the Vietnam War. That's where a 19-year-old soldier was literally dropped into a horrific fire-fight after only his 3rd day 'in country' (as they say) and what did he do? He felt the paralyzing fear of imminent death taking hold of him...why? Because the 'combat training' he had received failed him... he was waiting for someone, anyone to tell him what to do, to lead him, yet no one did. So if he was going to survive this, it was up to him and guess what he did? He got mad, I mean hellfire and brimstone MAD, and right then and there promised himself he would never wait for another man to tell him what to do. He then looked and found the enemy who pinned them down, CHARGED and took them out in one smooth action. That was the dawn of Special Combat Reactionary Systems (SCARS®).

You Now Live The Fearless Life With The Offensive Mindset™

That 19-year-old kid was Jerry Lee Peterson. He went on to serve 2 tours as a 'pointman' with 173rd Airborne Charlie Company. That unit is credited by historians as seeing some of the MOST fierce combat of that war and Peterson arguably held the most dangerous job at 'point'. It was in those jungles that he saw what a defensive mindset did to men, how it caused them to freeze and die. He survived numerous overrun situations (where the enemy outnumbered and actually overruns you) requiring hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon killing. This was due to the revelation of what he was later to call the Offensive Mindset. *The ability not to worry or fear what your enemy may do to you and only focus on what you are going to do to him.*

Have You Ever Felt Fear?

If you have ever felt even a TWINGE of fear in any potentially violent confrontation, if you have been training in a 'sport-fighting' or a competition-based system, PLEASE don't risk freezing in a real life and death struggle. You need to see this FREE special report. You need to get the full story on SCARS and the *Offensive Mindset*. Because what

you learn in martial arts or 'sportfighting' may get you killed. And for those of you who don't think they have time to learn to live a fearless life I'm here to tell you can, IN A FEW SHORT HOURS, completely change the way you view the world and never fear any man from that day on.

Fighting Is Fighting With Or Without Weapons

With SCARS you get THE complete fighting system. That's punching, kicking, throwing, grappling, joint locks that utilize ALL your natural body weapons. Standing up or on the ground, whether it's 1 attacker or 3, whether they or you have weapons... THE SCARS principles WORK regardless of the threat. You'll get the benefit of the \$2.5 million dollars that was spent on the academic research and the empirical data from real combat that's behind the SCARS program. The SEALs thought so highly of SCARS they had Jerry design 3 official courses for the SEALs and create a trainer program, which produced over 200 military SCARS Instructors (get the FREE report for all the details). You'll possess more fighting knowledge less than the top two tenths of one percent of the fighting world currently has and you'll get it in a clear usable format. You won't need to rely on strength or athletic coordination when you combine the Offensive Mindset with the secrets of Autokinematics™ (sorry, no time to explain Autokinematics call for the report). This is what you want, this is fighting the way it should, and now CAN be quickly and easily learned. Maybe these claims are too much for you, maybe you think this is just advertising hype and SCARS is just a bunch of BS. Well we'll make it easy to find out for yourself because...

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and leave your name to get your FREE REPORT. International call 602-437-3143. Get what up to now only the elite members of the US and NATO Special Operations Community and Federal Agents and some big city SWAT teams have received (clients like: *US Navy SEAL Teams, Army Green Berets, members of DELTA force and SEAL TEAM SIX, USMC Force Recon, FBI, DEA, Treasury...*) You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Become what most fighters can only dream of being; a true man of action, a man without the heavy burden of bear holding him back. Call NOW! You have only your life to lose if you don't.

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Waco Suits To Proceed

The judge who oversaw prosecution of the Branch Davidians in the aftermath of the Waco holocaust has ruled that civil actions against the FBI and BATF may proceed. Although dismissing on procedural grounds some of the most inflammatory allegations against the FBI, made by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, in a 100-page opinion the judge allowed other portions of the suit to proceed. Observers note that allowing any part of the suit by Branch Davidian survivors to proceed may well cause the massive government cover up to unravel.

In a related matter, one of the prime unravelers of the Waco cover up, Tucson attorney David T. Hardy, recently won a \$32,000 judgment against the BATF for their failure to comply with the Freedom of Information Act — the second-largest such judgment in the 25-year history of the FOIA. The internal documents Hardy forced the BATF to cough up are said to contain solid evidence of numerous BATF lies, some of which are likely to be introduced in the ongoing Waco civil suits. If even a portion of what various Waco researchers claim they can prove, is proven in court, criminal prosecution by the State of Texas may well follow.



SOF does Kosovo, Part 1: Pfc. Nick Lee and Cpl. Chris Olsen from the 26 MEU man a checkpoint in Kosovo: hot, humdrum, potentially dangerous duty.

Poll: Americans Losing Faith In Media?

A survey conducted by the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University indicates that 53% of those polled felt the press has too much freedom — an increase of 15% over a similar poll taken in 1997. Startlingly, only 65% of those asked said newspapers should be able to publish freely without government approval of a story (also down 15% from the 1997 survey). Further, the majority of those polled said the news media should not be allowed to criticize political candidates, use hidden cameras or publish government secrets! The phone poll was of a thou-

sand adults queried by the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut, with an assumed margin of error of of +/-3%.

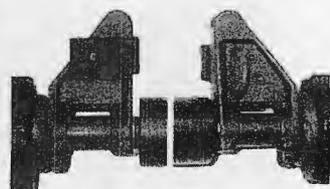
American Gun Numbers

A poll taken on the *Time* magazine website netted some interesting results (75.51% of respondents owned guns, 24.39% did not).

Continued on page 15

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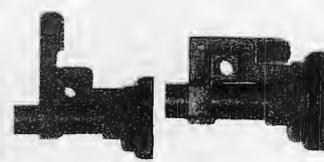
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Vicious Russian "Top Secret" Spec Op Military Fighting System *Finally* Revealed By Defiant "Underdog" U.S. Businessman!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Cat Will Be Out Of The Bag!

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

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

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

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

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

important information to civilians.

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

You, of course, risk absolutely nothing.

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

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

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

Instantly Eliminates Your Weaknesses!

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

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

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

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

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

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

No contest!

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

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

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

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

Anywhere On The Planet!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mysterious Power That Others Can Sense In You!

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

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

- Where to find the "handles" on your opponent so you can lead him into your elbows and knees and *inflict more immediate damage* than any karate kick or ju jitsu take-down known!
- How to deliver a "punch" (without *ever* forming a classic "fist") that will do more devastation than hitting your opponent with a *hammer!* (You'll look like a blur of motion, but in reality you're only making very simple, *natural* movements — *easily learned* — which you can use *regardless* of your fitness level or body type!)
- The most *unique* knee work you've ever seen... allowing you to *dominate* attackers *without putting your drink down!* Devastating, effective... *perfect* for tight places, or when your arms have been trapped (or, as the Russians learn, *wounded!*)
- How to unleash the natural "whips" in your body to *take out* even attackers who have advanced, high-end athletic quick reactions! (They can be *twice* as fast as you and *still* not be able to defend themselves from the brain-numbing blows you deliver!)
- How to use your belly to deflect formal and street-level strikes — even if you've got a *large gut!* (You've *never* seen a fighting art that allows you to be *so out of shape, and still deadly!*)
- Special "one-strike" fight-enders especially developed by the Russians to be used when you are exhausted, drained of energy, even wounded! (You *only* want to know *this* vicious stuff for when your *life is in danger!* The *games* are over...)
- New target areas you *never knew existed* that will *instantly* leave your attacker numb and useless! (A simple "tap"... and he's *limp!*)
- How to multiply the power behind your blows — a simple technique that can turn a mild *slap* into the *most savage strike you've ever delivered!*
- How to use your *elbow* to take out bulky, *larger* opponents... especially street-fighting boxers! (Not like *any* karate elbow work you've ever seen!)
- How to take out multiple opponents with the Russian version of the "bitch slap" — an *unbelievably deadly strike* that "multiplies" itself... *perfect* for taking out 2 attackers at once!
- The "rotating fist" that causes extreme pain with every "touch"! (Let your opponent know right *NOW* who he's dealing with, and what he has to look forward to if he doesn't run away *immediately!*)
- How Russians have learned to "parlay" the energy of *getting hit* (in a surprise attack), so your "reply" strike *absorbs* all the power and *returns* it — just like an electric current making a loop and burning a hole in the original plug! (Pro fighters have been searching for this secret for *years!*)
- Special strikes that will let a 12-year-old kid *shred* a bodybuilder's gridiron stomach like *melted cheese!*
- An ingenious way to use your *teeth* (that could *only* come from the Russians) on hidden "pressure points" that will leave your opponent *helpless!*
- How to use special "psi" training techniques to quickly "recondition" your nervous system *so you don't feel pain during a fight!*
- How to turn the fact you're shorter, smaller, fatter or *weaker* than your opponent into an *advantage!*
- Where to look with your eyes during a confrontation — the Russians discovered it's *NOT* a direct stare that gives you an advantage... almost *all* professional fighters eventually do this intuitively, and now *you'll* have the secret!
- The incredible Russian "Trinity Shot" — a rapid-fire *explosion* of hands and feet that no one can defend against! (And yet it's *simple* to learn, completely adaptable to your body type and level of fitness!)
- How to use ingenious "test kicks" to find out *how scared* your opponent is! (He may look confident and tough, but you'll know the *truth* in seconds.)
- How to become "mugger-proof" by learning how to easily turn *unexpected attacks* (even from behind your back) into instant *wins!*
- How to knock someone *completely off balance*... by *spitting* at them! (Yes, there's a trick to it, but you only need to see it *once* to understand how to use it effectively!)
- Why the "breathing secrets" of all Oriental martial arts *don't work* in a real fight... and how to use your *natural breathing* to add **400%** more power to your every move in a dangerous situation! (This secret explains why Russian fighters *laugh* so much when they fight!)
- How to stay relaxed (literally, loose as a goose) during the most dangerous attacks... allowing any fear to simply *dissipate* into thin air! (Quickly, you'll learn how to *never* "feel" fear again!)
- How to make fancy black belt kickers look *silly* by simply "*tripping*" them up!
- How to take down a trained fighter with a *5-inch hip move* (used by elite soldiers who have been captured and *tied up!*)
- The most devastating "finishing moves" you've ever seen — easy to learn, *utterly final for ending a fight fast!*
- The famous "Tregubetz" takedown move that scares the *crap* out of ju jitsu ground fighters!
- How to open his fist and *remove* the knife as if from a child!
- The 3 "mind-game" secrets that even *tiny* Russians use to become the *best bodyguards in the world!*
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Look... I could go on for another 20 pages... but if you aren't convinced by now, *you never will be.* I wouldn't be trusting you with all this hot information if I didn't have a pretty good idea you'd be very interested. I've done all I can to bring these amazing video tapes to you. It cost a small fortune to fly a professional crew up there, do the 3-camera shoot (on top equipment), *clear Customs with unlabeled bags*, and get the

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

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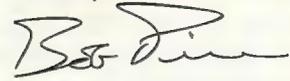
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*"This Russian fighting system is the **best I've found** — completely different from anything else you've ever seen. There are no special movements, like in karate — all moves are natural and instinctive, so it's easy to learn."* — **Igor Davidov,**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

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

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

Rick Merrell, black belt in
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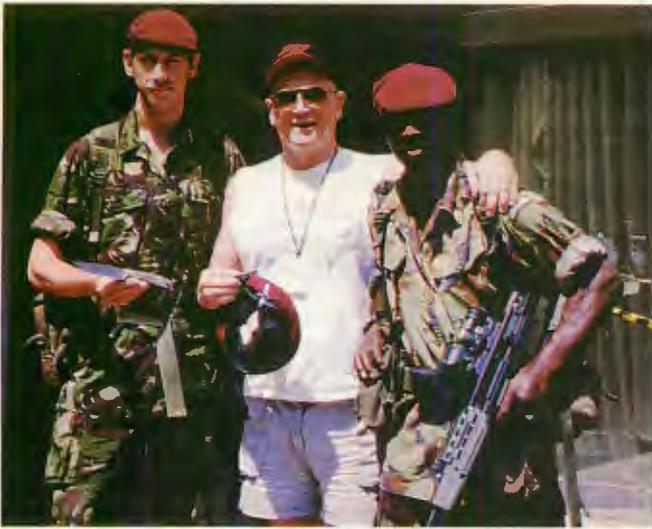
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SOF does Kosovo, continued: (above) Flanked by Pfc. Eldon Raymond and Lance Cpl. James Collins from 1 Para C Coy, SOF publisher Robert K. Brown trades a Livesay ICU combat knife for a British para's beret and insignia at the 1/2-star Grand [sic] Hotel in Pristina. (above right) At Camp Montieth, Kosovo, Brown trades Livesay neck knives for Marine soft covers, which will be auctioned at the SOF Convention ban-

quet in Las Vegas this September. From left to right, Lance Cpl. Michael Schellenbach, Capt. Gabrielle Chapin, Cpl. Jimmie Perkins, Brown, Lance Cpl. Richard O'Conner and Staff Sgt. Marus McAllister of the 26 MEU. SOF conventioners this year will also receive a Livesay Woo neck knife with Kydex sheath and cord-wrapped handle — and they get to keep their hats.

Should the U.S. have stricter gun control? Some 93.25% said no. Does allowing people to carry concealed reduce crime? Some 92.22% said it did. Should U.S. cities sue gun makers to recoup money spent on "gun-related" crime? Almost no one thought so: 98.01% said no. How effective has the Brady Bill and assault-weapons ban been in preventing illegal use and distribution of guns? Only .52% thought it was very effective; 87.27% thought it was not at all effective.

Australian Gun Numbers

A year after Australian gun owners were forced to surrender 640,381 personal firearms — even autoloading .22s and shotguns — to be destroyed at a cost of more than *half-a-billion* of their own tax dollars, the results are in. And interesting:

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Country-wide, homicides are up 3.2%
 Country-wide, assaults are up 8.6%
 Country-wide, armed robberies are up 44% (forty-four percent)
 In Victoria State, homicides with firearms are up 300%

At the time of the ban, the Prime Minister said "self-defense is not a reason for owning a firearm." Oh, well, then it's OK that since the ban, Australian break-in-and-assaults of the elderly are also up dramatically — and the *before* the ban, nationwide stats on armed crime had been declining for several years.

Invincible Air Power

Historian William Blum compiled the following tally of countries the United States has bombed since the end of WWII: China ('45-'46), Korea and China ('50-'53), Guatemala ('60, '67-'69), Indonesia ('58), Cuba ('59-'60), Congo ('64), Peru ('65), Laos ('64-'73), Vietnam ('61-'73), Cambodia ('69-'70), Grenada ('83), Lebanon ('83-'84), Libya ('66), El Salvador ('80s), Nicaragua ('80s), Panama ('89), Iraq ('91-'99), Kuwait ('91), Somalia ('93), Bosnia ('94-'95), Sudan ('96), Yugoslavia ('99). Blum may have missed a surrogate action or two, but raises an interesting philosophical question: In how many of these air campaigns did a democratic government, respectful of human rights, occur as a direct result?

North Korean ICBMs — Made in Japan?

Japanese legislators Ichita Yamamoto and Keiichiro Asao interviewed North Korean defectors in South Korea recently, and were told that up to 40% of the semiconductors and gas burners used in North Korea's Taepodong missile were imported from Japan. The defectors also stated that about 20% of the components used in a recently captured spy submarine, such as depth meter and a periscope, had been made by Japanese companies, and that its

engines were American. The announcement came amid speculation that, which test-fired a missile over Japan last year, is now preparing to test a more advanced missile, capable of reaching the west coast of the United States. The Japanese legislators said Japan must adopt stronger export controls toward North Korea, similar to those used by the United States, Britain and Germany against North Korea, Iraq, Libya and Pakistan.

Chute 'N' Shoot 2000 Underway

Formats and events for competitors at the fourth annual Chute 'N' Shoot competition are being assembled, and those who like to drop out of the sky (parachutes encouraged) and fire pistols, rifles, shotguns and submachine guns should contact Clyde Morgan (66 Glenway Place, Brandon, MS 39042; phone: 601-825-3971) about participating in 8-9 April 2000. The event will be held at the Sherman Hill Public Shooting Center in Forest, Mississippi (free ranges, free RV hookups, cheap ammo, fine and friendly folks).

Gen. McCaffrey Seeks \$1 Billion For Colombia Drug War

Alarmed by recent the advances of Colombian FARC guerrillas involved in coca and opium trafficking, the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy is asking that the United States make \$1 billion in emergency assistance available to the Colombian government. In a series of attacks beginning on 8 July, units of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), came within 25 miles of Bogota before being driven back. Colombia produces most of the world's cocaine, and most of the heroin consumed in the United States. ✕

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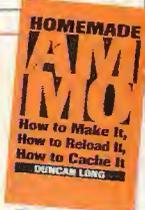
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Illegal Love

A former Illinois Army National Guard official and decorated Vietnam War hero finds himself in a heap of legal trouble for sexual misconduct, while the nation's commander-in-chief remains unscathed with that disgusting smirk on his face.

Colonel James Burgess, a former Guard chief of staff, is accused of violating a court order by repeatedly meeting with a woman sergeant with whom he had a romantic relationship. The woman is to be a government witness at his trial. The 27-year-old woman had taped a conversation in the pending case that alleges Burgess tried to thwart a misconduct investigation against him.

Burgess was indicted in March on 10 counts, including obstruction of a proceeding, perjury, bribery, witness tampering and false statements, including lying when he said he was not interested in any woman other than his wife, especially at work.

All this sounds strikingly familiar: Sex with a subordinate, aka Commander-in-Chief with nubile intern; lying (e.g. "I did not have sexual relations with that woman."); taped conversations, à la Lewinsky and friend; witness tampering and obstruction, such as Vernon Jordan and Lewinsky.

It's likely Burgess will lose his livelihood and freedom over all of this. Why didn't the Commander-in-Chief?

More Illegal Love

Major General David Hale, USA (Ret.), may lose his retirement rank and some of his \$6,250 a month retirement pay. Why? Because he admitted having extra-marital sex with the wives of four subordinates. He was already retired when the Army decided to court-martial him.

Hale was convicted of seven counts of conduct unbecoming an officer, and one count of lying to investigators. He was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine and forfeit \$12,000 of his \$75,744 annual pension for one year.

And they aren't done with him yet. Army Secretary Louis Caldera decided in July to convene a special panel to review Hale's case and recommend whether he should be retired as a brigadier general. If so, he'll lose up to \$750 a month for the rest of his life.

President Bill Clinton, acting as Hale's commander-in-chief, has also admitted to extra-marital sex with a subordinate. His life goes on as usual.

The New Pro-Gun Clinton

Clinton visited with a group of Colorado high school students in July, promising them he will veto any bill that "appears to be gun control legislation that actually weakens the law."

If that's really the case, he'll veto any legislation that purports to keep



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guns from the hands of dangerous criminals. That's because no such law can ever exist. Criminals who kill aren't thwarted by gun laws. Any law that attempts to outlaw guns, therefore, "weakens the law."

And let's not forget that politically incorrect *faux pas* the Founding Fathers committee when they wrote the Second Amendment. Like it or not, the Bill of Rights is "the law." So clearly, any law against guns in the hands of the citizenry "weakens the law."

Clinton should have explained to the children of Colorado that new gun laws, enacted under his watch and with his signature, precluded any responsible, law-abiding adult within 1,000 yards of Columbine High School from having a weapon with which to stop deranged gunmen Harris and Klebold during their rampage. Of course, he's more interested in polls than the truth.

But at least Clinton has promised not to "weaken the law" with gun control. Let's hold him to that.

"Filegate" Lives

Remember "Filegate," the scandal in which the Clinton Administration was accused of illegally obtaining and maintaining files of prominent Republicans? Kenneth Starr grew bored with it after he found a sex scandal to pursue, but the scandal lives on.

Judicial Watch has petitioned U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth to authorize the sworn testimony of Leslie Gail Kennedy, who was married until late 1994 to former White House Associate Counsel William H. Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy, in an interview with *Judicial Watch*, said Hillary Clinton was associated with the FBI files and was "involved in, if not responsible for, making key decisions that bear on 'filegate.'"

In a class action suit, Judicial Watch chairman Larry Klayman is asking for \$90 million for people whose confidential files went astray. Judge Lamberth, a Reagan appointee, is unlikely to show deference to the Clinton administration.

Mrs. Kennedy told *Judicial Watch* her husband used to bring the forbidden FBI files to their home in Alexandria, Va., and scan them into a laptop computer "to make FBI file information accessible and useful to the Clinton administration." Her statements, says *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist Robert Novak, tended to be confirmed by the deposition in the case last December by Linda Tripp, who swore she knew of Kennedy putting FBI files into his database.

Hillary, The Liar

New York Senate candidate Hillary Clinton has, in the past, advocated one-sided, pro-Palestinian views regarding Israel. That, she's quickly discovering, will be no help in winning votes among Jewish voters in New York.

So she's opted to lie, confuse and distort the truth. She recently wrote a letter regarding her Israel views, calling Jerusalem "the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel... I personally consider Jerusalem the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel [emphasis ours]."

That's the same tactic employed by politicians who wish to win the hearts of both sides of the abortion debate, saying they "personally oppose" abortion, but otherwise support it.

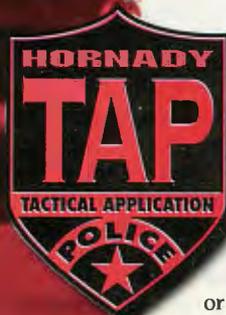
Her letter continues by saying she would support "moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem." This, despite the fact the Clinton Administration in June suspended Congressional plans to move the embassy.

The letter goes on to give her an out, should she actually be elected and held to this wishy-washy promise. It says, "Of course, the timing of such a move must be sensitive to Israel's interests in achieving a secure peace with its neighbors. I will never countenance any action that would endanger Israel's security."

In other words, Hillary Clinton is trying to present her case in a dishonest manner to win votes in New York. Like her husband, Hillary Clinton is a liar. Don't fall for it, New York. ✕

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I Was There

by Rob Krott

Doing The Slava (or How Not to Load A Makarov Pistol)

In 1993, shortly after returning from duty in Bosnia as an officer in the King Tomislav Brigade of the *Hrvatsko Vijece Odbrane* (Croat Defense Force), I was offered the opportunity to travel to the Baltics (not the Balkans) to help train foreign bodyguards. The course was held in Estonia and Latvia and the chief instructor was *SOF* contributor and man-of-action, Jim Shortt. While over there I met some interesting people, including Slava.

Slava, an Estonian policeman in their anti-racketeering section, was actually a Russian from Odessa. Slava had wanted to look at my Bersa .380 Model 38 pistol earlier that morning. He was working the action in the lobby of the Olympia, Tallin's poshest tourist hotel. Arved Liivrand, the director of Estonia Security Service and formerly a personal bodyguard to the former president of Estonia, President Ruttel, walked over and gave him hell for messing with a pistol in the front lobby ... on the inside front steps to be exact. In retrospect I guess the whole scene would've excited your average Finnish shoe salesman just a little. Arved had just asked me not to carry "outside" meaning unconcealed, but to please carry "inside" (i.e. concealed). It seems that a few of the boys had been running PT in the grassy lot across from the Hotel Mihkli with their holsters in plain view. Consequently, some grandma called the cops and reported a gang of 30 foreign terrorists running through the streets of Tallin. Given the appearances and personalities of one or two of the guys it was a fairly accurate assumption. Later that day I was in the Hotel Mihkli. It was about 2300 and, because of our closeness to the arctic, still light outside.

I was in the bar linking a cola with four others — Slava, the Estonian policeman; Steve, a Brit squaddie recently returned from UN duty in Bosnia; Dave, an officer in Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary; and Erik, a Danish special forces soldier and qualified Russian parachutist. We were basically a group of people who were no strangers to firearms and gunfire or bleeding victims that often resulted from the former. Fortunately, we had the bar to ourselves.

Slava said he wanted to see my Bersa — again. The guy just



(above) Author (left) with all appendages intact. Slava ("of the wounded hand") is at far right. (right) The culprit — Slava's now-infamous Makarov, at least as far as author is concerned. "Nyet problem, nyet problem" didn't tell the whole tale.



wouldn't leave me alone, so I pulled out the .380 pistol, dropped the magazine and worked the slide, ensuring the weapon was clear before I passed it over to Slava. It worked its way around the table and I explained the principles behind the Glasers safety slugs. This wasn't good enough for Slava, who pulled out his Makarov. He was examining the .380 ACP caliber (9x17mm or 9mm "Short") Glasers and quickly decided they were the same size as his 9x18mm Soviet *Pistolet Makarov* and, of course, would fit. "Da, yes, this is good, same size." Since *close* only counts in horseshoes and hand-grenades, I begged to differ. He was not to be persuaded otherwise. Something turned my attention away from Slava and back to the other three. And that's when it happened.

"Bang!" The heavy cordite smell of gunpowder filled the air. We all looked at each other dumbfounded, but at the same time realizing that Slava had obviously just discharged his Makarov under the table. I was sitting to his left and had felt something smack against my right ankle. Slava, looking down between his legs with his hands spread palm to palm, said "Nyet problem, nyet problem!" So I thought, "Hell, he's not hit." The other three looked stunned but OK. Everybody was surprisingly calm; there was no jumping around or screaming as could be expected if there'd been a bunch of civilians or Finnish shoe salesmen at the table. Nobody was writhing on the floor gutshot, but we all expected somebody to suddenly discover a bullet wound.

Then I saw the blood beginning to spot the floor and noticed there was blood splattered on my jacket. Scratch one Ralph Lauren. I remembered the *smack* I felt against my leg just a second before and looked down in trepidation at my right foot. Three inches away from it there was a chip missing from the table leg and there were splinters on my pant leg. "Aw, shit."

Meanwhile, Slava was still saying, "Nyet problem," so I gingerly inspected my leg. I wasn't hit, but bending under the table I could see blood dripping from Slava's hand.

