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NOVEMBER 1999
Vol. 24 No. 11



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Images

On the Cover

Want to join Spetsnaz? First, you've got to be Russian. Second, you have to gut-out the bone-cracking initial training — culminating in a 12-minute brawl versus hardened vets. Story on page

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ONE BOMB, ONE TARGET

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Peter G. Kokalis

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

Rogue Criminals Do Not Warrant Blanket Indictments

I authorized publication of a controversial article in our September 1999 *SOF* (I Was There — “The Opium Express,” by John Prester). While incoming comms were not overwhelmingly pro or con, we did receive negative criticism from two special individuals toward whom I’ve always felt deep admiration: Brigadier General Harry C. “Heinie” Aderholt, USAF (Ret.) and Mr. Joe Goulden, a noted conservative writer with over 20 published books to his credit.

Both strongly objected to “The Opium Express” which, they perceive, wrongly accuses the CIA and Air America of being enmeshed in drug-smuggling into CONUS and elsewhere from South-east Asia. I am concerned and embarrassed that these two old friends would think that myself, or *Soldier Of Fortune*



magazine, would purposely level such a wholesale and all-encompassing indictment against the valiant men and women of honor who served with both organizations.

I’ve known the author, Mr. Prester (not his real name), for a good number of years, and I believed his accounts of his experiences in Vietnam — as controversial as they seemed to be. But nowhere in the text does John Prester (or *SOF*) claim that rank-and-file personnel of Air America and the CIA were aware of, or took part in, alleged ongoing drug-smuggling operations emanating from Southeast Asia. I should have, in hindsight, published a clear and emphatic statement assuring you that neither Prester, nor I, were issuing blanket accusations against these two fine organizations. For that oversight I sincerely apologize, to Heinie, to Joe, and to our other readers.

In the past I’ve spoken out against the

My Lai Massacre, and I doubt that my comments were construed as relating to the entire military structure of the United States, or even to a single unit as a whole. The same goes for the payola scandal which rocked the Army in the late 60s-early 70s, as numerous high-ranking NCOs and officers (the so-called “Khaki Mafia”) were tried and convicted for their participation in the infamous and widely known corruption within the NCO club system.

Did the Agency and Air America — as organizations — run drugs in and out of South-east Asia? I say not just “No!” ... but “Hell, no!”

Did, however, individual rogue criminals and/or small elements within AA and CIA take it upon themselves — minus official sanctions — to profit from the drug trade; to smuggle bags of heroin — sewn inside American KIAs — into

various military bases within the continental United States; to engage in regional drug transport within Southeast Asia and feather their respective financial nests through such illegal and immoral activities? I believe some did.

During one of my several sojourns to Thailand I was told by a former Air America pilot that, on occasion, mysterious parcels were transported by Air America throughout Laos; parcels owned by Vang Pao and his H’mong tribesman, stalwart American allies in the CIA’s so-called “Secret War in Laos.”

But the despicable actions of a very few should not cast shadows of guilt and suspicion on the brave individuals who served in AA, the Agency, the U.S. military and in-country civilian agencies.

Their reputations and acts of sacrifice and heroism remain untarnished. ✎

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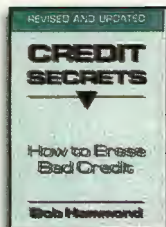
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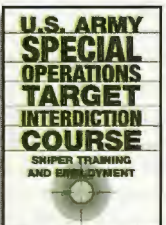
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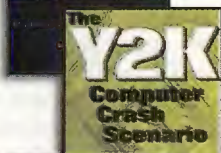
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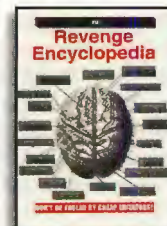
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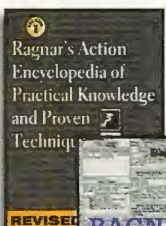
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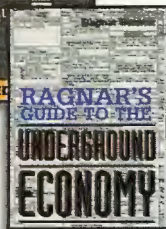


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Water Jump In South Africa

As this issue hits the streets, stalwarts will be getting ready to hit the silk over Hartesbeespoort Dam, near Pretoria, South Africa, on Operation Zulu Dawn. You may just have time to hop a plane and join them for this 27 October/2 November jump junket (contact Mike McPike at Global Adventures: mikem@globaladventures.com; phone: 303-791-9959).

Zulu Dawn will be a badge-qualifying water jump with wings awarded by CO of the S.A. Airborne School, Bloemfontein. This is an annual SANDF event that saw more than 500 SANDF Paras jump last year. American participation has been organized by Rob Krott (Military Parachuting Tours International [MPTI], Box 1573, Olean, NY 14760; phone/fax: 716-373-0017; Email: para@hotmail.com). MPTI's last jump was a water jump over Cuba (watch for the story by Maj. Mike Williams). Krott organizes about three premium jump tours a year — contact him at MPTI for more information ... but for this Zulu Dawn jump contact Mike McPike at Global Adventures directly, as Krott is unlikely to be available — and you will probably need the expertise of McPike at getting you on an 11th-hour plane.

All The News That's Filtered To Print

As this issue of *SOF* hits the streets, the familiar U.S. Information

Agency (USIA) will be absorbed by the State Department, and a new office of Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy will head up a new State Department group called the International Public Information Group (IPI), which is intended to control the flow of government information overseas, especially during crises.

David Leavy, spokesman for the White House's National Security Council said, "What this is intended to do is organize the instruments of the federal government to be able to support the public diplomacy, military engagements and economic initiatives that we have overseas."

According to a government official involved in the organizational process, the new IPI is slated to hold its first formal meeting this fall. Although not announced until recently, President Clinton signed a directive last April, ordering officials from the Pentagon, FBI, CIA and Departments of State, Treasury and Commerce to organize the new agency. A mission statement obtained by AP articulates that the new IPI is a good idea because the "effective use of our nation's highly developed communications and information capabilities to address misinformation and incitement, mitigate inter-ethnic conflict, promote independent media organizations and the free flow of information, and support democratic participation will advance our interests and is a critical foreign policy objective."

Trust us: If the same writer who penned that sentence writes the press releases, they'll never get read.

Continued on page 10

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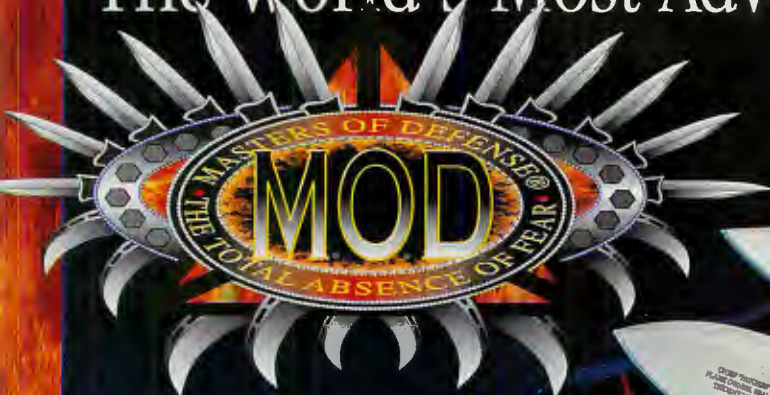
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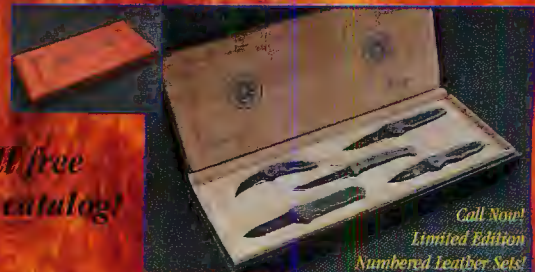
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Chief Jim Watson - "Trident"

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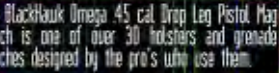
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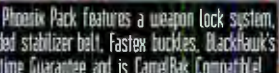
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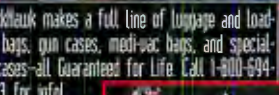
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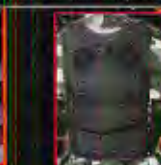
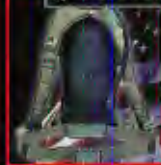
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Southern Party Formed

The South will rise again, although so far it's only up on one elbow. A fledgling group of some 200 Southern nationalists have met in Flat Rock, North Carolina to formally organize the Southern Party, which seeks to pick up the threads — and the pace — of the secessionist movement in Dixie.

Southern National Committee board member Ron Holland described the platform of the Party to delegates as "dedicated to limited government, low taxes, maximum individual liberty, a free market and self-determination for Dixie." Holland is a North Carolina investment counselor, and the Southern Party is an outgrowth of the League of the South, a Southern sovereignty group headquartered in Alabama, which had formed a committee last year to explore creation of a new political party.

The Southern Party plans to place candidates on local ballots in up to 16 states in the 2000 elections, including all the states of the former Confederacy. Although adopting the Stars and Bars as one of their symbols, the Southern Party disavows white-supremacist ideologies and the use of anything but the ballot box to realize an independent Southern nation.

Their strategy is to elect governors and legislative majorities in Southern states, which would eventually vote to withdraw from the United States. "We are often asked if our affinity for the Confederate national symbols of Southern sovereignty are also indicative of an attitude of racial malice towards people of non-European origin, or racial bigotry towards people of non-Christian faith," noted Southern Party chairman George Kalas of Texas. "The simple answer is a firm "No." Southerners are not a race, they are a people ... Secession, if it comes, must come from the electorate and it must be a peaceful, orderly and constitutional process."

The Southern Party or League of the South may be contacted by phone: 800-888-3163; Email: 76071.326@compuserve.com; or via their website: www.dixienet.org .

No Guns Into Mexico

The State Department has issued a special advisory to remind travelers to Mexico that entering Mexico with a firearm or even a single round of ammunition carries a penalty of up to five years in jail, even if taken in unintentionally. Each year dozens of Americans are arrested or fined in Mexico in connection with weapons violations (some three dozen are presently jailed in Mexico on weapons charges). Many inadvertently transported a firearm they were licensed to carry in the United States, without realizing they were violating Mexican laws — some were driving across the border for a day visit, to shop or eat in a restaurant.

If caught bringing in a firearm, ammunition, or other weapon, Mexican officials may confiscate a visitor's vehicle, plane, boat or other personal property and arrest the individual. Detained Americans may spend months in jail before their trial comes up, and if convicted they may face several years in a Mexican prison.

The only way to legally import firearms or ammunition into Mexico is to secure a permit in advance (*not at the port of entry*) from the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C., or a Mexican consulate.

For further information on travel to Mexico or other countries, check out the Bureau of Consular Affairs' home page on the net at: <http://travel.state.gov> .

Jane's Goes Down the Flusher

Staffers at *SOF* have long-used the various reference books and periodicals put out by *Jane's* and considered them generally reliable. Indeed, there is a certain amount of cross-pollination between authors who write both for *SOF* and *Jane's*. That practice is now under review here, in light of which organizations *Jane's Counter Terrorism*, by author Christopher Kozlow, lists as terrorist organizations. Hard to say if it is PC-newspeak or just incredibly sloppy jour-

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nalism, but included on the list are the Citizen's Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Gun Owners of America — even Blue Trails Range, which is a public shooting range in Connecticut. *Jane's* Terrorist web site lists Jews For The Preservation of Firearms Ownership as a U.S. terrorist organization. *Huh?* Does *Jane's* not know the difference between a peaceable PAC and a terrorist organization, or do they not care, or did somebody lead them to believe U.S. libel laws had been repealed? *Incredible!*

Whaddya Did In The Cold War, Daddy?

As we mentioned in these pages earlier, on the premise that those also serve who only stand and wait, the nearly 22 million GIs and federal civilian workers who did their thing during the Cold War (officially, the time frame from the surrender of Japan in 1945 to the resignation of Gorbachev in 1991) have been authorized a Cold War Veteran Recognition Certificate, and since its debut in

April more than 200,000 veterans have applied. Hey, "Remington Raiders" need love, too. Now legislation has been introduced by Sen. Phil Gramm (R-Texas), and Rep. Dick Lazio (R-N.Y.), to honor Cold War vets with a medal and some sort of celebration — maybe not ticker tape and tin horns, but something tasteful and appropriate. With a good Xerox and a Dremel tool the certificate and medal might make something to leave in an old trunk for your grandkids to find.

To get your certificate, mail a copy of your DD214 and a letter stating your service was honorable and requesting the certificate to: Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030-7445; or fax same to: 800-723-9262. Get additional info by calling 703-275-6279; or check out the web site: <http://coldwar.army.mil/>.

Salvadoran Fighters Seek Compensation

Thousands of former paramilitary fighters, mostly small farmers and farm workers, are demanding \$2,000 and land for their unpaid service in fighting leftist guerrillas during the 1979-92 civil war. The 1992 peace accord ending the war delineated payments for former soldiers, but not for paramilitary forces. Archbishop Fernando Saenz urged "true dialog that ... the two sides do whatever possible to resolve the conflict." Representatives of some 25,000 former paramilitaries have threatened to launch a wave of protests if the Salvadoran congress does not grant payments of money and land.

\$113 For Clinton's Head

Abdul Rahim Muslim Dost, identified by the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) as an "Afghan scholar," is quoted as saying, "If anyone kills Clinton I will pay a reward of five million Afghanis [\$113] ... I think five million Afghanis is not that big of an amount, but the price of the American President's head for me is not valued more

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Well, that might be a good offer. Who knows what the fair market value of *head* is in Washington after the Lewinsky affair.

Thais Shut Down For Y2K

The Thai government approach to possible glitches on military equipment at the onset of 2000 will be very direct: They plan to shut down all military equipment that is not Y2K-compliant before 31 December 1999. The plan comes in the wake of concerns expressed by Deputy Prime Minister Traion Suwankhiri, over the safety of civilian aircraft.

Radio ID For Weapons

Scientists at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., have been commissioned by the U.S. Army to develop tiny, inexpensive radio-frequency tags, to be inserted in all small arms in the U.S. armed forces' inventory.

The RF tags will be used to track forces involved in covert ops, and for inventory control. The current radio tags can be tracked from about 700 feet, and some models of the new tags will not require a power source, as power will come from the RF interrogator signal. Information transmitted can include such data as time, date and location. Such chips can also be used to disable specific items of ordnance that are equipped with them.

Justice Wants To Black-Bag Computers

Thwarted in attempts to gain legislation that would allow the government to insert "clipper chips" to give access through personal computers' encryption systems, the Justice Department has drafted legislation called the Cyberspace Electronic Security Act, which would enable investigators to get a sealed warrant signed by a judge, permitting them to enter private property, search through computers for passwords, and install devices that override encryption programs.

According to a Justice Department memo which was reviewed by Office of Management and Budget and other agencies, encryption software "is increasingly used as a means to facilitate criminal activity." ❌

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A good water purification system can also alleviate some of the necessity for enormous storage: If you have a for-certain supply of *uncertain* water, having a purification system at hand gives you the option of purifying water as it is needed. The principle also applies to carrying sufficient supplies in areas where water is plentiful, but of questionable potabil-

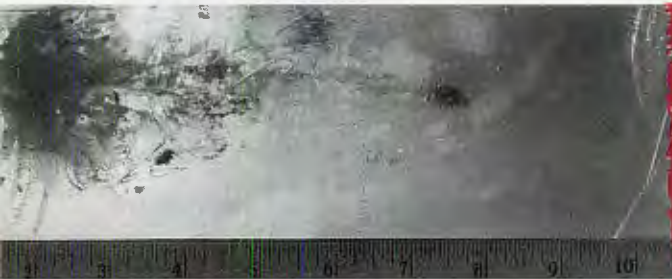
ity. In such a scenario, one pound of purification equipment — case in point being the excellent PUR Scout — is worth 200 pounds or more of water, since as Grandma used to remind you, “A pint’s a pound the world around.” And if you want to carry a few pounds of resupplies for the purifier, it can be worth tons of water.

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narrow field at a distance, or the animals who are prey that can dramatically enlarge their pupils for low-light conditions, the human eye needs some help.

Any good pair of binoculars can focus on distant objects, and gather more light, to assist the human eye's viewing distant objects in low light. Good-quality binos will do it with almost no distortion, and give you years of trouble-free service. Top-quality binos, such as the new Steiner Rocky, will do it with *zero* distortion, very comfortably, and give a lifetime of trouble-free hard service. These new Steiners are also fully rubber-armed, waterproof to more than two fathoms, and function from -40 to +176 degrees F. The milspec, nitrogen-filled and carefully sealed interiors are impervious to dust and moisture. They focus from less than 6 feet to infinity. They weigh about 25 ounces and measure only 6.1" x 4.9" x 2.2".

In addition to the rubber armor, these new Steiners have built-in soft eye-shields and objective lense covers. These new binos use Steiner's exclusive color-adjusted transmission (CAT) coated optics, which provide transmission of up to 99.8% per lens element and deliver a bright crisp image that is true to life in color and detail, even in low-light conditions. Available in 8x42 and 10x42, the new

Rockys have a field of view of 367' and 295' at 1,000 yards, respectively. Top drawer in every respect: Don't you deserve the very best of something?

Available from Pioneer Research, Dept. SOF, 97 Foster Rd., Suite 5, Moorestown, NJ 08057; phone: 800-257-7742.

Buffalo Patches

If you've ever grown tired of having to pick the stringy remains of cotton cloth patches from the action or muzzle brake of a firearm, you'll appreciate the fact that Buffalo Bullet Company's new Boretex™ 670 rifle patches are made from a strong, non-woven cellulose fabric. It does not tend to separate into loose fibers, and it sucks up powder fouling like a sponge. Black-powder shooters in particular will appreciate how much one patch will pick up and hold, but this new high-tech bore-cleaning patch is not just for smoke-poles — bench-esters and varmint shooters will appreciate the consistency from patch to patch as well.



The 3x3"-size handles everything from .30 to 12 gauge, and the patches are readily trimmed with a scissors for .17 to .30 bores. They are also tough enough you can use them over the tip of a small screwdriver to get into nooks and crannies, without worry you'll poke through and scratch or damage the gun.

A definite step ahead of cloth patches, these new non-woven patches are worth your trial. You'll probably use up your old supply of cloth patches just polishing belt buckles, once you see how much the Buffalo Patches will hold, and observe that they never leave anything behind.

Contact Buffalo Bullet Co., Dept. SOF, 12637 Los Nietos Rd., Unit A, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670; phone: 310-944-0322; fax: 310-944-5054. ✉

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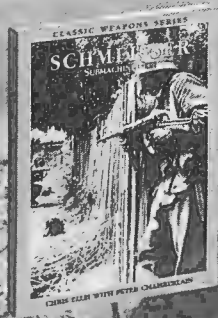
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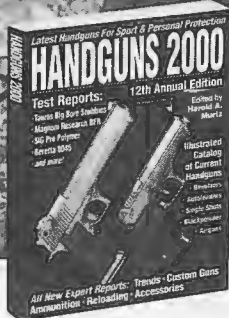
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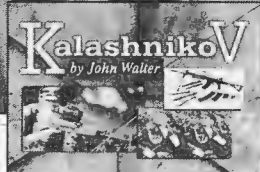
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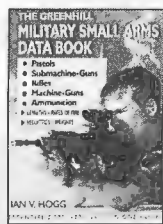
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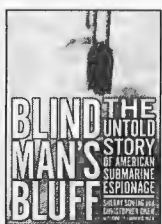
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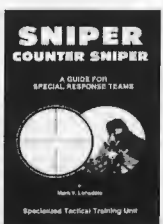
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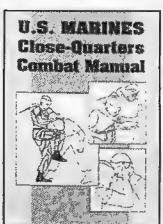
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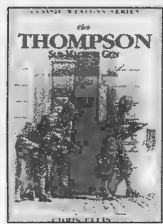
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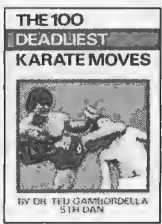
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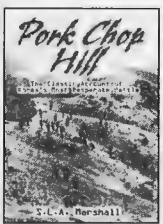
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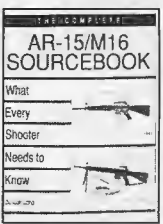
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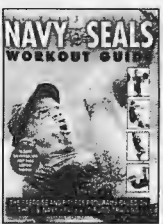
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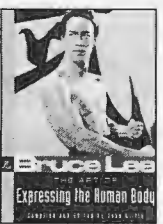
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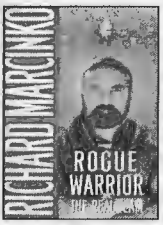
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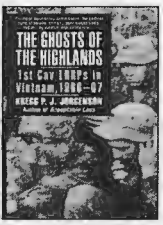
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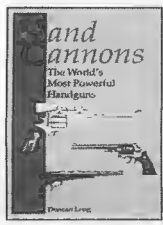
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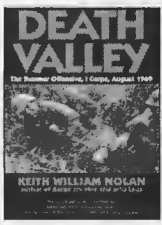
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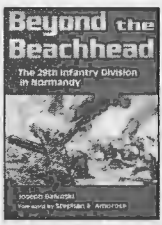
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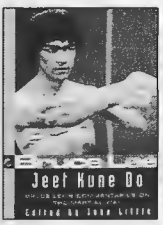
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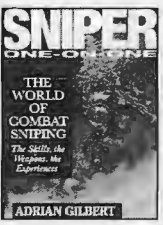
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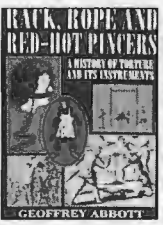
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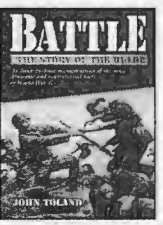
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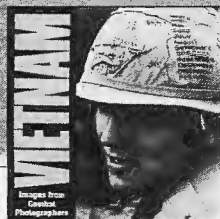
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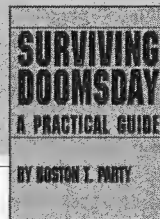
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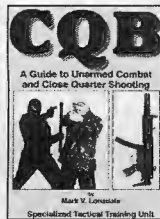
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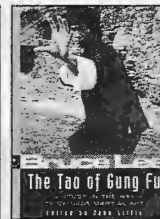
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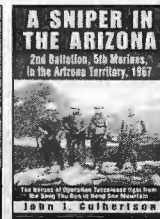
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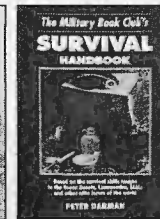
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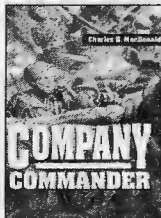
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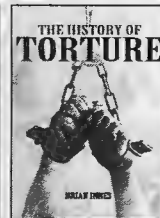
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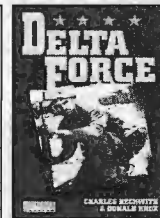
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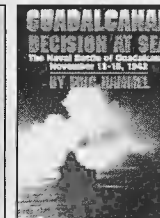
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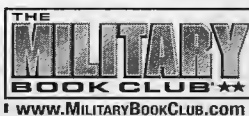
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Al Gore, The Floater

The next time you flush, thank your lucky stars if everything goes down. If you're left with floaters, however, think about Vice President Al Gore, the likely Democratic nominee to replace Slick Willie.

It's not that we ask you to compare Gore to those annoying brown buoys that make us flush twice, sometimes thrice, before getting on with life. That would be beneath our rather sophisticated international journal of adventure.

Rather, we simply ask that you keep in mind Gore's obsession with water conservation, and his unwavering support of the stringent guidelines in today's National Energy Policy Act. The act strictly regulates toilets so they can be made to flush no more than 1.6 gallons at a time. Of course, we all know the extra flushes these toilets require waste more than the old 3-gallon pots.

Still, we must assume Gore's support of this standard was well-intentioned. He just wanted to save water, right?

In his book *Earth in the Balance*, he went on and on about the scarcity of water on this planet and the need to preserve it. Take this passage, for example, on page 111: "In most of the world, the pressure of population growth on the water system is also exacerbated by increasing per capita use. One of the main reasons for this is the growing reliance on irrigation for agriculture to feed the growing populations. Of all the fresh water used by human beings throughout the world, almost three-quarters (73 percent) is used for irrigation.

And tragically, three-fifths of all irrigation water is wasted due to inefficient and environmentally harmful techniques."

So we're perplexed as to why a campaign stop in New Hampshire this summer cost drought-stricken New Hampshire 4 billion gallons of precious water. It happened 22 July, the day Gore boarded a canoe for a photo opportunity on the Connecticut River. To be sure, the river was picturesque, and to accommodate Secret Service concerns about the canoe running aground, state officials released 4 billion additional gallons from a reservoir that was saving water for toilets, faucets and the future needs of fish downstream.

To waste that much water, the *Washington Times* estimates, a household faucet would have to run constant for more than 3,042 years. The water bill would be something like \$7.1 million. A toilet, to waste that much water, would have to be flushed 2.5 billion times. Each toilet in New Hampshire would have to be flushed 2,110 times.

Gore claims innocence on all of this, saying he didn't ask for the special release of water. But we think someone so concerned about the water in our toilets — someone who wants to lead the free world — should know in advance the full environmental consequences of his own actions. So the next time your waiting for a floater to go down, think about the needs of the planet. And think about Al Gore, the man who wasted 2.5 billion flushes in a single afternoon. ❧



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WORLD SITREP

1

UNITED STATES

Security nightmare: Former CIA chief Deutch stripped of security clearances for keeping secret files in unsecure home computer. Alleged offenses by Deutch may be akin to those a Taiwan-born ex-atomic scientist is accused of in the China spy flap. • **Encryption police:** Draft legislation from Justice Department would allow police to secretly enter homes and businesses to disable computer encryption systems. Proposal has run head-on into strong opposition from privacy activists, defense attorneys and a handful of lawmakers on Capitol Hill. In letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.) called the plan "patently absurd." Criminals, say Justice Department officials, are using computers more often and are becoming more savvy about hiding drug activities and other illegal transactions. • **Locked up:** Incarceration rates reach historic high, with nearly 3% of all American adults in prison or under direct police supervision. Of industrialized nations, only Russia has higher incarceration rate. • **Antimissile project:** Lockheed-led antimissile project to accelerate after two recent test launches, Pentagon says. Successes outweighed string of failures that troubled the Thaad program.

2

RUSSIA

Revolt: Premier summons military aides to review progress in fight against separatist rebels in Dagestan as a self-imposed deadline for crushing revolt passes. Both sides claim victory in fighting for a mountain stronghold guarding rebels' supply lines to Chechnya. • **Politics as usual:** Yeltsin unveils Putin government's cabinet, making no changes except at the agriculture ministry. • **ABM treaty:** U.S.-Russia negotiators reaffirm 1972 ABM treaty, which Washington had said it wanted to modify. • **Laundromat:** U.S. authorities alerted to suspected laundering of billions of dollars linked to Russian organized crime through Bank of New York by its rival, Republic National Bank of New York.

6

PAKISTAN

Death awaits them: Two gunmen sentenced to death for 1997 Karachi attack on American oil-company workers that left five dead. Two belong to a militant group formed by Muslims who fled India in 1947.

7

PHILIPPINES

Constitution: President says he will proceed with plans to amend the constitution, despite protests. Separately, police say, dynamite held in evidence, not a bomb, led to a recent blast at Manila's counterpart to the FBI.

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BRAZIL

Gun Control: Government of Rio De Janeiro state passes revolutionary piece of legislation that forbids gun vendors from selling firearms and related products to anyone but police, the military and private security forces. Law makes no exceptions for sportsmen or collectors. Gun dealers, most of whom are going out of business, are also forbidden from selling plastic ammunition boxes, gun cases or any other gun-related merchandise. Another law, under debate, would require all civilians who own guns to turn them in within a year. These actions, by the state's new liberal government, come as the national legislature debates a similar laws that would apply to all of Brazil.

10

13

CUBA

Commie drug war: Castro asks U.S. to join Cuba in fighting drug traffickers who take advantage of island's strategic Caribbean location to transport drugs to United States. Castro promises prosecution for those arrested, and death sentences for high-ranking members of the communist government found guilty of trafficking. Castro's request is being opposed by Cuban exile leaders in Miami and their allies in Congress.

12

UNITED KINGDOM

Dude looks like a lady: Army will no longer kick people out for having sex changes, reports a London newspaper. Decision follows controversy over planned sex change by 38-year-old sergeant major engineer. The soldier, a former army boxer, was relegated to a desk job while undergoing "gender realignment." "The army is now committed to equal opportunities and is under growing pressure to respond to changing attitudes in society," the newspaper reports.

3**CHINA**

Back off: China's U.S. envoy warns U.S. not to get involved in its dispute with Taiwan over statehood, and says U.S. political candidates shouldn't make issue of it. • **Can we play?** China plans to push forward with negotiations to enter the World Trade Organizations, but blames U.S. for stalled talks. Application must be approved by all 134 nations in the WTO, the world body that regulates global trade.

4**EAST TIMOR**

Troubled youth: UN officials reject applications by 24 Indonesian government-linked youth groups to observe Independence vote. UN feared the groups were sent by Jakarta to try to disrupt the vote. Members of the youth groups themselves said officials of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, which oversees all official youth organizations, encouraged them to send observers. Officially, Indonesia denied any links to the move.

5**SWITZERLAND**

Personal army: Government suspends secret service chief amid reports he embezzled millions of dollars and was using the money to assemble a private army. Local newspaper says huge weapons cache was seized near Bern.

8**SERBIA**

Million Man March? Serbs march in biggest anti-Milosevic protest since the Kosovo air war. More than 150,000 march through Belgrade chanting "Slobo, go." Government tried to reduce crowd's size by warning of bombs, changing the time of a lottery broadcast and paying months-overdue pensions. Meanwhile, anti-Milosevic parties plan to pursue different strategies for toppling the strongman, reflecting divisions evident at a big Belgrade rally last week. In Kosovo, NATO granted a Serb request to extend a deadline for surrendering arms.

9**VENEZUELA**

Judging the judges: Constitutional assembly declares judicial emergency in Venezuela, giving itself sweeping new powers to fire judges and overhaul entire court system. Under the measure, nearly half of country's 4,700 judges could be suspended or dismissed due to pending accusations of corruption or other irregularities. Assembly's decision sets stage for confrontation with Supreme Court, which has ruled that assembly's mission is limited to writing new constitution, not intervening in other branches of government.

2**12****5****8****11****NORTH KOREA**

Soviet missiles: As North Korea prepares to test another missile, despite U.S. warnings to desist, a South Korean newspaper reports that North Korea has agreed to buy 40 MiG-21 fighters from a former soviet republic and is assembling them at secret bases. U.S. and South Korean officials don't know where the impoverished country got the money.

6**3****11****14****15****7****4****14****TAIWAN**

Anti-missile system: Facing steady military threats from mainland China, Taiwan says it needs protection of proposed regional anti-missile system that has been condemned by China. Beijing, which views Taiwan as a wayward province and threatens to use force to end island's 50-year political estrangement from China, strongly opposes TMD system as a tool to contain China. • **UN bid:** Taiwan resumes its bid, for UN recognition, after six previous, unsuccessful bids.

15**VIETNAM**

Reconciliation: New U.S. consulate offices opens adjacent to former American Embassy, the sit of one of the most lasting images of the Vietnam War. Ambassador Pete Peterson said flag raising at new facility signals further reconciliation. It comes amid flurry of other developments in U.S.-Vietnamese relations, including new bilateral trade agreement.

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

Guidance From Above

For people of a religious nature, there has always been a belief or association that divine intervention comes from above. These Christian concepts in conjunction with the teachings of the Bible and Church give credence to the thought of intervention from elevated planes with such quotes as Psalms 121:1 which says in part "lift up thine eyes." There is then, this bonding or mixture of strong beliefs and the thought that there are powerful forces at work "above" us. In reality true believers worship their omnipresent God regardless of location.

I have in the past dealt with students who felt that there is some kind of religious-like mysticism involved in the application of angled or elevated rifle shooting. These poor folks actually believe there is some magical or mystic voodoo or potion to make marksmanship work in these environments. The use of rifles from elevated firing platforms have caused some concern that shots may be complex or difficult because of the varying angles of attack. In reality the application of small arms to field firing environments in what, for example, the military calls MOUT (Military Operation in Urban Terrain) requires trained competent rifle-persons. Functional skills are acquired by operator awareness to potential problems that may be encountered, and then addressed by appropriate training and practice.

In law enforcement or military applications, conflicts can occur in built-up areas where ranges to contact will probably be substantially shorter than the ranges most of the participating combatants trained or practiced in. These short ranges and elevated firing platforms may throw police officers or infantry a curve ball. There is the premise that if "I can hit the target at 400 yards, I can hit it a 40 yards." This is similar to the guy who says, "I never miss." If you never miss, it only means you never shoot. Everybody misses. The real question is will you hit, or miss, when it's most important!



The Tower at Thunder Ranch was used as a shooting platform.

To dispel or confirm the potential problems of elevated platforms and shooting, I shot a series of odd ranges and angles to see how projectile impacts compared to point of aim. I used a precision scope-sighted rifle to reduce the margin of error. The rifle was hand held and all shots were fired from prone with a bag-type rest.

My rifle selection for the test was a personally owned Robar SR-60 (The Robar Companies, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21438 N. 7th Ave., Suite B, Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 623-581-2648; fax: 623-582-0059; web site: www.robarguns.com) made with a special flame-colored composition stock. The rifle weighs in at 10 pounds, with a barrel length of 20 inches and overall length of 39 inches. The action is based on the Remington 700. The rifle has a stainless steel barrel with match chamber and crown and is pillar-bedded in a McMillan general-purpose hunting stock (McMillan Fiberglass Stocks, Inc., Dept. SOF, 21421 North 14th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85027; phone: 602-582-9635; fax: 602-581-3825; web site: www.mcmfamily.com) with a free-floating barrel channel. It has a non-slip texture to the pistol grip and forearm, the recoil pad is a Pachmayr Decelerator. The stock finish is Polymax and Roguard/NP3 completes the metal work.

With the help of Garth Kendig at Leupold (Leupold & Stevens, PO Box 688, Beaverton, OR 97006 phone: 503-646-9171) the rifle is topped with a Leupold 3.5X10 Tactical Scope with target adjusting towers mounted to the rifle with Leupold rings and bases.

Federal .308M ammunition was used for testing. Two groups were fired at 100 yards to confirm the rifle zero with zero declination. These two groups measured .842 inches and .627 inches, respectively.

Base elevation at the firing location was 2,280 feet above sea

Continued on page 29



Robar SR-60 based on the Remington action was used for elevated platform shooting drills. A Leupold 3.5X10 Tactical Scope was mounted to the rifle as well as (inset) an angle finder.

CHANGES IN IMPACT

Shooter Elevation FEET	Change Of Impact INCHES	Angle To Target DEGREES
29-YARD TARGET:		
11	-.325	5
21	-.278	11
31	-.298	18
41	-.298	22
57-YARD TARGET:		
11	+.616	4
21	+.588	7
31	+.840	10
41	+.393	13
90-YARD TARGET:		
11	+1.000	2
21	+.402	5
31	+.873	8
41	+.657	10

“All Your Fancy Fighting Skills Won't Earn You An Extra Second Against This Devastating New Natural Streetfighting System!”

Why are black belts, boxers, Ju Jitsu wrestlers... and especially those silly macho “military” guys who *claim* to be so tough... scared to death when faced with this amazingly *simple* new fighting secrets?

Dear Friend,

My name is Bob Pierce... and I have *serious* “inside” knowledge about every “new” fighting system that’s ever been “hyped” in this magazine. I have *financed* the marketing for many of these systems... I’m well-known in all the important military, martial art and military circles. (My contacts include former Navy SEAL and Army Special Forces, plus guys who train SEALs, FBI and CIA agents, big city SWAT police, and special “black bag” operatives the government doesn’t want you to know about.)

I don’t seek these men out. These hotshots come to *me*... often *begging* for a chance to show me their” stuff”.

Well, let me tell you something. **You need to hear this:** Almost *all* those super-hyped fighting systems are...

Pure Over-Rated Garbage!

Real fighting... especially the vicious, no-rules attacks and fights *you’re* every likely to see in the street... has *changed forever!* Almost *everything* you know is obsolete, and I don’t care how long you’ve been training or who you’ve trained with.

Worse... if you are ever forced to actually use anything you’ve learned — and if you’re like 99% of the guys out there trying to put together a few “guaranteed” skills to protect yourself and your family — you *will* likely get hurt if you attempt to use any *fancy stuff* against an experienced streetfighter or mugger.

Every fighting system I’ve seen is just *too damned complicated* to *master* in a reasonable time (and they’re just *lying* to you if they say different)! Those military guys are the *worst* too... anyone who *knows* the SEALs and Army “elite” special forces work knows these soldiers use *weapons* to fight with... **NOT their hands!** Hand-to-hand streetfighting is the *least important skill* they need or seek... and they learn a few “basic” hand-to-hand skills almost as an *afterthought!*

The truth is, when these “elite” soldiers are pitted against an experienced, world-class streetfighter...

They Lose!

I’d almost *given up* trying to find an *honestly* simple fighting system that was easy to master (not just “learn”)... and that I could *count on* if I was forced to defend myself.

And then I stumbled on something... I think

you’ll find it interesting, also.

Let me tell you a very short story that may be the most important one you ever hear in your life: Just outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma, there’s a beat-up warehouse where certain “unusual” types of people like to gather. If you’re a stranger out here, you’re not just unwelcome...

You’re Meat!

And it’s very easy to tell if you’re not one of the “in” group: These guys shave their heads and tattoo *swastikas* on their scalp. They’re permanently pumped with a steroid-and-amphetamine rage. They wear jack boots, carry chains, knives and baseball bats... and they never, *ever* fight fair. All fights are three, four, or a *dozen* to one.

They’re Skinhead Neo-Nazi’s... probably the most *vicious* and *dangerous* punks roaming America. (Compared with Skinheads, an inner-city Compton gang of Crips or Bloods look almost like *Boy Scouts*.) Skinheads never need a reason for violence — just being alone and close enough to jump will make you an instant victim.

These Sick Jerks Actually Enjoy Hurting And Humiliating People!

Anyway, on this particular night an ordinary-looking man named Chris Clugston made the mistake of driving out to this isolated warehouse. He thought he was going to see a band play music, maybe find a nice girl to dance with, have some fun on a hot summer night. He didn’t have much money on him — after paying the “cover” to get inside and ordering a beer, all he had left was *one little nickel* in his pocket. Remember that — a single nickel. Not even enough to leave as a tip at the makeshift bar.

Chris didn’t know what to make of all the skinheads giving him the “evil eye”. He thought they just had really bad haircuts and silly taste in clothes. He felt no fear... in fact, as he passed a table of them, he reached out and good-naturedly rubbed one of them on the scalp. “Nice haircut, fella,” he said.

Three skinheads stood up and quickly cornered him. The band played on.

Now, you have to get this scene right to understand the *importance* of what happened next: The *smallest* of the three Skinheads coming at Chris was his same size; the others were taller, more muscular, heavier. They were reaching for objects in their pockets (it was too dark to see clearly) smiling with relish for the stomping they expected to hand out. No

one in the warehouse had the slightest urge to help or stop the fight. There was nowhere for Chris to escape.

In less than a second, he suddenly realized he was about to be jumped by three experienced streetfighters... and if he didn’t do something right *NOW*...

His Life Wasn't Worth Much More Than That Nickel In His Pocket!

Well, what would *you* have done? You know, in your heart, you run the risk every day of being in the same situation... cornered by punks who want to do you (and your *family*, too, if they’re nearby) *serious harm!* It’s not even connected to robbery anymore — they don’t want your nickel, they want the thrill of stomping your face into hamburger.

It could be in a parking lot downtown, in a movie theatre, outside your local Seven-Eleven...

Or In The Cool Darkness Of Your Own Bedroom, Late At Night!

Have you *seriously* thought about what will happen to *you* during real-life *crunch time*... where *your* life (and that of your loved ones) aren’t worth a plugged nickel?

Back in that lonely Tulsa warehouse, Chris didn’t have *time* to think. He didn’t *need* to... in a *blink*, he turned that nasty situation around 180 degrees... and those three Skinheads, *even though they were poised and ready to attack*, found themselves suddenly thrust into a world of pain and confusion. But Chris didn’t use anything that even *remotely* resembles karate, or Judo, or Tai Kwan Do, or even boxing or wrestling. No. Instead...

Chris Did Something These Experienced Fighters Had Never Seen Before... And Hope They Never See Again!

There were other Skinheads in that old warehouse that night... *but they didn’t bother Chris!* Not after they saw what he did (with an absolutely *chilling* calm and sense of confidence) to those three streetfighters who cornered him! There was something in his eyes... something the *first* 3 punks missed in the dim light... that now warned the rest of them away.

The fight didn’t take three seconds... because while two of the Skinheads went down hard *immediately*, the third broke and

ran, and Chris couldn't catch him! These guys have been spotted around Tulsa occasionally since then, and they're still "jumpy". There isn't a flicker of that punk fire left in their eyes. Even the guy that got away (thanks to his reflexes of sheer, pants-wetting FEAR) won't go near anyone who even vaguely looks like Chris anymore.

The people who saw what Chris Clugston did that night all report the same thing: It was like nothing they'd seen before... the quick moves looked *too easy and simple* to have actually worked...

And Yet The Results Were Instant And Devastating Beyond Belief!

What Chris (the most normal-looking and *likable* guy you'll ever meet) used is the *strangest fighting technique imaginable* — unlike anything you have ever seen before... and yet (for guys like you and me) it is absolutely the most *ruthless and effective fighting style ever devised!*

- Hard-core streetfighters end up being *bullied* by people half their size using this system!
- Trained boxers *can't land a punch!*
- Wrestlers the size of Jabba the Hut get tossed into walls like puppies by women!
- Karate black-belts *never get a chance to strike...* and any *defensive* move they make only gets them hurt more seriously!
- Even the *highest-level "elite" training* in the U.S. military won't help a soldier last beyond a *few seconds* in hand-to-hand combat against this new, utterly-unique fighting system!

I never, *never* want to feel what it's like to be on the *other end* of this amazing stuff! Nevertheless, once you see how it's done, you'll see that this new fighting system is:

- **Incredibly easy to master in short time!** (People who have only been *shown* these moves — and never actually *done* them — have nevertheless had tremendous success in "crunch time"... with *devastating results* for their attackers!)
- **So simple you can actually "learn it and forget it"...** and yet it will be there for you whenever you need it! (There are only 6 components to the *entire* system... *less* to remember than most karate schools have for *one fancy kick!*) In fact, you can learn more intense fighting skills in *one short hour* than you'd learn in a *month* of "formal" martial arts!
- **And yet these fighting secrets require no special strength, speed or coordination to get started!** (*Everything* you need, Chris can teach you in about the time it takes to eat a big meal!)

I knew this was something you'd want to know about right away. This new system — Chris calls it "Combat JKD" — is *nothing* like those complicated "official" fighting systems... you know, the kind of "altered self-defense" used by guys in uniforms (who do all *their* fighting with automatic weapons in desert battlegrounds and jungles, and almost *never* hand-to-hand on pavement or on a porch or from inside a car... where *you'll* be needing the best skills you can get!). No. This is a *completely different way of fighting in the street*, where *you'll* likely be if you ever need help.

I think what Chris has is just perfect for guys like you and me. Perfect because you don't need to train much... you can use what

you learn immediately... and (because it's so incredibly simple)...

You Will Face Any "Situation" With A Steel-Eyed Calm Confidence You've Never Experienced Before!

In fact, this "Combat JKD" Chris teaches is *so* different that the results of *real encounters* I've discovered by his students (so far he's only taught about two dozen people) are almost too amazing to be real. For example:

- A young man named Mike Farrell (who *maybe* weighs 160 pounds soaking wet) begged Chris to teach him his fighting secrets after Mike was jumped and beaten senseless by a gang of 20 black guys in a Denny's parking lot. Mike wasn't what you'd call a "good student"... but he learned enough so that, when a 230-lb. truck driver tried to take him down, Mike instinctively reacted with a *single, indefensible move* that sent the monster flying (literally, feet, body, hands off the ground!) backwards and into a steel door. People inside later said it sounded like a canon going off. *There was no need for any other action* — one quick move and the "fight" was over. "Hey," Mike told me, "this stuff really works!"

- A bouncer called "C.C." in a Mid-West bar was pushed outside by 3 drunks who didn't like being told to quiet down. Ordinarily, even an experienced bouncer would have had trouble in that situation, but in this case C.C. mangled the first drunk so quickly, and with such *off-hand viciousness and authority*, that the other two ran off. (A lot of would-be fighters run when faced with the terrible certainty of Chris's new fighting methods!)