I jumped up and yelled at Steve to organize a vehicle as I stepped

photos courtesy author

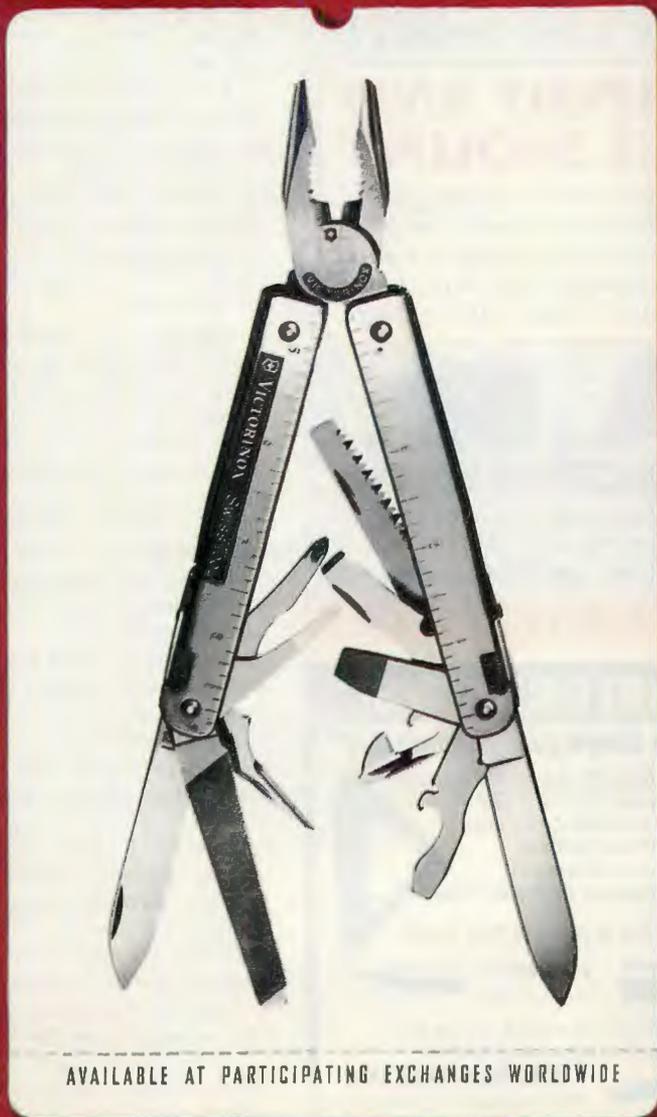
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to the bar and pulled a cloth napkin from under a tray of silverware. The barmaids were long gone. Later, Steve kept remarking how fast they'd moved ... a common survival skill in a city with a large organized crime element where the KGB used to haul all participants and witnesses of shootings off for "questioning."

I spun the napkin into a cravat and bound Slava's hand. He'd worked the top of the slide in an overhand manner (rather than gripping the back with thumb and forefinger) with his left hand while his right forefinger undoubtedly rested on the trigger (*extremely* poor technique where a loaded pistol is concerned). The negligent discharge (hitherto known as "doing the Slava") sent the slug through the meaty portion of the outside of his left palm just back from the little finger. There was a nice black and blue hole there.

After I bound Slava's hand I turned to secure my own pistol. "Where's my piece?" It wasn't anywhere in sight. I wasn't too worried because the .380 had an empty magazine, as I'd stripped the magazine to show-off the rounds which were now in my pocket.

Then I saw who was missing.

Leave it to an Irishman to remove a gun and himself from the scene of a possible shooting. Dave, the experienced Irish cop, had already secured it and left the hotel.

Slava started mopping his blood off the floor with his handkerchief. The whole time he was saying, "Nyet problem, nyet problem."

After Slava went off in search of medical attention, we went back into the bar and checked things out. A few more inches from the splintered table leg was a nice hole in the floor ... but no slug. That meant it ricocheted again.

The hole (or gouge) in the floor was about 3 inches from the outside of my right instep when I was sitting down. The angle of trajectory put the round along my right side — or possibly over my shoulder. So that's what that funny-sounding *zzzzipppppp* was. I'd been spared the trauma of violent firearm projectile perforation thanks to my guardian angel and the Patron Saint of ballistics.

I've always maintained that if I buy it, it will be through some dumb accident and/or caused by some idiot.

Fortunately, Slava's wound was only superficial and I didn't get drilled in the foot, abdomen, head, etc.

We all (minus Slava) had some laughs about it later over pizza and beer at the Palace Hotel. The story got told in its entirety when two more bodyguards walked in. I'd forgotten I'd almost pulled off my jacket to use as a bandage, until I saw it was just a simple GSW through-and-through. Dave mentioned it though. "That's one of those expensive Polo jackets, isn't it then? You wouldn't want to be doing that."

Later, Slava got some razzing, but took it all goodnaturedly and didn't get upset about it.

Accidental/negligent discharges do happen and as one of the guys said later, "Slava shot himself in the hand, but it could've been worse. It could've been me." ✕

The Late, Great ZBvz26

Of and by itself it was a truly great Light Machine Gun. It, in turn, evolved into the greatest magazine-fed LMG of all time — the Bren.

Formed after the end of World War I, the new nation of Czechoslovakia found itself armed with no less than 90 small arms, from pistols to machine guns, chambered for 10 different calibers. A new LMG was one of the Czech army's most urgent priorities.

Initially designed at *Zbrojovka Praga* (Prague Arsenal) principally by Vaclav Holek, what evolved into the Praga Model 24 was a synthesis of successful elements from the Vickers Berthier, BAR, Hotchkiss and Chatellerault, combined with Holek's many valuable innovations. When *Zbrojovka Brno* (Brno Arsenal) obtained the license to produce the gun, Holek moved to there together with his design. From conception to the production series ZBvz26 (vz for *vzor*, or model), took Holek only three years.

The ZBvz26 has a total of only 143 parts, an exceptionally low number for its



ZBvz26 with an assortment of two-magazine leather pouches for harness carry, steel magazine chest, heavy canvas magazine boxes and magazine loader. (left) These 40-round ZBvz26 magazines were manufactured in the 1930s at Zbrojovka Brno for anti-aircraft use. ZBvz26 gunner's wallet (below) with cleaning equipment, oil bottles, broken case extractor, spare flash hider and an elaborate combination tool.



forward and down, away from the operator's hands. The recoil spring, located in the buttstock, returns the reciprocating parts in counter-recoil to repeat the firing cycle. A sliding ejection-port dust cover was designed to protect the internal components from debris.

The propellant gases are taken off near the muzzle. This reduces the recoil impulse on the reciprocating parts, drops the cyclic rate and provides the ZBvz26 with one of its two most distinguishing characteristics: an

extremely long gas cylinder. Both the gas cylinder and piston were fabricated from stainless steel.

Chambered for the 7.92x57mm cartridge, the ZBvz26 weighs only 21.28 pounds, empty. Overall length is 45.75 inches. The four-groove barrel is 26.5 inches in length and endows the gun with its second most recognizable feature: full-length radial cooling fins. Relatively common during this time frame, although expensive to machine, in theory, increasing the barrel's surface area should improve the rate of heat loss to the surrounding atmosphere. In practice, it was found that unless there was an air flow over the fins (as in the open cockpit of an aircraft of this era) the heat loss improvement was not measurable.

The barrel is held to the front of the receiver body by means of interrupted threads which interface with a rotating locking nut that can be removed from the receiver. Early on, there were problems with this system. It was possible to unlock the nut's spring-loaded retaining hook from the receiver body's underside by merely jarring it, and then, if the gun was subsequently fired, the barrel would sail down range. As a consequence, the locking nut progressed through a series of mod-

day. Fixed components include the barrel, receiver, magazine, buttstock and trigger group. The reciprocating parts consist of the bolt, bolt carrier (or slide), gas piston and recoil spring assembly.

The ZB Model 1926 is gas-operated without an adjustable regulator. It fires from the open-bolt position. A selector lever provides both full-auto and single-shot modes. The cocking handle is on the right side and it does not reciprocate with the bolt group or fold down.

When the trigger is pulled, the bolt travels forward to strip a round from the magazine and drive it into the chamber. As the bolt reaches the battery position, cam surfaces on the gas piston's slide (i.e., the bolt carrier) force the rear of the bolt upward into a locking shoulder in the top of the receiver. A post on the slide strikes the firing pin to ignite the primer. As the projectile drives down the barrel and just before it exits, propellant gases, trapped also by the flash hider, move through the barrel vent into the gas cylinder below. The piston is forced rearward, unlocking the bolt and bringing it to the rear, which extracts the empty case and drives it through the ejection port on the receiver's underside. The empty case strikes a hard rubber buffer installed into the front of the trigger guard and rebounds

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ifications until a projection was added that prevented the piston/slide from traveling forward unless the barrel nut was fully locked. I have both the first locking nut variant and an intermediate version with a longer handle and more substantial retaining hook that does not impinge upon the piston/slide, but is still difficult to unlock inadvertently. Barrels can be changed quickly, in no more than 2-3 seconds.

A carrying handle on the barrel can be rotated to the left and then adjusted so that it is normal (perpendicular) to the barrel's axis. In this manner it can be used as a support to stabilize the gun during burst fire. The buttstock is equipped with a hinged, folding steel shoulder strap that also aids stability.

There has been considerable misinforma-

tion concerning the ZBvz26's cyclic rate. Most open source material states this to be 450 to 550 rounds per minute (rpm). My personal tests with both Polish ball (headstamped "N 36 N 67") of that era and more modern Portuguese ball (headstamped "FNM 71-20") indicate the cyclic rate to be somewhat faster: about 675 rpm, nominal.

The ZBvz26 is equipped with a steel bipod that has adjustable legs. The command height (the distance from the ground to the bore's axis) can be adjusted from 11.5 to 14.5 inches. With its bipod located 9.5 inches from the muzzle, the ZBvz26 is capable of delivering both acceptable accuracy and a useful distribution of fire at normal combat ranges for LMGs. In addition,

this location permits the operator to easily access rapidly moving targets on the flanks.

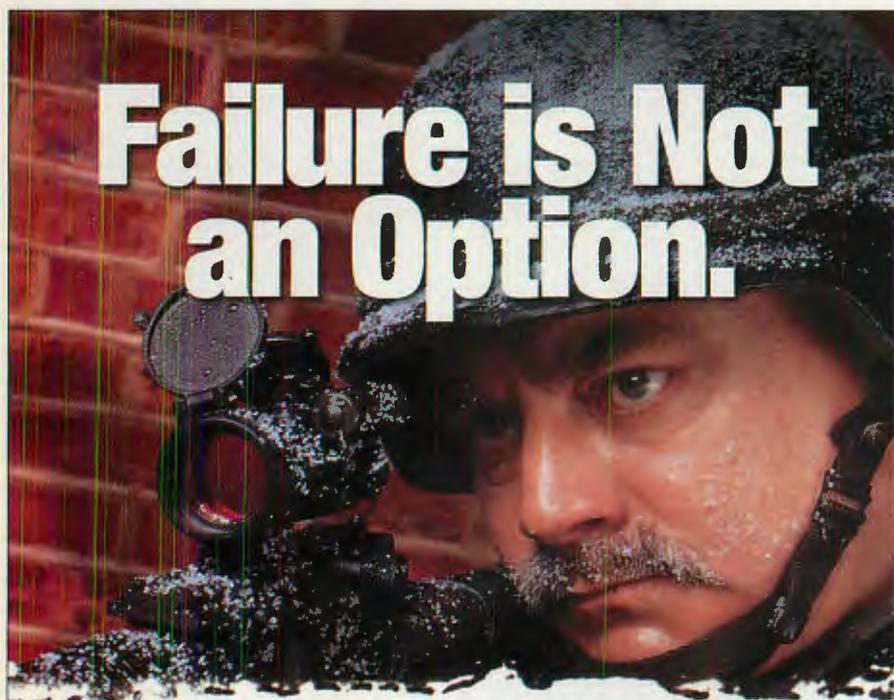
Because of the top-fed magazine system, the sights are offset to the left. The rear sight is an open V-notch type. Its arm is mounted on a radial drum with adjustments for elevation only from 200 to 1,200 meters, in 100-meter increments. The blade-type front sight can be adjusted for windage zero by sliding it in its dovetail milled into a bracket which is an integral portion of the stainless steel gas nut on the end of the barrel. A protective hood is retained by single screw through this bracket.

The standard magazine for the ZBvz26 is a 20-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type. However, 40-round ZBvz26 magazines were also manufactured at Zbrojovka Brno during the 1930s for antiaircraft use with the gun deployed off the tripod. They are now quite rare. There seem to be at least three variants, each with slightly different bodies. If the gun is equipped with an original recoil spring in good condition, the additional stripping pressure generated by their high capacity does not adversely affect reliability. The ZBvz26 magazine follower activates a hold-open device after the last round has been fired. When a fresh magazine is inserted, the operator can commence firing without manually retracting the bolt.

A wide range of accessories was available for the ZBvz26. Along with spare barrels and magazines, there were two-magazine leather pouches for harness carry, steel magazine chests, heavy canvas magazine boxes, magazine loader, leather sling, and a gunner's wallet that contained cleaning equipment, oil bottles, broken case extractor, spare flash hider (the ZBvz26 will not operate reliably without its flash suppressor) and an elaborate combination tool. There was also a tripod that was designed for both ground and antiaircraft fire.

First reported use of the ZBvz26 was in Ethiopia during the mid 1930s by Ethiopian troops. It saw action in the Spanish Civil War and during the Japanese invasion of China. Always a favorite of the Chinese, copies were made in China up until the early 1950s. Many ZBvz26 LMGs were converted by the Chinese Communists to caliber 7.62x39mm with the magazine-well altered for the 30-round AK47 magazine. During World War II it was sometimes fielded by the *Waffen SS*. It was widely distributed throughout the Balkans and I have personally encountered ZBvz26/30 machine guns deployed in combat in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Chinese used these guns during the Korean War. It was also encountered during the Vietnam War. Widely marketed in Latin America as well, I examined specimens of the ZBvz26 in El Salvador during the war in that country. It has even been spotted in Afghanistan.

So impressed with the ZBvz26 was the British military attaché in Prague, Czechoslovakia, that he recommended it be tested and evaluated in Great Britain. A single specimen was ordered and it, of course, led to the development and adoption of the Bren. But, that's another story. ✕



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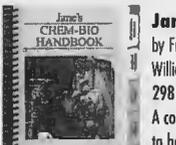
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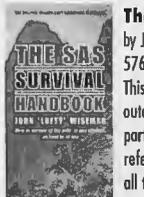
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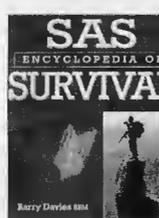
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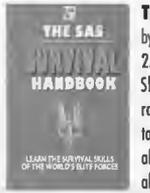


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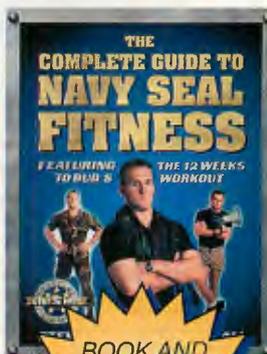
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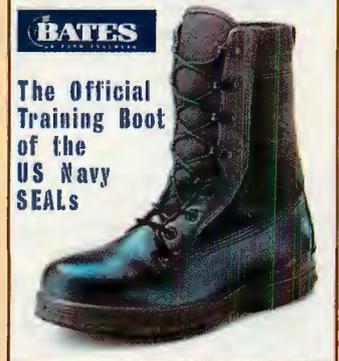
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Magpul

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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Shorter deployments: National Guard deployments soon may be shortened to six months or less, because nine months is "just too long," said Major General Roger C. Shultz, director of the Army National Guard. Shultz, speaking to the *Army Times*, said nine-month deployments can strain relationships between the Guard and civilian employers, who are generally cooperative. Shultz said the Guard is still an "untapped resource" that could be used more effectively in foreign conflicts. • **Merging medics:** Army plans to do away with 91B combat medics by 1 October 2001, as well as 91C LPNs, merging them into 91W medics. A new combined training course will focus on emergency care, primary care, evacuation retrieval and force medical protection. • **Piece of Cake:** U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark told Senate Armed Services Committee and Pentagon briefing that allied victory in Kosovo air war was never in doubt. He said NATO pilots had advantage of believing war was just; had superior weapons and followed a plan that left Milosevic with no options. • **Ordnance mishap:** A 19-year-old airman who died after picking up ordnance at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., had no warning about such explosives, an Army report says.

2

RUSSIA

U.S. ousted: Government expels U.S. military attaché. Lieutenant Colonel Peter Hoffman, an assistant Army attaché at the American Embassy, left Russia on 1 July after his diplomatic accreditation was withdrawn, said an American official speaking on condition of anonymity to the *Army Times*. No reason was given for the expulsion, but it comes at a time when relations between Russia and the West have become strained by NATO's military campaign in Kosovo, and Russia's role in keeping the peace there. • **Weapons for sale:** Government commits itself to further growth in exports to increase the country's international influence and support its military. Russia's state-owned defense export agency, *Rosvooruzhenie*, reports earnings of \$1.29 billion for the first six months of 1999, compared to total sales of \$2.3 billion in 1998.

5

IRAN

Neighborhood dispute: Iran and Iraq continue to quarrel over fate of POWs from their 1980-1988 war. Since the end of the war, 90,000 POWs have been returned. But Iran claims 5,000 Iranians are still held by Iraq, which Iraq denies. Iran still holds 5,000 POWs, while Iraq claims Iran still holds 20,000 Iraqis. • **Drug war:** Relations with Afghanistan damaged by active drug smuggling from Afghanistan into Iran. Shootouts between Iranian forces and heavily armed smugglers are common. Iran seizes some 200 tons of drugs each year.

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ALGERIA

Civil war: War between the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and the government continues at low level. While the GIA continues to resist, some of the smaller Islamic groups are negotiating with the government for amnesty. Some 75,000 have died in this conflict since 1992.

9

BOSNIA

Dayton failure: Despite the 1995 Dayton peace agreement ending Bosnia's 1992-95 war, about 1.2 million Bosnian refugees have still not returned to their homes. Some 800,000 such refugees are still in Bosnia, but their homes are in territory occupied by another ethnic group. During the war, about 2.5 million became refugees and more than 200,000 were killed. As a result of the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, nearly 100,000 additional refugees are in Bosnia, some 80 percent of them Serb, the rest Albanian.

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COLOMBIA

Civil war: Government attempts to negotiate settlement of 35-year-old civil war, with rebel groups now financed by drug trafficking, have stalled. Drug trafficking reportedly generates about \$1/2 billion a year for rebels.

12

ANGOLA

Diamond war: UNITA rebels and government unable to implement peace and demobilization, despite peace agreement signed in 1994. Central issue is money, with UNITA rebels controlling lucrative diamond mines. More than 1 million killed since rebellion began in 1975.

13

CONGO

Ceasefire: Rwanda announces unilateral cease fire in Congo, where Rwanda is principal backer of rebel movement. In April, Uganda signed a ceasefire agreement with Congo, leaving Rwanda as the only foreign supporter of the Congo rebels. By late May, Uganda was withdrawing infantry and anti-aircraft troops from eastern Congo. Rebels control about 1/3 of Congo, with Rwanda and Uganda supporting different and competing rebel groups.

3

CHINA

Liberation Army: President Jiang Zemin ratifies legislation that will govern the stationing of People's Liberation Army personnel in Macau after the Portugese-administered territory reverts to Chinese control in December. • **Military ed:** Government announces plans to set up four new military colleges, the official *Xinhua* news agency reports: Shijiazhuang Army Command College, Information Engineering University, Science and Engineering University, and Institute of Artillery Corps. The institutions appear to have been formed through the merging of smaller schools.

4

IRAQ

No-fly zones: Coalition aircraft bomb Iraqi air defense and communications targets in the northern and southern no-fly zones of Iraq. Coalition aircraft were fired on or tracked by Iraqi radar almost daily. Iraq continues to protest no fly zones, and the continued UN-approved embargo. • **Truck bomb:** Iraqi problems with Iran continue with truck bomb exploding near Baghdad, killing six Iranian rebels and wounding 36 — an attack blamed on Iranian agents. Truck bomb marked the 24th such attack since early 1996. • **Arms inspections:** Iraq continues to refuse UN arms inspectors, although UN is making greater efforts to change Iraq's attitude. This is especially true after reports from Russia indicating Iraq may be holding samples of the smallpox virus, a disease wiped out in the 1970s.

7

TURKEY

Kurd war: Fighting continues between Army and various Kurdish rebel groups. Turks have been winning in past few years. More than 31,000 people have been killed in fighting since 1984.

8

KOSOVO

State of the union: Some 500,000 Kosovar Albanian refugees had returned as of mid July, with only 4,000 KLA troops having reported to demobilization sites. KFOR believe total KLA strength is 8,000, although the KLA claims 20,000. Some 24,000 KFOR troops are in Kosovo. UN has set up its own administration in Kosovo, complete with a governor possessing full legal authority and hundreds of UN staff.

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MEXICO

General unrest: Armed insurgencies of states Chiapas and Guerrero continue. Each involves several hundred fighters, but tens of thousands of civilian supporters. Death toll remains fewer than 1,000, mostly civilians.

14

SIERRA LEONE

Peace? An 8-year civil war ended when rebels agreed to join the government. The war has killed more than 50,000 people, mostly civilians. Sierra Leone is ranked by the UN as the poorest nation on earth. But the nation is rich in natural resources, and control of these might lead to more fighting.

15

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban: Ongoing civil war continues throughout May and June. Anti-Taliban Northern Alliance continues to hold about 1/5th of the country and complains that Taliban massacred civilians as they advanced. Foreign aid workers report as many as 8,000 civilians were killed by advancing Taliban. Alliance rocket launchers north of Kabul were able to hit the city as well as the local air base from which Taliban aircraft operated.

World Sitrep is compiled in part from the biweekly newsletter *For Your Eyes Only: An Open Intelligence Summary of Current Military Affairs*. Published by Strategy World, Inc., 15 West Sunset Drive, Alpine, UT 84004; Email: support@strategyworld.com

FLAK



Well-Moneyed Elitist Sellouts?

I have read and enjoyed your magazine since 1984. I have laughed out loud at your cartoons, agonized with the veterans who have stories of sacrifice to tell, and had my pulse rate increase when reading stories that remind me of personal life experiences. However, my days of reading your magazine have come to an end. The comfort I took in reading your magazine and being able to relate to certain ideals and attitudes about what ails this country is finished. After reading an article you printed regarding "the militarization" of U.S. law enforcement several months ago, I was greatly disturbed. More than that, I was disgusted.

I served with the U.S. Army for seven

years, worked at menial jobs to pay my way through college, served as a metropolitan police officer in extremely dangerous gang areas, and currently serve as a DEA Special Agent. I came from a working-class family with high morals and a strong work ethic. I am a 16-year NRA member, and believe strongly in the right to keep and bear arms. I worked hard, and sacrificed much to attain a position where I could truly have the capability of helping people and making this country a safer place to live. And now, people that I found comfort in, and shared common ground with, to include the NRA (regarding the "jack-booted thugs" moniker), have made statements demonizing my profession. With a horde of enemies who strive to shoot us, stab us, bomb us, and sue us, who can law enforcement count on as "friends" in this day and age? Obviously, after the salvo of "friendly" fire from your magazine, we can subtract your name from the allies column.

Fellow agents, both in the Justice Department and the Treasury Department, as well as local and state police personnel, risk their lives on a daily basis. We don't expect exciting theme music, and we don't expect to get a book deal when we finally reach retirement. We have loving families, serve as Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders, volunteer firemen, and even assist in the preparation of NRA events. Yet your article suggests that we are nothing more than a horde of paramilitary ruffians with a penchant for violence. And this is what really makes me angry. The haphazard characterization is something I would expect from the likes of Charles Schumer, Sarah Brady, or Dianne Feinstein, and not from former military professionals.

In my estimation, your magazine has become nothing more than pulp fiction, and your editorial staff/management team nothing more than a group of well-moneyed elit-

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A close-up photograph of a hand holding a Glock 22C handgun. The handgun is black with a silver slide. The slide has the Glock logo, '22C', and 'AUSTRIA' engraved on it. A bright muzzle flash is visible from the barrel, and two plumes of white smoke are rising from the top of the slide. The background is dark and out of focus.

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Thanks for your forthright letter. We're glad you thought enough of us to write and give us hell.

In modern times, we've grown used to lawyers — good and bad — hanging together; doctors — good and bad — hanging together; politicians — good [sic] and bad — hanging together except at election time: But the cadre of professionals we have always been able to count on in this country to be loyal to their oath and the people they serve have been our police and military. Each group has been among the best recruited, best motivated, best trained and best led the world has ever seen, and they have stayed that way largely because — unlike some professions — they have been willing to shed themselves of bad individuals, bad leadership, or bad policy. This willingness to self-heal stems directly from the caliber of the individuals who make up our police and military forces. And because of the professionalism of our police and military, they have more popular support than probably any other large nation gives its men in uniform.

Among that popular support has always been the editorial posture of SOF. That has not changed, and it will not change. This is not to say, however, that we will shirk our editorial responsibility to the people we also serve and fail to bitch about what we deem to be bad policy, bad leadership or corrupt law-enforcement officials. We are frankly stunned that good cops were unable to tell the difference between criticism of bad policy or bad individuals, and them personally. Just because you have a largely thankless job, shouldn't lead you to think nobody's on your side. Most of the people associated with this magazine have a police or military background. Our editorial criticism of what we feel needs attention in law enforcement should not seem like friendly fire to anyone who is not standing too close to the target. And not that this matters one whit, but if you think we have become "well-moneyed elitist sellouts," maybe you'll feel better in the knowledge that an SOF editor makes less than a catalog flack grinding copy for a small-to-medium-sized mail order house — and considerably less than starting salary for a federal law-enforcement official.

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What Is Past ... Is Protocol.

I've read with some interest over several months the articles and comments regarding the militarization of police and sheriffs' departments. Most departments are not staffed with the same percentage of military veterans that they used to have. In my area active-duty EOD personnel take care of bomb disposal now. I view this as a good change due to the changes in bomb-making materials and methods as well as advances



these skills and attitudes they don't need to be trying to be "military."

At any rate, please note the enclosed photo from a 1937 *National Geographic* regarding the militarization of Austrian police units. Ring any bells for you?

Charles Thurmond
Former-Captain,
USA
Vietnam '68 and '69

The photo caption reads: "Vienna Police Swing Onto Their 'Wheels' with Military Precision. Trained like soldiers, they know how to use rifles, tear gas, and even machine guns in emergencies. Horses, motorcycles, and armored cars are also their 'mounts.' Recently the force, numbering about 10,000 men, was equipped with steel helmets."



Reading your article on "Gunny" Hathcock shooting at the reflection and hit-

ting the scope and into the eye of the sniper, reminded me of an incident that happened to us on Okinawa. I was in a scout sniper company in the First Marine Division. We were pinned down for about nine hours, early in June, by very accurate, murderous sniper and mortar fire. We were on a ridge, in an area called Kunishi Ridge, about 60 feet tall and 400 yards long. About 700 yards away, across a shallow valley was another ridge like ours. We were sure the F.O. was someplace on this ridge. Late afternoon we picked up a reflection coming from a cave on the other ridge. Harry J. Burstatti was on our sniper rifle for the day (an '03 Springfield with a fixed 8-power scope). Burstatti shot one shot at the reflection which immediately disappeared, as did the sniper and mortar fire.

It took us almost two days to get to the other ridge and the cave. Sitting in the cave on a tripod was a pair of gigantic Japanese naval binoculars. About 2 feet in back of the binoculars was the spotter. About an inch above the bridge of his nose was a .30 bullet hole. No, the slug did not go through one of the aperture barrels — there was about an inch of space between the barrels that the slug passed through. A little luck for the shooter, very bad luck for the spotter.

Raymond Demaris

Continued on page 40

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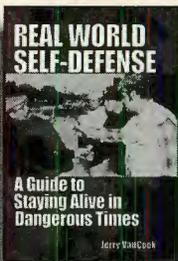
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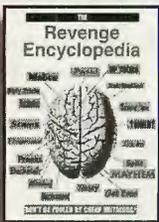


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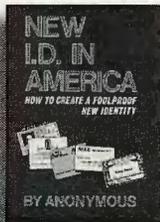
A Guide to Staying Alive in Dangerous Times

by Jerry VanCook

If you want practical solutions to the violence that permeates today's society, this book offers savvy advice for dealing with everything from an unwarranted attack to the often ironic legal aftermath. As a former undercover cop who has devoted years to studying martial arts and training with weapons, Jerry VanCook knows what works — both on the street and in the courthouse — and what doesn't. *Real World Self-Defense* explains the need for developing a personal defense system and strives to instill the mind-set required to put it to work when violence strikes. Its simple, streamlined approach focuses on survival rather than fancy techniques that are more suited to sport or art. Presenting tactics and techniques that are basic, easy to learn and proven effective under the stress of combat, VanCook covers unarmed defense, improvised weapons, edged weapons, firearms and more. Entertaining, hard-hitting and tactically on the mark, *Real World Self-Defense* offers something of value for people from all walks of life. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 224 pp. #10010809 \$20.00



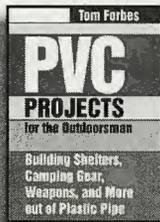
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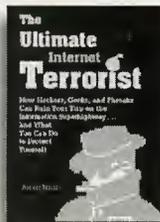
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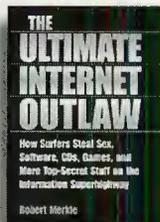
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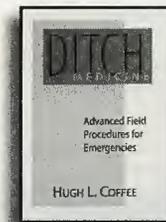
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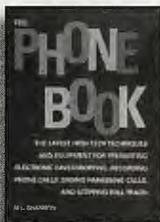
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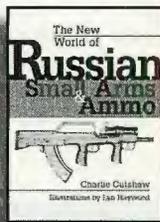
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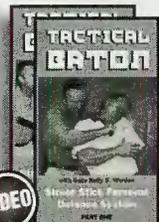
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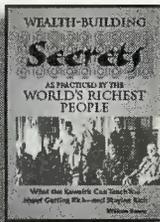
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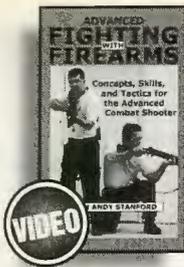
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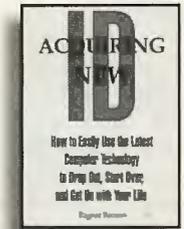
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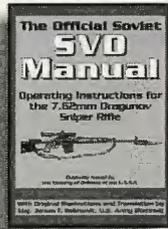
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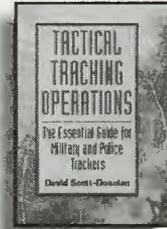
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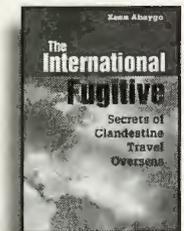
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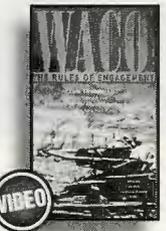
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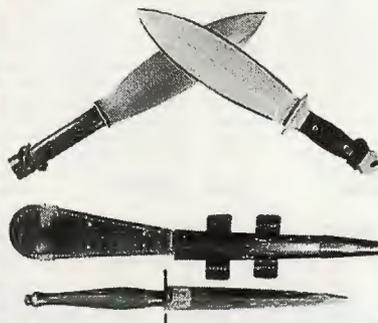
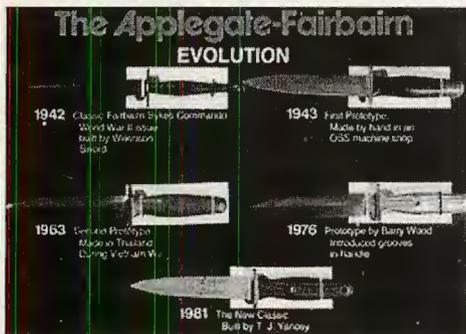
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A Good Idea?

I am surprised at the degree of naivete that apparently exists at *SOF* these days. Your company line is that the Serbs are nothing more than a bunch of drunken, murdering bums who pose no threat to a "real" military force. Could it be that the staff of *SOF* has been sandbagged by the high-octane BS of the propaganda machine? You should know better!

As I recall, the Germans and Japanese murdered quite a few people in WWII, but they also fought pretty well. The Viet Cong and the NVA murdered hundreds of thousands of people, but the sacrifice of 58,000 American lives didn't prevent them from winning their war. These groups, and many others like them, have shown that a tendency to murder innocents does not mean they can't or won't kill soldiers, too.

There is no need to look as far as Vietnam to predict the probable course of this Balkan intervention. We need only review the pitiful history of our last "humanitarian crisis" in Somalia. Ethnic hatreds, mindless killing, victimized noncombatants — does that sound familiar? The similarities to our current "humanitarian crisis" in Kosovo are striking. So are the disorganization and pointlessness of our response. Without a clearly defined mission, military forces should never be committed. Haven't we learned that yet?

This entire sad spectacle is but another production from the mastermind of Mogadishu. It is just one more of Slick Willie's "excellent [military] adventures." Frankly, I'm amazed and disappointed that you guys think it's a good idea.

Dan K. McQueen
Florence, Arizona

We have never thought, nor said, that getting involved in the Balkan morass was a good idea. As Ben Franklin observed and Gen. Omar Bradley was fond of noting, "There has never been a bad peace nor a good war." In his farewell address, President Washington noted that it would be in the best interests of the new United States to stay out of the interminable wars of Europe. In the Balkans there may well be no innocent parties. And, of course, it appears (at the least) inconsistent of the United States to be so adamant about protecting the Kosovar Albanians and not go beyond mere diplomatic support of the oppressed in Tibet. Yes, it may not have been in our national interest to get involved in the Balkans — but in the interests of the human race as a whole, atrocities such as Belgrade was committing against the Albanian Kosovars had to be stopped. Might there have been a better way? Possibly, although we did not hear one proposed. Will it have a lasting effect staunching the centuries-old flow of blood? Probably not. Would the rapine Serb forces have been a military force to reckon with? Who knows for sure? Keep an eye on Macedonia if Yugoslavia doesn't rid itself of Milosevic. Maybe we'll find out yet.



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In the capital of Pristina, a young Kosovo Serb boy stands in front of his burned and looted home, which was destroyed in revenge attack by returning Albanians. Despite presence of NATO troops, tensions remain high.



CALL OUT THE MARINES



Leathernecks Break Serbian "Oil Cartel"

TEXT & PHOTOS BY MARK H. MILSTEIN

GNIJLANE, KOSOVO (SOF) — In the annals of war criminality, Milo Vukic wouldn't even rate a fly speck on Slobodan Milosevic's indictment. As a minor Yugoslavian government perfunctory, the 72-year-old Vukic was charged with overseeing the distribution of food parcels which every month included a liter of cooking oil to the senior citizens of the eastern Kosovo city of Gnjilane.

During the darkest days of NATO bombing, the packages represented for many of Gnjilane's elderly a primary source of sustenance. That was, of course, unless they happened to be ethnic Albanian.

Then, according the three Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) guerrillas who had attempted to kidnap Vukic, the gray-haired Kosovars received no food aid from Belgrade. For his trouble, the KLA claimed, Vukic, an ethnic Serb, was able to take the parcels, horde them and then sell the oil at market price for hard currency.

"A crime against humanity," according to the KLA, and therefore reason enough to force Vukic out of his house, into their car and pressure him under threat of dismemberment to disclose the whereabouts of his cache of an estimated 150 liters of cooking oil.

Author quickly shot two frames as Marine security team escorting POW from their first sniping incident rounded a corner.



(left) Marine with 26th MEU mans checkpoint in eastern Kosovo city of Gnjilane. (above) Marines with 26th MEU detain three KLA soldiers suspected of kidnapping former local Serb official Milo Vukic (standing, right). KLA claimed they were bringing Vukic to Marines for arrest for "crimes against humanity" when caught. His crime? Misappropriating cooking oil. (below) French marine, in Kosovo as part of NATO peacekeeping force, watches auto repair shop owned by ethnic Serbs burn in Mitrovica, torched by returning Kosovar Albanians. (below, inset) Repatriated ethnic Albanian Kosovars walk through the rubble that was once the center of the western Kosovo city of Pec. (bottom) Ethnic Albanian Kosovars loot and burn Serb homes and businesses in Mitrovica, typical of large-scale revenge carried out all over Kosovo.





Russian army troops (left) arrive in Kosovo for peacekeeping mission alongside NATO as part of KFOR: 200 troops were hastily taken by Russians from IFOR duty in Bosnia to establish presence at airport in Pristina. (below) Ethnic Albanians protest against partitioning of Mitrovica by French troops under NATO command: City has been split along ethnic lines since arrival of NATO troops.



It was also reason enough for Staff Sergeant Dwight Jones, Sgt. Harry Kindrick and the rest of 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Lima Company of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) to become involved as well.

The Marines had been routinely stopping traffic along Gnjilane's main street — nicknamed "Western Boulevard" by those Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C. — looking for weapons, when they were nearly run over by a car containing Vukic and his kid-nappers, and a second car containing Vukic's wife, son and daughter-in-law who were chasing after the KLA in an attempt to repatriate Vukic.

"This is where the rubber meets the road," one of 1st Platoon's Marines told *SOF* as he leveled his M16 at the KLA guerrillas, ordered them to place their hands above their heads and "shut the fuck up."

With both sides physically separated by

five tightly wound Marines, the story slowly began to come out in dribs and drabs so convoluted and contradictory that Jones twice threw up his hands in exasperation before a reasonable facsimile of the truth finally emerged.

Quelling The Oil War

"I thought we'd be coming to Kosovo to fight, not act as judge and jury for a cooking oil thief," Jones told *SOF*, after making his controversial decision to let both sides go without making an arrest.

"I know that the old man is probably guilty of something," Jones told a correspondent from the *Christian Science Monitor* observing the entire incident, "but what can I do? The KLA guys should not have been in uniform in town; it's against the rules set down by NATO, and I don't have the evidence to put this Vukic guy

away. For what? Stealing cooking oil? I don't know who's telling the truth here."

And perhaps there it was ... history in the making. The United States Marine Corps' 26th MEU — one of the finest, most highly trained fighting forces ever fielded — reduced to the role of traffic cop, petty war-crimes judge-and-jury and civil authority of a backwater Balkan province so teeming with ethnic hatred that nothing short of an act of God and 50,000 NATO troops could keep it from boiling over into World War III.

"You know the deal here," Marine Corporal Mathew Pozorski, Savannah, Ga.,

Kosovo: The War Clinton Lost

RAMBOILLET VS. REALITY

In the course of leading us into war in Kosovo, Clinton has deceived the American public, violated the Constitution by breaking international laws of war, demonized the opposition, shattered a country and hundreds of thousands of lives and then walked away, declaring himself victor. But let's see what he initially wanted as outlined in the NATO-brokered Rambouillet agreement — which was to create a peacekeeping force in Kosovo — and what, in fact, he got.

Rambouillet Objective: NATO units occupy the whole of Yugoslavia, not just Kosovo. A fatal blow was dealt to the proposed NATO mission when the UN was ignored, thus marginalizing Russia and China, who objected to the Rambouillet agreement and to NATO issuing one-sided ultimatums to Milosevic if he did not sign.

Outcome: The force has become a UN-mandated peacekeeping mission, rather than a NATO occupation force. A traditional peacekeeping mission, however, is mandated to be impartial. That requirement has been rendered impossible as the Serbs remain convinced that any force including NATO troops is partial to the KLA.

Only Kosovo will be occupied, rather than the whole of Yugoslavia.

The Rambouillet Interim agreement provided a NATO force (KFOR), authorized to use force, with absolute immunity for all crimes committed throughout Yugoslavia, and with the following mandate (Art. XV; Appendix B 8):

"NATO personnel shall enjoy, together with their vehicles, vessels, aircraft and equipment, free and unrestricted passage and unimpeded access throughout the FRY including associated airspace and territorial waters. This shall include, but not be limited to, the right of bivouac, maneuver, billet and utilization of any areas or facilities as required for support training and operations."

The UN High Commissioner of Refugees will be in charge of repatriating the refugees, rather than NATO.

The U.S. has had to take a lesser position in the negotiations. Milosevic, unwilling to deal with the U.S., was willing to negotiate with the Finnish, the Russians, the Germans, and other Europeans who he perceived as being less partial. Thus, the bullying Albright, Cohen, and Holbrooke assumed symbolic roles, if any.

China had to find the terms acceptable. We have sent an envoy to patch up relations after the violent Chinese reaction to its Embassy bombing. China, capitalizing on the fact the embassy had been bombed,

told *SOF* later that evening at a checkpoint set up to monitor an all-night curfew. "We're here as mop up. Let the Air Force and all those cruise missiles do the heavy lifting, and we come in as the cleanup crew. No enemy to fight — at least not one with a uniform on — and lots of situations involving civilians to trip up a Marine."

Earlier that week *SOF* spent two sweat-soaked days patrolling "G-town," as the Marines called Gnjilane, with Lima and India Companies of the 26 MEU.

Sniper Alley

"This is what we call sniper alley," Lieutenant Chris Harbour, Boston, Mass., of Lima Company told *SOF*. Harbour was co-leading a mixed 14-man squad through an apartment complex that had already produced two firefights within 10 days for the Marines. "Last week we had some asshole start shooting at us from that window over there. We got him, but it took us awhile."

Lieutenant Drew Warren, Charlottesville, Va., 3rd Platoon's commanding officer, said that it took his men "four hours to get the sniper down."

"It was tough," he said. "We had civilians all over the place. Kids, dogs, women and children and a shooter hiding among all of those apartments. Can you imagine? When we finally found the fucker we had to be very careful. It wasn't easy. A lot of guys were really nervous. It was their first time under live fire."

When *SOF* asked what became of the shooter, Warren said that "because we're not the police, we just took his weapon and held on to him for a few days before turning him loose."

Less than 24 hours earlier, on a trip to Camp Monteith, the 26th MEU's Kosovo



Relic JNA T-34 tank stands alone in field in western Kosovo. Too old to fight, tanks were trimmed to look modern and left in open as decoys for NATO air strikes.

headquarters just south of G-town, *SOF* glimpsed one of the captured shooters from the first sniping incident being "exercised" by the Marines. We were not, however, permitted to interview the prisoner or the security team detailed with monitoring him during his detention.

Under NATO's plan for Kosovo, the United Nations was supposed to supply a civilian police force, made up of active policemen from member countries, to be deployed shortly after Kosovo was secured. The UN police were to fill the vacuum that inevitably happens when the civil authority of a war-ravaged country suddenly vanishes, and is replaced with angry victims bent on revenge. In fact, when *SOF* pulled out of Kosovo, nearly a month after NATO troops first deployed, the UN had yet to set up the command structure necessary to field a civilian police force, and NATO troops were still pulling double duty as soldiers and police.

Vanishing Authority

Warren described patrolling G-town as akin to "being a cop walking a beat in an

inner-city, except here there's no local government, no courts and no justice. [In Kosovo] we are the civil authority."

He added that when the Marines finally showed up in G-town all of the Serb police had either left the city for Yugoslavia, or had stripped off their uniforms and melted back into the civilian population.

"As soon as the MUP (Yugoslavian Interior Ministry Police) had vanished, the KLA took up positions and began patrolling the streets," Warren explained. "When we arrived, the KLA immediately stopped all that, and have for the most part cooperated with us."

While *SOF* did observe plenty of KLA activity (ad hoc checkpoints and patrols without visible weapons), in the outlying areas surrounding G-town where MEU presence was thin, so far the city had been spared the revenge attacks of arson and murder that had overtaken the rest of Kosovo.

"This city wasn't destroyed by fighting, although the VJ [Yugoslavian army] barracks at the edge of downtown was wiped out by NATO," Harbour said. "Yet, things here were still quite tense when the MEU came. You had a Serb minority controlling an Albanian majority. You know there had to be some upset people. We now control the police station, and some of our men are sleeping in the jail cells. Whenever they decide to reconstruct the police force here, there will have to be Albanians on the force, and those Serbs who previously served would be prevented from joining again."

The Marines might have had everything under control in their sector, but tensions between Russian airborne troops at the

Continued on page 77

killing three Chinese nationals, is holding out for concessions, aware that the UN mandate must have its blessing.

Russian troops have become a sizable portion of the forces (3,600 troops at last count), and will guard the interests of Serbia much more effectively than the impotent skeletal force designed under Rambouillet. The Russian troops were the first to arrive in Kosovo, where they immediately took over the airport, the gateway into Kosovo during the harsh winters when the treacherous roads become impossible. In addition, they are stationed in the resource rich north that is home to most Serb historical sites. The Russian troops, although said to be under NATO command, have the option to refuse any specific NATO mission.

The new peace terms call for 1,000 Serb troops rather than 2,500 in Kosovo. That's a wash, because 2,500 neutralized troops, limited to border and custom control, largely demilitarized and confined to cantons, would have no more impact than 1,000.

Ramboillet Objective: The architects of Rambouillet insisted that Kosovo sovereignty was not a goal. The ambiguous language, as was mentioned previously, led both the KLA as well as Milosevic to believe the final outcome would be sovereignty. An amendment to the Rambouillet agreement was designed to allow a reassessment of the situation after three years:

"Three years after the entry into force ... an international meeting shall be convened to determine a mechanism for a final settlement for Kosovo, on the basis of the will of the people, opinions of relevant authorities, each Party's efforts regarding the implementation of this Agreement, and the

Helsinki Final Act, and to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of this Agreement and to consider proposals by any Party for additional measures."

Outcome: Secretary General Solana of NATO has stated in unequivocal terms since the cease fire that sovereignty for Kosovo is not an option. Yet the KLA, strutting through the province as the triumphant force, are said to have *de facto* civil and political control. The province has been practically emptied of its Serb population. For the KLA there is no turning back — an omen of continued violence. On the other hand, Milosevic has been reassured that any agreement will guard Yugoslavia's territorial sovereignty, including Kosovo. Try to reconcile those two points of view without a troop on every corner in Kosovo for the next century.

Ramboillet Objective: Disarm the KLA and stop the terrorist activities.

Outcome: The KLA, increased from a few thousand troop strength to 20,000 well-armed troops, will continue to fight for sovereignty. They are to be "demilitarized," which in fact will leave them armed. To disarm the KLA in Kosovo is a joke, as KLA camps with soldiers very well armed are now operating out of Macedonia, Albania and other adjoining states. Demilitarizing the KLA in Kosovo will camouflage out of state activities.

Continued on page 77

MERC MEDICINE

Soldier of fortune, mercenary, professional adventurer, travel junkie. Whatever you might call yourself, this is written with the professional/semi-professional soldier for hire in mind, but it's also good knowledge to have for your next trans-Tibet trek.

A common misconception portrays the "merc" as some knuckle-dragging brute bedecked with grenades, wearing bandoleers *frito-bandito* style, and paid big bucks solely to pull a trigger and kill people. I've got news for the uninitiated: You'd better be skilled in light weapons maintenance, tactical radio communications, indirect fire gunnery (mortars), vehicle maintenance, intelligence and psychological operations, and in the subject of this article: field medical skills. All the other skills will help you kill bad guys, but this one will help you save your life.

I shake my head when I see these "pros" show up in a combat zone, with some military gear (sometimes), a "Rambo" knife, and even weapons on occasion, but no personal medical gear whatsoever! I don't know, maybe they've never been sick a day in their lives and were also born bulletproof. Or so they must wish. As the saying goes, "Shit happens." I've watched two so-called "professionals" shoot themselves; pulled several people, including my own driver, out from under wrecked military vehicles; performed immediate first aid for one of my privates who blew off a finger while playing Explosive Ordnance Disposal; stitched myself up once and reset my dislocated fingers I forget how many times, and recently

What To Take To Take Care Of Yourself

by Rob Krott
Photos courtesy author

in Uganda treated six victims of two terrorist bombings. And this was all in peacetime "rear" areas.

A good medical kit (in conjunction with a valid passport, plane ticket home, spare cash, and a well thought-out escape and evasion plan) is a merc's only life insurance policy. If you're the leader — the one responsible for seeing that your men get the best medical care possible — that may mean being qualified and capable to treat them yourself. Nothing shatters morale quicker in combat than to see somebody die for lack of simple medical care. Western-trained soldiers are accustomed to readily available medical care. In some combat environments around the world, getting medical attention may include enduring a jarring Land Rover ride over bad roads for three days. In other war zones, modern medical facilities may be only a few kilometers from the front. I use the word "modern" loosely. The docs may

be operating by lamp light, short of meds, in a less than sterile environment. You've watched *M.A.S.H.*, haven't you?

Team Medics

If you are recruiting a medical type for your "team," or perhaps your survival group, then a U.S. Army Medic (Special Forces-type) is the best bet outside a real medical doctor. It's important you check a military veteran's medics credentials. Many medics aren't really medics or paramedics but merely aidmen, the guys who know how to start a saline IV drip, wrap a pressure bandage, and seal a sucking chest wound with plastic. Which is all well and good, but what you want is somebody who can use a syringe and a vial of Xylocaine, suture a wound, stabilize a traumatic amputee (as well as closing the wound properly), trachea a throat and diagnose endemic diseases. In essence, a former Special Forces medic or an Air Force pararescuer.

Failing that, a good emergency room trauma nurse should be your next choice and in some cases may be better than some doctors for front-line first aid. That's because ER workers are accustomed to treating traumatic amputations, crushed limbs, burns, and knife and gunshot wounds — the very things you'd see in a combat zone. Many doctors, because of their specialization and/or lack of experience in ERs in our inner-city combat zones, no longer have the skills of your old country doctor when it comes to field medical techniques for trauma wounds (what we're talking about here in some cases is "meatball surgery") or doctoring strange diseases in the bush.

Foreign Medical Care

In Asia, Africa and South America, the existing dangers for travelers of any sort are myriad, and include: tropical diseases, bug and snake bites, animal attacks, various traumatic injuries, and poor or nonexistent medical care. You may find "doctors" who wouldn't be allowed to empty a bedpan in an American hospital. Some areas of the world have "flying doctors," who are delivered to remote areas by bush plane. For a flying doctor to be a viable option in an emergency, remember:

A) You need a radio or telephone to contact him.

B) He needs a place to land.

C) You'll have to pay him.

D) You must be on good terms with the "host" nation(s).

A knowledge of foreign languages in regard to medical terminology is helpful, especially for the country you're working in. I used some German antibiotics and assorted non-prescription items in Croatia. (For some strange reason we ended up with a large amount of menstruation medicines. They worked wonders for headaches and body aches and pain and nobody bitched as much as before). If you don't have a good working knowledge of the language, the use of a pocket translator or phrase book (which should be a given if you're operating in an area where you don't savvy the lingo) is invaluable. If you end up in a foreign hospital or back-country medical clinic and can't speak the language, it might save your life. Never assume there'll be a doc there who studied at Johns Hopkins and speaks English. Hell, it's difficult enough to find an English-speaking doctor in the United States these days.

A relative of mine spent two very miserable days in the Caribbean in a French-speaking hospital without drinking water or a pillow (you have to bring your own) because of the communication gap. It's common for many Third World hospitals to require a patient to provide his own drinking water (bottled), food, toiletries, etc. This

is one reason (among others) why I always carry the address and phone numbers of the U.S., Canadian, British, and Swiss embassies and consulates. Even if you've been a bad boy and are recuperating in the local pokey, they'll usually bring you some basic amenities. It also helps to memorize "please contact the _____ embassy for me," in the native language.

Medical Insurance

Medical insurance for travelers is available, but you have to be in a somewhat mod-



Author with his collection of medical kits (above), patches up a Croatian Commando during the war in 1992 (right), and tends to a Sudanese guerrilla during sick call (below). "Operating" theater was the tailgate of a Toyota Hi-Lux parked under a shade tree.

ernized environment where health care is available. Also, be careful when buying such insurance. Read the fine print, because many policies exclude medical care for injuries suffered as a result of civil unrest, wars, rebellion, etc. In other words, "We're not paying for that because you shouldn't have been there in the first place." Not really much good for a "professional adventurer" who plans on joining the Kosovo Liberation Army. But if you're trekking or "on safari," pay the small fee and cover yourself.

I once walked into a dusty Wild West-type bar in a frontier town in Kenya and met a young couple seeing Africa on a shoe-string. They were both in pretty bad shape and were not happy campers. The Safari tour truck they'd hitched a ride with had rolled over. They had no emergency medical travel insurance. The girl had her arm in an awkward and sloppy cast. I held the man's cranial x-ray up to the light. There wasn't much I could tell him, except, "Gee, that's too bad." How much fun can you have with a hairline skull fracture?

Personal Care

As you pack your backpack or combat ruck, don't forget your need for basic first aid should something happen to you or a companion. Besides the common-sense basics of bandaids, antiseptic ointment, aspirin, antibiotics, and Pepto-Bismol, make sure you're prepared to treat a broken femur, a severed finger, a sucking chest wound, or multiple shrapnel wounds.

I habitually carry two medical kits with



me when I'm "advising" overseas: (1) a small kit which I carry on my LBE and, (2) a Medic's First Aid Kit/Combat Lifesaver Bag which I carry on long operations and keep at base camp. I can also use it to equip an indigenous medic. (I always drop off any excess medical supplies before I leave an operational area.) But remember, the best equipment in the world isn't worth a damn if no one knows how to use it. Which brings us to:

Training

To increase your knowledge of basic

Merc's Med Kit

RECOMMENDED BOOKSHELF OF A MERC MEDIC:

U.S. ARMY FIELD MANUALS:

ST 31-91B *U.S. Army Special Forces Medical Handbook.*

STP 31-18D34-SM-TG *Soldier's Manual and Trainer's Guide MOS 18D Special Operations Medical Sergeant.*

CIVILIAN BOOKS:

The Merck Manual

Medical Advisor's Handbook

Where There Is No Doctor

Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment

Where There Is No Dentist

RECOMMENDED MEDICAL SUPPLIES

FIELD SURGICAL SET

#3 Scalpel Handle with #10 and #15 blades

4 1/2" IRB Scissors curved

5 1/2" Suture Scissors set S/B str.