- Recently, at a local "hip" hangout, a couple of steroid-pumped fraternity boys decided that because they were young, privileged and beefy and this one scraggly-looking guy *wasn't*, he deserved to be beat up. **Wrong** — the frat boys picked on one of Chris's students... and now they don't talk so loud anymore, don't strut like roosters. Two jerks, two simple moves (that didn't look like much, and certainly didn't cause Chris's student to break a sweat)... equals one fight *over with* in a couple of seconds!

- Perhaps *more relevant*, however, than all the stories I could tell you... is this: When Chris recently trained alongside a group of U.S. military Special Forces soldiers... I can't use their names (security reasons), but they represented the top schools of the Army, Navy... he received the *highest compliment* ever paid to a civilian by these hard-ass soldiers. One of the super-elite "18-Zulu" Group sergeants took the others aside (after watching Chris train for a bit) and told these top soldiers to never, *ever* mess with this guy... because...

All Their Fancy Hand-To-Hand Combat Training Wouldn't Earn Them An Extra Second In A Real, Balls-Out Fight With Chris!

I know what you're thinking — if this "Combat JKD" is so great...

Why Is It Still Such An Astonishing Secret!

The answer's easy. It's *not* secret — this new fighting system simply did not exist until a few

short years ago... and the few people who do know about it are in no hurry to share their unique, viciously-effective secrets!

Chris Clugston — as far as I know — is the *ONLY man in the world* who was in a position to take modern fighting methods... and create new "twists" to them that are so innovative... so amazingly *natural* (you'll never feel awkward or have trouble learning *any* of it)... and so *instantly devastating*... that what he wound up with is an *entirely NEW way to fight*. *None* of his methods would be allowed in the boxing ring, or in a karate match, or in *any* kind of fight...

Where The "Rules" Say You Must At Least Give The Other Guy A Chance To Hit You Back!

This is the most honestly brutal, *bam-BAM-*and-you're-*done* kind of fighting you could ever imagine... and the best part is, it's *especially* easy for "non-fighting" types of people to master quickly!

That's because Chris Clugston spent a *lifetime* searching where no one thought to look for the simplest fighting secrets of the world. Here's the story:

- Streetfighting has been his overriding passion since he was 12 years old. (He earned black belts in 5 different martial arts before he was 20!) He even learned 7 *languages* so he could travel the world and uncover new styles of fighting and techniques *that hadn't reached the U.S. yet!*

- In East Germany, he worked his way inside the *most elite scientific-research organizations in the world*. The Soviets have training systems for hand-to-hand combat that are *light-years* ahead of us... with amazing techniques...

That Actually "Imprint" Brutally-Effective Fighting Skills Directly Into Your Nervous System!

- It's like *loading a computer with raw data...* so, *without conscious effort*, you can "download" amazingly advanced skills straight into your body's muscles and nerves in an incredibly short time! The result is a *shortcut* in your "learning curve" — which means you can learn in *hours* what others need *years* to master!

- Chris fought professionally for over 8 years (*twice* as long the average pro)... becoming one of the world's most *accomplished* fighters! (He was Number One World Rated in Shoot Boxing for 1991-1992... American Kickboxing Colorado Champ for 2 years... as well as Maximum Total Light Heavy Champ, *despite* fighting in a higher weight class!)

He also won over 50 vicious, no-rules streetfights during this time. This is how he realized how *stupid* it is to master any martial art style that has *rules* (no kicking in boxing, no strangling in wrestling, no head-punches in karate... and ridiculous time-limits in all of them!). The *real world* of streetfighting *has no rules!* Even the most brutal-looking "official" fighting systems can actually get you *killed* in the street... and the "confidence" you get from years of dedication to any formal training...

Is A Total Sham!

- And then, about a decade ago, Chris was invited to "try out" with perhaps the *most secretive* group of people in the U.S. — a small,

pound of your weight ten times, giving you "Godzilla" advantages against even a much-heavier opponent! ■■ How to correctly use the "scissor choke" — which 99 of 100 fighters do so incorrectly it actually puts them at risk (instead of providing the fight-ending *certainty* you can have doing it right!) ■■ A 1,000-year-old move (which all but a handful of martial artists never learn about) that will **end the fight** instantly once you get to the ground... even faster than the most *famous* ju-jitsu move! ■■ How to handle worst-case scenarios: when you're surprised, caught in completely undesirable places, outnumbered... and *worse!* ■■ How to easily and *effectively* destroy your opponent's "wheels"... and why the *standard* karate knee kicks are doomed to fail 7 of 8 times (leaving you exposed and ready to go *down!*)! Chris's understanding of "knee take down" fighting is *unsurpassed* by any other fighter on the planet... and he can show you how to *never* be without this fight-ending "out"! ■■ How to master the unbelievably-devastating secrets of the "Axe Kick"! ■■ Instant arm-locks that disable your opponent and let you decide what's next! (Including how to master the *most painful and effective arm lock* a human can suffer!) ■■ The secret of correct head butts — it's *not* what you've seen the military guys doing! (If you ever use the *wrong* method, you'll *split your head open*... proof most of those military guys have *never* been in a real hand-to-hand fight!) ■■ The *one take-down* move you will have open to you *every time* a attacker strikes... so simple, so easy to remember, it's like walking around with a cocked and loaded gun! ■■ The "can't lose" kick that does incredible damage *even when you miss completely!* (One of many "fail safe" moves Chris teaches!) ■■ Head-on moves that will *separate you from the boys* in the first second of the fight! (And send even the craziest attacker *running!*) ■■ How an untrained fighter tips himself off! ■■ Your single best "one answer" move in *any* confrontation — if you never learn anything else from Chris, *this* move will assure you survive almost any one-on-one fight you get into... even with trained fighters! (And it's so simple you don't even have to practice it very much!)

And more... including details so "sensitive" I wouldn't dare list them here for you!

PLUS... you get a very special FREE bonus that Chris wants you to have and KEEP

as his gift. It's a hour-long video he shot about knife-fighting — and, just like everything else he teaches, it's unlike anything you've ever seen before. Chris has been in knife fights... and he learned crucial new information that no other knife-fighter on the planet even has a clue about! No one wants to get in a knife fight... because your chances of surviving without getting cut are not good. But the knife has become such a common "tool" of the criminal attackers, *you absolutely need this advanced look at fighting with knives...* including bare-hands against a knife, and knife-against-knife.

The hyper-advanced fighting skills you learn from Chris have *already helped other people just like you...* in the most dangerous, out-of-control situations you're ever likely to face in the street! You can't walk around in a suit of armor, bristling with guns and knives and hoping you "look" threatening enough to avoid trouble. However, with Chris's help...

You Can Have A "Built In" Protection Device More Powerful Than Guns and Knives... Your Own "Inner Bodyguard" Trained To Devastate Anyone Who Attacks You!

People who have experienced Chris's training methods report a **deep and permanent change in their lives.** It's as if Chris has helped *install another person* inside you... a stronger, more *vicious* and unafraid warrior who won't hesitate a second to eliminate (with all the force necessary) any danger to you!

This is not like the training terrorists go through, however — that turns them into savage beasts that cannot be absorbed back into civilization again. Far from it... Chris's training techniques leave you normal and centered (much like a fighting master should be)... your same old lovable self...

Until The Time You NEED To Unleash That Brutal Warrior Inside You!

It's not even a conscious process! Imagine having little *danger-sensing antennae* (like a Geiger counter) inside you that leap into action even before you consciously understand you are in trouble!

Imagine having the *inner peace and confidence* to be relaxed anywhere in the world... **knowing**

your training and mastery has placed you among the most viciously-effective fighters on the planet if trouble occurs!

You can't *buy* that kind of confidence for any amount of money...

But You CAN Earn It... With Chris's Help!

So how much is Chris's video course going for? It's cheap — *less than you'd pay for two lousy lessons at the local karate school...* less than a big meal for two at a fancy restaurant... less, even, than a decent pair of cowboy boots! Ask anyone who has trained with Chris... they'll tell you how foolish it is to quibble over a few dollars when the result is *learning the most effective fighting skills on the planet!*

Here's what you need to do now: Call 1-800-294-9602 and tell the operator you want to order Chris Clugston's "Combat JKD" video course, Dept. CG-79. It's important to tell them that code, too — *don't forget!* You can use your credit card. The price for this amazing 2-video tape package (plus your FREE bonus tape on knife fighting!) is just \$97 plus \$4.50 shipping and handling. (Total: \$101.50) Or, if you prefer to pay by check or money order (payable to Underground Streetfighters Association), simply fill out the enclosed Priority Order Form and send it with your payment to the USA offices at 606 East Acequia, Visalia, CA 93292. Either way, your tapes will be rushed out to you by return mail as soon as we receive your order.


But remember — you get Chris's personal guarantee on this: Watch the tapes, at your own pace, in your own home, and learn everything he has... for a full 3 months without risk. Treat the tapes as hard as you like — they're yours for the entire 3 months. If, at the end of that time, you aren't 100% convinced you've just been training in the most advanced fighting skills you could ever have, simply return the 2 tapes and Chris will see that you get an *immediate refund* of your purchase price. No questions asked. No nonsense... and Chris will still consider you a friend. He respects you enough to let you decide for yourself.

But — even if you decide to return the tapes for a refund, you can still KEEP the bonus tape on Knife-Fighting (worth the price of the entire package just by itself!)... as Chris's gift to you, just for giving his videos a look.

That's more than fair... and if you're serious about learning fighting skills you can use, wherever you find yourself in trouble... *this is a must-have course!* So far, only a handful of "insider" students (with deep pockets) have gotten this kind of acute attention from Chris.

Here's your chance... if you believe you've got what it takes... to become a master of that same secret fighting technique. **Call now.**

Sincerely,



Robert Pierce
President,
Underground Streetfighters Association

Priority Order Form For SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Readers Only!
For The Fastest Service Use Your Credit Card And Call Toll-FREE
1-800-294-9602 (Ask For Department CG-79)

YES! This sounds *exactly* like the kind of fighting system I've been searching for — easy to learn, simple to execute... and so *brutally-effective* that my confidence levels will soar beyond anything I've ever dreamed! Plus, I have nothing to lose by ordering now — with your 100% Money-Back No-Risk Guarantee, I get a full 3 months to use these videos as my own... and if I'm not *completely and utterly* satisfied, all I have to do is return them for a total refund of my purchase price! That's a great deal. So please *rush* me the 2-video set (over 3 hours of intense fighting secrets!)... plus my FREE bonus tape on knife-fighting (which I get to KEEP as a gift even if I decide later to return the rest of the set)! Here is my address and how I wish to pay:

I prefer to pay by credit card. Please charge my: Enclosed is my Check or Money Order
 Visa MasterCard American Express Discover (Make payable to Underground Streetfighter's Association)

Card #: _____ Name: _____
Expires: _____ Address: _____
Signature _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

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www.threatresponse.com

almost fanatical "fringe" bunch of fighters who had developed a combat-oriented system that emphasized simple moves... and brutally-quick endings to every fight. (This is about as far from "sport" fighting as you can get!) *No one* gets into this "secret society" without a personal invitation... and the initiation rites are too astonishing to even talk about here.

Nevertheless, this "over-the-top" fighting style was what Chris had been searching for! But because of his travels... his Soviet training... and all his professional insights... plus all the "official" martial art know-how he had... Chris brought something NEW to the table that even these hyper-secret fighters didn't understand.

What Chris discovered was this: Even the most cutting-edge fighting styles (like the ones used by the military) were still shackled with moves based on centuries-old situations involving fencing, stick-fighting and ritualized combat! These systems, though seemingly "modernized", still use only about 75% of your maximum fighting ability!

So he really had no choice. He was forced to create an entirely NEW fighting system... one that took the simplest moves of the best styles... and "blended" them with the scientific insights of the last few years to make...

A Natural, Utterly-Simple Fighting System That Can Defeat Any Other Fighter Instantly!

Of course, using this new system is not going to make you any friends. Everyone, it seems, *hates* Chris — martial artists hate him because he shows their formality up as *total B.S.*... boxers and wrestlers hate him because all their neat skills *vanish* before the onslaught his new style throws at them... the military guys hate him because they're embarrassed that a civilian "aced them out" on the advanced Soviet fighting technology (which they *still* don't understand)... and other streetfighters hate him because they *can't strut their stuff* around him.

No one argues with Chris anymore. Not elite military soldiers... not thick, muscled boxers... not murderous street-gang fighters. Because Chris doesn't like to "talk", he likes to "walk". He only has one thing to say to anyone who challenges him:

"Let's Go Outside And Fight Right Now!"

And, for the last few years, *no one's* had the guts to *do* that. He as an OPEN CHALLENGE out to *anyone* who thinks they've got a better system. Come on out and scrap with me, he says. They refuse. Chris Clugston's "Combat JKD" has changed streetfighting forever.

You will understand *why* when you see — for yourself — just what this amazing new system is all about. It's the chance of a lifetime for anyone interested in learning fighting skills that immediately "catapult" you in the *highest levels* of the fighting world, practically overnight!

This is what's in it for you: Chris has instructed me to give you an opportunity *no one else in the United States* will be offered, *ever*. He wants you to see his new "Combat JKD" system in action... in a complete, "uncensored" form that the rest of the world will never even hear about... learn the basic (simple) moves

yourself... see how it "fits" on you, and if you like it... *and do it all without having to risk a nickel of your own money!*

He's doing this because, finally, he's fed up with all the "hype" and hysteria out there about the "military-oriented" fighting systems now flooding the market. He knows his new stuff will make those Navy and Army-sponsored systems look *silly*... with less fuss, less learning time, and more power than anyone would believe. He wants to show *you*... so there will be *no doubt in your mind whatsoever*... that "Combat JKD" has changed fighting forever. And all the secrets of it can all be yours... *as soon as you want it!*

Here's how it works: A few weeks ago, Chris submitted himself to a grueling week-long video session, where he revealed — *on tape* — all the most closely-held secrets of his new fighting system. It's the best I've ever seen.

Now, I've been producing self-defense tapes for several years now — including ones by the guys who train the U.S. Navy SEALs, Army RANGERS, big-city police SWAT teams, and even agents in the FBI and CIA. I've used the same film crew for most of these videos. They've seen the BEST... but they were *totally unprepared* for what Chris had to show them. My crew couldn't get enough. (They even stayed after-hours — without pay — just to get a few personal tips from Chris!) I've never seen such intense interest by jaded, "seen that, done that" cameramen and sound guys before!

Most of the crew were *NOT* avid karate or self-defense fans themselves... but when they saw Chris in action they all told me, at the same time...

This Was, Finally, The Simple Yet Utterly Effective "Lazy Man's" Answer For 100% Self-Defense They'd Been Looking For!

They saw — as you will, too — that what Chris teaches can be mastered in the *shortest time humanly possible*... and yet obviously has exactly the kind of vicious fight-ending skills a "normal" man could ever hope for.

You'll see what I'm talking about. Even if you only "scan" these videos once, you'll be changed forever! There are nearly 4 hours of tape here, on two power-packed video cassettes. It's information that was completely unavailable just a few weeks ago, to anyone except the few "insiders" who knew Chris personally. Yet, with the advantages of slow-motion, rewinding and multiple camera angles (we used a state-of-the-art recording studio down in San Diego)... you actually get a **better and more complete education**, in a *shorter* time, than any of Chris's personal students!

You'll get it *cheaper*, too. Chris only takes a few students on every year, and they pay outrageous fees to get their personal education in "Combat JKD". It's an enormous risk, financially, for him to offer his secrets so inexpensively to you... but, frankly, he's so angry at all the bogus fighting information out there, he doesn't care about his high fees anymore. This is now a matter of *pride*... as a man, you can *easily understand* where Chris is coming from.

Look — here's just a "taste" of what you're about to learn:

- How to use the *billion-dollar secret training technology* developed by the Soviets (which put their athletes light-years ahead of anyone else) to put your fighting coordination and speed "over the top"... even if you haven't got an athletic bone in your body! ■■ Why you should *never* use your fist in a real street fight! (Even trained fighters make this crucial mistake... and risk serious injury that's 100% avoidable!) There's a *better* way to do more damage, **quicker**, with *no risk of hurting yourself* at all! ■■ A "lazy man's" training technique that's so simple, you can *master devastating moves* while watching TV! ■■ How to "expand" your 5 senses so you see *everything* happening around you, *all the time* — it's like having eyes in the back of your head! (This trick can save you enormous amounts of danger and trouble... and make you virtually *undefeatable* in any head-to-head fight!) ■■ Secret "2-minute" training techniques (that's all it takes!) that are guaranteed to make you look ridiculous... but which will pump up your fighting ability (and confidence) 1,000% almost overnight! ■■ New (and *simple*) exercises that actually *install* animal quickness and viciousness **directly** into your muscles and nerves... leaving it *locked* there until you need to spring it loose! (Go from calm to *frightening* in a split second, whenever you choose... or whenever you're threatened!) ■■ The "energy conservation" rules of fighting almost *every* street fighter breaks... leaving you a devastating opening *10 seconds* into any fight no one else will see! ■■ How to use the "two second" *stalking test* to see how trained your opponent is... and *what* he's trained in! (Crucial information to end the fight when you choose!) ■■ The hyper-advanced new fighting stance that *negates all others*... putting you in a position to keep boxers, wrestlers, and even the *dirtiest* fighters on the planet off-balance until you decide to strike! (They'll *never* get "settled" enough to hit you!) ■■ How to *never again* feel uncontrollable emotion (or even sweaty palms) in a tight situation... and how to channel all your adrenaline into purposeful energy that will charge you up like a *bomb*! ■■ Why your *best fighting moves* will come completely *naturally*... forget all that martial art nonsense about needing to train for years to do complicated moves! (The best fighters in the world use only a few simple moves... and routinely knock around karate dudes like they were children!) ■■ How to use the devastating "pop up" push taken from the way tigers hunt in the wild... so effective a *90-lb. woman* can use it to send a Sumo wrestler tumbling! ■■ What to watch when you're **eight feet apart** (it's *NOT* his eyes — a terrible mistake most fighters make that gets them hurt)... and what to watch **inside** the two feet "crunch time" zone... to keep you a precious **step** ahead of even *superbly-trained fighters*! ■■ The number one "Dirty Trick" of fighters who want to *decisively* end a fight as soon as possible! ■■ A ridiculously-simple **two-finger takedown** that will instantly bring any opponent, of any size and weight, to his knees! ■■ Leverage secrets (known *only* by students of Clugston's) that **multiply every**

level. Floor heights for the firing platforms should be added to the base elevation. Heights were, second floor: 11 feet; third floor: 21 feet; fourth floor: 31 feet; and fifth floor: 41 feet. Distance to the targets was measured from the base of the tower line of sight to the target face. Straight line of sight at ground level the target ranges measured in at 29 yards, 57 yards, and 90 yards. The actual range to the targets is slightly more as the distance would vary as the firing positions moved higher up the floors.

A 2-inch-square target was used for shot placement and the scope crosshair was placed to quarter the target for each shot. Group sizes were measured by the standard center to center of extreme spread. Included in the sheet is deviation of the group above or below the center line of the 2-inch target square.

It is a point of interest that on the 90-yard target fired from the second and third floors the angle of the shots required the rifle barrel to contact the edge of the window sill. In both cases the rifle groups were not great, but they were more than serviceable. The interesting thing is because of the barrel contact on the sill the group moved approximately 2 inches right of center. The barrel contacting the window sill did so on the left side of the barrel. This of course is not a new phenomenon, we learned about this "group shift" years ago while resting revolver barrels on barricades at PPC competitions. This contact of barrel to a hard object effects "barrel harmonics" and shows that it can make a difference in point of aim, and the end results of the projectile point of impact.

With all the groups fired the 29-yard target groups printed below point of aim, while those fired at 57 and 90 yards printed higher than the point of aim. None of the groups fired, high or low, were of enough difference to matter on a target of reasonable size.

In the area of training, issues to address should be minimizing barrel contact with rests or supports. Operators should be aware of the relationship of the line of muzzle and the line of sight. A clear sight picture doesn't mean the muzzle is clear of obstruction. At the range to contact distances to be encountered in built-up areas the complex problem won't be long ranges or steep angles. More specific problems may be fleeting and moving threats partially obstructed by debris and smoke who may be returning fire at you! Try to deploy and fire around the sides of protective cover and concealment rather than over the top of cover. The head is a relatively vital organ on most people and does not hold up well to gunfire, even from angled shots.

With these thoughts in mind you should send only your praises to heaven. There is no magic in angled or elevated shooting, only the awareness of, and a willingness to practice, to get your hits. ✂

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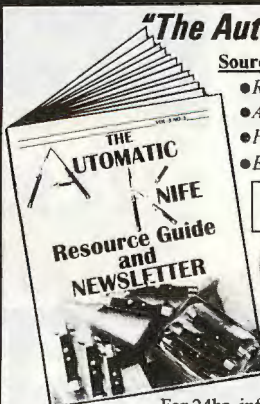
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FLAK

On Target



You have completely outdone yourself. Your Milosevic target was in very bad taste. Milosevic is a hero for standing up to the NWO and your rehashing of government propaganda is evidently sad. Your continued worship of the NWO and their ZOG has exposed you for the un-American, pro-tyranny rag mag you have become. You are a disgrace to all freedom-loving people and you have become traitors to the American ideals our forefathers died for. No wonder you are referred to as YAHOOOS by all Americans that know you for the government lackey trash mag you are. I will never again read your trash and have begun a campaign on the internet to expose you for the

government propoganda apparatus that you are. You are a disgrace, sir. I am disgusted by you and your entire staff.

SANDKING01@aol.com

No, no, you got it all wrong: We haven't become an un-American, pro-tyranny rag mag; we started that way. Love ya, Babe. Let's do lunch. Have a nice day.

Prepared Since '79



I read the comments in your September issue article relative to Y2K by someone named Vernon Filmore. All was fine, sort of, until his rather sneering remark about preparedness expos "still selling the same shit they

were selling back in 1979" — only fancier. Well, Vernon baby, basics are basics: fuel; power; food; self-defense. This equates to a storage of LP, fuel oil, and gasoline or diesel fuel; a dependable 5KW or more generator; storage food both wet and dry pack; and a well-thought-out selection of firearms and ammunition. So, what should be any different?