4 3/4" Adson Forceps 1x2 teeth

4 3/4" Adson Forceps plain

5 1/2" Mayo Hegar needle holder

5" curved Mosquito clamps (2)

6 1/2" curved Kelly clamps

Probe

5-0 Nylon

3-0 Nylon

Silk

Non-ABS sutures

4-0 and 2-0 chromic gut

ABS sutures

S.D. gloves

S.D. towels

16x5ml Foley catheter and leg bag

S.D. suction catheter

Penrose drains

S.D. #6, #7, and #8 Endotrach tubes

Oral airways-#25 x 5/8"; 23x1"

and 21 x 1 1/2"

16- and 20-gauge IV catheter

1ml syringes

3ml syringes

12ml syringes

FIRST AID SUPPLIES

Band Aids 1"x 3"

Band Aids X-Lg

Adeptic pads

3x3, 3x8, 2x2 sponges

4x4 sponges

Eye pads

Carlisle bandages S, M, L

Cravats

4" x 6" Ace bandages

1" and 2" adhesive tape

S.D. Q-tips and Tongue blades

Splints

Alcohol preps

Betadine swabs

Bacitracin ointment

Silver Iodine cream (for burns)

MEDICATIONS

ORAL

Erythromycin 250 mg

Keflex 500 mg

Cipro 500 mg

Tylenol 325 mg

Motrin 400mg

Tylenol w/ Codeine 30 mg (or Vicadin)

Sudafed 30 mg

Benadryl 25 mg

Compazine 5 mg

Lomotil tablets

Valium 5 mg

Flagyl 250 mg

INJECTABLE

Epinephrine 1:1000 solution

Benadryl 50 mg

Decadron 4 mg

Compazine 5 mg

Nubain 10 mg

Lidocaine 2% plain

Ancet 1gm

TOPICAL AND OPHTHALMIC

Tetracaine optical solution

Sodium Sulamyd ophthalmic ointment

Bacitracin ophthalmic ointment

Loprox cream

Topicort cream

Afrin nasal spray

Cortisporin solution

field medical care, or to review skills you already have, you can:

1. Attend your local fire department's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training program. This is great training for the trauma-type injuries usually seen in combat and in back-country accidents.

2. Pay out some hard earned cash to one of the private "commando" type schools which offer paramilitary medical training. *Caveat emptor.*

3. Some community colleges and adult education programs offer paramedic training, and the standard Red Cross training programs are also good for learning the basics.

4. But, if you're really serious about gaining some first-rate military ops medical training and experience, join an Army National Guard or Reserve unit as a medic. They'll send you to Ft. Sam Houston for medical training. If you're prior service you may only get OJT.

Diseases And Immunizations

Some communicable diseases are exotic, and others not so exotic. Scarlet fever has been practically eradicated in the west, but I caught it in Asia and none of the American doctors working on me had ever seen it! They were all too young. Worse, many diseases our grandfathers built an immunity to, we are more susceptible to. Plus there are foreign strains of garden-variety communicable diseases which we, as civilized people from a major world power, have problems combating.

Traveling in most Third World countries, especially in the tropics/equatorial zones, you should have immunizations for Yellow Fever, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B (gammaglobulin), Typhoid, Tetanus, Smallpox, Polio, and also ask for a pneumococcal vaccination (pneumovax) and a meningococcal vaccination. You might also like to read up on neat diseases like Bilharzia (liver flukes), Beri Beri, Malaria, Cholera, Bubonic plague ... and my favorite, the dreaded FUO — Fever of Unknown Origin. A small, insignificant wound or even a scratch can get ugly in a day or two in a septic environment, especially in the tropics. If you're like me and don't have a spleen, you should be especially careful about coming down with septicemia. Meningococcal and pneumococcal vaccinations limit the risk. If you have a specialized medical condition make sure you have the required medicines and vaccinations.

You should always carry your immunization record with you. And guys, get your shots from Martin Army Hospital, Ft. Benning, Ga., transferred over to a new form PHS-731. It's really embarrassing to explain why your International Certificates of Vaccination is stamped off by Colonel J. Smith, M.D., U.S. Army, to some trigger-happy border guard when you have a Browning Hi Power and \$7,000 U.S. stashed in your gym bag. Don't ask, you don't want to know.



(above) This Contra soldier, with a gunshot to the shoulder in Nicaragua 1986, is in a bad way. The professional traveler/adventurer should be well aware that medicine in most parts of the world is primitive at best, and sometimes completely non-existent.

(right) The professional adventurer may find himself treating his own severe, painful injuries, such as this gunshot wound to the knee.

(below) If this exit gunshot wound to the forearm had been on the other side, there wouldn't be an elbow left. Proper equipment and training in the field is often the difference between losing and saving a limb.



Playing Village Doctor

In many areas of the world, the mere appearance of a Westerner means modern medical care because the only Westerners they've seen have been missionaries, Peace Corps, or various relief organizations all equipped to handle the usual village medical problems. Dosing sick children with badly needed antibiotics, etc., will make you a lot of friends quickly. Sometimes just handing out vitamins and aspirin is enough. I habitually carry (only outside the country, officer ...) Sudafed, Actifed, Motrin, Robaxin, Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Aspirin, Benadryl (oral and injectable), Lidocaine (use as a nerve block), Antibiotics (a good grab bag of meds like Tetracycline, Dicloxacillin, Erythromycin, Velosef, Keflex), and your suburban housewife medicine-cabinet variety "painkillers," such as Demerol, Darvon, etc. Note: If you don't know what these drugs are used for, you need to find out before you go anyplace where you might be solely responsible for your own medical care or that of others.

Medical Kits

A medical kit should also include (but not be limited to) alcohol swabs, tape, adhesive-tape, gauze, bandaids, sterile gauze

sponges, rolls of gauze bandages, gauze pads, Nitrofurazone sterile gauze pads, sutures, scalpel blades, rubber surgical tubing (use as a tourniquet, and for drainage), topical antibiotic ointments, compresses, triangular bandages, Ace-type bandages, and pressure dressings.

Basic hardware you'll need (even if you don't know how to use it, but maybe you can find someone who does): hemostat/forceps, tweezers, scissors, sutures with needles, syringes, and oral thermometer. Items like glucose and saline drips, catheters, burn packs, etc., are great if you have the skills to use them.

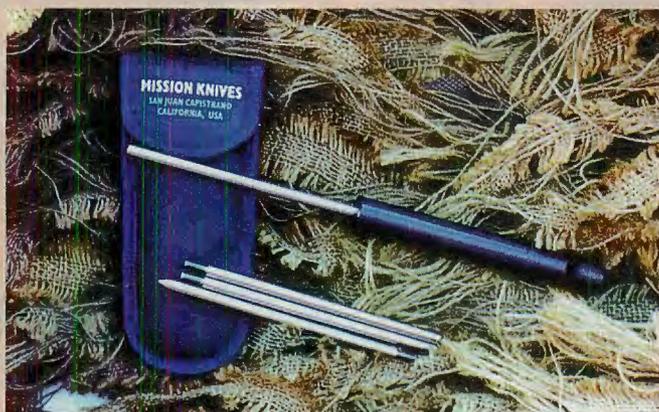
Preventive Medicine

Pay attention to that old cliché: "A ounce

Continued on page 90

Omega PRO VIN Gground

Mission Titanium Mine Probe



Landmines, those mindless little killers often as not carelessly sewn and left behind by mindless little cowards who don't even draw a map, account for far more non-combatant casualties (usually kids and subsistence farmers) than they do hostiles of any stripe.

Dumb-mines may be an effective area-denial weapon for keeping enemy troops out — but when some poor local (or his kids) has to dig in the dirt to avoid starvation, mines seldom dissuade: They only add amputation to his burden of starvation. Sooner or later someone other than those who have sewn the mines — as in, somebody with some guts — has to come in and painstakingly locate the little killers one at a time.

Even with available technology, this often comes down to a man with a probe — and if this is you, you might as well have the best there is. The all-titanium, non-magnetic probe from Mission Knife and Tool is 26" when assembled, and takes down to fit in a handy belt pouch. So precisely machined are the threads connecting the probe components, that there is no loss in sensitivity. This instrument is as good as it gets: If this is all there will be between you and an UXO, then this is the probe you want.

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

Colt AR-15-K Lockback

Named after their popular autoloading rifle, Colt's rugged AR-15-K tanto-blade lockback folder is a likely namesake — made from steel where appropriate, from precision-wrought aluminum alloy where appropriate, and advanced synthetic where appropriate.

The AR-15-K's 440 stainless steel blade is 3-1/4" long, with a stylized tanto geometry and a half-serrated lower edge. This is a good blade material, but 440 can be tricky to properly harden and heat treat. The sample came shaving-sharp and held a good edge, good indications those important details were properly managed. The blade is precisely wrought, polished then bead-blasted for a non-glare finish. Tanto blade geometry is probably strongest at the point of any traditional shape, and with a point that is sharpened down to nothing, it is built for penetration. The obvious hazard on strong thrusts is, the hand may override the blade to cause cutting of

flesh and gnashing of teeth by the user. Most fixed-blade knives obviate this with a full- or half-hilt or blade guard. Better-quality folders accomplish this to more or less a degree, through proper ergonomics of grip, or serrating the backstrap or spine of the blade.

On their AR-15-K, Colt has done both, and to good effect. The top forward portion of the grip scales are deeply but comfortably notched, and the rear-spine of the blade is notched ahead of the pivot point, up to where there is a distinct swell in the spine, against which the thumb rests. The other points of a secure grip, the shape of the grip scales and their texture, are also well managed on the AR-15-K. There is a distinct and somewhat angular palm swell, and just ahead of that a positive finger groove. The precisely made aluminum scales are coated with black Magna-grip rubber, and inlet into the port side are two panels of textured "live" rubber. The pos-



itive grip these features provide are exceeded only by the excellent esthetic. This writer has always held the traditional Bowie style to have the most pleasing esthetic of any knife, with tanto styles fairly well down our list — but this folding tanto is strikingly attractive.

Another important consideration in a folder intended for industrial-strength thrusting is that it not — as in *never* — fold up in use, as this can cost a bad cut or even a finger. The AR-15-K gets high marks here, too: With a nudge to the thumb-stud and a flick of the wrist the blade locks open with one hand, by a rugged and tight “Buck-style”

spine lock. Neither is there side play in the 1/8”-thick blade.

A spring clip on the starboard panel affords handy and secure attachment to your pocket, belt or LBE. There is a lanyard hole in the butt for working conditions conducive to loosing the tool. With a folded length of 4-9/16” and completely radiused edges, the AR-15-K is also readily pocketed.

Colt knives are distributed exclusively by United Cutlery, Dept. SOF, 1425 United Blvd., Sevierville, TN 37876; phone: 423-428-2532; fax: 423-428-2267.
— Don McLean

USSOCOM Sound Suppressor & Glock M21 .45 ACP Pistol

Designed by Doug Olson of Knight's Armament Company (KAC), the sound suppressor for the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) MK23 MOD 0 .45 CAL. ACP PISTOL, has recently been successfully modified for use on the Glock Model 21 full-size .45 ACP pistol. It represents the cutting edge of sound suppressor technology in all regards.

Constructed entirely from stainless steel with a black oxide finish, the KAC sound suppressor weighs only 1 pound (0.454 kg), with an outer diameter of 1.38 inches (35.0 mm). The overall length is 7.5 inches (191 mm).

The design is highly unusual. There are a total of five baffles, each of which is in the shape of a six-pointed star. The baffle stack does not fit flush within the suppressor body. Instead, dimples were formed in the suppressor body to keep the outer tube concentric with the baffle stack. The suppressor body has been welded to the baffle stack at each of these dimples. In addition to maintaining the proper alignment of the components, this physically ties the baffles to the outer tube and permits heat to transfer quickly to the suppressor body where it then dissipates into the atmosphere. There are also several important reasons for the clearance between the baffle stack and the inside of the suppressor body. The thin space between the baffle stack and the suppressor body allows gases to travel through, but not a flame. While this helps to eliminate the flash signature, most importantly, the more quickly you can extinguish the flame, the less gas the system has to deal with. And finally, structurally a tube within a tube is very strong, almost like a double-hulled ship.

An interesting feature of this sound suppressor is its ability to be loosened and then indexed to 10 different positions by means of an indexing cap with 10 indexing tabs that interlock to notches on the suppressor body. This permits the operator to move the shot group



obtained with the suppressor in place to within 2 inches of the unsuppressed shot group. With the suppressor firmly tightened on the barrel, an orientation mark on the suppressor body should be more or less upper-dead-center when commencing to index the suppressor to the sights with live-fire. Indexing the suppressor to change the point of impact takes only a few minutes.

The suppressor's indexing cap also provides a close-fitting and center-support bearing surface for the piston assembly at the rear of the suppressor body. It also acts as a buffering spring during final recoil of the suppressor. This piston assembly and an inner coil spring serve as an all-important “recoil booster.”

Attaching a sound suppressor to a locked-breech, short-recoil-operated pistol with a recoiling slide and barrel places an added mass, no matter how slight, on the rearward-moving components that may retard their rearward travel and result in an incomplete recoil cycle, with failures to properly eject empty cases (“stove pipes”) and failures to feed. To insure positive functioning, some

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The Hungry Dragon

The Cold War That Is Not Over

"Capitalists will sell us the very rope with which we will hang them."

— Vladimir Lenin

"Our present policy is to control, not eliminate, capitalism."

— Mao Zedong

"Hold out baits to entice the enemy, feign disorder, then crush him."

— Sun-tzu

"**D**ing-dong, the witch is dead!" As the Berlin Wall came tumbling down, liberals, and far too many conservatives, danced gleefully around the Maypole like so many starry-eyed Munchkins. The dreaded Red Menace was banished to the scrap heap of history. At long last, the Cold War was over. All was well with the world, and gosh, oh gee, communism was finished so we wouldn't even need a military anymore. In all the festivities celebrating the demise of the Russian Bear, only a few remembered that the Chinese Dragon was alive and growing.

Mao To Now

Before the Crusades, China was. Before the Norsemen, China was. Before the great pyramids of Egypt, China was. For thousands of years, China saw the rule of



numerous imperial dynasties. Then, at the beginning of the twentieth century, a tumultuous change swept the dynasties out and swept the roots of communism in.

In 1911, the *Kuomintang* (Nationalist Party) or KMT, was formed under the leadership of Sun Yat-sen. Although the KMT itself was not communist, it quickly attracted

the attention and support of Russia's Marxist-Leninists as well as China's own fledgling communist movement.

Finding the KMT not "left" enough, a new political party, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) burst forth in 1921. Both parties shared strong anti-imperialist views and, in 1924, joined forces in a United Front. However, after Sun's death the following year, a power struggle erupted between the new leader of the KMT, Chiang Kai-shek, and the CCP. As the anti-

by Richard L. Sherrow



The Cox Report describes W-88 warhead on the Trident II D-5 submarine-launched missile as "the most sophisticated nuclear weapon the United States has ever built" ... and according to the report probably the most sophisticated the Chinese have ever stolen!

Communist Chiang moved further to the right, he orchestrated a bloody purge of the communists from the China stage, and in doing so inadvertently created the agent of his own demise.

The exiled CCP moved underground and split into two groups. One faction, following the tenets of Moscow, believed that the success of the party lay in a ruling urban working class, controlled by the communist party. The other faction, headed by Mao Zedong, was convinced that the future of the CCP was a party made up of the rural proletariat, and in 1927 he formed the Red Army.

Fearing eventual destruction by Chiang and the KMT, Mao and his Red Army set out on what was to become the fabled 6,000-mile Long March. Just as the KMT forces were about to close and destroy what remained of Mao's army, Chiang halted operations in order to face a greater threat, World War II and the invading Japanese.

Again, the CCP and KMT joined forces — this time, against a foreign invader. As the war dragged on, the KMT found itself nearly decimated from its heavy combat with Japanese forces. The Red Army, on the other hand, confined its activities primarily to the mainland interior and thus was able to conserve itself and even grow much stronger. Following the war, in 1946, the Red Army evolved into the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and turned its attention back to its old antagonist, Chiang Kai-shek and his war-weakened KMT.

Very nearly destroyed by Mao and the PLA, Chiang and the ragtag remnants of the KMT were able, with U.S. Navy assistance, to escape Mainland China to the island of Taiwan where they are still considered as possessions by the CCP. This conviction was reinforced in 1971 when the leftist-leaning United Nations admitted Communist China and expelled Taiwan. In the years that followed, the PLA would grow to become the largest military force in the world, with a troop strength of approximately 3 million.

Adventures In Aggressionland

Although veterans of the Korean War are well aware of Chinese Communist aggression, the vast majority of Americans seem blissfully ignorant of past Chicom combat experience. The oft-repeated — and swallowed — party line is that China only resorts to military action in self-defense. Maybe that's why Mao, in his early days, murdered over 2 million fellow Chinese and the PRC today leads the world in capital punishment by executing over 3,000 undesirables a year.



Tim Sloan/AFP

President Clinton and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji hold a joint news conference last April, where they jointly denied the Chinese stole American nuclear weapons technology. Released less than two months later, The Cox Report belied these denials.



Reuters

While musing through “just wondering land” one can't help but wonder why China, with its deplorable human rights record, is constantly awarded Most Favored Nation trading status by the United States, while at the same time we insist on maintaining a ludicrous and counter-productive trade embargo on Cuba.

Korea: As United Nations forces pushed the invading North Korean army north toward the Yalu River, the Chicoms felt “threatened” and poured more than 300,000 “volunteer” troops across the Yalu, in support of their fraternal socialist brothers. This human wave tactic succeeded in sweeping the UN forces in front of it like an angry flood, until they [UN] could finally regroup and drive the PLA back to the 38th Parallel by a massive campaign of sustained superior firepower.

India: In October 1962, the long-standing Sino-Indian border dispute erupted into war when Chinese forces invaded northeastern India. After heated battles and world condemnation, the PLA retreated to the original borders.

Soviet Russia: Following the Sino-Soviet split, there were numerous armed border clashes between PLA and USSR troops along the common borders.



Jamal Wilson/Reuters

(above) Fired last March by Los Alamos National Laboratory, heart of U.S. nuclear weapons research, for allegedly giving China American war-head secrets, computer scientist Wen Ho Lee as he graduated from Taiwan's National Chengkung University in 1963. (left) CIA Director George Tenet (left) talks with Sen. Bob Kerry (D-Neb.) after 15 March session of Senate Intelligence Committee in wake of China spying scandal.

Vietnam: In the early years of the Vietnam War, China provided logistical support to the North Vietnamese communists. Following the 1968 death of Ho Chi Minh, North Vietnam drew the ire, and withdrawal of support, of the PRC when it climbed into bed with the USSR. After years of simmering hostility, aggravated by the fear of a USSR ally on its southern border, China declared a short-lived war with its 1979 invasion of Vietnam.

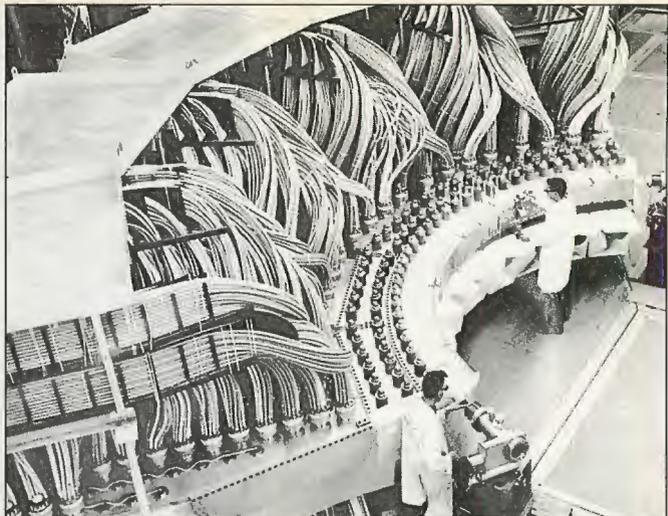
In a fairly failed attempt to extend its tentacles the PRC made numerous attempts at gaining inroads throughout the resource-rich African continent. During much of the 1960s and into the 1970s, China sought to spread the blanket of communism over numerous African nations. From Algeria to Zambia, minions of the PRC vied with Cuba and the former USSR for the hearts and minds of the Dark Continent. Angola, Egypt, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria all played host to the Beijing busybodies, as did Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. Of course, the PRC maintained that it only wanted to spread the word of communist enlightenment. It was probably only coincidental that China was lacking in certain strategic minerals, such as chrome, cobalt and vanadium. And, what a fluke, Africa just happened to be rich in chrome, cobalt and vanadium.

From the onset, Mao and his hardliners felt that all of China's ills were directly attributable to foreign (read European) influences. Despite this, the PRC knew that if it had any hope of advancing militarily and technologically, especially in the area of nuclear weaponry, it would have to align itself with Moscow.

The PRC Nuclear Program

China entered the elite nuclear club on 16 October 1964, with the detonation of a 20-kiloton implosion-type fission weapon, very similar to the U.S. "Fat Man" bomb dropped on Japan in World War II. In the early days of the 1950s, when the PRC was on speaking terms with the Soviets, Ivan was glad to provide Mao with early Soviet-design weapons technology. So it came as no surprise that the PRC's first nuclear weapons would bear a striking resemblance to U.S. designed devices, as their first weapons designs were provided by the USSR who had in turn stolen the design secrets from the fledgling U.S. nuclear weapons community at Los Alamos, New Mexico. *Déjà vu!*

This cooperation began to change in 1956 at the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union when Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev openly denounced former soviet strong



AEC/Newsweek

Los Alamos National Laboratory workers carry on nuclear research in this 1974 photo. FBI believes China has miniaturized its nuclear bombs using information stolen from Los Alamos.



Natalie Behring/Reuters

Policeman examines assortment of Chinese missiles, including Long March missile, perfected with stolen U.S. technology.

man Joseph Stalin. Khrushchev further infuriated the Chinese leadership by announcing that war with the hated West wasn't necessarily inevitable. Mao accused Khrushchev of betraying Marxist-Leninist ideals and the Sino-Soviet split developed.

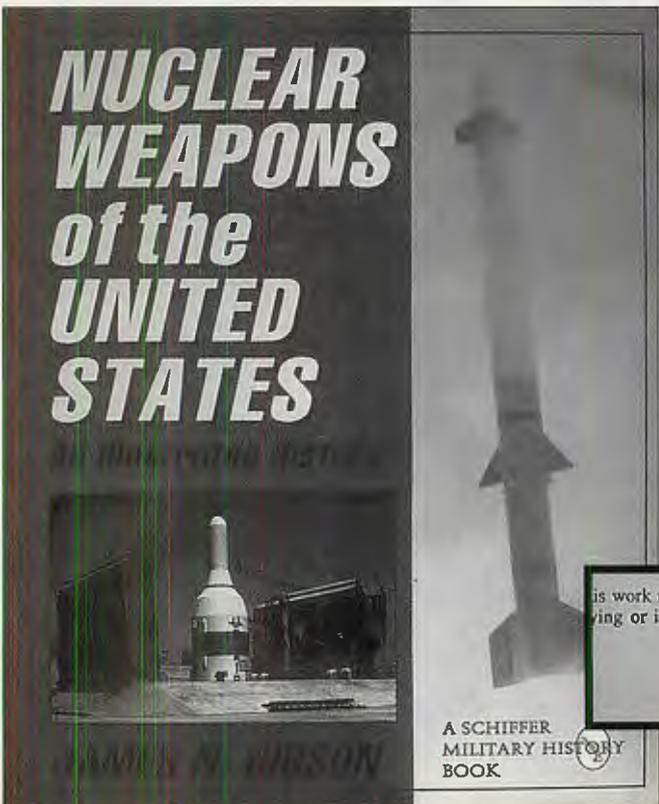
Soon, angry words were followed by numerous China-Russia border clashes. Needless to say, the flow of nuclear technology screeched to a halt. Not to be dissuaded, the Chicoms proceeded to get their nuke secrets the old fashioned way ... first they stole them from the Soviets and then set their sights on the U.S. arsenal.

The mushrooms continued to grow around the western Chinese test site at Lop Nor until finally, on 17 June 1967, the Chinese succeeded in shaking the world with the detonation of its first successful thermonuclear fusion weapon. As the fireball from this 3-megaton device burned its way through the atmosphere, the PRC knew it had arrived.

The Cox Report

If you liked *Year of the Rat*, you'll love The Cox Report. Hardly light material, the 1,016- page report is must reading. Officially titled, *Report of the Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns with*

courtesy, author



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Nuclear Weapons of the United States book cover (inset) ironically notes "Printed in China."

the People's Republic of China, the report details years of Chinese Communist espionage directed against the United States. [FYI: The Report can be pulled of the Internet at www.house.gov].

The accusations of theft of U.S. nuclear weapons secrets, as damaging as they are, are only the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Even though the report has been heavily redacted for security purposes the shocking contents, much of it ignored or glossed over by the mainstream media and pooh-poohed by most members of the Democratic Party, should cause every American's blood to boil.

Among the many high-points of data stolen by the PRC and covered in the report:

— The theft of Critical Nuclear Weapons Design Information (CNWDI) for no less than seven current thermonuclear systems, including:

W-56 Warhead for the Minuteman II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)

W-62 Warhead for the Minuteman III ICBM

W-70 Enhanced Radiation Warhead for the Lance Short-Range Ballistic Missile [note: The enhanced radiation warhead, or so-called neutron warhead, is ideal for attacking targets where the destruction of property or facilities is undesirable, but the destruction of living things (i.e. plants, animals or people) is acceptable ... *why does Taiwan come to mind?*]

W-76 Warhead for the Trident C-4 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile

W-78 Warhead for the Minuteman III (Mk 12A) ICBM

W-87 Warhead for the Peacekeeper ICBM

W-88 Warhead for the Trident D-5 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile [note: Compact nuclear warheads, such as the miniaturized W-88, would be especially useful for deployment on such weapons as the PLA's, 5,000-mile range, mobile ground-based DF-31 launchers and the PLAN's (PLA Navy) sub-



courtesy Al Venter

Then Chinese premiere Chou En-lai, being greeted by Tanzanian leftist President Julius Nyerere (June 1965).

marine-launched, 7,500-mile-range, Julang 2 (Great Wave)]

— The theft of specific guidance technology on current and past U.S. weapons systems, including:

The U.S. Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)

The U.S. Navy Stand-off Land Attack Missile-Extended Range (SLAM-ER)

The U.S. Navy F-14 Tomcat fighter jet

The U.S. Air Force F-15, F-16 and F-117 fighter jets

— The misapplication and illegal modification or upgrading of legally procured High Performance Computers (HPCs). Often referred to as "supercomputers," these high-tech machines can be invaluable in many military



(left and inset) MGM-52 Lance surface-to-surface guided missile and launch. (right) U.S. Army TACTical Missile System (ATACMS), An extended-range missile designed to be fired from the MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) which will ultimately replace the Lance.