As to fancier, generators are better than ever with, in generally affordable units, power supplies that are no longer solely "lawn mower" engines. The other "fancier" would be in the still-astounding variety of firearms and ammo now available that was not around in 1979.

As to foods and fuels, not much has changed. True, there are highly promoted "MREs" but, try a dozen or so of them and then eat a few freeze-dried entrees. FD beef Stroganoff or shrimp Creole is miles better and lasts over three times as long in storage.

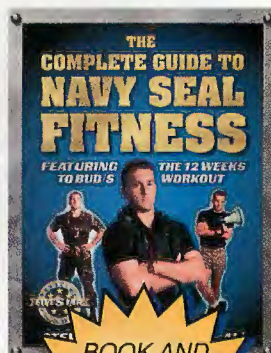
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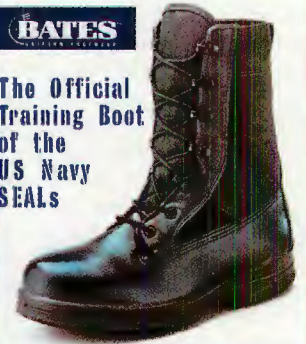


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In fact, Vernon, you're still doing 1979, too; and not very well!

Roy Whitman
Eaton Rapids, MI

Free Target From Greenpeace

I was surprised to see your free death to tyrants target in your August issue — you know, it was a serious misprint.

The target should look like this one:



**SHOOT DOWN MURDEROUS
FUCKING AMERICANS WHO
KILL CIVILIANS IN EUROPE !**

I sincerely hope you can put this as your next free target. Thank you, Yankee assholes!

(Unsigned [of course])

Kuopio, Finland

Hey, thanks for the target and the Greenpeace stickers. Hope it's OK if we run it small. But do your Greenpeace comrades know you're advocating shooting warthogs?

Equal Worth

I wish I knew the reason the media has decided that the lives of certain Americans are more worthwhile than others. All this week, as I read the paper or watch the news or listen to the radio, all I can find is news about the tragic plane crash that took the lives of John F. Kennedy, Jr., and his wife and sister-in-law.

While this was surely a sad and newsworthy event, there was another plane crash this week that received almost no attention. An aircraft carrying five American soldiers crashed in Colombia. Maybe there were few details of that crash, or maybe the military is reluctant to speculate on what happened, but we do know that five people gave their lives in the service of their country.

Like the [recruiting] commercial says, these soldiers did more before breakfast than most of us do all day or even all week. They performed their duties 12 to 18 hours a day, six or seven days a week, earning the equivalent of about half of the national minimum

wage. But when they died, probably having been shot by the drug cartels or the guerrilla rebels, television news dedicated only about 15 seconds to them, and the newspaper gave them just eight or 10 column-inches at the bottom of the fourth section.

Please remember the families of these soldiers, too — their husbands and wives, their children and parents and siblings. Remember the freedoms that you and I, the Kennedys and all Americans enjoy because of the sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform.

Aaron Glenn Johnson
Salt Lake City, UT

Why, Indeed?

Why the military services and the burial at sea from a United States Navy ship of the line for the gun-grabbing, bleeding heart, anti-military, limousine liberals Kennedy family who died in that plane crash? The most-decorated veterans cannot get this because of "budget cuts." How many decorations, how many years of public service did [John F. Kennedy, Jr.] have? How many awards of the Combat Infantryman Badge? How many other combat decorations did he have? The Navy Surface Warfare Badge, or was he awarded the submarine dolphins? Master parachutist wings? Army aviator

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wings? Naval aviator wings? Was he an Air Force pilot? He did not have enough brains to be an enlisted person. If our government gives this honor to someone who did not serve, will the real heroes get the honor they deserve? This is all a bunch of elitist ... crap. Royalty! Ha. The last time I looked this is still the United States of America.

Allen C. Alfreds, U.S. Army (Ret.)
Ft. Knox, KY

North Epirians, Unite!



It is of unprecedented outrage how an authoritative magazine as yours can publish illiterate and unscholarly letters claiming that Albanians are descendants of the ancient Illyrians wherein fact these statements

have been proven false and unsubstantial. In an era of historical revisionism, territorial claims and issues of ownership have been constantly raised and in the case of today's Albania, the issue of the Hellenic identity of NORTHERN EPIRUS (CURRENTLY OCCUPIED BY ALBANIA) has been lost in oblivion and ignored by the powers that be. It is of great hypocrisy for a *Sqiptar* (nomadic sheep herder) to make claims on Kosov "O" when the letter intentionally ignores the Hellenic identity of Northern Epirus which in fact even census shows that the majority of the population (half a million) there is Hellenic ("Greek" to those unfamiliar with the term) and the major cities (i.e. Agio Saranta, Argyrocastro, Korista, just to name a few) have had Hellenic names for centuries long before the so-called Illyrians came to be.

They have basically achieved through treachery to gain what they have claimed by robbing the Serbs of their Holy Ancient Land. Now it is our turn to rightfully obtain our independence from Albania as an Autonomous North Epirus. With the help of the Hellenic Front, we will continue to lobby with the American Congress to meet these demands.

END THE ALBANIAN OCCUPATION OF NORTH EPIRUS NOW!!! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR AN AUTONOMOUS NORTH EPIRUS BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL CONGRESSMAN OR CONTACT US DIRECTLY (<http://www.hellenicfront.com>)
Thank you very much.

Andrej Stojanovic

Oh, what fun!: Another bone of contention to toss into the Bitter Balkan Soup! Any of you warring factions ever think about forgetting what your great-great-great-great grandpappy owned, had done to him, or did — and just try getting along with whoever your neighbor is now? You ought to consider it. It has worked in other parts of Europe. ☒



BACK ISSUES

SOF back issues, 1975 through 1998, are still available, but going fast! Many issues have sold out. Each issue costs only \$5, including domestic postage and handling.

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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 to 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 any time 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 you 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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I Was There

by Master Sgt. Edwin O. Learnard, USAF (Ret.)

“... I’m A Republican.”

Problems in the Balkans stem from ongoing multi-centuries religious conflicts that have simmered and boiled for more than a thousand years. The three warring factions with blood on their hands are the remnants of the Holy Roman Empire (Catholic); supporters of the Byzantine Orthodoxy (Eastern Orthodox); and the religion of Islam, via the Ottoman conquest of most of Yugoslavia and all of Serbia.



SOF files

AS a crew member, tailgunner, flying in B-24 Liberator bombers of the 724th Bombardment Squadron, 451st Bombardment Group (H) of the 15th Air Force based in Castlelucina, Italy, I flew but five combat missions — and was shot down by 88mm anti-aircraft artillery fire on my fourth and fifth.

At 0530, 2 December 1944, a collective groan emitted from the many assembled crews as the curtain was pulled back revealing our day’s target. The 15th Air Force was to mount a maximum effort to strike and destroy perhaps the last and largest German synthetic oil complex at “Blackhammer,” Silesia (a region in northern Czechoslovakia and southern Poland). The target was defended by 912 AAA batteries — most of them deadly 88s; some of them radar-controlled — making it the most heavily defended target in all of Europe.

I was hammered by the ice-cold thought, “A lot of guys are going down today.”

I was right.

Our aircraft was struck by flak just after “Bombs Away.” Even from my position in the tail turret with my headphones on, I could hear the repeated *prrrink* of shrapnel ripping through the aluminum skin of our plane. Fortunately, no one was wounded but our number 1 engine was knocked out.

The B-24, with its long thin wing, was made to fly with all four engines running. With one engine down, too much strain was placed on the remaining three; thus, the axiom, “Lose an engine on a B-24 and you’ll wind up walking, or swimming, home.”

We bailed out over Nazi-controlled southwest Hungary. Luckily, the majority of Hungarians were anti-Nazi and two of them — a mother and daughter — helped me evade enemy forces which were prowling the countryside searching for me and my crew.

I was first hidden in a loft and then in a root cellar, where I was later joined by the navigator and bombardier. After dark, a member

of the Hungarian anti-Nazi Resistance arrived and informed us he would transfer us to another safe area the following morning. After a trek through the forest, he left us for a couple of hours but finally returned and handed me a handwritten note (in English), obviously penned by the hand of an aristocratic woman. “If you are not too fierce, we’d love to have you to tea. [Signed] Hana Ugron.” Below her signature was a brief sentence scribbled by Red, our radio operator, “This is OK. Red.”

Our Resistance guide led us to a magnificent mansion on an estate near Bukkosd (Hungary) and introduced us to the Count and Countess Ugron-Jessenski.

It was there amid elegant surroundings and gracious and courageous hosts that we holed-up during mid-December 1944 until we were “liberated” by elements of the Second Ukrainian Front of the Soviet Army.

After having satisfied the Soviet intelligence officers that we were bonafide American airmen who had evaded enemy capture, we were transported on 11 December from Pecs, Hungary, across the Danube River to the city of Sombor that had been recently liberated by the Partisans. The next day the Russians flew us down to Belgrade (liberated by the Partisans the

previous October) where we were turned over to Colonel Charles W. Thayer, Chief of the American Mission to Tito, and a subordinate to Brigadier Fitzroy MacLain, a Brit. The Soviets also had a mission in Belgrade, but separate from that of the U.S. and U.K.

Across the street from the Belgrade Hotel where we were billeted was a small park where there were two graves of Soviet soldiers. These unlucky, or just plain stupid Soviets, were shot by the Partisan police for violating the strict curfew imposed on Belgrade, as there were thought to be a thousand Germans and Serbian sympathizers



The Manor House (and summer home) of the Count and Countess Ugron-Jessenski where “we holed-up during mid-December 1944 until we were ‘liberated’ by elements of the Second Ukrainian Front of the Soviet army.”

courtesy author

Continued on page 70

ONE BOMB,



Un the evening of 24 March 1999, two B-2 Stealth bombers from the 509th Bomb Wing at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri, made aviation history by flying more than 30 hours round-trip to bomb Serb military targets in Yugoslavia.

This marked the first time that the \$1.3 billion dollar bat-winged bombers were committed to combat, but there was no sense of history among the two aircrews. The four officers had a job to do, and they did it. "We were too busy. We had to worry about the threat picture, timing, parameters for the weapons, and getting the plane where it had to be, so we weren't thinking a lot about history," said the mission commander.

**Text & Photos by
Dale B. Cooper**

One Bomb, One Target ... Next Subject

On 7 May, Brigadier General Leroy Barnidge, Jr., commander of the 509th Bomb Wing, and six of his hand-picked pilots took time-out between missions to talk candidly with *SOF* about their combat sorties in support of Operation Allied Force. The men and women who maintained the jets and loaded the weapons also talked about what it was like to see them go, and come back safely. The exclusive interviews took place at the base southeast of Kansas City where America's premier weapons system is based.

Six B-2s were committed to the "Battle of the Balkans," and air crews were drawn from three squadrons; the "Alleyoops" from the 325th BS, the "Fighting Tigers" from the 393rd BS and the "Panthers" from the 394th Combat Training Squadron.

Along with the B-52G and the B-1B bombers, the B-2 brings "mass" to any fight with its large payload. Its low-observable

"stealth" characteristics give it the unique ability to penetrate an enemy's most sophisticated defenses and threaten its most-valued and heavily defended targets. The B-2's low-observability is derived from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures. Many of these low-observability processes remain classified, however the B-2's composite materials, special coatings and flying wing design all contribute to its "stealthiness." Touch the aircraft and the composite skin feels soft to the touch, almost like a rubber mask stretched over a metal skeleton.

Anatomy Of An Airstrike

A lot of planning goes into a single B-2 combat sortie. The process starts several days before the mission is flown. "We'll go through mission study, target study, threat study and a bunch of what we call 'theater spins or special instructions' and brief with our crewmates and formation mates if we have more than one aircraft in the mission,

ONE TARGET

B2s Battle Over The Balkans

and we'll also go into the simulator and practice the mission," a pilot told *SOF*. Pilots are sent home to sleep for 18 hours in order to get rid of the "sleep debt" so on a long-duration mission, they start refreshed.

The B-2 has added a new wrinkle to aerial warfare. Air crews no longer have to be separated from their families for long periods of time. "I missed 60% of my children's birthdays during the first five years of their lives," said a B-2 pilot, "But the most I miss now is a meal or two." Although 30-hour missions are physically and mentally demanding, air crews don't mind commuting halfway around the world to work. The B-2 can be forward deployed like B-52s and B-1Bs, but NATO's supreme commander decided it was best to have the B-2 deploy from its home base.

The wife of a B-2 pilot told *SOF* the stress level is high in her family, but it's alleviated somewhat by having her husband be able to return home after a mission. "I don't make a big deal of his leaving," said

the woman, "as far as the children know, their daddy is just going to work."

Heavy Lifting

The B-2 is officially known in Air Force circles as the "Spirit." Built by Northrop Grumman Corporation, it can deliver 40,000 pounds of conventional or nuclear weapons at high sub-sonic speed.

"Global Power" is the motto of the Air Command, but the B-2 gives new meaning to *global power* — it can fly 6,000 nautical miles between refuelings. The B-2 has a crew of two pilots; the one who sits in the left seat and flies the plane, and the mission commander in the right seat who navigates and employs the weapons. By comparison, the B-1B carries a crew of four and the B-52 carries a crew of five.

Flying to Belgrade and back is like flying round-trip from Washington, D.C. to Tokyo, but you don't get to shop duty-free at Narita International Airport. Although B-2 crews routinely train for 18- and 20-hour missions, lack of sleep is their greatest enemy. Like a thief in the night, it creeps up on air crews.

A B-2 is built for combat, not comfort. You won't find a bunk aboard a B-2, but there is enough room behind the left seat to fold out an aluminum chaise longue — a "Wal-Mart Special," chuckled one pilot. Being able to stretch out and grab 40 winks

en route to the target is a life-saver.

Because of security concerns for family members, pilots who flew on the opening night of the air campaign against Yugoslavia, and two other pilots who flew





Satellite-guided "smart" bombs (left) being loaded into rotary dispensers in the B-2's weapons bays. (below) Senior Airman Jennifer Lombard, one of three female B-2 crew chiefs checks tire pressure on nose gear of B-2.



later on, asked not to be identified, except by "Spirit Number," the number each man is given when he becomes a B-2 bomber pilot.

After crossing the Adriatic Sea and going "feet dry" over Yugoslavia, the two B-2 Spirits split up and attacked individual targets. Unlike attack aircraft such as F-16s, F-15s and even F-117As that dash in, drop a couple of precision-guided munitions in Yugoslavia and boogy out before the bad guys realize what's happening, *B-2s spend several hours over the country attacking multiple targets during their mission.* Here are the pilots' first-person accounts of that historic mission.



Lead B-2

"Spirit 49," was the leader of the pack. As mission commander of the two-ship formation that left Missouri, it was his job to lead the pair of B-52s to Yugoslavia and back home after their individual strikes. "Spirit 49" had no problem power-napping on the way over. The lieutenant colonel said the "Ops Tempo" had been so hectic leading up to Operation Allied Force everyone in the 509th BW was "worn out" so the former B-52 pilot had no trouble sacking out.

"The B-1 is a fantastic aircraft if you want to go down to 400 feet and set your hair on fire in the dark of night," said the young Captain, "but the techno-side of me loves the B-2."

"It's a big computer with wings," said Staff Sergeant Christopher Edsall, avionics specialist, who keeps all of the software in tip-top shape. "If you're going to fly 15 hours to the target, you better put your bombs on target," noted "Spirit 87." The targets the lead ship attacked were described merely as "strategic assets." Although "Spirit 49" was not able to reveal



the nature of the targets his aircraft attacked, he did deploy all 16 weapons aboard, and is confident "they hit their targets." When "Spirit 87" and "Spirit 49" turned off the targets, they could see the massive fires they had started.

"Spirit 87" told *SOF* he was very satisfied with the first night's work, more satisfied with the second night, the third, fourth and nights. So was his CO: "We've been the mainstay of the NATO strike package on most nights of the campaign when the weather was bad," said Barnidge, "and the jets have performed marvelously. Crews have been fantastic, and the total support team made this thing happen, and happen in a big way."

Stealth Saves Lives

The B-2 crews who flew the opening night of Operation Allied Force felt like flies on the ceiling. They could see what was going on below them, but the enemy couldn't see them — it was a comforting feeling to know that the stealthiness of the Spirit worked as advertised.

As Barnidge explained to *SOF*, "The B-2s radar cross-section [RCS] is less than other bombers or attack aircraft." Like its cousin, the F-117A Stealth fighter, the smaller the radar signature, the less chance the bad guys can see you and blow you out

"Spirit 87" and "Spirit 83" in the cockpit of a B-2. (inset) High-speed, low-drag; high-tech, low-detectability. Cockpit of B-2 — a "flying computer."

of the sky with a SAM like the night the Serbs shot down a Nighthawk over Belgrade. The F-117A shoot-down sent a shock wave through the Stealth community: Pilots who felt "invincible" no longer feel that way.

One of the downed airman's comrades *SOF* talked to on the night he was rescued was stunned. "We thought if we could make it through the first four days of combat without losing a plane, we'd be out of the woods, but it's a different ball game now that they [Serbs] have found a way to kill us," said the Stealth pilot.

The B-2 is a generation newer stealth technology than that of the F-117A, but even that's not much comfort to one B-2 pilot, who talked to *SOF* about his combat experiences over Yugoslavia. "The bad guy can still get lucky. There's always the Golden BB."

When you see a B-2 up close and personal for the first time in the "dock," a term the ground crew uses to describe a heated hangar at Whiteman, you're impressed by its lateral size. "It's just a giant flying wing," said Senior Airman Anthony Burke, an avionics, instrumentation and flight controls specialist. "An old concept that Northrop put together," the B-2 has a wingspan of 172 feet, just a few feet shy of a B-52's wingspan, but it's not nearly as long a the BUFF, and furthermore, the B-2 has no tail. From the side, it looks like a guppy in a fish bowl.

When you sit in the cockpit and the power is off, it's a very unassuming aircraft, but when you turn the power on, this fantastic flying machine comes to life. Knock on any part of the cockpit, and you know immediately it is made by folks at the "Ironworks," the same contractor that built the durable F-14 Tomcat for the U.S. Navy.

The wheel wells for the nose gear and main gear are enormous. Airman First Class Jennifer Lombard, one of three female crew chiefs, treats the B-2 as if it's her baby. "The biggest thing is to make sure the engines don't burn oil," said Senior Airman Tony Hyatt, a propulsion specialist, "But the longer these planes stay in the air, the better off they are."

Cost-wise, it costs about the same amount of money to operate a B-2 for an hour as it does an F-15E — about \$5,200 per hour. Although the B-2 is one of the most sophisticated aircraft in the fleet, Senior Airman Joshua Moorehouse, an electrical and environmental systems specialist, says the B-2 is not a high-maintenance babe. "I come from F-16s and we worked on them a lot more than we work on the B-2s," said Moorehouse. It is said that crew chiefs like Airman First Class Daniel Nieport, Senior Airman Jason Manning and



Brig. Gen. Leroy Barnidge, Jr., (right) Commander of 509th Bomb Wing, displays pre-and post-strike photos of Novisad railroad and motor bridge over Danube River, taken down by one of his crews. (above) Post-strike photo of Kragujevac Arms and Motor Vehicle plant in Serbia that was hit by B-2. Note three holes punched in the roof by JDAM bombs, set to explode inside building. (below) Post-strike photo of Krivovo support base in Serbia, hit by eight JDAMS from a B-2 bomber. Arrows point to buildings hit by satellite-guided munitions.

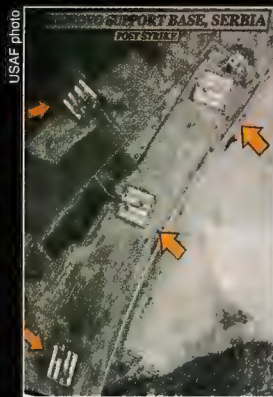


Airman 1st Class Nathan Shadd only let the pilots "borrow" their jets. "Mechanically, the B-2 is a dream" said Chief Master Sergeant George Coleman, maintenance superintendent for the 325th Bomb Squadron.

Coleman began his 29-year career in the Air Force working on B-52s in Thailand during the Vietnam War. He is bringing the curtain down on his career the way he began it, by going to war.

Second B-2 Crew

"Spirit 96," a 37-year-old major who flew the second Spirit into Yugoslavian airspace on 24 March, remembers the mission as being "very intense." "Spirit 96" has returned to Yugoslavia many times since 24 March, but he can't imagine how someone like Slobodan Milosevic could allow such destruction to be wrought on his country and his people. "They're only showing the media what they want them to see. They



aren't showing you the heavy-duty damage," said the major.

B-2 crews dropped more than one million pounds of ordnance during the first six weeks of the air campaign against Yugoslavia. From what the B-2 crews told *SOF*, it's going to take years — if not decades — to rebuild Yugoslavia's infrastructure — buildings, bridges and airfields. Before going in-country, intelligence-gathering

aircraft [Rivet Joint] told the bomber crews, "MiGs were airborne," but they couldn't see the B-2s. As he was skirting up the eastern side of the country, "Spirit 96" recalled seeing some fireworks [air-to-air missiles being launched], but didn't know it was a big furrball [dogfight] until he got home. The Yugoslav Air Force lost three MiG 29s in that engagement with U.S. fighters flying MiG Cap.

"Spirit 73," as mission commander in

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Two of the four pilots who participated in the first B-2 combat mission. On left of photo is "Spirit 73," mission commander of second B-2, and on the right is "Spirit 87," the aircraft commander of the lead B-2.





Killing Fields Of KOSOVO

Harvesting Mines In The Balkans

by Al J. Venter



(top) The term "red flag" is no cliché in the Balkans. Red flags indicate the extent of known minefields. Blue flags show mines. (above) The UPROM-1 fuse from a PROM-1 anti-personnel mine.

There's an aphorism about landmines in the Balkans: "The good Lord," say the Croats, "created Hell." The Serbs reciprocated and devised the PROM-1, the worst in bounding anti-personnel mines and not very much bigger than a beer can.

A vicious weapon, the PROM-1's shrapnel can penetrate almost any body armor. Also, it cuts through the average Kevlar helmet like cardboard, as it does often enough for those who try to clear these deadly little bombs. Kosovo is full of them ...

There aren't many mine-clearing specialists working in the Balkans who don't have a favorite story about the PROM-1. By the time the Allies have cleared all those laid in Kosovo, there will be stash more. But that will take a while.

When someone working there is lucky enough to spot one of these bombs or booby traps before it finds him (and, sometimes there are several, usually laid in clusters) the word is whispered down the line. Most of those on the ground will wait to see what action is taken. Obviously, all mines must be cleared, and that's official. How this is done is what focuses the mind; for no better reason than that those working with the

stuff are aware that the PROM-1 is a killer.

After the Dayton Accords, there were a lot of casualties among those trying to cope with them. In the words of one American specialist, "They're a bitch to disarm. We just like to blow 'em where we find 'em." Also, they are not so easy to spot, especially when the ground is thick with grass and shrubs, as it is right now in summertime Kosovo. The business part that protrudes above the ground isn't much bigger than a matchbox.

In recent years, during the course of a succession of Balkans wars, it quickly became apparent that most PROM-1s were so unstable that the only way to handle them was to destroy them in situ. Anything else was invariably a disaster: there have been a lot of casualties with PROM-1s. You only need to brush against any one of the device's tiny prongs and it's over. In the lingo, a bounding mine hurls the bomb a couple of feet into the air and kills everything nearby.

According to Colonel Richard Todd, a 23-year American Special Forces veteran with much experience in mines and ordnance dating back to the Vietnam, you have about a 60 percent chance of being killed if you are within 50 yards of the explosion. "It happens so fast," he adds, "that most aren't



The PROM-1 is a deadly and menacing anti-personnel mine, even as it lies partly on its side. This mine has killed or injured more clearance personnel in the Balkans than all other Yugoslav mines combined.

could be devastating.

"And because this mine can be laid with multiple trip wires, it has become the obvious weapon of choice among the Serbs. They like it because just one PROM-1 can take out a group of people, or even a squad of soldiers on patrol." In recent years, said Todd, it was increasingly deployed in urban areas. "They've been laying them in Kosovo as if they've a license to do so," he said.

Small as it is, the PROM-1 — a bottle-shaped, olive-green, cast-steel mine — is a complex device. Designated in the textbooks as a "buried, trip wire-activated bounding anti-personnel fragmentation mine," it weighs a little more than six pounds. Its single pound of explosives is a combination of Trotyl and RDX in about

equal proportions. The fuse contains an integral percussion cap "which is what makes it so damned unstable" said one authority. Most of the people who have tried to disarm it have come short fiddling with the business end.

There is controversy about its plastic-coated trip wire. Some say dogs can detect it and others reckon they can't. Usually the same color as the terrain, trip wires are difficult to spot under the best conditions. And in Kosovo, the KLA has had major problems with this side of things because of the foliage. A proportion of the casualties taken by the guerrilla group before the Allies went in was from mines, some PMA-2s but also PROM-1s.

The problem is that, once tripped, it is impossible to differentiate between the small blast that lifts the bomb out of the ground and the full effect of the explosion which is devastating. Someone who once had an armored vehicle trip one in front of him in Angola, said that both blasts were simultaneous. Consequently, any hope of evasive action is

even aware what happened."

Todd has been working with mines in the Balkans for the past five years and he explained why the PROM-1 is deadly: "Unlike the 'popular' Yugoslav PMA-2 — which is the blast mine that you find everywhere in Bosnia, Croatia (and now Kosovo) — the PROM-1 is a group fragmentation mine." It was designed around the original German "S" mine which caused such terrible damage in WWII and which the Allies notoriously dubbed "Bouncing Betty." That's language carried over from the Vietnam era; it's in little use today among mine-clearing specialists, he said.

License To Kill

The PROM-1 has a devastating effect when it blows, "a bit like a proximity fuse on a mortar or artillery shell exploding a few feet above the ground," Todd said. It



(above) The Croatian-built remote controlled MV-2 miniature flair machine may be part of the answer to Kosovo's Serb-laid killer mine-fields. (left) A mine clearer works with a trained dog on a patch of real estate that has already been manually checked for mines. It remains a topic of controversy whether dogs are effective at sniffing out PROM-1s.

impossible. Later, uncommon versions of the same mine such as the PROM-1P and PROM-2 tend to bound a little higher. But they have the same devastating effect.

"Some mean weapon, and not to be trifled with" Colonel Todd warned. He heads the UN Mine Action Team in Zagreb and has files full of PROM-1 incidents, a lot of which make for some pretty grim reading.

In spite of multiple warnings, casualties with PROM-1s do happen. A crack international mine-clearing team working under UN auspices in Croatia had one of its members killed shortly before this writer arrived

there earlier this year. Operating with dogs in an area-reduction program, the operator couldn't have spotted the one that either he or the pooch tripped. Two shards of shrapnel penetrated his brain in the explosion that followed and he was killed instantly.

Miraculously his dog, working only yards away, was untouched. As someone said afterwards, "Miracles happen ... even in the Balkans."

Yugoslavia: One Big Minefield

Almost all the countries that once comprised the old Yugoslavia and that have seen military action in recent years, have problems with mines these days. The one exception is Slovenia, which pulled away before things got tough.

In parts of Bosnia, for instance, it is still dangerous to venture off the road. The same holds for Croatia. A succession of minefields — some Serbian, others laid by the Croat Army—stretch down almost the entire length of the country in a half-moon pattern that extends over 500 miles. The minefields, some Serb, others Croatian — run from Vukovar in the northeast to the Montenegro border. Only the narrow



coastal corridor between Sibenik and Sipa remained uncontaminated throughout the years of hostilities.

And while there are minefields in dozens of other countries all over the world, those in the Balkans have suddenly acquired a notoriety of their own. What the Serbs did with mines in Croatia and Bosnia, they have repeated in Kosovo overnight.

It is also no secret that Croatian minefields have become the subject of close study by a variety of NATO security and intelligence organizations, if only because there have been those who, in the past, have tended to dismiss the threat of mines as of minor consequence. No longer.

A confidential report circulating in Washington states that urgent attention needs to be given to Balkan minefields and, in particular, Serbian mines. If not, the paper warns, the number of casualties could be horrific. Simultaneously, UN Headquarters in New York is involved in preliminary studies as to how best to cope with this menace, for no other reason than towards the close of the millennium, Belgrade is the acknowledged master of contemporary landmine warfare. What is appalling is that mines are likely to see a greater application in future international conflicts, if only because they are difficult to detect in the confined spaces of an urban environment. The wars of the early 21st Century are less likely to be fought in open country, if only because so much of the world's population is city-bound.

Mines At Garage Sales

In the Balkans, the Serbs have been making these devices for decades, and their stuff is good. By the early '90s, Yugoslavia was earning \$2 billion a year from its weapons sales, most of it going to the Third World. Even today, it's easy to buy any number of Yugoslav mines in East European arms bazaars.

Like it or not, some — like the PROM-1

and the anti-tank TMRP-6 (and TMRP-7), as well as the full range of TMA mines — are as good as anything produced in the West. UN mine-clearing teams are encountering Yugoslav mines in just about every international trouble spot. In places like Angola, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Mozambique you find Yugoslav landmines, often in great quantity.

There is another reason. Now that almost every NATO country is involved in clearing up in Kosovo, landmines — right after KLA thugs — are arguably the single most serious obstacles. As someone once said of mines, "they are cheap, need no food, remain silent and inactive (and potent) for years. They also have the ability to do great damage."

There have been a number of observations made by UN mine-clearing teams presently working under UN or World Bank auspices in Bosnia and Croatia about Balkan minefields. Clearing them often involves complex and sometimes frightening problems. Some of those doing the work are getting hurt or killed.

"There is simply no magic bullet for clearing landmines," Col. Todd says. "In order to do the job effectively, you need to draw from a 'toolbox' of three fundamental disciplines. These are human and mechanical deminers, as well as dogs trained to find them." and, he adds, "None of these assets on their own can do the job properly. You need one to check the efficiency of the others."

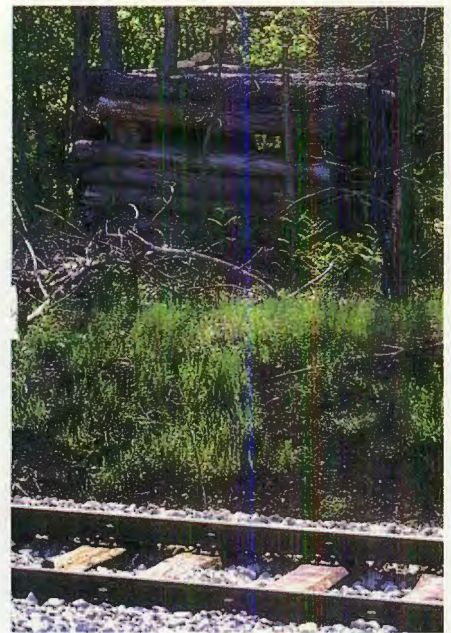
Nor are these disciplines free or cheap, Todd says. "It is expensive to run and maintain a demining operation. The specialists doing the job are expensive and so is the insurance to cover them in case of accident. Similarly, you constantly need to train more people to do the job properly. That, too, costs money."

There are a number of countries clearing mines in the Balkans, all of them involved in multi-million dollar contracts which are usually linked to foreign aid. In Croatia, the Russians were followed by Italy, Germany, Israel, the



(top) A UN member of the Croatian Mine Action team holds a Yugoslav TMA-3 anti-tank mine. (above) A primitive Croatian APC at Gospic. This thin-skinned vehicle, which offers occupants little protection from mines, was used in combat against Serb forces in 1995. (right) A member of the mine-clearing team checks for Serb booby traps under a telephone pole destroyed in the fighting.





Improvised Serb wooden bunkers (above) litter the Balkan countryside, like this one in a stretch of bush along the railroad track. Nobody goes near them because they're likely to be booby-trapped. (right) Johan "Sakkie" van Zyl surveys a cluster of Serbian TMRP-6 mines laid near the railroad. After this picture was taken, another six mines were found about 25 yards away.

Netherlands, the U.S. (Ronco) and Mechem, of South Africa. There are also at least 12 Croatian firms. These include Mungos, said to be one of the largest companies in the world specializing in this sort of work.

Mechem — following contracts in Angola and Mozambique — operates with a project leader plus seven: two team leaders, two dog handlers, a driver/mechanic and a couple of demolition specialists. Johan van Zyl, no stranger to *Soldier Of Fortune*, runs the show. As he explained, all his men have good Special Forces military experience and all are trained medics in trauma medicine. "There have been times when these attributes have been handy," he said.

Roughing It

The men work seven days a week until the contract — in this case, 60 days — is completed. To save money, the men live rough, usually starting the day at 0600 and working through to 1900 or 2000. They eat before they start and the next meal is usually when they finish for the day. Time lost to rain is made up afterwards.

Operating under contract with this foreign mine-clearing team are 40 Croat deminers headed by four team leaders. Additional crew (according to Croatian law) includes two each of doctors, medics, drivers, dog handlers and ambulances plus an interpreter, all of whom must be paid for by the contract company. Other companies are similarly bound by red tape, which most foreign contractors reckon is a legacy of the old political system. It doesn't take any observer long to see that the majority of ancillary personnel are superfluous and

therefor a waste of money.

Foreign mine-clearing specialists we spoke to said that while the quality of Croatian mine-clearing was good, their rate of clearance was mediocre; again, reflecting residual communist ways. Almost all the expatriates ventured that if they had been able to bring their own people into the country to do the work, they would have been able to cut much of the crap. Some said that the job would have been completed in half the time.

Clearing For Cash

There are several categories of mine-clearing in the Balkans. The first is humanitarian. Because almost everybody is broke, there is precious little of that. Consequently, most effort is invested into commercial projects with economic goals such as the one around Gospic, about 100 miles south of Zagreb. This involved the clearing of anti-tank (AT) and anti-personnel (AP) mines around the only rail link running from the capital to the southern coastal cities of Split and Dubrovnik.

The problem here was that contractually, clearance extended to only 15 meters on each side of the line which meant that minefields fringing the line — some of them many acres in extent — remain uncleared because there is no money to do so. The World Bank gave Zagreb a \$7 million loan for clearing the ordinance. Because the money eventually has to be paid back, the Croats aren't falling over themselves to get the job done.

Thus, while the mine-clearing teams have a handle to the job, the civilians who live and work in these areas don't. Their casualties don't even make the papers any more.

Land Littered By Bones

A few days before this writer arrived in Gospic, a local was killed after tripping a mine within a hundred yards of the station. He had been walking home from work. A huge hole gouged from the turf was still visible while mine clearers worked around the spot.

Driving on some isolated country roads around Gospic, we were told that another problem facing mine-clearing teams was a distinct lack of patience among local residents to get the job done. Pointing to fresh tractor tracks on both sides of the road, my guide said: "Quite often the farmers don't even wait for us to complete the job. They just ride around and occasionally they'll trip a TMRP-6 which can reduce a three-ton truck to scrap in an instant." Or their animals will do it for them. The Gospic countryside is littered with the bones of dead cattle and horses. Apparently it is the same in Kosovo where the locals are anxious to get going again before winter sets in.

One of the more difficult problems in central Balkans is coping with heavy bush. After five years of waiting for the mines to be cleared, some parts of what had once been farmland had become almost forested. Before any clearance work can be done, small trees have to be removed to allow the teams to bring in their equipment.

In places, I could see the undergrowth was so thick it had become impossible to work. It was also dangerous. Everybody involved in this business knows that mines

Continued on page 73

Udmurtia (the Udmurt Republic) is an element of the Russian Federation, with a population of about 1.5 million. The capital city of Izhevsk has a population of about 730,000 and is located 1,200 kilometers east of Moscow, on the European side of the western Ural mountains.

Frequent contributor Valery Shilin brings SOF this first-hand report on Udmurt Spetsnaz — the troops of special assignment.

AS the traffic light turned yellow, a red Lada sedan pulled up and nervously stopped at the “zebra” (crosswalk) on one of the main streets in Izhevsk. At the same instant, another car with driver and two passengers stopped to the left of the Lada. One could hardly say “Mike” before two armed men, guns drawn, leapt from the second vehicle and assaulted the Lada. They opened the driver’s door and, shouting the usual warnings and commands, dragged the criminal from his seat, searched his body and legs, and quickly stuffed him into the rear of their vehicle. One operator, dressed like an office worker in white shirt, dark trousers and Italian designer shoes, with a Stechkin machine pistol in one hand, jumped in the rear with the detainee. The car revved up, whipped a U-turn, and was gone. The second operator, clad in camouflage pants, sweatshirt and boots, armed with a Bizon submachine gun, jumped into the Lada and followed the first car, leaving a dozen astonished pedestrians behind. The light turned green, and traffic resumed its normal flow.

The whole operation lasted less than 40 seconds.

No shooting in the city streets, no bloodshed: Smooth and quick — the way the Spetsnaz professionals work.

Special Problems, Special Tactics

The growing activity of numerous organized criminal gangs with their cynicism and outrageous violence pose a serious threat to everyday citizens. The burgeoning criminal element — drug-dealers, gun-traffickers, economic Mafia — are very well equipped with fully automatic weapons, silenced handguns, body armor, sophisticated comms gear and powerful vehicles.

Terrorism has become a national problem. Taking hostages for ransom is probably the most disgusting form of terrorism. Numerous reports from the North Caucasus tell of armed clashes between various gangs and government police forces. It has long been obvious that the Russian institutions, whose duty it is to maintain public order in a modern society, need to have special operations forces to effectively fight criminals. Only tough and decisive measures supported by substantial social programs can stop the growth of crime.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) of Udmurtia includes several special mission units, among them OMON (Police Special Assignment Group) and SOBR (Special Troops of Rapid Deployment).



Officially, the two units were organized in 1993 following a typical trend in the MVD of establishing special forces that would be able to provide protection for government in the times of unrest.

In fact, their history dates back to 1986, when a special platoon was formed as a part of the Police Mobile Battalion. Later, in 1991, the platoon was transformed into a Company of Special Forces. Its initial mission was to ensure public order during the various rallies, riots and demonstrations, to operate as rescue teams in the times of *force-majeure*, and during natural and technologic disasters when quick and effective aid was required to maintain security for the citizenry.

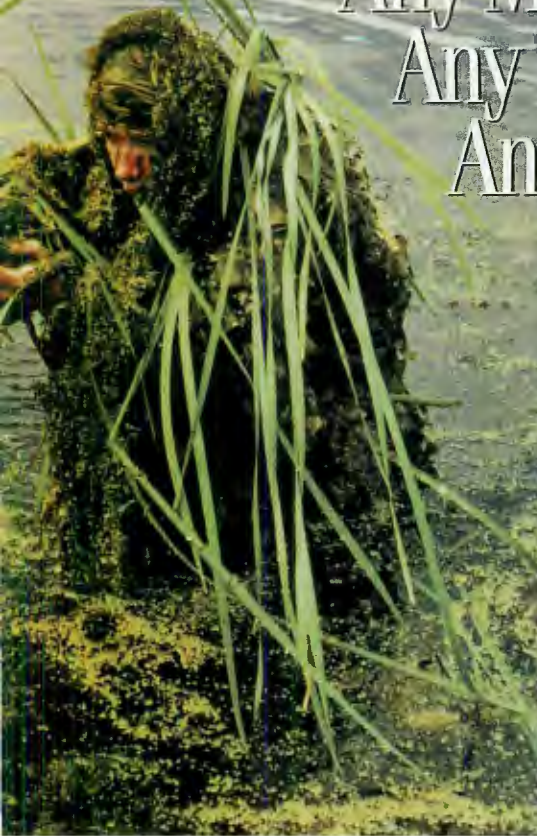
The Izhevsk OMON numbers 150 men. The spectrum of the OMON operations is

broad, from everyday routine patrols of urban territories to personal protection of official VIPs. Generally speaking, OMON is the MVD’s main muscle. OMON may work either independently or in close cooperation with other troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Federal Security Service forces (FSB) and Army, depending upon the type and the scale of a specific mission. For example, back in 1993 the Izhevsk OMON was commissioned and operated in Moscow, helping the Federal MVD Forces prevent a *coup d’état*. In 1995 the Izhevsk MVD troops were sent to St. Petersburg as an auxiliary force to maintain public order. In the period from 1994 to 1996, 12 times OMON of Izhevsk operated in concert with the Federal (Moscow) troops in Chechnya.

THE NEW SPETSNAZ

“Any Mission,
Any Time,
Any Place”

TEXT & PHOTOS BY
VALERY N. SHILIN



Along with surgical and patrolling operations, the Izhevsk OMON was deployed as a peace-keeping force. *A la guerre comme à la guerre*: Several men were wounded in the actions, with no fatalities. Some 90 men were awarded high government decorations.

Along with purely non-lethal special equipment like shields, rubber clubs and tear gas, OMON has the best affordable arms at its disposal: the Stechkin and Makarov pistols, various submachine guns, silenced assault rifles, compact sniper rifles and heavy machine guns, special pyrotechnics, monitoring systems, electronic devices, and armored vehicles.

Service in OMON requires intensive training, plus physical and mental acumen. Despite the hardships of service, the num-

(above) Attacking from unlikely direction, as from swamp, fosters element of surprise. All weapons pictured here are suppressed (from left: 9x39mm VSK-94 sniper rifle, 9x39mm A-91 compact assault rifle, Makarov pistol).

(inset, top left) Sniper fires new model 7.62x54R SVD Dragunov rifle from hatch of BTR.

(inset, left) Where millions in former Soviet Union live in tall apartments, dynamic entry through window brings element of surprise to raid. Men are ready to assault.

(inset, far left) SOBR trooper with 7.62x54R PKM machine gun. Note shoulder patch in English, as SOBR can operate inside and outside of Russia and English is common language. Rubber strip is always on stock machine for binding wounds of gunner.

ber of applicants has grown, but only 20% of candidates pass the very stringent entrance exams. During my recent visit to the MVD, I asked Alexey Churilov — the OMON OIC — what the difference was between an OMON fighter and a regular cop. The reply was quick and frank: "Where a cop thinks whether to fight or not, OMON strikes out first. It is almost an instinct for OMON, when you hear the order 'Get him!' you do it even at the cost of your own life."

SOBR — the Special Troops of Rapid Deployment — are assigned to the Department for Controlling Organized

Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Udmurt Republic. It is the special force that employs only MVD officers. As its name implies, its main task is to oppose and fight the gangs of organized criminals. SOBR serves to apprehend and detain suspects, seizing the stocks of illegal firearms, drugs, explosives and chemical weapons, thus preventing their flow into illegal enterprises. To join SOBR is a daunting task. The selected candidates undertake a course of special training that lasts usually from six to nine months. Every candidate is trained to precisely fire practically every type of small

arms, to be able to drive any vehicle — from a limousine to an APC — to render medical aid under combat conditions, to jump with a parachute at night and land on the most unfavorable terrain or water, to climb walls and cliffs, and — most importantly — to be able to outsmart a potential adversary.

By comparison, in NATO Armies a standard combat jump altitude is 700 feet (230 meters). Spetsnaz drops paratroopers from the altitude of 80 meters so that landing takes place three to four seconds after the parachute opens. In very special operations, Spetsnaz uses paraplanes and super light-weight gliders which allow them to approach the most sensitive targets quietly.

The *Krechet* [Falcon] troops are not as well-known as OMON or SOBR. It is a special force of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. Founded in 1991, *Krechet's* main function is to quell possible riots in prisons and camps, to pursue and neutralize armed and especially dangerous escaped convicts and fugitives. In the course of time, the type of *Krechet* missions became more and more diversified, to include counter-terrorism, anti-sabotage, peacekeeping and rescue operations. Back in 1994, *Krechet* was commissioned to secretly escort a group of Dudayev's (the then-rebellious President of Chechnya) political and military opposition from the hostile territory in Chechnya into safe territory inside Russia. The mission was carried out on a highly professional level.

Currently, *Krechet* is subordinated to Moscow's Federal HQ, but is stationed in Izhevsk. In less than eight years of service, 22 SOBR men were awarded with various orders and medals of combat honor. I was told that *Krechet* typically recruits its fighters from the airborne, marine divers, navy, police high schools and other troops of special assignment. I was privileged to spend four days with *Krechet*, attending their various training courses. It was a unique opportunity to look into the everyday life of Spetsnaz. Many of the *Krechet* members became my friends. Of course, for me, a 47-year-old veteran, it was an intimidating task to try and compete with professionals of the highest level. However, I learned



Spetsnaz troops pose with 7.62x39 AKM assault rifle equipped with underbarrel grenade launcher, and 9x39mm VSS silenced rifle. (inset) SOBR also has 5.45x39 RPK74 light machine gun in its arsenal.