U.S. Army

COSCO's Kalashnikovs

On 18 March 1996, agents of the U.S. Customs Service and Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms made the largest seizure of fully automatic weapons in U.S. law enforcement history. Some 2,000 AK-47 type firearms, along with nearly 4,000 30-round magazines had been smuggled into Oakland, California, aboard the COSCO (China Ocean Shipping Company) ship, the *Empress Phoenix*.



Although quickly hushed-up by Clinton administration officials, the seizure marked the culmination of a 16-month investigation of high-ranking officials of Polytech and Norinco — both People's Republic of China/People's Liberation Army-controlled munitions manufacturing corporations.

The weapons consisted of 1,001 Norinco Type 56 full-stock and 999 Type 56-1 folding-stock, selective-fire assault rifles. The weapons bore both Chinese (Norinco) and North Korean markings. Included with the guns were nearly 4,000 30-round magazines.

Hammond Ku, one of those arrested, told undercover agents, who posed as criminals, that he could have future shipments of guns factory stamped anyway the buyers wanted. With serial numbers or without. These, he said, could be sold to "gangbangers."

In addition, the Chinese representatives offered for future sales: Chinese "Red Parakeet" shoulder-fired, surface-to-air guided mis-

siles, Chinese copies of UZI submachineguns and M16 full-auto assault rifles, heavy machine guns, hand grenades and land mines. Among the prices quoted were:

1. 60mm Mortar @ \$1,300 ea.
(Mortar ammo, \$30 ea.)
2. RPG-7 Rocket Launcher @ \$800 ea.
(Rockets, \$30 ea.)
3. Type 79 Machine gun @ \$350 ea.
4. Type 82 Hand Grenade @ \$12 ea.
5. Type 82 Recoilless Rifle @ \$5,000 ea.
(Ammo, \$200 ea.)
6. Type 85 Silenced Machine gun @ \$400 ea.

All weapons were to be shipped from the Norinco factory in Dalian, China to Oakland. If the "client" desired it, future shipments could be made via Cambodia, the Philippines, Africa, or basically any port desired.

Following the seizure and arrests, COSCO and the PRC naturally denied any involvement. However, it's hard to conceive of an operation of this scope taking place in the PRC in which high-ranking Chinese Communist Party officials were totally in the dark. Further, contrary to the Chinese and their American apologists, this was definitely not a one-time occurrence. Among the PRC's numerous arms transgressions, the previous year, yet another COSCO container was intercepted. This one labeled, "fishing rod racks," contained 20,000 AK-47 bipods.

Despite continual moves by the Clinton gang to keep China's criminal activities quiet, the list continues to grow. If any other country or group were pulling off actions such as we are seeing with the Chicoms, there would be hell to pay. But, then again, it always helps to have Most Favored Nation trading status.

Who says major political contributions don't pay off?

— R.L.S.

applications. From designing to theoretical function testing of thermonuclear weapons, to developing reliable and accurate ballistic and cruise missiles, to myriad other military uses.

Although U.S. export regulations specifically ban those HPCs powerful enough for military applications, there has been no question that the PRC has either circumvented the laws or illegally modified and upgraded the HPCs they obtained from U.S. firms. Additionally, the PRC steadfastly refuses to honor required "end-user" inspections of the questioned HPCs to verify that they have not been modified or upgraded to exceed export agreed upon performance specifications.

— An abysmal lack of security concern or procedures displayed by U.S. satellite contractors at PRC rocket launch sites. As one Loral Company program manager told a Department of Defense monitor, "Security was ninth on my list of priorities."

To meet the requirements of launch site security, companies such as Loral and Hughes contract with private rent-a-cop security guards who committed, among other infractions:

Sleeping on the job (one guard even reported to work carrying a sleeping bag)

Reporting to work under the influence of alcohol

Making racial and gender slurs towards PRC nationals in the local village

Making bus trips into town to meet prostitutes (A Defense Department monitor indicated that the problem was so bad that he was approached by a PRC foreign affairs officer who complained that one of the guards had been caught hustling a hooker in front of the local police station.)

From Supercomputers To COSCO (China Ocean Shipping Company)

From night-vision devices to nuclear weapons secrets, the Clinton administration's stonewalling replies to the allegations of *The Cox Report* sound like the same tired old broken record: "The Clinton administration has determined that additional information concerning [fill in the blank] that appears in the Select Committee's classified Final Report cannot be made public without affecting national security."

Meanwhile, the PRC continues to parrot the party line, "We do not engage in nuclear proliferation, nor help others to develop nuclear weapons." *Riiight*. And Bill Clinton never had sexual relations with that woman.

So what does happen if a spy is caught passing on classified material to the enemy? If the case of Peter Lee is any example, this country is in deep shit. Lee, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Taiwan, was employed at Los Alamos National Laboratory from 1984 to 1991, and by TRW, Inc. as a contractor to Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, from 1973 to 1984, and again from 1991 to 1997. In 1997, he pleaded guilty to passing classified U.S. defense material to the People's Republic of China, and to falsifying reports of his contacts with PRC agents. The material in question consisted of data, which would enable the PRC to detect our previously invulnerable nuclear submarines underwater. And if this weren't enough, Lee also provided PRC nuclear weapons scientists with detailed instructions on creating nuclear fusion micro-explosions. This is of particular importance in allowing the test firing of "miniature" nuclear explosions to test weapons performance without drawing unwanted attention from outside monitors.

And what was Mr. Lee's punishment for his treasonous actions? Considering that he faced decades in jail and tens of thousands of dollars in fines one would think that, at the very least, he would languish in a federal prison until Bill Clinton lost his sex drive. Think again. Try 12-months in a halfway house, a \$20,000 fine and a few thousand hours community service!

So, what lies in store? In some circles, there is increased speculation that China may begin lobbing nukes our way. One PRC official recently quipped, "Was Los Angeles worth

China National Cereals, Oils, Foodstuffs Import and Export Corporation (COFCO) located in Phoenix, Arizona — example of growing push to infuse Chinese economic power base into every aspect of American life. Under the umbrella of the PRC's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC), COSCO's international operations extend far beyond the benign sounding, "cereals, oils and foodstuffs" into manufacturing of packaging materials, warehousing and transportation, hotel management and real estate development.

Taiwan?" Frankly, I really doubt that we need to start ducking. The fact is, what Americans fear even more than the roar of a Chinese nuclear weapon detonating over L.A., is the silencing of the bell on Wall Street. China is already in a position to bring this nation to its knees, without firing a shot. It won't take pushing a launch button, just threatening the dreaded "E" word ... *Embargo*. Americans have become so dependent on Chinese exports that they would gladly sell their souls and give up their first born to keep the cash registers ringing.



Author

Of course, if the PRC did have a yen (no pun intended) to see a few U.S. cities glow in the dark why waste a valuable ICBM? It would be much simpler to just stick a few pirated nukes onto a COSCO ship bound for Long Beach or San

Francisco. From there the entire U.S. lies just a truck or train trip away.

This past Memorial Day, as I was driving through the small southwestern town of Safford, Arizona, I noticed that, even though most of the stores were closed, the local Wal-Mart was open. On a whim I went in for a look-around. I soon found that I couldn't buy an American flag, they didn't carry them, you see, but I could buy any number of items stamped, "Made in China." God bless America.

For those who fear that the "New World Order" is some dark political conspiracy, get over it. Big business, not big politics, will ring the ultimate death knell of the Republic. This attitude is well-exemplified in comments made to ABC News by Mark Schweig, international strategy and development chief for Lucent Technologies, "We don't take sides or favor a political position. Our judgments are based upon business merit and business objectives. In China we have all kinds of partners." Unfortunately, Mr. Schweig's comments are not unique to Lucent Technologies. Rather, they represent the steady erosion of moral values in this nation that put profit over patriotism (and, no, it isn't a dirty word). Remember, the People's Republic of China has never made any bones about it; they consider the United States their enemy — no amount of "bottom line" is going to change that.

Former Army EOD technician Richard L. Sherrow is SOF's Contributing Editor for Forensic Sciences. ☒

U.S. Army



W-70 Enhanced Radiation (Neutron) Warhead for the U.S. Army Lance surface-to-surface Short Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM).

U.S. Army



"Fat Man," United States' first nuclear weapon, yielding approximately 20 kilotons.

U.S. Army



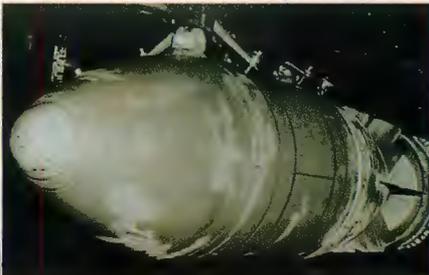
RDS-1, USSR's first nuclear weapon, 20 Kiloton yield. Note similarity to U.S. "Fat Man." This is also most likely the first nuclear design weapon to be employed by the PRC.

U.S. Army



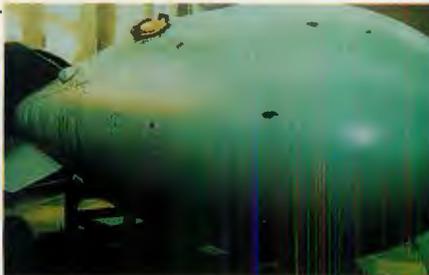
USSR's first production tactical nuclear weapon. In service from 1954 to 1965, with yield of 30 kilotons. Note similarity to U.S. Mk 90 depth bomb.

U.S. Army



U.S. Mk 90 "Betty" nuclear anti-submarine depth bomb.

U.S. Army



USSR's and the World's first hydrogen bomb, detonated 12 August 1953; yield 400 kilotons.

by Carson A. Nightwine, Jr.

Narco Offensive

FARC Guerrillas Throw Colombia Into Chaos

Photos courtesy author

In the misty half-light of early morning in the eastern mountains of Colombia, the heavily armed unit leaders meet with the *Jefe* to report their actions over the past two days. The FARC *comandante* greets them all with an embrace and repeated pats on the back, as he feels the operation was a success. *Comandante* Henry "Romana" Castellanos has proved his tactical prowess time and time again against the government of Colombia. During the first week of July, he added another notch to the wooden stock of

his brand-new Chicom AK-47. The Colombian Army's 13th Brigade had felt the guerrillas' growing power and Romana's closed fist. He had infiltrated between 600 and 800 fighters as close as 15 miles from Bogota for this operation. The summer offensive for the FARC had reached its high water mark. But as time would show, it wasn't over yet.

Major Andy Messing, U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.), has been studying the war in Colombia for more than two decades. In particular, he has studied the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) up close and personal for the past 15 years and has correctly predicted its growth and strength. Unfortunately, his predictions have been all-too-accurate and, more disturbing,

they've been ignored by the Clinton White House for the past seven years.

Messing is the executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based National Defense Council Foundation, which studies low-intensity conflicts worldwide. He authored a 1997 report on Colombia and the narcoguerrilla nexus that was sent to the U.S. Congress. As a result, assistance will be pouring into this troubled Andean nation soon, in the form of weapons, tactical training, high-tech intelligence equipment and the narcoguerrillas' worst nightmare: The new Black Hawk helicopters that have been promised for three years.

"Look, the FARC is for real," Messing says. "These guys are hardcore fighters. They are a very real threat to Panama,

Soldiers and policemen murdered by the FARC. Once wounded and out of ammunition, they surrendered. FARC guerrillas doused them with gasoline and burned them alive. Some of these troops were castrated by the FARC.



Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador. They have international connections. Their command and control apparatus had been grossly underestimated. They have hundreds of millions of dollars from the drug trade. These guys have been fighting for nearly 35 years, they've had plenty of time and now, the money, to work out the kinks in their system. They've learned how to win. Hey, what do you expect?"

Simultaneous to Romana's action south of Bogota, 50 other attacks occurred throughout the country, throwing the government into near chaos. Small, isolated police barracks of 20 or so cops were assaulted, as well as larger bases. "They were fighting for their lives all over the country. The Military Command Center in Bogota lit up like a Christmas tree," reports a DEA agent at the U.S. Embassy.

The seven-member leadership junta of the FARC was well pleased. Their reports were glowing. They had forced the army to call up all its reserves, and martial law had been declared in most of the provinces. Simply put: The Republic of Colombia was at war with itself. Obviously, the FARC had accomplished its goal because its members refused to go into already planned negotiations a week later. The Pastrana government was humiliated in front of the entire world due to all the public relations hoopla of the expected peace process.

In assessing the situation, Major Messing has met with the highest levels of the military and National Police. He evaluated the current U.S. position on assistance to Colombia and said: "With what I'm hearing from the U.S. State Department, I'm not very optimistic at this point. They'll probably wait until the last minute to act on common sense recommendations from as far back as three years ago. By then, it may be too late."

Converging Events

As Romana celebrated his victory within the shadow of the capitol, Bogota, other forces were at work. The summer offensive had knocked the central government off balance. Recent disclosures of Colombia's inability to obtain foreign loans and soaring inflation didn't help matters for President Pastrana's floundering government.

Just two weeks earlier, combined fronts of the FARC had engaged the Colombian Army's 11th Brigade in northeast Colombia, killing at least 40 soldiers in one of their best counterinsurgency battalions. "This had not been a good two weeks for the army. I think we are seeing the future right now," remarked an experienced DEA Special Agent at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, "and it's looking rather dark. As long as the narcoguerrillas can do things like this, fighting the drug war will be very, very difficult."

Bloody Aftermath

When the smoke cleared on 14 July, nearly 50 Colombian Army soldiers and 43 policemen were dead, more than 85 wounded and nearly 30 missing. The FARC had

more than 200 gunmen killed, the Army claimed. (No proof was offered of this so-called body count by the Colombian Ministry of Defense.) By the end of July, government casualties would have doubled.

The leadership of the Colombian Army hailed the performance of their fighting men and promised that the narcoguerrillas had been "hurt terribly." Three days later, the FARC struck again in the southeast at Puerto Lleras, killing nine policemen and 10 civil-

ians. No more than 80 miles away in Puerto Rico, another Colombian National Police station was attacked, killing three and wounding six policemen. Another strike took place in northwest Colombia, killing 12 more policemen. An Army security patrol in Bogota was ambushed, killing six soldiers.

"When you put this all together and look at the total picture, it doesn't add up to what the U.S. State Department is saying. It does add up to a lot of good cops and soldiers



Colombian National Police officers use a mine detector to check the body of a dead soldier for booby traps. The FARC has been very successful in creating more government casualties by this method.



getting killed," says longtime Colombia observer Jack Sweeney of The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank in Washington, D.C.

Retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel Larry Underwood offered an interesting perspective on these events in Colombia. "If you look back at the insurgencies in the past century, there are plenty of lessons that haven't been learned in dealing with Colombia's problems today." Underwood, one of the Marine Corps' top helicopter pilots who had served in counterinsurgency assignments with ANGLICO, is speaking from experience. "The necessity for rapid tactical mobility (air mobile operations) has been nearly ignored. Command and control issues are given short shrift and inter-service operability is lacking. I'm surprised the government is doing as well as they are. I know their soldiers and policemen are brave, but they can't survive on courage alone. This past FARC offensive proves it."

FARC Leadership

The mastermind of this and other narcoguerrilla offensives is a character who calls himself "Mono Jojoy." "His real name is Jorge Briceño Suarez, and he's risen up through the ranks of the FARC leadership in the past 35 years because he's crafty, clever and brutal ... and he's survived," asserts Messing. Long-known for his bragging and grandstanding about what the FARC could do, Mono Jojoy's predictions in the past are nearing reality. "Look, this guy was thought to be a windbag, but today, he's looking mighty smart. The tactical results speak for themselves. Give the devil his due ... this guy hasn't lost any battles. His prediction that



he'll be operating out of Bogota in two years isn't far-fetched," says Major Messing.

"The narcoguerrillas ranging throughout northern South America are the bogeymen of the future" says Lt. Col. Underwood. "The recent attacks in Colombia have proven that without a question," says Messing, who has studied narcoterrorism and its effect on Colombia. It's the next conflict for the United States, say most Latin

Colombian Army and National Police officers examine wreckage of a police barracks destroyed by the FARC in the southeastern town of Puerto Rico. Out of a barracks of 24 policemen, three were KIA, six WIA and four are missing. They fought for seven hours against 300 narcoguerrillas. "Look, the FARC is for real," says Major Andy Messing, U.S. Army Special Forces (Ret.). "These guys are hardcore fighters. They are a very real threat to Panama, Venezuela, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador."



American experts, backing up the former Green Beret's gloomy prediction.

"First off, you've got to understand what these narcoguerrillas really are," says Messing. "They are terrorists, not revolutionaries. The rebel tag that the liberal, Ivy League, intellectual sorts would try to label them is just disinformation." Messing's views are a result of firsthand experience. The results of these fact-finding trips were presented to the U.S. Congress, prompting Congressional hearings and full-scale investigations.

"The very same findings were submitted to the Clinton administration, at State Department and at the National Security Council. However, they were ignored," Messing says. "We tried our best to hold a wake-up call, but Haiti, Somalia, Iraq, Lewinsky and the Balkan expeditions got in the way. Now look at what we face."

Messing's fact-finding teams don't spend any time in five-star hotels. "My folks are in the field looking at what's going on, at the point of conflict," he declares. "If you spend all your time at a general's headquarters, you get to hear what the staff 'weenies' have to tell you and you don't get to see much. But you do get to drink a lot of that good Colombian coffee, and listen to BS."

Analysis Of The Offensive

"Plain and simple: There is a war going on down there, and the narcoguerrillas, as of this reporting, are not losing. They've won in the field ... now they are winning at the peace table," states Messing. "These so-called peace 'negotiations' that don't exist are a result of clear narcoguerrilla victories, nothing else.

The offensives launched in 1998 — first in March, then in May, and later in August — clearly proved what the FARC were up to. The FARC actions of this past spring and summer prove that the narcoguerrillas have the momentum. "The events of the past year are a clear indication that the security forces are behind the eight ball, and the narcoguerrillas have the big 'MO.' In the past seven years, the Clinton administration and the U.S. Embassy in Bogota have turned a blind eye to this plight," say a team of U.S. Congressional aides who returned from a recent fact-finding mission to Colombia.

"This recent FARC offensive was not a 'come as you are party'; it was a well-planned, well-coordinated and well-executed operation with numerous tactical and strategic objectives," says Colonel Robin Johnson, II, USMC (Ret.), who managed many tactical training missions to Colombia at the USMC's Coalition and Special Warfare Center, located at Quantico, Va. "Being able to mass numerous fronts and conduct raids and sustained operations for as long as a week, showed us a lot about their capabilities. These guerril-



NDCF members interview some of the survivors of the FARC attack on Puerto Lleras (200 miles SE of Bogota), where nine policemen were killed. Puerto Lleras is considered a government victory, as reports indicate the narcoguerrillas took heavy casualties, while the police and army held out against overwhelming odds.

las are for real. We haven't seen anything like this since Vietnam," he continued.

"After the FARC had departed the battlefield, it became clear that they had first-class equipment and some very good training," Major Messing says. "The captured AK-47s and M16s were in top condition. A set of night-vision goggles were deemed 'brand new' by an Army Special Forces officer. Spent rocket launcher canisters from M-72 LAWs were strewn everywhere. Unexploded RPG rounds were also found. Innovative weapons, such as large gas canisters used as mortars and demolition packages, were used," he continued. "There was very little found at the scene that was used for Colombian military intelligence purposes. No

maps or documents were discovered. These fighters were well-disciplined and prepared. They were like some of the best FMLN we saw in El Salvador ... except so many more of them. The FARC can probably put close to 18,000 fighters in the field, maybe more. This is way above the numbers our U.S. intelligence organizations predicted."

The Future

As the clock continues to tick down to the year 2000, the eyes of the western hemisphere are looking at Colombia. More than 80 percent of the drugs that come into the United States originate there. The United States has a big part in this worsening situation, which President Clinton's drug czar, Gen. Barry McCaffrey, calls "a real emergency." The future is not bright: The narcoguerrillas are growing stronger and peace is no closer than it was when President Pastrana took office more than a year ago. "We would do well to remember that this 'emergency' didn't just happen overnight, General McCaffrey. And the drug trade isn't going away," contends Major Messing.

Contributing correspondent Carson A. Nightwine Jr. has written a continuing series of articles on the narcoguerrilla conflict in Colombia and how it affects the western hemisphere.

Editor's note: For more information on the programs, studies and fact-finding missions of the National Defense Council Foundation (NDCF), write NDCF, 1220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; Email: ndcf@erols.com; website: www.ndcf.org



The handwriting is on the wall: FARC may be the most serious guerrilla threat since the North Vietnamese. This was scribbled by FARC guerrillas after they overran the mayor's office in Puerto Rico.

AL-7: Secret Weapon Of The Cold War



Russia's Answer To The M16

Text & Photos by Valery N. Shilin



Youriy Alexanrov's AL-7 assault rifle, right-hand view, stock extended. (below) AL-7, left-hand view, stock folded.

In the '60s the U.S. Army adopted the new 5.56x45mm cartridge, considered by the Soviets as a serious challenge. *Izhmash*, a leading design center and manufacturer of firearms for the Soviet army, was commissioned to research a new "5.45x39mm round and weapon" — and to do comparative studies of this rifle and round *vis-à-vis* the new American arms and ammo. A young and promising arms designer named Youriy Alexandrov was appointed project engineer. The army recommended the AKM be the basic model for this experiment.

Alexandrov endeavored not only to adapt the proven AK design to the new ammunition, but also to improve its design with a mechanism to decrease muzzle jump, substantially enhancing controllability and hit probability. The AL-7, as the new weapon was designated, turned out to be a serious competition to the AK assault rifles. Designed in 1969, experimental and research work continued for a few more years until the weapon

passed all required tests, the project being completed on 22 May 1972. The first iteration of the AL-7 was externally very similar to an AKM. Later modifications, with synthetic stock components,

acquired a more appealing esthetic.

The weapon successfully underwent all tests and showed an effectiveness of fire better than the Army-issue weapon by 1.2 - 1.5 fold. Simultaneously, Alexandrov did research and practical work on matching a "weapon + ammunition" combination with the view of enhancing accuracy, technological efficiency and barrel life.

Although the Soviet army ultimately preferred to keep the well-tested and better-known designs by Kalashnikov, specialists acknowledge that the AL-7 blazed the trail for development of the new AK-74 chambered for the 5.45x39mm round, which Mikhail Kalashnikov completed in 1974.

AL-7 SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	5.45 x 39 mm
Operation:	Selective fire, from closed-bolt
Cyclic rate:	850 to 900 rpm
Feed:	fiberglass-reinforced polyamide 30-round, detachable box
Weight, empty (without mag):	3.06 kg
Weight of magazine, (empty):	0.20 kg
Length, overall:	930 mm
Barrel:	four-groove with right-hand twist of one turn in 240mm
Barrel length:	430 mm
Sights:	rear sight with square notch. Round, post-type front sight with protective ears; adjustable for windage and elevation zero
Number of components:	105 pcs
Number of components common to the AK:	83 pcs
Finish:	black phosphate
Furniture:	black fiberglass-reinforced polyamide pistol grip
Manufacturer:	Izhmash JSC, Dept. SOF, 3 Derjabin St., 426006, Izhevsk, Russia
Voice & fax:	011-7-3412-78-40-16
Status:	Experimental limited edition

Stoli And Rainwater With The Quiet Russian

Were I to characterize Youriy Alexandrov, I would borrow Graham Greene's well-known book title, *The Quiet Russian*. To an outsider, who does not know Youriy intimately, he really gives an impression of being very quiet — never raising his voice, his intonations somewhat flat and low.

Youriy Konstantinovich Alexandrov was born 22 November 1934 in the village of Ust-Kout, Irkutsk District, Russia. His father, Konstantin, was killed in WWII. His mother, Nina, worked as an accountant in a hospital.

Completing secondary school in 1952, Youriy entered the Leningrad Institute of Military Mechanics, graduating in 1958 as an engineer. That same year he came to work at Izhmash, in the Department of the Chief Arms Designer, where he immediately became involved, as a member of Evgeniy Dragunov's team of engineers, in the development of an auto-loading sniper rifle, adopted in 1963 as the SVD.

In 1963, Youriy Alexandrov carried out a number of engineering projects to create new systems of automatic rifles and to enhance effectiveness of fire.

Since 1974, being Deputy Chief Arms Designer, he has played an active role in facilitating production of the AK-74 and AKS-74 weapons, and in improving production efficiency by developing progressive manufacturing methods. He was awarded the title "Laureate of the Premium of the Council of Ministers of the USSR" for developing synthetic components and parts for various firearms.

In recent years he participated in designing a number of products for the commercial market, such as the "Tiger" and "Saiga" hunting weapons.

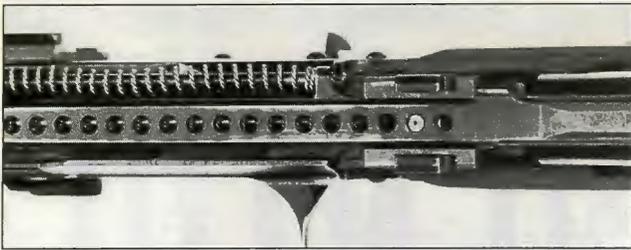
For his achievements in the design and manufacture of the Dragunov sniper rifle and the AK-74, Alexandrov was awarded the "Order of The Red Banner" and the "Order of the Token of Honor."

I had the privilege of meeting a different Youriy Alexandrov after I had worked with him for many years at Izhmash. This discovery came unexpectedly: In the fall several years ago, both of us, along with a few other engineers, had to take part in a field demonstration firing, arranged for the Army bosses outside Izhevsk. The weather was terrible, cold wind with pouring floods of rain and not a chance to find a comfortable, dry place to hide. Cursing the weather and the generals, I was surprised how calm Youriy was. "Take it easy, Val," he said, "when the show is over, I'll get you a drink so you don't catch cold."

I thought he didn't mean it, only saying it to brace me up a little. I was wrong. With the shooting over and the Big Bugs gone in a jeep, Youriy vigorously rubbed his hands, got a bottle of "Stoli," two bulbs of onion and a loaf of rye bread from his backpack. "Qualified for a quick one, guys?" he asked teasingly. We never waited for the second invitation. Very soon glasses were found and filled, the bread was sliced with a bayonet and heaped with peeled onions. With an army raincoat spread on the wet grass for a table cloth, Youriy directed the process. It was for the second time in that same day I was surprised with him. He looked absolutely different from the man everybody was used to seeing in his office. Now, with there being a good company to talk to, somebody got a second bottle, and a third.

Despite the weather, the conversation rolled on in warm progress. I had a peculiar sensation, as if suddenly I hit upon an interesting book which had always been on my shelf but I never bothered to open and read. It was a book of stories of men with women and of men without women, drinks and fights, hunting luck and failures. Inevitably, it ended up with arms and the stories from the life of famous designers — the intimate details known to very few people. In that memorable get together I realized how respected Youriy was by his work mates. Later, in the Designing Bureau, which I frequently visited, I came to know more about Alexandrov and his professional achievements.

— V.S.



Top view of upper rail (above) engaged with bolt carrier, by means of synchronizing sprocket. (below) Top cover features pronounced semicircular transverse ribs and is fixed to the receiver by means of a lever at its rear. The rear sight is fixed to the top cover and has an unusual dual function: It also the locking device for the front of the receiver cover.



Fully developed, the AL-7 requires only a client. "Looking at the issue from the point of view of a possibility of its mass production and cost effectiveness, AL-7 practically poses no problem," said Vitaliy Kozlov, senior process engineer of the Izhmash Arms Factory. "The full package of technical documentation is available, the firearm got all required certificates of compliance with the Russian Army standards. Why not?"

Construction And Standard Operation

As seen from the specs and photos, the AL-7 has considerable exterior resemblance to AK assault rifles. The differences are few, but significant. The top cover features pronounced semicircular transverse ribs for rigidity, and is fixed to the receiver by means of a lever at the rear. The ejection port is slightly different from an AK. The most evident difference is that the rear sight is fixed to the top cover and has a dual function: In addition to its basic purpose of aiming the rifle, it works as the element which locks the top cover to the upper part of receiver. The top handguard is somewhat shorter than the AK's. The steel gas cylinder cover extends from the upper handguard to the front-sight block. Otherwise, the gun looks very much like an AK-74.

Continued on page 92



Main parts and assemblies of the AL-7: 1 — top cover with rear sight, 2 — gas tube with steel cover, 3 — upper rail with gas piston, synchronizing sprocket and return spring, 4 — bolt carrier with gas piston, 5 — return mechanism of bolt carrier, 6 — bolt, 7 — barrel with receiver, stock and hand-guard, 8 — trigger and trigger mechanism, 9 — magazine.

opposed to the West's theoretical ability to put human back-up on-line on short notice. And any system that would be most likely to affect the daily life of a typical European is more likely to be a recently installed system, especially in Central Europe, and therefore most likely to be Y2K compliant at the time of installation.

The Non-Compliant, Nonchalant Bear

There is, however, a notable and distressing exception: The first widespread use of computers in the former USSR was military. According to their own state Ministry on Communications and Information Technology, the agency in charge of tending to this urgent matter, only 22% of the Russian Defense Ministry's computers were ready for Y2K as of late winter.

The Ministry had compiled a list of priority systems still at risk from the "millennium bug" and submitted proposals to fund a trials process, as the agency had run out of rubles to do its job. (There has been speculation that this may be merely another ploy for grants of Western cash to squander or divert, as in, "If you don't give us enough money to correct this problem, our ICBMs are likely to launch at you on 31 Dec 99 ... and without cash we cannot be responsible.") Is there a real danger there? Of course the Russians would like to fleece the West out of more fright financing, but were it granted (and not diverted), it probably would be used for badly needed computer



courtesy Atom Magazine

Most widespread early use of computers in Russia was military, and these older systems may be problematic; other former Warsaw Pact countries have mostly upgraded hardware and software, as part of NATO entry requirements. Civilian systems are mostly new, and Y2K-compliant when built.

upgrades, not Y2K-compliance safety work. In other words, it is doubtful if much of their existing hardware would accept the software for needed Y2K-compliance upgrades, and the really old hardware is thought not to be vulnerable to the problem of two-digit dates.

More than 15 years ago this writer had occasion to interview a former CIA operative whose primary job had been to locate, then buy or steal and "export" Russian military computers through Czechoslovakia and into Austria. My interest had been

piqued as to what they might have, that we would want to steal: "Nothing," he told me with a wink. "We don't need to know what they know — we want to know what they don't know." Having been raised on the idea the "Iron Curtain" was more or less a true barrier, it was amusing to learn that the only problem associated with this job was finding enough genuine Maria Theresa dollars or gold coins to pay bribes, as border officials all along the way were readily agreeable, but wanted no part of local script, and needed payola in a form they could logically claim they got from their grandmother, or some other local, legitimate source.

It was not until the 1980s, after all, that IBM was awarded a contract to computerize utility billings for the city of Moscow, then capital of the sprawling Soviet Union. In a nation where civilian infrastructure has never received emphasis, and where conditions are in such a state that the Navy periodically gets its electricity turned off for not paying the bills, infrastructure problems caused by Y2K probably won't even be noticeable. Empty store shelves and long lines are a Russian tradition, not something likely to cause riots. Glitch-induced military paranoia, or the possibility of another Chernobyl, are the Russian Y2K problems other Europeans seem most concerned over.

Central And Western Attitudes

What about the part of Europe that has real interest and not merely nuisance value?

Ragnar's Rocky-Mountain Readiness

Survivalist/independent-living guru Ragnar Benson was raised on a subsistence farm, trapping winter food and working the summer for neighbors who lived self-reliance. He has spent years in undeveloped areas of Africa and Asia, learning from people for whom survival is not a Y2K consideration, but a way of life. He has authored many books: *Survival Poaching, Live Off The Land — City And The Country, Man Trap, Survivor's Medicine Chest, Ragnar's Eating Cheap, Survival Retreat, Ragnar's 10 Best Traps, Hard Core Poaching*, and others. Readers can contact him through Paladin Press, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306. SOF's Tom Reisinger interviewed Benson in his Rocky Mountain redoubt via telephone, for his thoughts on Y2K:

SOF: *What precautions are you taking for Y2K?*

RB: I live on a remote mountain top, in such a style that everything could crash for a year and I wouldn't have to do anything abnormal. I think Y2K is a major consider-

ation and have done a lot of reading, have listened to Jim Lord — one of the major gurus on it in that field — and to computer techies, and concluded that it is going to have impact, but we don't know where or how. I can't predict the impact from Y2K, but I think there will be one. Were I really pressed to make a prediction, it would be that probably the government is going to have the problems.

SOF: *Some nations in S.E. Asia are into their fiscal year 2000 and I've not heard of significant problems. Have you?*

RB: No. One benchmark was, these problems would start on 1 July. We've passed that, and the problems are not showing up. One phenomenon I find interesting is that while most survivalist-type people are taking a low-profile and are not talking about it much anymore, the mainstream media now seems to be.

SOF: *I recall when the media tossed it off as crying wolf — that no longer appears to be the case?*

RB: It doesn't seem to be. CNN had a

special, on France, I think, and they commented about French computers being especially subject to Y2K crashes. Now, how that might spread here, we don't know.

SOF: *Could public perception, as opposed to real problems, contribute to chaos?*

RB: Could be. We will have to wait and see if, for example, there is a run on banks.

SOF: *You are not taking significant steps aside from normal precautionary measures?*

RB: The only thing I did was buy another diesel tractor to run a generator so I have double redundancy; now I have two diesel tractors and two generators.

SOF: *What steps would you advise for people in urban or suburban areas?*

RB: My survival philosophy is The Rule of Threes. You must decide what you absolutely need — in most cases food, water, shelter and fuel. Since you need water to live, you must think of three separate ways of getting that water if not from the tap. If you must have shelter (as with all of us in the northern U.S.) you'd better think of three separate ways that shelter can be provided. The same with fuel and food.

SOF: *And medical supplies?*

Continued on page 83

WHO KILLED VINCE FOSTER?

Bizarre Suicide Or Well-Planned Murder?—

BY MICHAEL KITCHEN

On the afternoon of 20 July 1993, Vincent W. Foster Jr. left the White House around 1300 hours and began driving aimlessly around Washington, D.C. A few hours later he turned into Fort Marcy Park, a small, secluded Virginia. There he apparently placed the barrel of his 1913 Colt .38 in his mouth like a straw and pulled the trigger.



The shot was not heard at a instruction site only 100 yards away, but the echo of that shot in a press caused White House leaders to immediately don flash-bats and kevlar helmets. Foster, deputy director of the White House, was found dead in a wooded area near the White House. The key to the possible criminal indictments against Hillary, Habel and Nassbaum. Two of the three men were found dead in a wooded area near the White House. There are plenty of questions Lankler needs to ask. Unfortunately, he took many of them to his grave.

There are plenty of questions Lankler needs to ask. Unfortunately, he took many of them to his grave.

Freeh's Men Vs. The Freemen

SOF Outflanks Media

Media For Exclusive Story

Citizen Militias

"NECESSARY TO THE SECURITY OF A FREE STATE..."

Clutching a press card and an expired passport in one hand, and a white handkerchief tied to a stick in the other, I stepped around the barricaded farm gate at the end of a Garfield County dirt road, 35 miles northwest of tiny Jordan, N.M. Sigas posted on the farm's occurrence.

Bloody April

Waco Anniversary Triggers Oklahoma City Atrocity

by James L. Pate

Photos by Richard Sherrow

children, I'd been warning in speeches and on radio talk shows of an apocalyptic and potentially violent mood that would grip the state of Waco. It was a vision, I said, for Congress to heed the warning. It was a vision, I said, for the federal government to heed the warning. It was a vision, I said, for the federal government to heed the warning.

Modern Minutemen Tell Feds "D..."

WACOGATE

Government Cover-Ups Continue Two Years After The Inferno

STANDOFF IN IDAHO: THE RANDY WEAVER INCIDENT



PROJECT TRIGGERLOCK

DATELINE U.S.A.

TAILHOOK: ALL SMOKE, NO FIRE

Navy Witch-Hunt Nets No Convictions

by Michael Kitchen

Photos courtesy author

NRA TAKES GUN BAN TO COURT

by SOF Staff

What COPS Really THINK GUN Control

GUN GESTAPO

A WELL-REGULATED AND LEGAL MILITIA

Shirts Terrorize Tulsa

by James L. Pate

Photos Courtesy NRA



DID TF MEDICAL CAT THE F...

Law Enforcement Above The Law?

by James L. Pate

All-American ENTRAPMENT

Third Time No Charm For ATF Vendetta

by James L. Pate



Prior Warnings

WACO: BEHIND THE COVER-UP

SOF was there first with the facts you didn't read anywhere else. What's next? Count on SOF for the real story.

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

F Targets Police Officer James L. Pate

in the country of Louis Katoch III



Son Tay Raiders



Flying at top-end speed through the blackness of the North Vietnamese night, six choppers ferried the three elements of Colonel Bull Simons' Son Tay Raiders, who could only sweat out their remaining minutes before insertion. When they had crossed the Laotian border from their launch site at Takhli, Thailand, the Raiders knew that they weren't flying solo — some 116 support aircraft had also lifted-off from seven other bases inside Thailand, as well as from three American carriers, including the U.S.S. Oriskany, out in Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin. Most, however, were to deploy diversionary tactics. Simon's Raiders were the ones going into the breach — their lives on the line to rescue dozens of American prisoners.

Descending below 500 feet, the HH-3E Jolly Green Giant and the five HH-53s entered the objective area — the Son Tay prison camp, on the Song Con River, 23 miles west of Hanoi — as their escort C-130s climbed to drop flares and napalm.

Simons' 22-man team (Greenleaf Element) was inserted — by mistake — at the "secondary school," 450 meters south of the

America's Flawless Op Nets "Negative Items"

by Major Michael E. Donnelly, USA (Ret.)

prison. Their pilot, Lt. Col. Warner A. Britton, had made an understandable error — the two compounds looked similar at night and the canal running alongside the school he likely mistook for the Song Con River.

As Britton rotated away toward his holding area, AK rounds suddenly zinged around the adrenaline-pumped Americans as hordes of suspected

Chinese and/or Russian advisors swarmed from the buildings. Simons and his Raiders knew in seconds they were at the wrong place — and in very deep shit. Simons shot an onrusher point-blank in the chest as his Raiders laid down a murderous wall of return fire taking down scores of the enemy. Bull Simons got on the horn to Britton to bring his bird back in to extract his team, but Britton was already en route, having realized his error. Britton swiftly descended amid intense enemy fire, the Raiders hurled themselves aboard, and the chopper took-off north for their planned insertion point near the prison. Amazingly, there were no Raider casualties. Enemy losses — in approximately six minutes of fierce contact — were estimated at from 100-200 KIA; WIAs are unknown.



The Beginning

The situation for American prisoners of war in the summer of 1970 could only be described as horrible and likely to worsen. In spite of intense American efforts to get North Vietnam to abide by the terms of the Geneva Convention, or to release American prisoners, they continued to waffle. Their prisoners were regarded as valuable bargaining chips who could be used to force America to stop the war and withdraw forces from South Vietnam. It was widely known in America that prisoners were being tortured (with an estimated 11 men dying every month), starved, and by and large kept in solitary confinement in a number of scattered camps throughout North Vietnam.

In May 1970, it was learned through intelligence sources, that there were 56 prisoners, possibly more, at the Son Tay prison compound located 23 miles west of Hanoi. U.S. Air Force and Defense Intelligence assets were alerted by signals displayed on the ground by prisoners that some of these Americans (probably five or six) planned a prison break and wanted to be picked up once they got outside the prison compound. To muddy this likelihood, the prison was surrounded by the intense anti-air missile system that was employed to protect Hanoi — and there were approximately 12,000 – 20,000 enemy troops within a few miles of Son Tay.

◀ The painting, *Son Tay Raid, Blue Boy Element*, by artist Michael Nikiporenko, a world-famous graduate of the prestigious Russian Academy of Arts, of St. Petersburg, Russia.

The First Team

When U.S. Army Brigadier General Donald D. Blackburn, Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Counterinsurgency and Special Activities (SACSA), was notified about the existence of the prisoners, he came out in favor of launching a rescue as soon as possible. But he wanted them all, not just a handful.

General Blackburn briefed the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, and received permission to begin planning a rescue of the Son Tay POWs. General Wheeler also wanted the prisoners rescued, but was concerned that the operation might take several battalions and cause more Americans to fall into Communist hands.

Blackburn began to move on a rescue mission and with his chief assistant, Army Col. Edward E. Mayer, began to plan the raid in earnest. The plan was developed over the next six weeks and given the code name Polar Circle. From the very first, Blackburn was obsessed by the need for absolute secrecy. He felt that a helicopter rescue by a small unconventional unit of Special Forces soldiers was the best way to execute the raid, and that any breach of security would result in a national political disaster.

In July 1970, Blackburn briefed the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the Branch Chiefs in order to get permission to implement the plan.

Mission Brief

“The Son Tay Raid,” by C.V. Glines (*AIR FORCE Magazine*, Nov '95), contains a concise synopsis of the intended mission: “The eventual plan was for an Army assault team to ride in one Air Force HH-3E Jolly Green Giant and five HH-53 helicopters to Son Tay, accompanied by two Air Force MC-130 Combat Talons that would navigate for them and two HC-130s to refuel the helicopters. A flight of five A-1E Skyraiders would provide an umbrella of cover, and 10 F-4s would fly a MiG combat air patrol to intercept any enemy fighters that might try to interfere. General [Leroy J.] Manor later decided to add an F-105 ‘Wild Weasel’ force to the operation to bait the North Vietnamese surface-to-air missile sites and lure their attention away from the assault force.

“The HH-3 was to [control crashland] inside the compound with men who were to alert the prisoners and release them from their cells. The HH-53s would land outside with the rest of the assault force. Some were to secure the area around the compound and fight off any enemy forces that appeared. Others were to blow a hole in the prison wall and lead the POWs to the choppers. Meanwhile, the A-1Es would provide cover and be available to assist against any threatening ground forces.

“After loading the prisoners on board the HH-53s, the entire force would depart for Udorn [Thailand]. Since the bombing pause was still in effect at the time, Navy planes would drop flares over the Haiphong area to distract and confuse the enemy defense forces.”

Permission was secured from the Joint Chiefs and two key personnel were chosen to carry out the mission.

The commander of the Task Force would be Air Force Brig. Gen. Leroy J. Manor, and the legendary Army Col., “Bull” Simons, would select, train, and lead the ground force. General Manor had over 350 combat missions between Vietnam and WWII. He had selected many pilots to support previous SOG missions and was an excellent choice to be the commander. Colonel Simons was also well known in the area of special operations. He had served as a Ranger in WWII and had led Gen. Blackburn’s White Star teams (training Laotian irregulars) in Laos. He commanded several Special Forces units in the United States as well as Vietnam.

The first two officers Simons contacted volunteered right away, Lieut. Col. Elliot P. Sydnor, and Captain Dick Meadows. Sydnor was well-known to Simons. He had extensive combat experience and enjoyed Simons’ absolute confidence in his ability to play a key role in the raid. Meadows was also highly regarded by Simons. He was the first soldier to receive a battlefield commission in the



One of the three Elements en route to Son Tay. The three-hour-plus flight was cramped — and tedious.

Vietnam War. Like Sydnor, Meadows also had an extensive background in Special Forces operations. Since no suitable area could be located at Fort Bragg to train the force, a training area known as Duke Field at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., was selected.

Colonel Simons issued a call for Special Forces volunteers from Fort Bragg via an appeal in an on-post theater. He promised only that the men selected would perform a dangerous mission, be away from home for an extended time, receive no TDY pay, no public recognition, and would be at extreme risk. A mass of volunteers was drawn from the 6th and 7th Special Forces Groups from which 15 officers and 82 enlisted men were selected. 103 men were eventually selected for the assault force; support and planning personnel comprised dozens more.

Ground training for the Raiders began in Florida in September 1970, shrouded in complete secrecy. The CIA-built a model of the Son Tay prison compound ("Barbara") and a mockup of the prison on the training ground at Eglin. The camp was erected and dismantled daily to prevent the Russian satellites from photographing the training thus compromising the mission to the North Vietnamese.

Training was hard, thorough and monotonous. The operation was repeated an estimated 170 times.

Blue Boy, Greenleaf And Redwine

Simon's insistence on attention to detail and repetitive training was to prove a huge factor in the Raiders ability to carry out the mission. Simons had to plan for the neutralization of the guard towers, overcome the enemy on-hand, isolate the prison by knocking out bridges, and deal with up to 56 men in an unknown state of mind and health, while protecting the lives of his assault force. His plan called for dividing his force into three groups. The group commanders were to be himself, Sydnor, and Meadows. Meadows was chosen to command the 14 men that would be inserted into the compound on a Jolly Green Giant, H-3 helicopter. His element was called "Blue Boy." Colonel Simons had the "Greenleaf" element of 20 men. Their mission would be to secure a perimeter of the compound and destroy a bridge leading toward the city of Son Tay. "Redwine" was to breach the outer

wall with a satchel charge to enable Blue Boy and the prisoners to escape and to secure key areas of the compound. Each team and team member had to be trained to carryout someone else's mission in the event of equipment failure or of an aircraft being shot down. The Raiders were extremely well-armed and carried back-up radios. In addition, there were bolt cutters, a ladder, handcuffs, rope, light anti-tank weapons, grenades, and plenty of extra ammunition.

The Air Forces' involved contingent also required intensive training. Many hazards had to be overcome before the Raiders would be able to even arrive at Son Tay. The refueling aircraft, C-130s stall speed was just over 105 mph. The maximum speed of the helicopters was just 105 mph. The planes had to fly with flaps 70% deployed and the helicopters had to fly at wide-open throttle. The A-1 aircraft that would accompany the Raiders could not fly that slowly so they were forced to fly in a series of turns and circling movements in order to maintain protective cover for the assault force. All of these movements had to be done at night in blackout conditions and tested the skills of the pilots to the maximum. Weather was a constant worry as the monsoon season was at hand.

In addition to their training responsibilities, both Simons and Manor were routinely shuttled back and forth to Washington to brief their superiors including Henry Kissinger, Melvin Laird and President Nixon. The two commanders at one point flew to South East Asia to meet with certain key commanders to alert them of the support needed to sustain the Raiders. The need for secrecy was to protect the mission but it caused a great deal of problems. Many people in the theater of operations received orders that made little sense to them at the time but General Manor's credentials and letter from the Chairman of the Chief of Staff's office gave them little choice but to execute what to them must have seemed puzzling at best. General Blackburn and Col. Mayer spent their time dousing fires in the Washington area and making sure that no one else was carrying out or planning operations in the Son Tay area that might lead to a compromise of their mission.

Finally, on 17 November 1970, the raiding party departed for Thailand. As they departed their

training area they were transported in blacked-out vans. In Thailand, the Raiders were delighted to be reunited with the air crews they had trained with for so long. They zeroed their individual weapons and prepared logistically, tactically and mentally to do whatever was required.

General Blackburn was then hit from left field with his second-worst nightmare: Intelligence sources, including overflights by SR-71 Blackbirds, were now confirming that there had been such limited activity at Son Tay that the prisoners might have been moved. As General Blackburn was digesting this information he learned via new SR-71 film that there was suddenly a renewed flurry of activity that suggested the prisoners might have been returned. The General insisted that the intelligence community tell him "one way or the other." He would not allow them to say "Maybe." Their last-minute assessment was that the mission should be a "Go." But the problem of severe cloud cover had limited the immediate usefulness of overhead satellite flights so total confirmation was not possible.

Despite this, it was determined that the raid was on. A monsoon was scheduled to hit on 22 November, so the General moved the mission's date forward by one day — to 21 November.



Loading up. Car-15-carrying Raider with his gameface on.



AP/Wide World Photos



Command Sgt. Maj. Ed Luyyak, USA (Ret.)

(above) 28 Nov 1970 photo taken at Eglin AFB, Fla., shows model of Son Tay prison camp. Scale is 1 inch to 10 feet. River is at bottom left; spiked wall surrounds camp; prisoners were kept in center buildings; raiding helicopter crash-landed in center clearing; guards were housed at top right. (right) Nobody home. One of two known photos taken on the ground at Son Tay. Due to impending floods — or perhaps bad luck — the 50-plus American prisoners had been relocated.

Showtime

Late on 20 November, the Raiders boarded their aircraft, overflew Laos, and landed at the prison site at about 0220 hours, 21 November. Prior to touchdown the Air Force illuminated the compound with flares and the Air Force and Navy launched a series of maneuvers, including napalm drops, over several targets to confound the North Vietnamese Missile Command and Air Forces.

The attack proceeded on schedule until Simons and his Greenleaf Element were initially inserted at the wrong location. Their pilot set down at the secondary school site about 450 meters from the Son Tay prison. But this mistaken landing turned out to a stroke of luck for the Americans. Unbeknownst to them, the school complex, which looked a lot like Son Tay Prison, was teeming with heavily armed soldiers of either Russian or Chinese origin. Simons realized the nature of the mistake almost as soon as he exited his chopper. He instructed his radio operator to recall his helicopter and to notify his other Elements to switch to Plan Green and then found himself in the middle of a fierce firefight. Without missing a beat he personally shot an enemy soldier through the chest with his sidearm. His team opened up and racked up kills.

In just six minutes his Greenleaf Element killed an estimated 100-200 enemy soldiers, presumably on-site to train the North Vietnamese how to better employ surface-to-air missiles against American aircraft.

During the mission, verbal orders were few. For instance, the longest sentence that Col. Simons was heard to have uttered during the battle at the secondary school was his order to recall his helicopter and let Sydnor know to execute an alternate attack plan, Plan Green, which the other elements swung into without hesitation.



Route of assault: Thailand across Laos, then dropping to less than 500 feet for insertion at Son Tay.

Captain Meadows and his Blue Boy Force had control-crashlanded as planned and had already begun to comb the prison cells looking for prisoners. Meadows was to have been the first Raider out of the helicopter to announce through a portable bullhorn that the prisoners should hit the ground — they were about to be rescued. The impact of the crashlanding was so severe that Lieutenant George W. Petrie was thrown from the helicopter first and Meadows was the second Raider out. Another incident that occurred upon impact was that a fire extinguisher on board broke loose and hit the flight engineer, Tech Sergeant Leroy M. Wright, so hard that it fractured his ankle.

Meadows then had his own firefight to contend with as his Element took out 12 NVA who appeared out of the darkness; Redwine Element and Greenleaf Element later combined with Blue Boy to account for 38 additional KIAs.

Meanwhile, Sydnor detached enough soldiers from his Redwine Element to cover for Greenleaf until such time as Simons' men could link with the other Elements at the prison.

The gaping flaw was that Son Tay prison was a dry hole — the prisoners had been moved to another site a few miles away.

Ironically, several of the relocated prisoners began to cheer as the American aircraft shot by overhead thinking a snatch operation was underway. Lieutenant Colonel Elmo Baker, the senior Air Force prisoner formerly at the Son Tay prison, says, "I will never forget the bravery of those volunteers that came to get us out. We were there and had no choice but those soldiers had a choice."

After thorough two-man searches Meadows' Blue Boy Element

Continued on page 82

For A Cause Most Worthy

Prints of *The Son Tay Raid, Blue Boy Element*, may be ordered by phoning toll free 1.877.662.3605; or orders may be faxed to 912.877.4897; or Emailed to mmartltd@InfoAve.Net.

The Son Tay raid serves as a beacon to illustrate what a highly determined band of Special Forces soldiers are capable of despite overwhelming odds. The raid and a myriad of other such outstanding examples of what Special Forces can accomplish must never be forgotten. To that end the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare/Special Forces Museum Association has decided to commemorate the history of Special Forces through art. The first painting in a series of museum quality art ever commissioned by the association is about the Son Tay Raid. It is a spectacular depiction of the crash landing of "Banana 1" carrying the late Dick Meadows and his "Blue Boy" element into the prison compound. It is titled simply *Son Tay Raid, Blue Boy Element*. The painter selected to do the original work is Michael Nikiporenko, a world famous graduate of the prestigious Russian Academy of Arts of St. Petersburg, Russia.

Michael Nikiporenko was flown to Fort Bragg and worked on a daily basis with several raiders to make certain that the painting was as authentic and accurate as possible. The original painting hangs in the museum, and personally signed and numbered limited edition prints are available for purchase.

Each buyer receives a brochure describing the events in the picture and is entitled to an \$80.00 deduction from his income taxes as that much from each sale is given to the museum. The proceeds will help fund a planned expansion of the museum so that the entire history of one of our great nation's finest units can be preserved for future generations.

The cost of an unframed print is \$165.00, plus shipping and handling. Framed prints may be purchased for \$320.00. (The frames are cherry wood with a gold fillet which would normally command prices of up to \$300.)