(above) The 9x19 *Kedr* submachine gun is compact, effective, easily carried by special troops. (below) While SOBR operator fires 30mm AGS-17 automatic grenade launcher, partner observes extended ranges and provides pinpoint fire cover with the *Ots-14 Grosa* (Thunderstorm), as necessary. (right) OMON patrols from BTR, armed with exotic weapons (from left: SVD sniper rifle, A-91 compact assault rifle, VSK sniper rifle, AKM with grenade launcher). (below, right) Red Beret is the highest recognition of professionalism in Spetsnaz. Falcon is symbol of *Krechet* group.



MEMORIES AND MIRACLES

Nikolay Nechkin is a veteran in OSOM. On his ceremonial uniform I noted a silver medal for courage. He was not very willing to talk about his service achievements. It took me quite a while to coax anything from him.

"The most memorable combat? Don't know ... I well remember who I was with, where and why. However, I cannot recall details. Maybe this one: It was the spring of 1996. In Chechnya. I split my squad into two groups. Victor, my deputy, went on with one of the groups on the one side of the street, while I was with the first one. The infantry platoon was following us. We were about two blocks ahead. Suddenly I heard gunfire, just where I reckoned Victor and his men were. Then there was more gunfire and a grenade blast. In a little while, my signals reported, Victor had suppressed the fire. All our men were OK.

"We came into the building from where the fire had been conducted. I saw two dead men at the window. Victor's work, I thought. We came out into a large yard and I was about to signal "All clear" to the infantry when a GP (military slang: a grenade, launched with the underbarrel launcher) came in and hit one of my men into his ballistic vest. Unexploded, the GP dropped on the ground. Surprised and shocked, the guy made a gigantic leap over a heap of bricks for shelter. A fraction of a second after, I tried to follow him but the grenade went off and the blast wave hit me when I was in the air. I landed seriously contused, but basically in one piece.

"You say, it was a miracle?" Nikolay asked and lit a cigarette. In a little while he concluded, "In the war, buddy, you have miracles almost every day. You just develop a habit of taking this for granted."

— V.S.

some very useful lessons.

Just before visiting *Krechet*, I had spent a day with OMON and took part in their training sessions. What became evident, was the difference in fighting technique and tactics. OMON's main function is maintaining public order at regional or federal levels. This mission inevitably influences their methods. For example, in hand-to-hand combat, compared to SOBR and *Krechet*, OMON uses less lethal techniques. *Krechet*, however, practices very direct methods "for effect," as their main purpose is the release of hostages, suppression of riots and mutinies in prisons and camps, and the neutralization of armed resistance.

In true hand-to-hand combat, Spetsnaz fighters are trained to overcome four well-trained adversaries. Thanks to tremendous physical conditioning and special skills, a fighter takes and endures his enemy's blows without avoiding or blocking because the first counteraction Spetsnaz makes in the fight is in fact designed to be the last and

Continued on page 71

omega PROVING Ground

SIG Arms' SSG 3000

The letters are not new; they've been used to designate high-performance rifles for decades. Standing for the German words *Sharf Schutzen Gewehr* (Sharp Shooters Rifle), SSG defines what this new rifle imported by SIG Arms is all about. As for the number 3000, it eludes to a quantum leap in bolt-action rifles through the next century.

Made by the century-old firm, Sauer, of Germany, the SSG 3000 certainly boasts some features that render it a departure from some established principles while incorporating many proven ones as well. Offered in .308 Winchester caliber, the rifle comes with a 46.5-inch semi-heavy, cold-hammer-forged barrel with a built-in muzzle brake. Weighing in at 12 pounds, the rifle's recoil comes nowhere close to the level of discomfort, but the muzzle brake serves to keep the sharpshooter on target for rapid follow-up shots if necessary. Blocked on the bottom, the muzzle brake does not kick up a dust signature when fired.

Unlike most European precision rifles, the SSG 3000 uses U.S. quick-detachable bases and rings, in particular, Warne Q.D. Premier mounts, or Warne Q.D. Maxima (Weaver-style) along with an optional Weaver Rail adapter. With a Harris Bipod adapter, the rifle will also use any model Harris bipod. While some may prefer a



Built from the ground up as a precision sharpshooter's rifle, the SIG's new SSG 3000 comes with a custom McMillan Fiberglass stock, and hammer forged barrel. Our sample came with a Harris Bipod and Leupold 6x42mm Tactical scope. The SSG 3000 uses a unique 5-shot in-line magazine.

(right) Note the unique safety of the SSG 3000. Located directly behind bolt, the safety is pushed down to prevent the rifle from firing and locks the bolt closed while protruding down into the trigger guard. Pushing it back up allows the rifle to be fired. The 5-shot in-line magazine accommodate 30-06 length cartridges.

heavier bipod, I find the lightweight Harris Bipod to do everything I want a bipod to do.

Modular in design, the SSG 3000 allows all major components to be easily removed for service, or caliber conversion as described below. Taking advantage of proven synthetics, the rifle uses a proprietary ambidextrous black McMillan Fiberglass Tactical Stock. Designed in a semi-target-style, this stock has a competition-style pistolgrip, an adjustable cheekpiece and a non-slip rubber butt pad adjustable for length of pull using the spacer system. Along the bottom of the forend is an accessory rail, and Michaels of Oregon's flush sling mounts are also molded into the stock.

Using a modernized Mauser-type bolt, this part is rigidly contained in the SSG 3000's steel receiver leaving only the oblong ejection port to gain access to the breach. Using a Sako-type extractor, the bolt has a standard plunger-style ejector, six interrupted forward locking lugs, and a large, round, plastic bolt knob.

Located on the upper right side of the receiver, the safety transcends down through the rifle to protrude into the center of the trigger guard just forward of the trigger. To put the SSG 3000 on SAFE, simply depress the safety from the top. To ready the rifle for firing, push the safety up with the trigger finger inside the trigger guard. The safety locks the bolt closed when applied, and must be taken off SAFE to open the bolt.

To remove the bolt, put the safety OFF and lift the bolt handle. Now put the safety ON, pull the bolt back and remove, making sure that the adjustable cheekpiece is low enough for it to clear. To replace the bolt, simply insert it into the receiver and close with the safety ON or OFF. If the safety is in the ON position, the bolt will close and lock in that position on SAFE.

To disassemble the bolt, remove it and turn the cocking piece counter-clockwise until the striker rests at the bottom of its channel. Now retrace the striker with a flat instrument and continue to turn it counter-clockwise (I used a key). When the striker is resting atop the rear of the bolt body to the right of its channel, continue to turn it a few degrees until the striker



assembly unlocks and is free of the bolt. The striker spring will remain captive, but the striker group can otherwise be disassembled for cleaning and lubrication. Reassembly is in reverse order, and can be accomplished without tools with moderate effort.

Atop the front of the receiver is a steel stud for use in attaching a mirage deflection ribbon. The manual depicts dual prongs at the front end of the ribbon that hook into the muzzle break. During high temperatures such ribbons help prevent heat waves from interfering with one's view through a scope.

Most different about the SSG 3000 is its unique detachable box magazine. Rather than being of the now conventional double column, 2-position feed-type, this magazine is an in-line type of single column, single-position feed. Although this magazine holds only 5 shots, it extends as low as the bottom of the trigger guard in a magazine housing that is part of the stock.

To release the magazine from the rifle, use the index finger to depress the ambidextrous button release just forward of the bottom of the magazine. A spring-powered magazine ejector will cause the magazine to eject downward into the hand.

In addition to its simple bolt disassembly, the SIG SSG 3000 can be further disassembled with relative ease. After removing the two action hex bolts, the entire barreled action can be removed from the stock. Although it would be almost never necessary to do so, the barrel can then be easily removed from the receiver by unscrewing three hex bolts at the front of the receiver, removing a locating pin, and pulling the barrel out the front of the receiver by hand. Instructions for this procedure are in the owner's manual.

Perhaps the only reason one might want to remove the SSG 3000's barrel is to convert the rifle to fire .22 Long Rifle ammunition for practice or competition. This requires a .22 caliber barrel, bolt, magazine well insert and .22 rimfire magazine. However, this capability also allows easy conversion to cartridges compatible with the .308 Winchester such as the .243, 7mm-08 and others.

Capable of being fine adjusted, the SSG 3000's match-type trigger is of the two-stage variety which I prefer to any other. The trigger on our sample rifle breaks at a clean 3 pounds from the factory.

Offered in three basic packages, the SSG 3000 can be had as the Level I, II, or III Tactical. Although the rifle remains the same throughout, it is the accessories that make the difference in designation and price. Furnished with only a carrying case, the Level I Tactical SSG 3000 comes with no scope or bipod. In addition to the carrying case, the Level II Tactical comes with the Leupold Vari-X III 3.5-10X40mm Duplex Reticle Scope and a Harris bipod. SIG Arm's top-of-the-line Level III Tactical comes with the Leupold Mark 4 M1 10X40mm Mil-Dot Scope and Harris bipod along with the carrying case.

In addition to the three packages, SIG Arms offers a variety of accessories for the SSG 3000 including both Leupold scopes, both types of Warne bases and rings, Harris bipod and adapter, Ultra

SIG Arms SSG 3000	
S P E C I F I C A T I O N S	
Caliber:	.308 Winchester (tested) and others.
Velocity:	2,700 fps.
Operation:	Turn bolt repeater.
Barrel Length:	23.4 inches.
Overall Length:	46.5 inches.
Weight:	12 pounds.
Feed Device:	Five-shot detachable box magazine.
Safety:	Thumb safety.
Sights:	(none) Integral receiver rail allows repeatable zero Q.D. scope mounting.
Stock:	McMillan Fiberglass black target grade stock with adj. cheekpiece and spacer system.
Finish:	Matte black.
Price:	Level I (w/o optics) \$2,560.00; Level II (with Leupold Vari-X III 3.5-10X40mm Duplex Reticle scope, Harris Bipod, and carrying case), \$3,490.00; Level III (with Leupold Mark 4 M1-10X40mm Mil-Dot Scope, Harris Bipod and case), \$4,500.00 (sugg. ret.).

Black Sling, Q.D. swivels, and carrying case, and spare magazines.

Upon receiving the only Level III SSG 3000 in the country, I was limited in time I was able to keep the rifle for testing, so I wasted no time in doing just that. Equipped with a Leupold Vari-X III 3.5-10x40mm Duplex Reticle scope, our sample is designated by SIG as the Model JE5SR-2. This scope will allow the rifle to do anything one could ask out to 200 yards.

Test firing the SIG SSG 3000 with several established Match Grade .308 Winchester cartridges proved it capable of high precision accuracy. Extremely smooth in operation, the rifle demonstrated total reliability, its single-position-feed magazine leaving the cartridge no place to go but into the chamber. Equally pleasing was its fine two-stage fully adjustable trigger that let-off at a crisp 3 pounds, an ideal all-around weight.

With the majority of our 100-yard three-shot groups running well under one inch our test sample averaged just below one MOA overall. A thorough breaking in would no doubt improve this accuracy substantially, making the SSG 3000 worthy of filling any precision rifle role.

If you're looking for a high-grade bolt-action rifle, check out SIG's brand new SSG 3000. For information on all their fine firearms, contact SIG Arms, Inc., Dept. SOF, Corporate Park, Exeter, NH 03833; phone: 603-772-2302.

— Gary Paul Johnston

Smith & Wesson 44 Mag Tool

You can never have enough guns, ammo, probably restorable '53 Chevy pickups, or tools. Ignore what your wife may say. It's true. Especially tools, as they are what will keep the other toys in working order. Some of our favorite tools of the last decade have been the multi-purpose tools of the folding-plier genre, particularly of good use because they serve a multitude of needs and are compact enough to be along when needed. There are many serviceable such tools on the market, for those who will pick-and-choose the good stuff and reject the garbage offered in discount tool bins at the grocery store or in colorful brochures stuffed in with your credit card bill.

One such worthy entry is the Smith & Wesson 44 Mag Tool by Gutmann Cutlery. Of the classic folding-plier design, the 44 Mag Tool comprises a 16-function multi-tool that offers a needle-nose pliers, plus: wire cutter; crimper; scissors; bottle opener; can opener; square-bar screwdrivers in 1/16", 3/32", 1/8" and 1/4";



Phillips-type screwdriver; diamond file; awl; regular spearpoint blade; serrated spearpoint blade; a sheepfoot crosscut saw blade ... and, as a bonus — everything works like it was intended. All components are accurately machined, tightly fitted and nicely, but not obsessively, polished. The tool handles have black synthetic grip covers, with basketweave and punched texture for a sure grip in the adverse conditions that such contingency tools are usually employed, and the tool comes in a handy Cordura belt sheath.

The 44 Mag Tool is assembled in the USA from components made in the USA, Mexico, Taiwan and China. The eclectic approach to parts procurement has worked well in this instance, as the 44 Mag Tool is worthy of the S&W logo, and keeps good company with the other quality cutlery in Gutmann's line.

For the dealer nearest you, contact Gutmann Cutlery, Dept. SOF, Box 2219, Bellingham, WA 98227; phone: 360-650-9141; fax: 360-676-1075. ✕

Bill Clinton: War Criminal?

U.S. On Trial For Madeleine's War

by Martin Brass

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

“**M**adeleine's War” has blighted an already incoherent U.S. foreign policy, further sabotaged a fragmented military; reduced certain Constitutional provisions to a pile of ashes; and raped hard-earned norms of laws of war.

A cranky wise old soldier — in attempting to shut me up when I ranted and raved about some deception or another — would remind me of an old saying: “Lies travel fast, but truth catches up along the way.”

The NATO war waged against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), many believe, was hawked to a humanitarian-minded American public through a policy based upon a series of manipulations, misperceptions, and falsehoods.

Charges have been filed in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (Criminal Court) in efforts to expose the truth. Multinational teams of international lawyers and law professors (including some from the United States and Britain) are challenging the way the war was instigated, accusing NATO of using prohibited weapons and methods, and alleging that the leaders have committed a plethora of war crimes by violating scores of laws of war



Former guerrilla commander Hashim Thaci (center) sits with KLA Commander Remi (left) and KLA General Agim Ceku (right) during a rally in honor of the KLA on 7 August 1999, in Podujevo, 15 miles north of Pristina. Thaci promised Kosovo's ethnic Albanians that one day their will would decide the future of their homeland. For now, though, his KLA is trying to impose its will on the Serbian province and grab as much power as it can in the postwar dis-



including the Geneva Conventions and the Nuremberg Statute.

The tenets and facts presented in the two separate proceedings in the ICJ and the Criminal Court are intertwined. However, both actions were deemed necessary because only states can be parties in the World Court whereas in the Criminal Court individuals, including Heads of State, can be named as defendants. Criminal Court jurisdiction is not optional. In the World Court, however, jurisdiction is consensual. The United States refused to consent to the jurisdiction of the World Court in this case. It withdrew its consent to compulsory jurisdiction after Nicaragua brought a successful suit against the U.S. for the bombing and mining of its ports and training the Contras in the mid-'80s. Proceedings — which the Western press have chosen to ignore — are pending against eight of the NATO allies that remain subject to the compulsory jurisdiction.

World Court, 10 May, 1999

A bleak stormy day ushered in the tempestuous three-day trial in the World Court in the Hague. As NATO mercilessly bombarded the defenseless FRY in its air campaign “Noble Angel” — from a height of 15,000 feet at a frequency of 600 missions a day, with high-performance ordnance and anti-personnel weapons — the FRY blasted the allies with an arsenal of laws of war. The U.S. had been instrumental in codifying those laws. It had executed violators of the

British NATO troops walk past a burning Serb home to the east of Pristina. Many believe the NATO war against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was hawked to a humanitarian-minded American public through a policy based on manipulations, misperceptions and falsehoods.

Nuremberg Tribunal Statute including war crimes. It had prosecuted threats to peace, conspiracies and crimes against humanity. The U.S., which had invoked the Genocide Convention, Geneva Convention POW and other protections, was getting those laws thrown back in its face. The use of force — the NATO bombing — was an act of war.

The UN Charter in Articles 2 (4) and 2 (7), backed by binding international legal custom and principle, forbids the use of force or the intervention in internal affairs as acts of aggression.

Thus, charged the FRY, by bombing — as well as training, arming, financing, equipping and supplying the KLA — the U.S. had launched an illegal war. The respondents did not deny the claims nor did they legally justify their actions.

The only justification for the use of force — that of individual or collective self-defense — was not invoked. The prerequisites for invoking self-defense were missing. There was no victim state against which the FRY aggressed, and the action was not taken as a last resort. Humanitarian intervention is only legal if authorized by the UN Security Council (SC).

The Kosovo Albanians, asserted the FRY, are not threatened by Serbia. They are victimized by the secessionist policy of the KLA, fortified by the meddling of the West. The crisis was a crisis selected and developed by the U.S. as a part of a long-term anti-Serb campaign that had other purposes — namely to punish for non-acceptance of NATO demands concerning the territorial status of Kosovo, and to provide credibility to the threats.

The U.S. had not mentioned a “human catastrophe” in 1995 when the West allowed Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to remain in power after the Dayton Accords. The German state department, according to a brief distributed by the German branch of the International Alliance of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, had concluded on 19 November 1998 that the violent military conflicts were directed against the KLA and their supporters and that “repeated press reports on ‘massacres’ and ‘mass graves’ could not be confirmed by international observers.” Until 1997, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Canada had repatriated ethnic Albanians after failing to confirm allegations of ethnic discrimination.

The KLA, supported by bank accounts traced to the U.S., France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, and trained by the U.K. and U.S., claimed the FRY, had engineered the situation. In 1996 and 1997 terrorist attacks were infrequent. However, in 1998, the fortified KLA — by having defacto control of 40% of Kosovo — launched 1,854 terrorist attacks resulting in 284 deaths, 556 wounded and 100 missing.

Gary Dempsey, of the CATO Institute, characterizes the KLA movement:

“The KLA fought to trigger the secession of Kosovo from the Yugoslav state. Pursuing a textbook strategy, the KLA carried out attacks on police and civilians aimed at provoking a government crackdown that would radicalize the ethnic Albanian population in Kosovo.”

The strategy worked. Belgrade’s notorious counteroffensive in February 1998, targeting the Adem Jasharis clan, a nucleus of the KLA, resulted in 80 ethnic Albanian deaths, including women and children. The sensation-seeking Western media had found a new theater. Unfortunately, for the local audience, the all-too-familiar bloody act was merely being replayed on a blood-stained stage.

Foreign policy expert Barton Gellman’s assessment of U.S. policy in the *International Herald Tribune*, 19 April 1999, was cited to confirm claims of coercion for seven months previous to the airstrikes:

“The period between the two NATO gatherings saw a furious internal debate on whether the alliance could act militarily without explicit authority from the Security Council. On 24 Sept (1998) a day after a carefully ambiguous SC resolution, Washington finally persuaded its allies to issue an ultimatum to Mr. Milosevic to pull back. 13 October brought the first activation order in NATO’s history, a formal agreement to authorize the bombing of Yugoslavia. But unbeknown at the time, the governing North Atlantic Council approved only Phase 1 of the three-phase air campaign, amounting to about 50 air-defense targets. The real punishment of Belgrade would come in Phase 2, with scores of targets, and Phase 3 with



An ethnic Albanian man carries a baby as he leaves the village of Istinic, 45 miles southwest of Pristina, Saturday, 12 September.

hundreds and hundreds of targets according to a senior White House official. Armed with that NATO threat, Richard Holbrooke persuaded Milosevic to accept a ceasefire in Kosovo and to withdraw the troops and special police deployed to Kosovo in 1998.”

After 2,000 members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were deployed, the KLA attacks continued. Rambouillet “negotiations” were initiated. Milosevic, given no alternatives, was to accept an occupation force in the entire FRY and to give up Kosovo. NATO proceeded to send troops to countries bordering the FRY, and in turn the FRY increased its forces. Upon withdrawing the mission after the Rambouillet “negotiations” failed and a week before the airstrikes, the OSCE Chairman wrote; “the increased violence of Kosovo, of which both Yugoslav troops and the KLA are to blame” had impacted his decision. No “human catastrophe was mentioned.” The OSCE is dictat-



Female relatives mourn over the body of dead Serb policeman Predrag Rakovic, in Djakovica, some 50 miles southeast of Pristina, Yugoslavia. Rakovic was killed in recent clashes with ethnic Albanian rebels of the KLA in the village of Rogovo.

ed to by NATO members.

The ongoing Rambouillet negotiations, claimed the FRY, added fuel to the secessionist movement because it was a one-sided ultimatum. The Kosovo leadership did not sign an acceptable agreement, they signed because Albright assured them that if they signed, the obstructionist Serbs would be bombed.

Rambouillet was not a peace agreement, claimed the FRY. Rather, it was deception. The 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties holds that a treaty is void if it has been procured by the threat or use of force. As Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, first force commander and head of mission of the UN forces deployed in the former Yugoslavia 3 March 1992 to 2 March 1993 writes: "Ultimatums do not constitute diplomacy. They are acts of war. ...

Portraying the Serbs as evil and everybody else as good was not only counter-productive, but also dishonest ... one of the main problems was that there was unwillingness on the part of the American administration to concede that Serbs had legitimate grievances and rights ... it was the West that proceeded to escalate the situation into the current senseless bombing campaign that smacks more of hurt egos, and revenge and retaliation ... the same pattern was emerging ... as I watched the ugly tragedy unfold in the case of Kosovo while visiting the U.S."

The courtroom battle turned ballistic when the issue of refugees was addressed. The FRY pointed out that more than 700,000 refugees had fled Kosovo since 24 March, when NATO's operations commenced the offensive. The accusation that the airstrikes triggered the mass exodus of refugees, the U.S. representative rebutted, was a "monstrous lie."

General Nambiar's Take

"I do not believe the Belgrade government had prior intention of driving out all Albanians from Kosovo," Nambiar said. "It may have decided to implement Washington's own Krajina Plan (where hundreds of thousands of Serbs were ethnically cleansed, supposedly with help of NATO airstrikes in 1995) only if NATO bombed, or these expulsions could be spontaneous acts of revenge and retaliation by Serb forces in the field because of the bombing"

No one attempted to deny Milosevic's villainy. Focus was on the innocent noncombatants, both Serbian as well as ethnic Albanian, who were being punished for the acts of their leaders. Those who did not anticipate that the "Hitler" or "Butcher of the Balkans" would fight for his position in history, considering the sacredness of Kosovo — or to not have expected that a proud military would not fight back — must assume responsibility for the consequences.