— M.E.D.

HEAVY METAL

Robar's RC50: .50 Caliber Precision Rifle

Text & Photos
by Peter G. Kokalis

Fifty caliber rifles, both semiautomatic and bolt-action types, have achieved a small, but significant degree of prominence in recent years in some highly specialized arenas. When the .50 caliber Browning heavy machine gun and its ammunition were developed during and shortly after World War I, the perceived applications were for aircraft and against armored vehicles. However, in the interim between the two world wars advances in vehicle armor far outstripped the ability to design man-portable antitank guns to defeat them. By the beginning of World War II even 20mm antitank guns proved to be ineffective. But, the .50 caliber cartridge lived on in John Browning's truly great heavy machine gun.

In recent years .50 caliber rifles, while completely ineffective against modern armor, have been used by the military principally for mine disposal. There have also been some special operations applications, as groups like Delta and the SEALs usually get whatever toys they want. Legitimate law enforcement applications for this caliber are, in my opinion, few and far between. While the Makah Indian tribe recently employed a .50 caliber rifle in the first legal killing of a gray whale in American waters in nearly 75 years, the predominant civilian use for these rifles has been by a relatively small group of target shooters who pop paper at a range of 1,000 yards. This has resulted in the development of .50 caliber precision rifles and ammunition capable of some rather astounding long-range accuracy.



Robar's RC50 state-of-the-art turn-bolt at 25 pounds, empty, is relatively lightweight. As a consequence, the recoil impulse is substantial.



The bolt, together with all its components, magazine and some other small parts have been finished with NP3. This process is a surface treatment for metals and metal alloys that provides the appearance of satin electroless nickel by combining sub-micron particles of PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene, i.e., teflon) with autocatalytically applied nickel/phosphorus. The result is a very accurate, dry-lubricated, low-friction surface that is extremely resistant to wear. As the PTFE is evenly distributed and locked into the nickel/phosphorous matrix, when wear occurs, fresh particles of PTFE are exposed to keep the surface lubricated. NP3 has a high lubricity and low friction co-efficient. No lubricants are required on any metal surface so treated and powder residue and carbon fouling can be easily removed with a dry cloth. NP3 has a non-reflective satin gray appearance.

The barreled-action has been treated with Roguard, a black finish which represents polymer technology at its best. This molybdenum disulfide polymer is very hard (4H in pencil hardness) and extremely corrosion resistant. It can withstand

Soldier Of Fortune recently obtained a .50 caliber precision rifle from The Robar Companies, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21438 N. 7th Avenue, Suite B, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 623-581-2648; fax: 623-582-0059; web site: www.robarguns.com) for test and evaluation. Robbie Barrkman, the president of Robar, is a fourth-generation native of South Africa, with considerable combat experience in the South African Defense Force, and an adjunct instructor at Thunder Ranch. The Robar RC50 is a turn-bolt design with a number of interesting features.

The RC50 weighs only 25 pounds, empty. I say "only" because a decade ago I can remember shooting a single-shot .50 caliber bolt-action behemoth that tipped the scales at more than 48 pounds. Overall length is 54.5 inches. The 29-inch barrel has six grooves with a right-hand twist of one turn in 15 inches.

The barrel is manufactured for Robar by Dan Lilja and reamed to match-grade chamber dimensions. The exterior has been fluted for several reasons: 1) This increases the outside surface area and enhances cooling — a significant consideration with .50-caliber rifles, especially in the Southwestern United States, 2) to stiffen the barrel, 3) for weight reduction and 4) Because it looks good (never underestimate the importance of this consideration). The highly effective muzzle brake was designed by a Canadian and is manufactured for Robar by the McMillan Machine Co. It is smaller and more efficient than any currently on the market.



The Robar RC50F folding stock model.

courtesy Robar



(above) Robar RC50 .50 caliber rifle uses a Remington 700 trigger and safety mechanism. (below) RC50 muzzle brake is smaller and more efficient than any currently on the market.



2,000-plus hours in a 5% salt spray. It possesses some self-lubricating properties as well. The Roguard process involves preparation of the base metal and then phosphating. Afterwards, the Roguard is sprayed on and then baked to cure at low temperature.

The action used on the Robar RC50 rifle is in essence a scaled-up Remington 700, but with an external extractor like a Sako. The two-lug bolt body has helical grooves which act as lightening cuts and also serve to direct fouling and debris into the groove channels. The bolt handle has five lightening holes also. This action accommodates a five-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine of robust design.

The trigger and safety mechanism are those of the Remington 700. The trigger, at the bottom of the housing, pivots on its axis pin. A component called the trigger connector contacts the bottom of the sear with its top edge, and releases it after the trigger has been pulled to the rear. There are set-screws to adjust trigger over-travel, weight-of-pull and trigger sear engagement. Trigger let-off on the RC50 has been adjusted for 2.5 pounds. The trigger screws should be adjusted only by a trained gunsmith. A bent steel stamping with a serrated button at the top, and located on the right side of the trigger housing, serves as the safety lever. The safety can be pulled the rear, or *safe* position, only when the action is cocked. Push it all the way forward to fire the rifle. The aluminum trigger guard has been machined from bar stock.

All of this rests in a McMillan fiberglass composite stock. Without doubt McMillan Fiberglass Stocks, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21421 North 14th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-582-9635; fax: 602-581-3825; website: <http://www.mcm-family.com>; Email: mfs@indirect.com) manufactures more stocks for military and

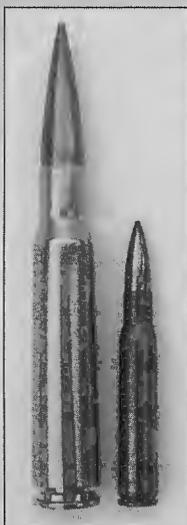
History of the .50 Caliber BMG Cartridge

In April, 1918, the U.S. War Department received an urgent cable from the commanding officer of the American Expeditionary Forces, General John J. Pershing, requesting the development of a high-power, large-caliber machine gun and ammunition, intended initially for aircraft use. Pershing was keenly aware that the British and French had made rapid strides in raising their machine gun calibers from .303 and 8mm Lebel, respectively, to .50 caliber and larger.

Winchester sent a dummy round to John Browning at the Colt factory to use in his development of the gun, which was to retain all of the salient mechanical features of the .30 caliber M1917 water-cooled machine gun, but scaled-up and beefed-up to withstand the increased pressures. On 15 October 1918, the first .50 caliber machine gun was ready for trials at the proving ground. On its initial attempt 877 rounds were fired in bursts of 100 to 150 rounds each. The total time spent on this project by John Browning, from conception to successful firing, was little more than a year.

The development of the .50 caliber cartridge was not so straightforward and a great deal of confusion exists to this day concerning its early history. General Pershing had spec-

ified that the bullet was to weigh no less than 670 grains with a muzzle velocity of at least 2,700 fps.



Winchester Repeating Arms Co. was requested to develop a round that would be suitable for both machine gun and antitank use. By May 1918, a .50 caliber rimmed bottleneck case was designed and both 508 and 707 grain bullets tested. It was no coincidence that Winchester was concurrently developing an antitank rifle for which a rimmed case would be ideal. However, by June 1918 a rimless cartridge case was developed to replace the rimmed case, as U.S. Ordnance thought it would function better in Browning's machine gun. An attempt to shorten the case was abandoned and on 1 October 1918 a supposed final form of the .50 caliber BMG round was confirmed.

However, for unknown reasons, Frankford Arsenal decided in early 1919 to redesign the Winchester round using the German 13mm antitank cartridge as a basis. The result was a bottleneck, semi-rimmed case with a longer and heavier (800 grains) bullet. It was rejected and the Ordnance Office directed Frankford Arsenal to develop a rimless cartridge. By May 1919, this was accomplished

law enforcement sniper weapon systems than anyone else.

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

The highly regarded Pachmayr Decelerator recoil pad was added to help tame this rifle's substantial recoil. Robar custom textured the pistol grip and forearm of the stock and then painted it black. A wide range of colors and camouflage patterns are available. Robar also installed aluminum pillars and steel epoxy bedding. A folding stock version, the RC50-F, is available with a hinge system manufactured and installed by Robar.

It's not likely that anyone would be foolish enough to fire a 25-pound rifle chambered for the .50 caliber BMG cartridge from the offhand position. Most shooting of brutes like this will be from the prone position and a sturdy bipod is required unless you have ready access to large sandbags. Our RC50 test specimen came equipped with an optional Parker Hale LM6 model bipod. Quick-detachable, this is the very

by essentially scaling up the Model 1906 .30 caliber cartridge case. More or less in this form the .50 caliber BMG cartridge has lived on to become the finest heavy machine gun round ever fielded.

Over the years bullet weights have varied from about 690 to 750 grains (with a steel core). By 1940 the muzzle velocity had been set at 2,700 fps, when fired through a 36-inch barrel. Bullet types have included ball, armor-piercing, armor-piercing incendiary tracer (APIT), tracer, incendiary and blank. Experimental types have included canister (shot), frangible, flash, high explosive and lachrymatory (the explosive PETN and a small charge of tear gas).

The .50 caliber Browning heavy machine gun remains in service today with the U.S. Army. It will be found on the turret of the M1 Abrams main battle tank and on MBTs and armored fighting vehicles throughout the world. Its metric equivalent is 12.7x99mm. It is every bit the equal of the Russian 12.7x108mm round developed for the DShK M38 heavy machine gun. In recent years special purpose ammunition, such as the Norwegian Raufoss — which has a bullet filled with a hard core and RDX explosive, have extended both the life and applications of this venerable battle-proven cartridge.

Rifles chambered for the .50 caliber BMG cartridge have gained prominence in two applications in recent years. Ever since Desert Storm the U.S. military has employed .50 caliber rifles, both bolt-action and semiautomatic, principally for EOD in minefields, although there have been minor applications for deployment against light-skinned vehicles and radar and communications installations.

ROBAR RC50

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.50 BMG (12.7x99mm)
Operation:	Bolt-action. Two-lug bolt. Two-position safety on the right side of the bolt sleeve
Weight, empty:	25 pounds
Length, overall:	54.5 inches
Barrel:	Match-grade by Dan Lilja; external flutes; six-groove bore with right-hand twist of one turn in 15 inches. Equipped with a highly efficient muzzle brake.
Barrel length:	29 inches
Feed mechanism:	Five-round, staggered-column, detachable box-type magazine.
Optical sight:	Leupold Mark 4 M1-16x40mm scope with Duplex reticle pattern.
Furniture:	McMillan fiberglass stock.
Finish:	Barrel-action: Roguard; other metal components: NP3.
Price:	\$3,850.00, without scope or bipod.
Manufacturer:	The Robar Companies, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21438 N. 7th Avenue, Suite B, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 623-581-2648; fax: 623-582-0059; web site: www.robarguns.com
Stock:	McMillan Fiberglass Stocks, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21421 North 14th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-582-9635; fax: 602-581-3825; website: http://www.mcmfamily.com ; Email: mfs@indirect.com .
Scope:	Leupold & Stevens, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075; phone: 503-646-9171; fax: 503-526-1475.
Ammunition:	Arizona Ammunition, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21421 North 14th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-516-9004; fax: 602-516-9012. Hornady Manufacturing Company, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68803; phone: 308-382-1390; fax: 308-382-5761; web site: http://www.hornady.com
T&E summary:	State-of-the-art .50 caliber turn-bolt; relatively lightweight; substantial recoil impulse; 1 MOA accuracy; highly specialized applications.

best rifle bipod available. It is nothing more or less than a scaled-down version of the excellent Bren LMG MkI bipod. Its adjustable legs permit the command height (the distance from the ground to the center line of the barrel's axis) to be varied from 8.5 to 12 inches. The head can be swiveled and canted approximately 15 degrees in

either direction without altering the leg position. The bipod attaches to a steel rod protruding from the front of the stock. It has a spring-loaded, heavy-duty catch/release.

The RC50 comes broken-down in two major components and must be assembled prior to use. Proper assembly procedures are critical. Gently place the barreled-action

Long-range target shooting with .50 caliber rifles, mostly bolt-action types, has become increasingly popular with civilian competitors. This requires ammunition designed specifically for target shooting, as military-issue machine gun ammunition cannot come even close to matching the accuracy potential of these rifles.

All ammunition used in SOF's test and evaluation of the Robar RC50 rifle was provided by Arizona Ammunition, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 21421 North 14th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-516-9004; fax: 602-516-9012), whose reputation in the field of custom long-range target ammunition is unexcelled.

The lot we tested was headstamped "PSD 96" (indicating manufacture by PMC — Poongsan Metal Corporation — in South Korea) and loaded with a moly-coated Hornady 750-grain A-MAX boattail bullet. This superb bullet features an aluminum tip, copper jacket and lead core. Referred to as a VLD (Very Low Drag) type, it starts to stabilize at between 200 and 300 yards. The U.S. Army has been using the Hornady 750-grain A-MAX at ranges out to 2,500 yards. For further information contact Hornady Manufacturing Company (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 1848, Grand Island, NE 68803; phone: 308-382-1390; fax: 308-382-5761; website: <http://www.hornady.com>). The average muzzle velocity was 2,800 fps. Be advised that rifle bores through which moly-coated bullets are fired require special chemical cleaning procedures. Never use a bronze or steel bore brush. It will only remove the molybdenum disulfide coating.

— P.G.K.

Leupold Mark 4 M1-16x40mm Scope

In the United States the Leupold (Leupold & Stevens, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97075; phone: 503-646-9171; fax: 503-526-1475) Mark 4 series reigns absolutely and unequivocally supreme with police agencies and within the special operations community. Justifiably so, as this is the flagship in Leupold's product line and represents the highest possible quality in a production series optical sight.

All Mark 4 scopes feature 30mm diameter main tubes which are machined from a solid piece of 6061-T aircraft aluminum. A 30mm tube with 1/8-inch wall thickness still has almost 30% more cross-sectional area inside the tube than most 1-inch tubes with their thinner walls. Once this additional area is available, the erector tube inside the scope body (which carries all lenses except the ocular and objective lenses) and its lenses can be increased in size to transmit more light and thus yield greater resolution and a brighter image. Furthermore, this heavy 30mm housing is more shock-resistant than any 1-inch tube — an important consideration when mounting a scope on .50 caliber rifles that generate bone bruising recoil.

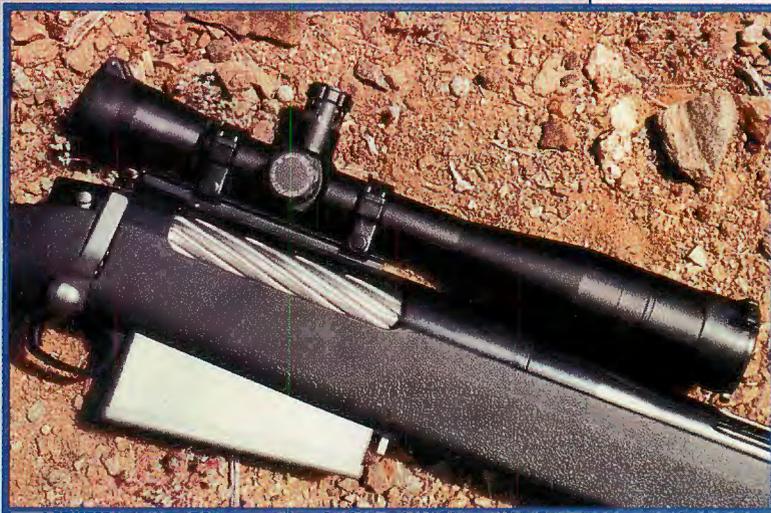
All lenses are coated on all internal and external surfaces with Multicoat 4, Leupold's exclusive multi-coating process. This, in addition to a computer-designed optical system, results in edge-to-edge sharpness, precise resolution; minimal distortion and optimum low-light visibility. All Mark 4 scopes are tested for water-resistance in a reduced-pressure, hot-water immersion tank before leaving the factory and are completely waterproof.

The Robar RC50 rifle tested by SOF was equipped with a Leupold Mark 4 M1-16x40mm scope. This fixed 16-power scope had a Duplex reticle pattern (3/4-minute Mil Dot and Target Dot reticle patterns are also available in the Mark 4 series). The Duplex pattern, invented by Leupold more than 35 years ago, is a much copied classic. The heavy vertical and horizontal posts on the outside stand out against thick cover, while the thin inner crosshairs permit precise shot placement. Magnification of 16-power to 20-power is essential for shooting at ranges out to 2,500 yards.

The Mark 4 M1-10x40mm and M1-16x40mm scopes have over-sized, easy-to-grip, so-called "ergonomic"-type windage and elevation knobs. Both adjustment knobs feature audible and tactile feedback from one-minute numbered divisions with 1/4-minute click-stops clearly marked between each one-minute division. Six complete revolutions of the elevation knob provide a total adjustment potential of 90 minutes, as each complete revolution raises or lowers the point of impact by 15 minutes. The elevation knob also has a horizontal scale that is used to keep track of the number of revolutions that the dial has been turned. In addition, there is a built-in anti-backlash system that guarantees repeatable accuracy from click to click, and back again. Most snipers use the Leupold Mark M1 elevation adjustment system by zeroing the rifle and scope at specific ranges and writing the elevation adjustment settings on a range card attached to the rifle's buttstock. The setting to which the elevation adjustment knob must be rotated for a specific distance is usually referred to as a "come up."

Mark 4 M1 windage adjustments have 1/4-minute clicks, while those of the M3 scopes are provided with 1/2-minute increments. The Mark 4 M1 windage adjustment knob provides 30 minutes of lateral adjustment to both the left and right for a total of 60 minutes. There is a third adjustment knob on the left side of the Mark 4 series scopes. This is for eliminating parallax, and these scopes can be set parallax-free at any distance from 15 meters to infinity when the shooter is in the firing position. It has limiting stops with the two extreme positions symbolized by the infinity mark and the largest of a series of dots. Parallax occurs when the primary image of an objective lens does not coincide with the reticle.

The ocular can be focused by backing the eyepiece away from the lock ring and then screwing it in or out until the reticle pattern is sharp and crisp. Optimum eye relief of the Mark 4 M1-16x40mm is 4.0 inches. At 100 yards the field of view is 6.6 feet. The Mark 4 M1-16x40mm scope comes with flip-up lens caps and a sunshade. — P.G.K.



Leupold Mark 4 M1-16x40mm scope.

into the stock. Two 5/16x24 allen-head screws and a torque wrench are supplied to fasten the stock and barreled-action together. The longer screw goes to the front of the action. The front screw must be tightened first. Both screws should be torqued to 65 inch/pounds.

All shooting of the Robar RC50 rifle was conducted at ranges of 200 yards and beyond with match cartridges featuring a moly-coated Hornady 750-grain A-MAX boattail bullet. This bullet does not stabilize before about 200 yards. The accuracy obtained was consistently about 1 MOA. We had to hammer the bolt open with a rubber mallet after each shot. Fifty caliber

match shooters prefer ammunition loaded right up to the rifle's maximum safe pressure limit. If this rifle were to be employed for tactical applications, the ammunition would have to be slightly down-loaded to ease bolt manipulation. Recoil was substantial. Recoil-sensitive individuals should probably refrain from firing rifles chambered for this round. There were no feeding malfunctions of any kind from the magazine. This is sometimes a

problem with .50 caliber repeaters.

The Robar RC50 sells for \$3,850.00, without a scope or bipod. Both the folding stock and camouflage patterns are extra. I think this is about as light as we want to go in .50 caliber turn-bolts. Highly accurate, reliable and attractive in appearance, the .50 caliber RC50 is a specialized weapon system that is *not* for everyone. ❧

Points Of Contact

Arizona Ammunition, Inc.

Dept. SOF, 21421 North 14th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-516-9004
fax: 602-516-9012)

Leupold & Stevens,

Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 688, Beaverton, OR
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McMillan Fiberglass Stocks, Inc.

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The Robar Companies, Inc.

Dept. SOF, 21438 N. 7th Avenue, Suite B
Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 623-581-2648
fax: 623-582-0059

Here Come The Marines

Continued from page 45

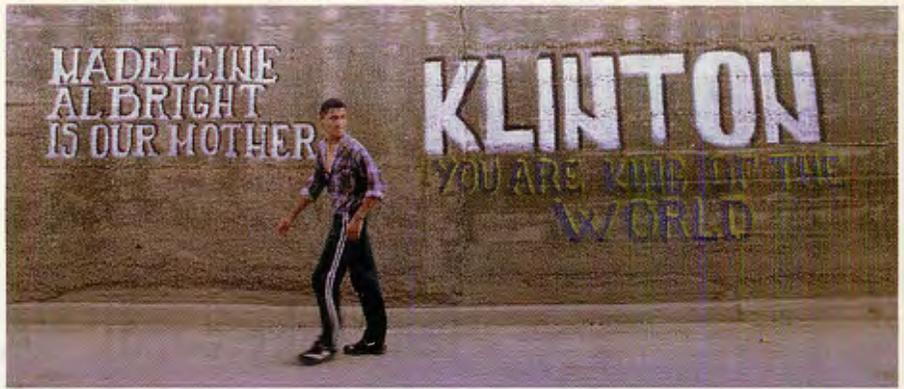
Pristina airport and KFOR (as NATO's force in Kosovo is known) were still causing lots of heartburn for NATO commanders and the Nepalese Gurkas tasked with "babysitting" them.

The surprise deployment of 200 Russian paratroopers to Kosovo on the eve of KFOR deployment caught NATO brass and Western diplomats completely off guard, and might have triggered a second Cold War if cooler heads had not prevailed.

Playing Games With Work To Do

KFOR had its eyes on the Pristina airport as a possible site for its Kosovo HQ, but Russian paras based in Bosnia as part of NATO's SFOR were told by unknown commanders in Moscow to get there first and hold it until they were given further instructions.

British forces arriving at the airport only



Ethnic Albanians of Gnjilane paid thanks to Madeleine Albright and Bill Clinton with this graffiti.

hours after a peace agreement was signed between NATO and Belgrade, were greeted by the Russians who told them in no uncertain terms that attempting to retake the airport would result in cataclysmic consequences.

When *SOF* met up with Lt. Krishna Gurung, commander of the 7th Platoon, C Company of the 1st RGR Gurka Battalion

of the British Army, at a checkpoint only 200 yards up the road from the airport's main entrance things were calm but still uncertain.

"We don't really know how many Russians are at the airport," Gurung told *SOF*. "We just monitor their goings on, and pass the information back up to headquarters."

Kosovo: The War Clinton Lost

Continued from page 45

Rugovo, who had formed a shadow government in a non-violent movement for Kosovo independence, has been marginalized and militant members of the KLA have assumed the role of KLA leadership — an undesirable option by NATO standards, as that shift in power players will play out with much more resistance to the limited autonomy that the Allies are planning to restore.

Ramboillet Objective: Stop the flow of refugees.

Outcome: Before the air strikes, 90,000 refugees had left Kosovo, and 400,000 had been internally displaced. After the air strikes, a major exodus was triggered, resulting in nearly 1.5 million homeless. Most of those we went in to save, lost their homes, and far too many lost their lives. It's estimated more than 10,000 died, whether by Milosevic's counter offensive or as a result of the bombing.

The exodus of the Serbs from Kosovo continues at press time. The Serbs are convinced that the KLA are our patrons. Thus, we have displaced tens of thousands of Serbs from their homes.

More than a million refugees now have to be repatriated at an enormous expense. The bombing leveled much of Kosovo.

Ramboillet Objective: Forment disaffection among the population in the hope that Yugoslav citizens would topple Milosevic.

Outcome: The Serbs have not overthrown Milosevic, one of our stated goals. And they probably are as likely to overthrow him as the Iraqis were to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Clinton has just approved a covert CIA mission designed to destabilize the government of Milosevic. If the CIA is as successful as it was in Tibet or in Cuba in the Bay of Pigs or in the Kurd region of Iraq, not to mention some of its other loudly broadcast covert missions, everyone but Milosevic is in trouble.

Ramboillet Objective: Prevent the spread of violence to neighboring states such as Albania, Macedonia, Turkey and Greece.

Outcome: Neighboring states have become destabilized. Macedonian internal minister Pavle Trajanov warns that heavily armed KLA-sponsored terrorist groups are being organized in the refugee camps in Macedonia. These activities are said to have been triggered with the bombing.

Minister Trajanov believes that these groups are getting ready for new actions in Macedonia in September 1999. The KLA goal, the minister suspects, is a greater Albania.

Ramboillet Objective: Strengthening of NATO.

Outcome: NATO has not been left unscathed. The war has acerbated serious division between NATO members. Despite Madeleine Albright's concept of NATO as "policeman of the world," NATO has been totally discredited since the alliance made its bloody debut. Russia, despite vehement U.S. denials, has now been vindicated in its assertion the NATO expansion was an indication of an offensive rather than a defensive alliance.

Ramboillet Objective: Establish a precedent for humanitarian intervention.

Outcome: Tens of thousands of refugee Serbs have left Kosovo. Hundreds of thousands of Serbs have become impoverished, homeless or injured in Serbia. The Republic will not be built up in order to pressure the population to overthrow Milosevic. Our sanctions may wreak a humanitarian disaster just as that we have created in Iraq where UN and related agencies estimate that a million civilians have died due to our sanctions policy. The objective of "humanitarian intervention" will forever remain in question. Most of the world's literate population is fully aware that an intensive bombing of Iraq was initiated the day of Clinton's impeachment, that the bombing of a medicine factory in Sudan occurred the day Lewinsky was to testify, that the air strikes in Kosovo began on a day that the belated Cox Report was finally to be released, and that those potentially damaging moments were diffused as a result of the strikes.

Ramboillet Objective: Give our president a place in the history books — winning a war without ground troops.

Outcome: To say that we won a victory without ground troops is a farce. The KLA, now approximately 20,000 strong, were battling the Serbs on the ground. Much of our military strategy was to eliminate the Serb army and give the KLA cover. Besides, what's the big deal? Air strikes alone could probably easily win a war, and in short order. The use of nuclear weapons is not illegal and they are in abundance. We could have nuked Yugoslavia or Iraq or any place else, for that matter, without the use of one ground troop and declared a victory within hours. It may have been more merciful.

Martin Brass is a well-traveled expert in international law.

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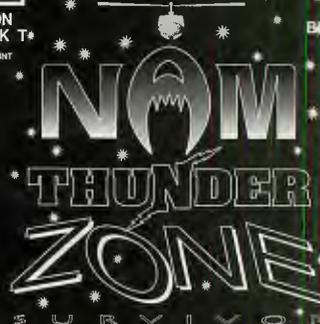
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A number of times, Gurung told *SOF*, the Russians had rolled their BMPs out of the airport and went on recon patrols into the British sector surrounding the Kosovar capital of Pristina.

On a day that *SOF* just happened upon one of those recon patrols, the Russians drove two BMPs into Kosovo Polje — a small Serb city west of Pristina — and parked themselves in front of the main hospital. They then raised the flag and stood eyeball-to-eyeball with a British army Warrior fighting vehicle crew, themselves guarding a gas station across the street, for hours before higher-ups within KFOR command gave in and said it was OK.

We told Gurung how the British were absolutely livid over the unannounced arrival of the Russians, and at one point threatened to “put a 30mm slug up their commie asses if they attempt to take the gas station.”

Feed And Pet The Bear

Gurung said he thought the Russians were playing a game of smoke and mirrors with NATO, and that all they wanted from their efforts was to be still regarded as a super power. “It’s all bluff,” Gurung told *SOF*. “This is the only way they can get anyone to pay attention to them.”

Gurung also said that the Russians must be short on supplies because some of their soldiers had asked the Gurukas for rations.

“I instructed my men to give the Russians whatever food they needed,” Gurung told *SOF*. “We’re not at war with them, so I saw no reason to let them starve. It does no harm.”

Gurung, a 21-year Guruka veteran, said Kosovo was the largest single deployment of Gurukas since the Falklands war in 1982. Nearly 880 Gurukas, out of 3,500 currently on active duty with the British army, were deployed to Kosovo.

It has also proven to be a costly deployment for the highly trained Gurukas. Four days before *SOF* joined them on several foot patrols, one Guruka was killed while defusing a booby trap at the home of a recently returned ethnic Albanian.

“You’ve got to have eyes on your hands and on the back of your head,” Gurung warned us before we took off with Guruka Cpl. Lil Pun and his four-man squad to the village of Ence for a three-hour patrol in near-100-degree temperatures.

During the three-month NATO bombing campaign, Ence was home to a company-sized Yugoslavian army air-defense and armored group. The Serbs, we surmised, thought it might be a cute joke if they littered their former garrison with unmarked landmines and booby traps. Sort of like a delayed “Fuck you” to whoever happened upon them long after the Serbs were back home drinking beers and enjoying themselves. A number of the homes — all owned by ethnic Albanians — were severely damaged by NATO bombing in an attempt to destroy the Yugoslavian armor hidden in garages and barns.

A few unsure eyes peered out from bro-

ken windows and from behind shattered walls as Pun, Riflemen Dol Rana, Robhan Thapa, Suk Thapa and *SOF* dismounted from our non-armored Land Rover. On a previous patrol with Gurung, the Gurukas had established contact with a recently returned Albanian man who said he would be the future point-of-contact for any political or humanitarian decisions made by NATO on behalf of the town.

They Will Have To Sort It Out

“The Albanians will decide how to hand out the humanitarian aid,” Pun told *SOF*. “We will just make sure that it gets here. They will have to govern themselves long after we’re gone.”

The patrol made its way down Ence’s dusty lone street toward the crumbled remains of a farmhouse and the rusting hulk of a Yugoslavian army APC shredded by a NATO cluster bomb.

“A lot of Serbs must have died here,” Dol Rana said as he lifted up the shredded remains of a Yugoslavian army jacket. A pair of burned and shredded leather boots were tangled in a nearby bush.

A few curious neighborhood children gathered around the Gurukas as the squad climbed onto the APC to look for signs of dead Serb soldiers.

“No one could have survived this,” Pun said, peeking through the melted rear hatch of the APC. “I can’t even find any bones.”

It was time to head west. Things were cooking — literally — along the stretch of road linking the Kosovar cities of Istok and Pec. Thousands of ethnic Kosovar Serbs — many of whom had either participated in or had stood idly by during months of atrocities against their Albanian neighbors — were being “cleansed” from their homes by recently returned Albanian refugees looking for revenge.

Dozens of farmhouses and fields were on fire as we came down the lone road paralleling the Montenegrin border with Kosovo. We passed a slow-moving Italian army convoy consisting of a tracked APC and three lightly armored troop transports, but didn’t see the Italians try to stop any of the looting or put out any of the fires.

Balkan Games Continue

For nearly a week *SOF* traveled daily to the area surrounding Pec, watching and photographing returning Albanians looting and burning the now-empty houses of their former Serb oppressors. Italian KFOR troops were never far away, but with each NATO army only acting as an extension of its government’s foreign policy on Kosovo, very little could be said about the Italian’s lack of interest in stopping the mass destruction.

Across Kosovo, things were much the same. In the north central Kosovo city of Mitrovica, French Marines and Foreign Legionnaires — who for months had prepared to be in the vanguard for a possible NATO invasion of Kosovo if a peace deal had failed to materialize — suddenly found themselves



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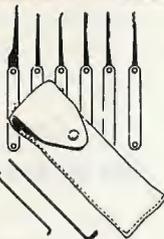
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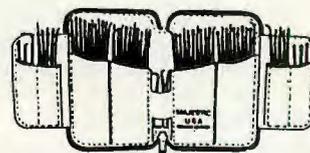
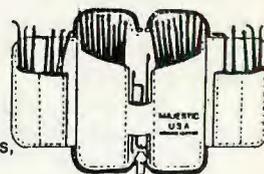


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in the middle of a number of explosive situations involving Serbs and recently returned Albanians demanding revenge.

In Pristina, British paras and Canadian troops daily fought increasing tensions between Serbs and Albanians, putting out dozens of house fires and arresting hundreds of looters and would-be ethnic cleansers.

As *SOF* wound down its 25-day mission in Kosovo, one question still lingered unanswered: Where were all of those Yugoslavian tanks and artillery pieces supposedly destroyed by NATO?

We had no problems finding all of the destroyed bridges NATO claimed to have hit. There wasn't a day when the *SOF* jeep didn't have near-misses with total destruction because of bomb craters and missing bridges.

B.A.D. B.D.A.?

In 25 days, *SOF* drove 1,100 miles of Kosovo's bomb-cratered roads, visited every sizeable town and city, lurked around every known former Yugoslavian army barracks and air force base and could only count six destroyed tanks, another six destroyed APCs, no artillery pieces and another 10 destroyed trucks and jeeps.

Three of the tanks were found in one location near the city of Klina, at a bus station that must have doubled as a repair facility. One of them had its gun sheared off in the middle by what appeared to have been a cluster bomb attack, and was surrounded by what might have been human remains in the form of bones.

The other three tanks were scattered around former Yugoslavian army positions in western Kosovo.

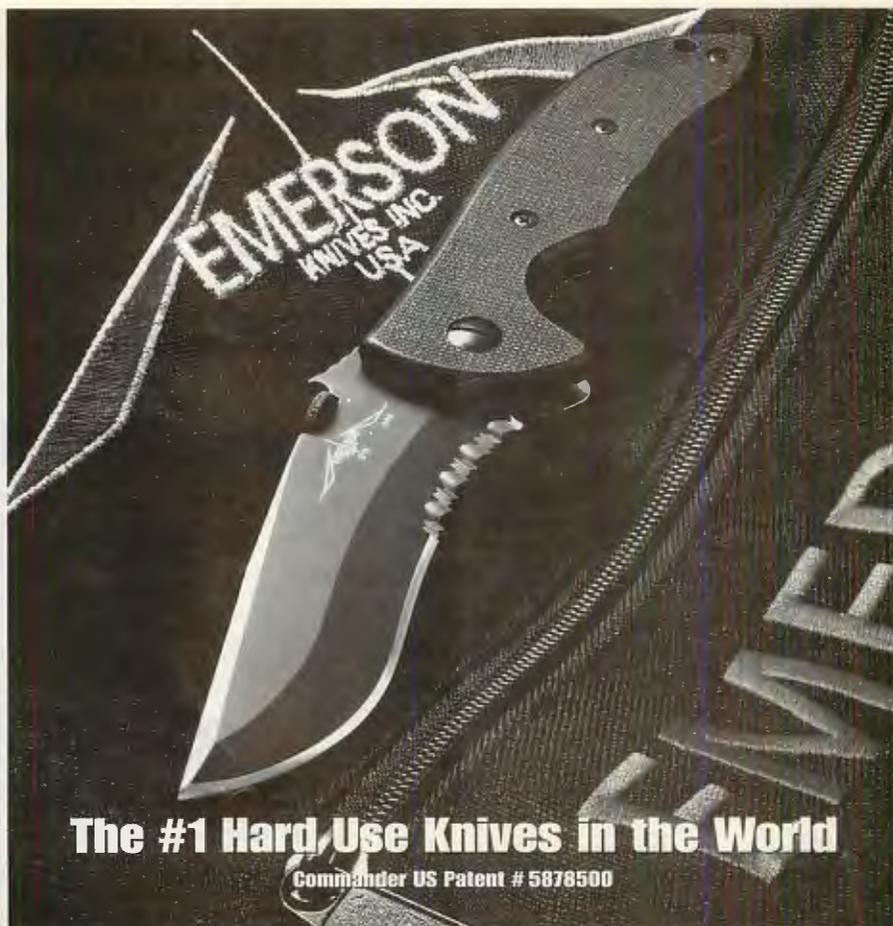
While we never found the other 94 tanks NATO claimed it destroyed during its three-month air campaign, we did stumble upon two of the best decoys we've ever seen in a real combat situation.

Just outside the city of Kosovo Polje, Yugoslavian army engineers constructed a 150-foot-long fake bridge out of wood, plastic sheeting and black roofing insulation which doubled as "asphalt." At either end of the bridge, which stood 100 yards from a well-camouflaged real bridge that was untouched by NATO bombing, were fake tanks made from plastic sheets and logs.

An hour's drive to the west, *SOF* stumbled upon three ancient T-34 tanks with smudge pots below their engine compartments sitting in a farm field. We surmised that the Serbs must have set afire the smudge pots to draw NATO fire away from real armor massed nearby.

When pressed on the accuracy of the numbers, NATO told *SOF* during a telephone call that they stood by their "facts." *SOF* does, too.

SOF's Chief Foreign Correspondent Mark H. Milstein has covered the Balkan wars from ground-level since Yugoslavia first started to break up. Wounded once, jailed once, he plans to continue. ☞



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Continued from page 65

RB: I have written two books on emergency medical procedures. One is *Do-It-Yourself Medicine* and *Survivor's Medicine Chest*. In the latter, I recommend people stock-up. If they have a medical condition, they need enough medication for a year, and if they don't have medical conditions they ought to have wound dressings, antibiotics, painkillers and so forth for a year.

SOF: Do you see alarmists making major bucks off this?

RB: I don't see Jim Lord or the computer gurus in my neighborhood making any big bucks — they genuinely foresee a problem. One fella I know just left for New Zealand, is purchasing property, and intends to be there when the [next] Millennium comes through. He's retired from Microsoft and should know what he is talking about. He is viewing this with enough alarm to spend his own bucks implementing his survival program. Others might be making good money off the Y2K scare.

SOF: What types of weapons would you recommend?

RB: There is a dynamic rule of survival, that you can't expend more energy than you gather, so I don't think we're going to be able to hunt for survival: We're going to have to trap and that sort of thing, and a trap line and a .22 pistol or rifle are perfectly adequate. I do recommend that people keep a shotgun around, mostly because most targets of opportunity can be handled with a shotgun. Other than that, I'm not too big on guns.

SOF: Do you foresee, even in your wildest imagination, that this "emergency" could go longer than a year?

RB: No. If you're planning for a year I would say that's adequate.

SOF: Have you been attending preparedness expos?

RB: I go to some and usually end up as a speaker, so don't get to see as much as I would like.

SOF: In the products you have seen, the closer we get to Y2K, have you noticed more variety?

RB: Definitely. There is emphasis across the political spectrum. The left is big on alternate energy: Solar, wind power and low-head hydro [makers] are coming out with many new products. On our side we see AR-15s and case-lot ammo. I'm in an area so remote and so sparsely populated I don't have to worry about marauding bands and being held up for my supplies — but if I were, I would go for a common military rifle. I particularly like the FN because it is .308, and I like military rifles because they are rugged. I would lay one of those back, with ammunition, if I thought I would have to defend my retreat. My defense right now, however, is obscurity. No one knows where I live and I think that's the best defense. ✕

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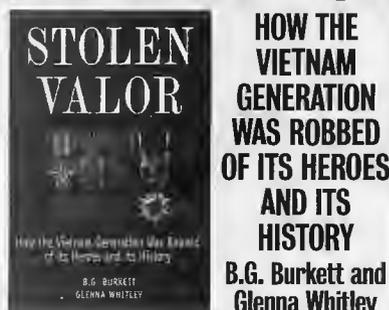
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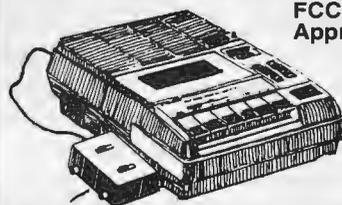
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Omega Proving Ground

Continued from page 51

recoil assist is required when a sound suppressor is attached to a pistol like the MK23 MOD O or Glock Model 21.

The recoil regulator employed in the KAC sound suppressor operates as follows: As the bullet enters the suppressor it's followed by rapidly expanding propellant gases and still unburnt powder granules, which continue to expand and burn, creating an over-pressure situation. Oxygen trapped inside the suppressor accelerates the burning process and adds to the build-up of gas pressure. As a result of the recoil-booster mechanism, the gas pressure within the suppressor drives the suppressor forward and the barrel rearward. This distribution of momentum enables the recoiling barrel and slide to obtain their normal recoil velocity, overcoming the additional weight of the suppressor. The inner coil spring of the piston assembly is compressed at this time, storing the energy required to return the suppressor to its proper place for the next shot.

The recoil regulator was the only component in the KAC suppressor that needed to be modified for use with the Glock Model 21, as the Glock's recoil impulse equation is quite different from the USSOCOM handgun. The MK23 MOD O is a large, heavy pistol that has seen no law-enforcement deployment. It's unlikely it will ever be used outside the military special operations community. Glock's Model 21 service-size .45 ACP pistol has been adopted by a number of law enforcement agencies and has enjoyed great popularity. There are legitimate applications in this arena for a sound-suppressed pistol of reasonable size.

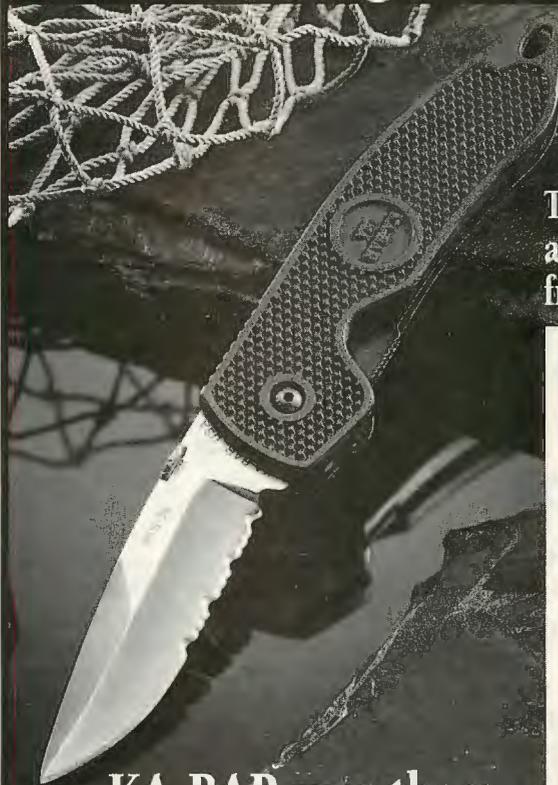
This suppressor was designed to operate either dry or wet. No more than 5cc of water inserted from the chamber end is necessary to significantly enhance the its performance for about 50 rounds before refilling is required. Using standard velocity milspec 230-grain FMJ ball ammunition, the reduction in sound pressure levels is 26 dB dry and 36 dB wet. The sound pressure level generated by the Glock Model 21 with the suppressor in place is 132 dB dry and 122 dB wet.

Inserting water inside the suppressor retards the flow of propellant gases through the unit by lowering their temperature and reducing their expansion (and thus the pressure). As the water is turned to steam, it adds to the weight of the expanding gases, creates additional turbulence and further restricts the gas flow.

For further information, federal and other law enforcement organizations should contact Glock, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 6000 Highlands Parkway, Smyrna, GA 30082-5194; phone: 770-432-1202, extension 770; fax: 770-433-8719).

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Merc Medicine

Continued from page 49

of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Preventive medicine includes trying to eat and sleep right, staying healthy (it's best to be in optimum shape before you undertake any kind of adventure, combat or otherwise), and avoiding obvious health hazards such as big snakes, little (but very poisonous) snakes, biblical knowledge of indigenous females without (sometimes even with) "protection," eating suspect foods when "safe" rations are available, not acclimatizing to environment and climate, disregarding malarial and insect prophylaxis, and drinking contaminated water.

Common Sense

There's only one thing you can't buy in a pharmacy, but need to take with you : common sense. A heat injury can kill you. Lack of potable water will put you down. Combine both and you're looking for trouble.

In El Salvador I puked my guts out into the flower bed at the front gate of the paratrooper base in Ilopango. I was on my way to teach a class on M60 machine-gun employment. I struggled through the class and then passed out in the barracks. Besides suffering from dehydration, I lacked medical attention and a source of potable water. Doc McHugh had pressing business back in Guatemala, where he was working with the Guat Rangers, and had taken his Katydyn water purifier with him. So any water I drank might've caused me more problems. But it didn't really matter because when I did stagger out of my bunk to drink water and take a long cold shower (in an attempt to lower my body temperature), I found that the water was once again turned off. I couldn't believe my luck. I was dehydrated and the water was turned off. If I'd been in the field and went another day without water I would have died. Granted, I should have asked somebody for help, but didn't. I now know that macho gets you dead. That night I stayed in my bunk throughout a "firefight" on the base perimeter, my Browning HP under my pillow while everyone else executed an American goat-rope. I was too sick to care.

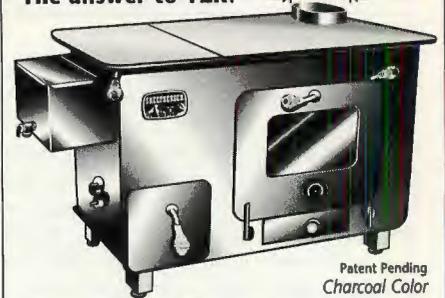
Rob Krott is a frequent contributor to SOF. A former U.S. Army officer, sometime "merc" and professional adventurer, he's been wounded, injured, and just plain sick as a dog in more countries than he cares to remember. His mother always wanted him to be a doctor. For this story, he was advised by Lieutenant Colonel Charles J.F. McHugh, M.D. (MC, U.S.A.R). Charles "Chuck" McHugh is an avid military parachuting enthusiast and a qualified rigger. He is a physician and surgeon in civilian life as well as in the reserves, and volunteers his time and medical expertise to various charitable causes. ✕

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AL-7: Gold War Weapon

Continued from page 63

The bolt, the construction of trigger mechanism, receiver, selector, front sight, the stock, magazine and muzzle brake are identical to the Kalashnikov.

The basic difference between the AL-7 and the AK is the internal addition of a counter-balancing synchronizer with six-tooth sprocket.

As on the AK, operation of the AL-7 is based on the utilization of energy from powder-combustion gases diverted from the barrel into the gas chamber through a port in the barrel.

In order to reduce the shock of the bolt carrier at the end of its front and rear travel, the carrier features a connecting rod in the form of a perforated lower rail. The latter is synchronized with the upper rail by means of a six-tooth sprocket mentioned above, which engages both as they travel in opposite directions. When a round is fired, gas escapes into the gas chamber to activate both pistons of the upper rail and the bolt carrier: The carrier rolls into its rear position while the upper rail travels into its front position. The two dead points are reached simultaneously, thus reducing recoil shock thanks to the synchronizing effect of the sprocket. Travel of moving parts in the AL-7 is shorter than that of the AKM rifle — hence the time of cycle is shorter. This results in a greater cyclic rate: The AL-7 is capable of firing 900 rounds per minute, while the AKM fires only 600.

When traveling rearward, the bolt carrier turns the bolt to unlock, and pushes it rearward. The empty case is extracted from the chamber and ejected through the ejection port. While the carrier rushes towards the rear of receiver, the upper rail comes forward and compresses its return spring. As soon as the two dead points are simultaneously reached, both the carrier and the upper rail begin reciprocal motion under the influence of their return springs.

Note: As it is clearly seen from the photos, return springs in AL-7 are coiled of two strands ("roped"), considerably improving their durability and performance. In a regular Kalashnikov, the return spring is made from a single-strand wire.

Moving forward, the bolt strips the next round from the magazine, chambers it and locks it in battery. With the chamber locked, the carrier disengages the autosear from the firing notch of the hammer. At this moment the upper rail moves rearward. The two pistons arrive into both ports of the gas chamber. If the selector is in its middle position (automatic mode of fire) and the trigger is continuously depressed, the weapon keeps on firing to the last round in the magazine. If the selector is in the lower position (semiautomatic mode) and the trigger is depressed, the weapon delivers only one shot. In order to repeat the cycle, the operator has to repeatedly release and depress the trigger. ❧

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If a sportsman true you'd be
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Pointed be at anyone.
That it may unloaded be
Matters not the least to me.

When a hedge or fence you cross
Though of time it cause a loss
From your gun the cartridge take
For the greater safety's sake.

If twixt you and neighboring gun
Bird shall fly or beast may run
Let this maxim ere be thine
"Follow not across the line."

Stops and beaters oft unseen
Lurk behind some leafy screen.
Calm and steady always be
"Never shoot where you can't see."

You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think of this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
Won't repay for one man dead."

*Written by Mark Beaufoy of Coombe House,
Shaftsbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on
presenting his eldest son, Henry Mark, with his
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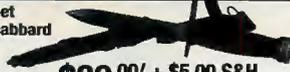
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How the Serbs Outfoxed NATO

NATO claims its aircraft destroyed 120 Serb armored vehicles and tons of other military hardware during its recent Balkans bashing. But down in the Kosovo mud our grunts say, "It ain't so."

Our warriors say it sure looks like NATO, after blowing a cool \$4 billion on bombs and missiles, didn't do the demo job as hyped. Pound for pound of enemy gear destroyed, this is America's costliest war.

So how did the Serbs pull the wool over NATO's electronic eyes and foil the most high-tech military force in history?

Simple. They used their imaginations and adapted tricks and deceptions that've been around since long before the Trojan Horse rolled into Troy. And our electronic spies in the sky and other high-tech gadgets, gadgeteers and generals fell for it.

During the conflict, smart bombs and missiles costing from 50 grand to 2 million bucks repeatedly blew up decoy "tanks," "artillery pieces" and other "targets" made of sticks and plastic, some of which included primitive heat sources for faking out gold-plated thermal-image systems in NATO aircraft.

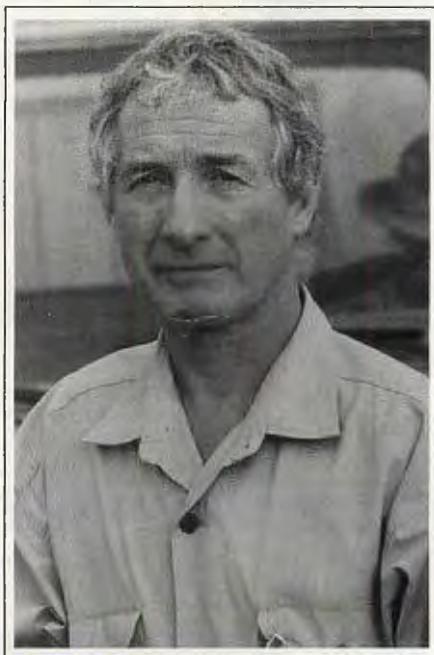
Our guys in Kosovo have found hundreds of imitation tanks, trucks, artillery pieces, missiles and missile launchers, roads and even bridges, which NATO aircraft and cruise missiles had "destroyed." "From up close they look like junk, but from three miles up, they'd look like the real thing," says an Army sergeant.

Real roads and bridges were painted to show "battle damage" to con NATO satellites and reconnaissance aircraft into thinking they'd already been knocked out.

Another trick used by the Yugoslav army was to set up dummy mobile-air-defense missile units. Many of these were placed next to fake bridges (made out of logs) and mock roads — strips of black plastic sheeting laid across open fields with "tanks" and other "military vehicles" painted on them.

U.S. aircraft flying at 15,000 feet had a field day blowing up these "Serb air defense units" and other dummy targets, while their spinners back at NATO headquarters daily chanted to the world, "We are significantly degrading their air defense and combat ability."

Serb commanders worked out that NATO did most of their reconnaissance during the daytime, after which targets were laboriously picked by generals, diplomats and horse-holders for presidents and prime ministers to approve, then assigned to pilots who'd



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.

be tasked to zap them. So as soon as darkness fell, Serb units scooted to new positions and began the mock-up game. One Serb commanding officer said, "From the 300 projectiles which NATO has fired, only four have hit something of substance."

Another Serb CO said his unit would fire at attacking NATO aircraft and then quickly move his firing batteries, replacing them with dummies. "The time it took NATO's photo-reconnaissance people to identify the point of fire and return to bomb the mock-up was a minimum of 12 hours. So we knew when we had to move our equipment — every 12 hours," he said.

The same officer said that Serb army technicians had taken apart an unexploded \$1 million U.S. Tomahawk missile and figured out that its targeting largely depended on a chip that guided the rocket by heat sources. As a result, soldiers burned tires parallel to major roads and bridges. The burning tires emitted more heat than the surface of the bridges themselves and attracted the missiles away from the vital bridges.

Saddam Hussein used similar tricks during Desert Storm. His heat source was a can with burning oil, set next to a plywood or rubber tank. An Iraqi prisoner of war said he knew of one such "tank" that was "knocked out 10 times" by U.S. aircraft.

In February 1991, the Air Force reported they'd destroyed half of Iraq's tanks. This news triggered Stormin' Norman's ground attack. U.S. units on the ground later discovered that only 13% of the enemy tanks were knocked out. Luckily, the Iraqis didn't have the stomach for a fight, or we would've paid for this bad call in American blood.

Fortunately, Milosevic's army bugged out before our ground force hit the deck, or our generals would be relearning the hard way that an opposing army cannot be defanged at 15,000 feet regardless of how smart the weapons and how all-seeing the eyes in the sky.

[Http://www.hackworth.com](http://www.hackworth.com) is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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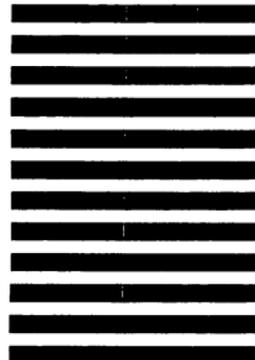
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