Criminal Court

The "humanitarian intervention" rhetoric justifying the offensive, claimed the petitioners in the Criminal Court, "paralleled that of Japan's invasion of Manchuria, Mussolini's attack on Ethiopia, Hitler's 1938 crusade into Czechoslovakia, or Turkey's invasion of Cyprus."

The complaint filed in the Criminal Court alleged violations of the UN Charter, the NATO treaty, the Nuremberg Statute and the Geneva Conventions and Protocol of 1997.

The Nuremberg Statute codifies the "planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of



U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright finds herself at the center of criminal and civil charges that have been filed by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the wake of NATO's bombing campaign. Only time will tell whether Bill Clinton, Albright and Defense Secretary William Cohen are someday declared war criminals. (below) The U.S. had not mentioned a "human catastrophe" in 1995 when the West allowed Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to remain in power after the Dayton Accords.



international treaties, agreements or assurances" as a crime

The fourth Geneva Convention and 1977 Protocol demand the evacuation of civilian populations from combat zones, distinguishing between combatants and civilians and between military targets and civilian habitats and the protection of civilian hospitals.

Hundreds of cases were offered as proof to establish that the leaders acted with intent, with prior knowledge, and with reckless disregard for the consequence. A few examples follow:

- 12 April: A passenger train, with a well-known schedule, was bombed, killing civilians.
- 14 April: A recorded conversation with a pilot of an F-16 and the AWAC pilot guiding the strike plane disclosed the following: The F-16 pilot, already advised by a U.K. Harrier pilot that the convoy was comprised of civilians, repeatedly advised that he saw no military vehicles. The AWAC pilot instructed the F-16 to fire. Seventy-five Kosovo Albanian civilians were killed and more than 100 injured on the road from Prizren to Djakovica. Survivors spoke of jets diving, bombing, circling, and then re-bombing.
- 23 April: The Serb radio and television headquarters in Belgrade, one of 25 broadcasting facilities blown up, was intentionally bombed because it was spreading anti-NATO "propaganda" although NATO was aware that low-level staff were in the building.
- 1 May: Bombing was ordered at the precise time a civilian passenger bus was scheduled to go over a bridge, killing 40 people, mostly elderly and children. A second bomb hit an ambulance en route to assist the bus.

In addition to those individual cases, the complaint included 15 pages of lists of sites destroyed including: 300 towns and villages without military significance; numerous churches and ministers and historical sites; 60 hospitals and health care facilities; 50 civilian factories; 34 bridges and railways; 13 roads and bus stations; and all civilian airports. Water supplies were poisoned. Power supplies were shut down.

By early May, 1,200 Serbian civilians had been killed by the bombing and 4,500 wounded.

Hundreds of thousands of displaced refugees were left homeless.

Use Of Prohibited Weapons

At the time of the trial, 15,000 cluster bombs had been detonated in the FRY, 3,600 of them in Kosovo. The indiscriminate cluster bombs disperse in mid-air, releasing numerous bomblets over large areas that each emit metal shards covering up to 100 acres. Duds create unchecked land mines (cluster bombs have since killed the first two NATO peacekeeping troops).

In addition to using cluster bombs on a massive scale, NATO tested for the first time bombs with graphite coils that short-circuit the entire power system. Those on life-supports and in incubators in hospitals and health-care systems were among the victims.

Depleted uranium (DU) was also used on a massive scale. DU was found in the 30mm ammunition fired by the GAU-8A guns mounted on the A-10 Warthog aircraft. It presents an ongoing chemical toxicity and radiation risk to the people in the entire Balkan region. Its radioactive uranium oxide dust, carried by wind, is poisonous if inhaled or ingested, and poses a great risk of cancer due to radiation.

According to the U.S. Army Environmental Policy Institute which analyzed radiation effects upon U.S. soldiers in the Gulf (cited at trial):

"DU delivers radiation wherever it migrates in the body. Within the body, alpha radiation is the most important contributor to the radiation hazard posed by DU. The radiation dose to critical body organs depends on the amount of time that DU resides in the organs. When this value is known or estimated, cancer and hereditary risk estimates can be determined."

Experts cited concluded that DU: "Is believed to be responsible for Gulf War Syndrome plaguing over 100,000 veterans from the Gulf War and whose symptoms are analogous to radiation poisoning, characterized by chronic fatigue, weight-loss and severe abnormalities in subsequently born children. The use of DU has been documented to have caused alarming increases in birth defects, stillbirths, childhood leukemia, and other cancers to individuals exposed to DU-treated ammunition during the Gulf War ... exposure to this radioactive material is fatal and has long-lasting effects on the environment ... the half-life of depleted uranium is 4.5 billion years".

The Pancevo fertilizer and oil refinery factory on the banks of the Danube was bombed repeatedly, creating a huge toxic carcinogenic cloud of phosgene gas, chlorine and hydrochloric acid over Belgrade with toxicity levels up to 10,000 times what's permissible. Workers, in order to avert bombardment and extensive poisoning to residents of Belgrade and the surrounding area, threw highly carcinogenic ether dichloride stored in the factory into the Danube. Dozens of residents were reported to be suffering from nerve gas poisoning as a result of toxic fallout from explosions. NATO, it is alleged, by repeatedly bombing the complex, had unleashed a poisonous weapon. The complex had no military function.

Armed with mounds of transcripts, piles of applications and complaints, and head spinning with charges and accusations flung at the NATO allies and its leadership, I proceeded on to the staging ground in Albania, before I moved on to the battlefield, Kosovo. If indeed the U.S. had fomented the situation by fortifying the KLA, the claims of the FRY would be vindicated.

A Visit to Hell

Several British paratroopers, the first NATO peacekeeping troops to penetrate Kosovo, described the KLA savagery as they guarded the abysmal Grand Hotel in Pristina. So deceptive was the propaganda, ranted one medic, that he felt compelled to destroy the radios that continued to transmit the one-sided, anti-Serb clamor:

"The KLA are convinced that the objective of the airstrikes was to turn over Kosovo and its governance to them," the medic said. "Why shouldn't they be, under the circumstances?"

Powerful KLA members hovered with arrogant mastery around the paras, determining who could enter or exit the 5-star hotel (self-styled) that had been confiscated from the Serbs and converted to KLA headquarters. I was introduced to several ethnic Albanian women, who boldly stood guard and flaunted their lanky, muscular bodies and new-found authority.

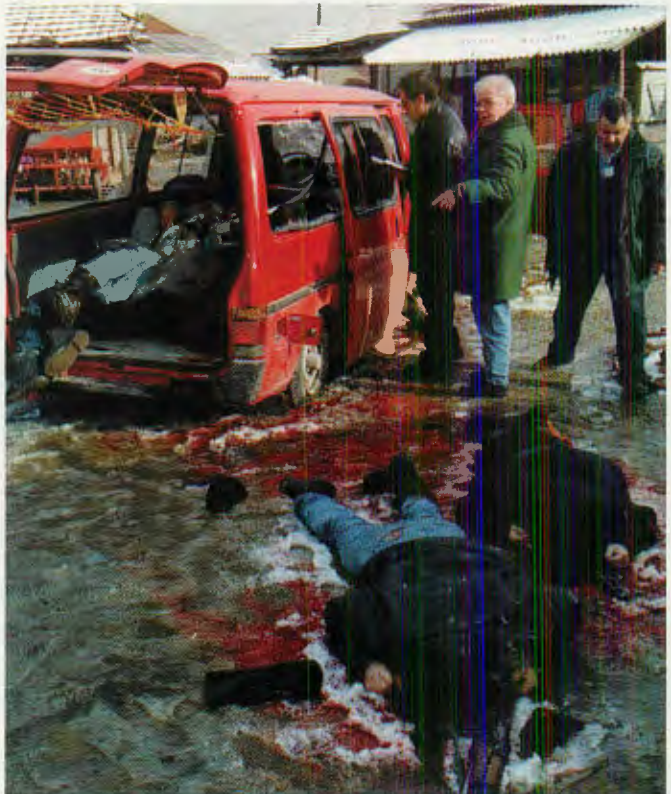
"The KLA told us that they are good soldiers. During the war, they would take their clothes off for the Serb soldiers and ..." The trooper's hand shot up in a demonstration of one having his throat slit. He had been thrown into a vengeful, carnivorous world which no amount of elitist training could have prepared him for. The women were merely a product of the blinding obsessive ethnic hatreds which had flowed like poison through the Balkans and begat Philistine acts of vindication from one generation to the next.

The paratroopers were not only unprepared for the atrocities being committed by the KLA against Serbs and defiant ethnic Albanians, but, more alarmingly, their inadequate traditional peacekeeping mandate, calling for use of force only in self-defense, left them helpless in dealing with the accelerating heinous actions of the KLA.

One disheartened soldier, a legal scholar reflected, "We are powerless. There are no laws to enforce, no UN laws, no Yugoslav laws, no NATO laws."

Tom Cohen, of Associated Press, points out that Hashim Thaci, self-appointed Prime Minister of Kosovo, denies that the KLA breaks the law. Of course they don't — never mind that they are accused of murders, torture and ethnic cleansing. In the legal vacuum that has been created, the only laws are the draconian, arbitrary ones enacted by the KLA. No law, no crime.

In a 29 July *New York Times* article, Chris Hedges captures the



A team of OSCE verifiers inspect a van carrying the bodies of slain ethnic Albanian rebels of the KLA in the village of Rogovo, some 50 miles southwest of Pristina. Police stormed the village in southwestern Kosovo, killing 23 ethnic Albanians.

sickening sights that I witnessed in Kosovo: of looting and burning of Serb homes by KLA members; of dozens of assassinations; of massacres and kidnappings of Serbs and Albanians; of confiscation; and of denial of free expression to the battered ethnic Albanians, 95% of whom are not members of the KLA. "The ramifications for Kosovo and for the international powers that have set up this protectorate are immense," Hedges writes, "for the raw, often unschooled, fighters have as their political patron the Government of Albania and care little for the civilities of Western-style democracies."

Why did the U.S. help create this monster in Kosovo? Let's ask Madeleine Albright.

Albright doltishly, with feigned surprise, scolded the KLA on a recent visit. She reminding them not to act like their barbaric Serb neighbors. Where have you been, Madeleine? What about U.S. citizens in Pristina who had joined the KLA, proudly divulging visits by U.S. embassy envoys encouraging them in their mission while they were training in Albania, after having openly left the U.S. in violation of the U.S. Neutrality Act?

What of widespread reports that the CIA was overtly playing intelligence games with the Albanian Secret Service, which upgraded its primitive capabilities to effectively help the KLA communicate with NATO intelligence in order to advise them of the positions of the Serbs during the offensive? How about accounts in London's *Sunday Telegraph* and *Sunday Times* that members of U.S. SpecOps units and British SAS commandos gave the KLA intelligence and military training, confirming the accusations of the FRY in the World Court?

Then there are pervasive reports that the KLA received assistance from Iran or Islamic terrorist groups operating in a KLA staging area in Albania and Macedonia. Yet more disagreeable are reports by Dempsey, months before the airstrikes that said, "The recent U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania may be connected to the U.S.-demanded deportation of several members of an Islamic terrorist cell in Albania, who were tied to Saudi expatriate, Osama bin Laden, and who

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Southern Thunder Presents

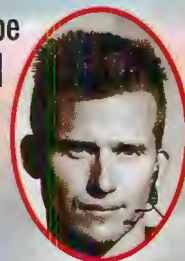
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Kimber's Ultra Concealment, Ultra Carry

Quest For The Holy Grail

Text & Photos by
Peter G. Kokalis

For many of us, devotion to the M1911 .45 ACP pistol approaches a religion. Extending that metaphor, it's not much of a stretch to say that currently the quest for the Holy Grail revolves around finding the smallest possible envelope for this venerable single-action system and its highly effective cartridge. Kimber Mfg., Inc. (Dept. SOF, 1 Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705; phone: 800-880-2418; fax: 406-758-2223; Custom Shop: 914-964-0742, ext. 228; website: www.kimberamerica.com; 1999 catalog \$2) has now become a major player in the search for the smallest viable .45.

Soldier Of Fortune was recently sent one of Kimber's new Stainless Steel Ultra Carry .45s, with some interesting Kimber Custom Shop modifications, for test and evaluation. With an overall length of 6.8 inches, the height, including the Heinie *Slant* Pro Sights I personally installed, is 5.6 inches. The width, at the grip panels, is 1.25 inches. The 3-inch forged barrel has six grooves with a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches. The pistol's weight, empty, is approximately 25 ounces.

The slide is CNC mill-finished with plus/minus 0.001-inch tolerances from a 416 stainless steel forging and heat-treated before the rails are machined to prevent the possibility of warpage. Kimber .45s are provided with the tightest slide-to-frame tolerances of any M1911-type pistol manufactured today, without any compromise in reliability under the most adverse conditions.

The frame was machined from 7075-T7 aluminum alloy bar stock. This is a stress-relieved version of T6, which is more commonly employed in the manufacture of firearms and is less expensive. The frame's hole spacing is exceptionally precise and the holes are machined at perfect right angles to the frame's surface. *SOF's* test specimen has been treated with the new KimPro premium finish, a phenolic resin process, and the hardest of its type, as well as permanent in nature. In addition, KimPro contains molybdenum disulfide, which has excellent self-lubricating properties and a nominal thickness that has no effect on the fit of the components or the functioning of the pistol. This Kimber Custom Shop (phone: 914-964-0771, ext. 228) feature is available in black, gray or "stainless" silver for \$200. Turnaround time is generally less than two weeks. KimPro is sprayed on, after the metal surface is



prepped, and then thermally cured (baked on). Developed specifically for firearms, the KimPro process has successfully survived both 1,000 hours of salt spray and 1,000 hours of saltwater immersion.

The Custom Shop also performed a radical "meltdown" on the slide and frame of SOF's test specimen. This involves removing all of the sharp edges that might snag or catch on clothing and equipment or abrade the shooter's hand during the draw stroke, which must always be smooth and fluid. This feature is becoming ever more popular with those who carry in deep concealment. It leaves the pistol with a soft, rounded appearance. As it is done slowly and painstakingly by hand, it is not cheap. The Custom Shop charges \$250 for a meltdown.

The magazine well is beveled to assist changing magazines. The frame's feed ramp has been opened and polished, by now a standard feature on customized M1911s. Complementing that, the barrel's chamber opening has been radiused slightly and lightly polished to remove high spots. The beavertail-type steel grip safety is internally skeletonized for weight reduction and has a slight bump on the bottom to ensure that it is disconnected even if not depressed completely. It entirely cups the hammer to prevent "hammer bite" and permit as high a

grip as possible. As the front strap has also been slightly relief-cut just under the rear portion of the trigger guard (a so-called "kidney cut"), the high grip permitted by these two features lowers the bore line in relation to the shooter's hand and reduces the perceived recoil somewhat.

The flat-type mainspring housing directly below the grip safety is sharply checkered and made of silver-colored Nylon 6/6 composite. It will do, but for strictly cosmetic reasons; I always change that out with a stainless steel Ed Brown mainspring housing with 30 LPI checkering that I obtained from Brownells (Dept. SOF, 200 South Front Street, Montezuma, IA 50171; phone: 515-623-5401; fax: 515-623-3896). I had the Kimber Custom Shop hand cut 30 LPI checkering on the front strap, as this enhances your ability to maintain a firm grip even more than checkering on the mainspring housing. The grip panels on SOF's test specimen are handsome, hand-checkered, double-diamond-pattern rosewood. This is a \$49 extra. The grip panels on Kimber 1911s are now held to the frame by attractive hex-head grip screws.

The Kimber checkered steel magazine catch/release button is slightly higher than usual to offer access by the thumb without altering the firing grip, but not long enough

to induce an accidental release. The pistol is equipped with a McCormick skeletonized Commander-style hammer and an extended *ambidextrous* thumb safety. The ambidextrous safety, another Kimber Custom Shop feature, costs only \$50. The ability to fire with the support hand only is an essential fighting skill. During Thunder Ranch's Handgun 3 course, we spent many hours with a "sleeve" — made from a section of PVC pipe with a bolt through it — on either the firing hand or support hand only. The drawstroke and all three malfunction drills were practiced in this manner. Practice of this type is made much easier if your pistol is equipped with an "ambi" safety.

The match-grade aluminum trigger has stainless steel rails and a vertically serrated front face. Trigger pull weight on our test specimen was exactly 3.25 pounds. The trigger pull is as smooth as glass with a very crisp let-off. There are dual internal tangs to furnish takeup adjustment and an allen-head screw at the front to adjust backlash. All of the trigger mechanism components are of match-grade quality.

A number of the pistol's small components, such as the hammer, sear, disconnect, grip safety, ambidextrous manual safety, slide release and rear sight assembly, are made by means of a process called Metal-



Kimber Ultra Carry, left side view. Note checkered steel magazine catch/release button which is slightly higher than usual to offer access by the thumb without altering the firing grip, but not long enough to induce an accidental release, and match-grade aluminum trigger which has a vertically serrated front face. (inset) Kimber Ultra Carry, right-side view. The front strap has been slightly relief-cut just under the rear portion of the trigger guard (a so-called "kidney cut"). This permits a high grip that lowers the bore line in relation to the shooter's hand and reduces the perceived recoil somewhat.



(above) Ambidextrous safety, a Custom Shop feature, allows the operator to fire with the support hand only. (right) Author installed Heinie *Slant Pro*



sights with tritium inserts as they are designed for one-handed clearance drills and provide an excellent sight picture for firing under stress.

Injection-Molding (MIM), which was developed by NASA and first used by Kimber in their Model 82 .22 rimfire rifle. Delivering almost all the structural strength of steel forgings at much less cost, this process also permits the manufacture of intricate components with tight tolerances. In this process powdered chrome-moly steel

is combined with a polymer carrier and then injected into a somewhat over-sized mold. During a sintering process, high temperatures extract the polymer and cause the part to shrink to exactly the desired dimensions. The resulting grain structure is more dense than that achieved by standard investment casting techniques and after heat-treating

the strength is significantly greater.

The single-column, detachable box-type magazine is an M1911-type without a removable floorplate. It was manufactured by MEC-GAR in Italy of hard-chromed steel. It holds six rounds and there are numbered indicator holes, from "2" to "6" on each side of the magazine body. This maga-

In 1913 Springfield Armory was directed to develop a subcaliber system for the Model 1911 pistol to shoot .22 Short cartridges for training purposes. By 1927, the concept had proved to be impractical and the project was abandoned. Ever since 1915 Colt had been working on a similar effort. Series production of the Colt Ace pistol did not commence until 1931. Although built on the same frame as the Government Model pistol, the components could not interchange and the Colt Ace was sold as a complete pistol. A decade later production ceased after approximately 10,000 pistols were made.

Introduced in 1936, the Colt Service Model Ace was designed around a floating chamber invented by the famous David M. "Carbine" Williams. In this system, the floating chamber was driven rearward by gas pressure, quadrupling the usual recoil impulse of the .22 LR round and thus simulating the recoil force generated by .45 ACP cartridge. Marketed first as a complete pistol, by 1938 Colt was offering .22 Service Model conversion units. Production of the Service Model Ace pistols terminated in 1945 and began again in 1977. Unfortunately, although they are today valuable collectors' pieces, the Colt Ace and Service Model Ace pistols and conversion units were never totally reliable, and often inaccurate, because of the floating chamber method used to simulate the recoil of a .45.

Kimber's .22 LR conversion kit is both reliable and accurate. It consists of a complete slide assembly and a magazine. Just remove the .45 ACP slide assembly and magazine and replace them with those of the .22 LR conversion kit. The conversion kit operates by means of unlocked blowback. A single lug on the barrel's underside locks the barrel in place by means of the slide's locking lever axis pin which passes through it. This results in a frame-mounted fixed barrel as usually encountered in blowback operated pistols. Some feel this feature enhances the accuracy potential. We installed this conversion unit on a superb Kimber stainless steel Gold Match full-size pistol.

The slide is made of silver-colored, hard-anodized aluminum and has been machined from bar stock. It matches the Kimber's stainless steel frame almost perfectly. All of the slide's other

Kimber .22 LR Conversion Kit



components: barrel (made by E.R. Shaw of 4140 steel), extractor, ejector, spring-loaded firing pin, recoil-spring guide rod are made of steel. The buffer overriding the recoil spring at the rear is a black polymer part.

The sights are those of the Kimber Gold Match series and are dovetailed to the slide. The Kimber Gold Match adjustable rear sight is spring-loaded and driven by twin coil springs. The springs are secured by twin ball bearings, assuring that the sight will go where you tell it to and stop there. The backside of the open square-notch has horizontal serrations to reduce glare. The front sight blade is 0.112-inch wide and the open square-notch

rear sight has the same width. The sight radius is 6.7 inches. Elevation zero is by means of a screw-on top of the sight assembly. Turning it counter-clockwise raises the point of impact. The windage adjustment screw is on the right side of the sight. Turning it clockwise moves the point of impact to the right. A tool is supplied for this purpose.

One 10-round, single-column, detachable box-type magazine is provided. Both the magazine body and its removable floorplate are made of aluminum. The magazine follower and floorplate retaining piece are steel sheet metal stampings. The magazine follower does not engage the frame's slide stop and so the slide is not held rearward after the last round has been fired.

We have fired several thousand rounds of a substantial variety of .22 LR ammunition through the Kimber .22 LR conversion kit, including hyper-, high- and standard-velocity-types. Remarkably, there have been no stoppages of any kind. Accuracy at 25 yards with standard and high velocity ammunition is less than 1 inch for 5-shot groups. Invariably, group dispersion increased with hyper-velocity-types and this has been my personal experience with a large variety of both handguns and rifles chambered for the .22 LR round. Reliable, accurate and pleasant to shoot, the Kimber .22 LR conversion kit carries a suggested retail price of \$299.95, in blue or silver. Extra magazines, in either blue or silver, cost \$34.95 each.

—P.G.K.



The ejection port has been lowered and flared to enhance ejection reliability and protect empty cases from denting. (right) Author's battery of working Kimbers, from top to bottom: Custom Classic with Alternative Force Block, Stainless Steel Gold Match, Compact Custom and new Stainless Steel Ultra Carry.



zine has a long, single coil follower spring (with some smaller diameter coils at the top) that was designed to give sufficient stripping pressure for totally reliable operation. The Ultra Carry comes with one magazine. Extra magazines are available for \$17.75 each.

The slide's ejection port has been lowered and flared — and the front and rear beveled — to enhance ejection reliability and protect empty cases from denting. The firing pin stop has been beefed up to offer a snug fit in the slide's extractor notch and prevent the heat-treated, custom-type extractor from rotating in the slide. A so-called "tactical"-type ejector has been mounted in the frame.

The coned barrel does not interface with a conventional M1911-type barrel bushing. Instead, when in battery, the muzzle locks into a precision-milled hole in the front of the slide. In theory, this should increase the Kimber Ultra Carry's accuracy potential. A coned barrel configuration was first used on the ill-fated Detonics .45 ACP pistol several decades ago.

In a complete departure from all of the other Kimber M1911 models, the Ultra Carry pistol features a telescoping recoil spring system. The concept of telescoping recoil spring assemblies is not new. Examples can be found going back as far as almost 60 years ago. The first example of a telescoping recoil (or "operating") spring assembly, that I know of, was that of the German MP38/40 series of 9mm Parabellum submachine guns, which were developed in the mid-1930s. Telescoping recoil spring systems have been employed in the Spanish Star Z-45 and British Sterling submachine guns, as well. The Swiss SIG AMT and PE57 infantry rifles, developed during the late 1950s, also made use of telescoping recoil spring assemblies. In most instances, telescoping recoil spring assemblies have been used by designers when one of the design priorities was a compressed, or compact, envelope.

The Ultra Carry's slide has been engineered to have the longest possible slide travel in a determined effort to ensure positive functional reliability. With the short-recoil, locked-breech M1911 series, as the frame and slide dimensions are reduced, the distance the slide travels during a complete recoil and counter-recoil cycle is corre-

spondingly diminished, as is the time frame during which this takes place. If everything does not happen precisely as it should, there will inevitably be a stoppage. If the magazine follower spring does not drive the next round up against the magazine's feed lips quick enough, a failure to feed and chamber will result. If the empty case is even delayed by a millisecond in extraction from the chamber, that case will never make it completely out of the ejection port. And so on. I think that the Kimber Ultra Carry represents

the practical limit in M1911 envelope reduction and that a telescoping recoil spring system was necessary to further maximize reliability. As an additional benefit, this also reduces felt recoil, muzzle rise and rotation to a small degree, and thus accords more rapid target reacquisition after each shot.

The main, or inner, guide rod of the Kimber Ultra Carry, is of the so-called "full-length" type, which means it protrudes out the front of the slide when the slide moves rearward in recoil. The rear configuration of

Slapping Leather With The Elite



Lou Alessi has been boning and stitching leather since 1970. His list of clientele includes a substantial number of individuals from organizations that dance mostly in the shadows. Members of the CIA, SEAL Team 6, German GSG9 and Israeli

Mossad all slap leather out of Alessi holsters. The Heinie D.O.J. (for California Department Of Justice) holster, a redesign of one of the legendary Bruce Nelson's rigs and made exclusively for Heinie Specialty Products by Lou Alessi, is used not only by the DEA but is the holster of issue for the fabled U.S. Army's DELTA SpecOps group. U.S. Army security forces and undercover law enforcement personnel throughout the world have Alessi holsters strapped to their belts.

There must be a reason, and there is. Alessi's holsters all feature the winning requirements for professional gear: unmatched craftsmanship combined with designs based on almost three decades of feedback from armed professionals. Lou Alessi's line of custom holsters are almost all devoted to concealment-types.

We chose one of Alessi's most fascinating rigs to test with the Kimber Ultra Carry, the Close-Quarter Covert — Snap (CQC-S) belt holster. It's one of the most comfortable holsters I have ever worn. It has all the attributes of a quick-detachable paddle holster, but without the wobble and insecurity

associated with that type. Two belt loops on each side of the holster, equipped with one-way directional snaps, offer the ability to remove the holster off the belt quickly, if required, but lock securely onto the belt for a rock-steady draw stroke. There is a rein-

forcement band at the top of the holster. It adds rigidity and precludes the possibility of the holster collapsing when the pistol is reholstered. Retention is more than sufficient and no thumb break is required. The CQC-S rides close to the body and will not print even through light clothing. This holster has a slight muzzle rearward cant, and thus has been designed for strong-side carry only.

Alessi holsters are first molded in a press with rubber jaws and then detail-boned by hand. Only the highest quality, vegetable-tanned steerhide from the shoulder is used. All stitching is with heavy (size #415), milspec bonded nylon thread. Alessi leather goods are available in both black and cordovan. The CQC-S holster costs \$90. A 1.25-inch belt sells for \$85 and a single-magazine pouch is only \$35.

This is custom holster work at the highest level. For further information contact Alessi Holsters, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 2465 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY 14228-3527; phone: 716-691-5615; fax: 716-691-5639; for catalogs only phone: 800-724-8923).

— P.G.K.

this inner guide rod duplicates that of the M1911 series in general. It has a U-shaped, sheet metal end plate which rests on the barrel directly in front of the swinging link. The front end of the inner recoil spring is held captive by the hollow outer guide rod. In turn, the outer, larger diameter, recoil spring is held captive by a recoil spring plug with a hole in the front that permits the inner guide to pass through during the recoil stroke.

Because of its telescoping recoil spring system and abbreviated slide, disassembly procedures for this pistol vary somewhat from those employed to fieldstrip a conventional M1911-type. First, remove the magazine and safely clear the pistol. Lock the slide to the rear. Note that there is a small disassembly hole in the middle of the inner (smallest diameter) recoil spring guide rod. While the slide is retracted insert the supplied tool or a bent paper clip into the hole. Carefully and slowly release the slide and move it forward until the semi-circular tab at the rear of the slide stop is aligned with the disassembly notch on the slide. Remove the slide stop from the left side of the frame. Separate the slide from the frame by sliding it forward off the frame. Remove the telescoping recoil spring assembly by withdrawing it rearward and then separating this group from the slide. Tip the barrel's link forward to clear the recoil spring tunnel and then pull the barrel clear of the slide.

Remove the grip panels from the frame (a 3/32-inch allen-head wrench is required to remove the hex-head grip screws). No further disassembly of the frame components is usually required for routine maintenance. However, removal of the firing pin and extractor should be performed with some degree of frequency. With a drift of appropriate diameter, push inward on the spring-loaded firing pin and slide the firing pin stop down and off the rear of the slide. Remove the firing pin and its spring. Gently, pry out the extractor. The extractor claw should be cleaned thoroughly and the extractor inspected for loss of tension, one of the most

Product List

Alessi Holsters, Inc., Dept. SOF,
2465 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY 14228-3527;
phone: 716-691-5615;
fax: 716-691-5639;
for catalogs only phone: 800-724-8923

Heinie Specialty Products, Dept. SOF,
301 Oak Street, Quincy, IL 62301;
phone: 217-228-9500; fax: 217-228-9502;
web site: www.heinie.com

Kimber Mfg., Inc., Dept. SOF,
1 Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705;
phone: 800-880-2418; fax: 406-758-2223;
Custom Shop: 914-964-0742, ext. 228;
web site: www.kimberamerica.com; 1999 catalog \$2

common causes of malfunctions in the M1911 series. The magazines should be disassembled as well. After cleaning and lubrication, reassemble in the reverse order.

I chose to install Heinie *Slant* Pro sights with tritium inserts on the Kimber Ultra Carry because they are designed for one-handed clearance drills and furnish an excellent sight picture for firing under stress. There is no need for an adjustable rear sight on a concealable compact. Any competent gunsmith can install the #350 *Slant* Pro or the #355 Straight Eight night-sight version on a Kimber pistol, as only minor fitting is required. The Straight Eight tritium insert configuration consists of a tritium dot on the front sight blade and a smaller tritium dot directly below the rear sight open square-notch. When aligning this sighting system, simply put one dot on top of the other making an elongated figure-eight. It's been demonstrated that the human eye can correct for vertical alignment more rapidly than horizontal alignment. The *Slant* Pro is CNC-machined from high-quality bar stock and is a no-sag design. The rear face is serrated to reduce glare. Richard Heinie has been building high-quality pistol sights since 1979 and is well-known and highly regarded among armed professionals. A set of plain *Slant* Pro sights costs only \$48. If you

want the *Slant* Pro sights with Straight Eight night sights, the price is \$110.75. For further information contact Heinie Specialty Products (Dept. SOF, 301 Oak Street, Quincy, IL 62301; phone: 217-228-9500; fax: 217-228-9502; web site: www.heinie.com).

There has been some speculation that a 3-inch barrel will adversely affect the wound ballistics performance of Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) ammunition by seriously compromising the velocity with a resultant failure to expand. This just isn't true. My carry load remains the Black Hills 230-grain JHP, a Speer Gold Dot type, with any barrel length. Ten feet from the muzzle of a Kimber Stainless Steel Gold Match's 5-inch barrel, this load will be traveling at an average velocity of 892 fps. When we chronographed this load from the 3-inch barrel of the Ultra Carry, its velocity dropped only 92 fps to 800 fps. This is not enough to significantly change its expansion characteristics. It will still expand to almost .70 caliber and penetrate in soft tissue well-past the minimum 12 inches required, but less than the 18 inches that signifies over-penetration. Hornady, in fact, tests their .45 caliber XTP (Extreme Terminal Performance) bullets at both 750 and 1,500 fps for acceptable expansion and penetration. JHP 230-grain bullets, manufactured by Federal or Winchester, will produce similar results throughout the same velocity spread.

Some still fret about potential meaningful wear on aluminum alloy frames. This also is nonsense. Kimber has fired more than 20,000 rounds through a test-bed pistol with an aluminum alloy without any sign of excessive wear. While we have fired no more than 2,000 rounds through *SOF's* test specimen, close inspection reveals no evidence of any kind of wear.

There have been no malfunctions of any kind with a large range of ammunition types (185-grain, 200-grain and 230-grain JHP and 230-grain Full Metal Jacket ball and hard cast round nose reloads) and makes. There is very little difference in recoil between the Ultra Carry and a full-size Government Model. I presume the telescoping recoil spring system is somewhat of a factor here. At 7 yards, the distance under which the majority of gun-fights with a handgun take place, and firing offhand from a strong Weaver position, the Kimber Ultra Carry will place all rounds into a 1.5-inch group. That's more than good enough for government work.

With a black matte finish the Kimber Ultra Carry has a suggested retail price of \$700. The stainless steel model costs \$768. This is about the limit so far as shrinking the M1911 is concerned. The frame size is that of the Officers ACP (and, in fact, magazines will interchange) and those of us with large hands would not want to see that reduced any further. The slide group, even when assisted by a telescoping recoil spring system, cannot be realistically compressed any further. I am now carrying the Kimber Ultra Carry on an almost daily basis. For me, at least, the quest for the Holy Grail has ended. ☒

Kimber Stainless Steel Ultra Carry .45

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.45 ACP.
Operation:	Locked-breech, short-recoil, semiautomatic, single-action trigger system with frame-mounted thumb and grip safeties.
Weight, empty:	25 ounces.
Length, overall:	6.8 inches.
Width:	1.25 inches at the grip panels.
Height:	5.6 inches.
Barrel:	Forged, six-groove, left-hand twist with one turn in 16 inches. Barrel length: 3 inches.
Magazine:	Six-round, single-column, detachable box-type magazine.
Sights:	Fixed #355 Heinie <i>Slant</i> Pro with Straight Eight tritium inserts (not available from Kimber).
Finish:	416 Stainless steel forged slide; frame machined from 7075-T7 aluminum alloy bar stock and equipped with KimPro, a phenolic resin process.
Suggested retail price:	\$768; black matte: \$700.
Manufacturer:	Kimber Mfg., Inc., Dept. SOF, 1 Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705; phone: 800-880-2418, fax: 406-758-2223, Custom Shop: 914-964-0742; web site: www.kimberamerica.com.
T&E summary:	Lightweight with very mild recoil; reliable; accurate; reasonably priced; the ultimate M1911-type concealment package.



Four years ago, when I first started the project, I had never heard of the acronym "Y2K." Instead of preparing for Armageddon, I had merely tired of stuffing all of my guns, ammo and camping gear into a 1983 Chevrolet van for every Emma Gees' machine gun shoot, off loading it at the shoot site, loading it again and off loading it once more at home. In addition, more than a decade of sleeping diagonally in the van's 5-foot wide sofa/bed was losing its allure. Unfortunately, a standard motor home would self-destruct on the unmaintained dirt roads to the Zannaras mine in the upper Sonoran desert where we hold our shoots.

It finally occurred to me that the only viable alternative was to literally custom-build a motor home using a large 6X6 military vehicle as a platform. One of the U.S. Army's 2 1/2-ton truck series was the logical choice, but the problem was to find a long-wheelbase model, as only this envelope would accommodate everything I visualized in the living quarters. They are few and far between, since less than 10% of the U.S. military's deuce-and-a-halfs were ever manufactured in the long-wheelbase version. The few that were made were most often put to use as ammo haulers, map-reproduction photo labs or, more rarely, command centers.

Paul Bible (2344 North 52nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008; phone: 602-840-5019), a member of the Arizona Emma Gees and president of the Arizona Military Vehicle Collectors Club, finally located a long-wheelbase deuce-and-a-half that had been purchased through the DRMO (Defense Reutilization Marketing Office) at Tooele Army Depot, in Utah. I purchased it and when I saw it for the first time, I came close to serious chest pains. It was a complete shambles, both inside and out. I had obviously bought my way into a major project, which eventually required selling a number of machine guns to complete. There were to be times along the way when I had enormous doubts about what I had gotten into.

Y2K WAR WAGON

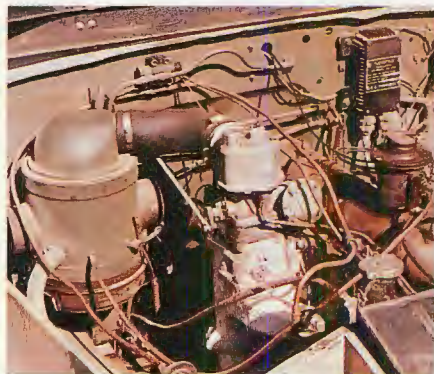
SOF's Millennium-Ready Deuce-And-A-Half

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



Peter C. van Collem, who served in the Belgian Army, prepares to fire Belgian FN MAG 58 GPMG with ELCAN scope from the ring mount above the cab of the author's deuce-and-a-half.

(above) M46 6X6 1957 Utica Bend long wheelbase deuce-and-a-half served as a platform for a custom-built completely self-contained motor home that will go just about anywhere. (below) REO Model OA-331, a six-cylinder, overhead-valve gasoline engine that was installed in most of the U.S. military's 2 1/2-ton trucks during the 1950s and up to the early 1960s.



What I had acquired was an M46, 2 1/2-ton, 6X6 truck with a 214-inch wheelbase and a frame and chassis manufactured by Utica Bend, in Utica, Michigan, in 1957. The wheelbase is exactly 3 feet longer than

that of a standard-size deuce-and-a-half. The gasoline engine was an REO Model 0A-331. This six-cylinder, overhead-valve engine was installed in most of the U.S. military's 2 1/2-ton trucks during the 1950s and

up to the early 1960s, when it was finally replaced by a multi-fuel diesel type. During that time frame, the REO Gold Comet was also a popular engine in dump trucks and other vehicles used principally in the construction industry.

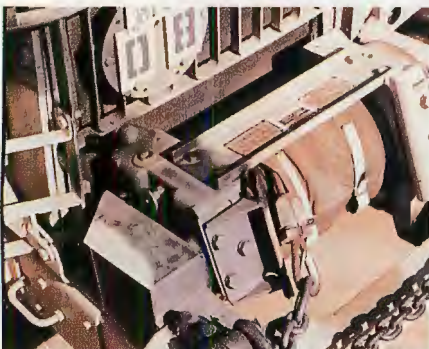
The van-type body, or box, was manufactured by the Southwest Truck Body Co., Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, in July 1957. It was set up for the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, as a map-reproduction photo lab. The overall length is 27.5 feet, with a width of 8 feet and a height of 11 feet — ideal dimensions for what I intended to do.

The vehicle's 24-volt military electrical system was retained. We use two 12-volt milspec 6TL batteries in series. However, the motor home itself is on a 12-volt system to accommodate appliances and the auxiliary gasoline generator. The generator is a Honda EM3500SX with a rated output of 3.0kVA. This superb unit is not only reliable, but much quieter than military types. It has enabled us to watch war and western movies at night during the shoots and it makes my toast in the mornings.

I had three gas tanks installed which provide a total capacity of 172 gallons. We



Cammo netting provides much needed shade from the burning sun of the upper Sonoran desert.



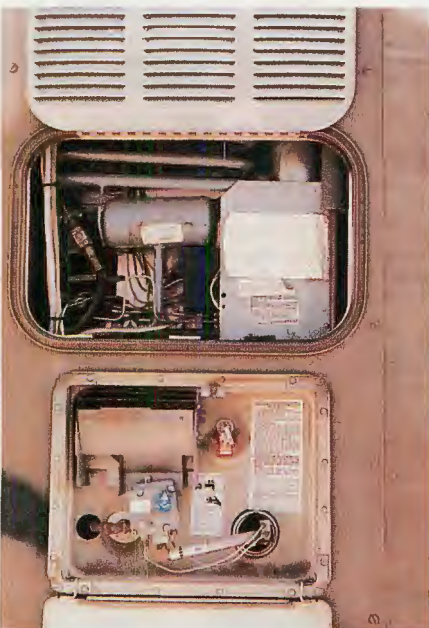
The vehicle's 10,000-pound-rated, power takeoff winch is equipped with 250 feet of rugged 1/2-inch steel-wire rope.



Access to the auxiliary gasoline generator is through a trapdoor on the right side of the van body that used to service the photo lab.



Honda EM3500SX gasoline generator, with a rated output of 3.0kVA, is not only reliable, but much quieter than military types.



Compressor for refrigerator/freezer (above) and hot water system (below). Both are propane-operated.



From front to rear: refrigerator/freezer, stainless steel sink, four-burner range and oven, stowed Honda generator and TV set.

need every gallon, as the REO Gold Comet is a typical 1950s' gas guzzler. Combined with the tremendous weight we haul, gas consumption is little better than about 5 miles per gallon.

We have a 10,000-pound-rated, power takeoff winch that has proven useful on several occasions. It's equipped with 250 feet of rugged 1/2-inch steel-wire rope (much stronger than steel cable). I also have a large snatch-block pulley that is used to winch at angles up to 90 degrees.

This type of 6X6 vehicle is often referred to as a "ten wheeler" as the two rear axles each mount two wheels and tires on either side. Non-directional 9.00x20 mil-spec tires are used and they are not as expensive as they look. Firestone tires of this type cost only \$110-120, complete with inner tube. The brakes are air-assisted using an air compressor and hydravac system.

When the truck arrived, there was a large air conditioning unit over the cab that connected to the duct work in the

Continued on page 68

BACKYARD BRUSH WAR

Colombia's Unending Nightmare

by Carson A. Nightwine, Jr.

Congressman Dan Burton, (R.-Ind.) had just about had enough of the Clinton Administration's double-dealing and half-truths on their so-called "war on drugs" as it applies to Colombia. The recent "mysterious" crash of a U.S. Army spy plane and the loss of five soldiers had pushed Colombia to the forefront in international news, and a cocaine scandal at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota made the front pages of the ultra-liberal *Washington Post*. There's a problem here.

At a congressional hearing in August, Burton and Ben Gilman (R.-N.Y.) tore into Clinton Drug Czar, General Barry McCaffrey, like a pitbull on a bone. McCaffrey was back-peddling and throwing out misleading statistics about anti-narcotics aid to the Colombian national police, who had nearly 5,000 officers killed in the past nine years, when Burton and Gilman unloaded: "Tell me, general ... how did Colombia, just now, ... become an emergency situation?" The former four-star general was trapped. He could either plead incompetence in his job (which McCaffrey

would never do) or benign neglect (which means the death of 5,000 cops was insignificant to him). He did neither. What was painfully obvious was that the situation in Colombia had been ignored for those seven years that the current administration occupied the White House. And what's worse, the general knew it! The DEA knew it, too but their boss, Tom Constantine, had resigned from the administration three weeks earlier.

"The recent news reports coming out of Colombia are not encouraging!" say numerous Clinton Administration spokesmen at the White House and the State Department. The narcoguerrillas are kicking the stuffing out of the security forces, according to DEA agents who are serving in Colombia today.

Out Of Control

The growing violence, both by the narcoguerrillas and the right-wing paramilitaries, appears to be spiraling out of control. Former Special Forces Major, Andy Messing, alluding to the lack of determination and inconsistent policies by the State Department states: "General McCaffrey's statements are puzzling. This didn't happen overnight. The conflict we see in Colombia today has been years in the making, and the Clinton administration is facing an enormous dilemma. Do they support the oldest democracy in Latin America and fight narcotics ... or do they let it go down the tubes?" At this writing it appears to be the latter.

Major Messing's analysis comes from over 20 years of study by his National Defense Council Foundation (NDCF) on the Latin American scene and Colombia, in particular: "NDCF studies terrorism, low-intensity conflicts and drug wars. We've conducted over 20 fact-finding missions to Colombia in the past five years. What we've found, paints a pretty sad picture of U.S. foreign policy and attention to national security matters. If anyone could sue diplomats the way they sue doctors for malpractice, the State Department's Latin America division would be in court forever. It's a disaster."



(left) Congressman Dan Burton, chairman of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, has been the leader in exposing the Clinton Administration's failed promises to help fight the War on Drugs in Colombia. (right) Congressman Ben Gilman, (R.-N.Y.), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, has long pushed for anti-narcotics assistance to the Colombian Security Forces, while the Clinton State Department has answered with empty promises.



"General McCaffrey's situation is a tough one, it seems," added Colonel Robin Johnson, USMC (Ret.), an authority on terrorism and low-intensity conflicts. He thinks it's a simple case of McCaffrey "fronting" for a failed policy. "Look, McCaffrey knows the score ... he was the commander in chief of U.S. Southern Command before he became the Clinton Drug Czar. The FARC are a narco-terrorist organization. If he's just now finding out what's going on ... it doesn't say much for his job performance down in Panama. This situation didn't just happen last month. Congressmen Burton and Gilman have exposed an ugly truth. Maybe the Clinton Administration is using him as the blame guy."

"There doesn't appear to be much cover for the administration on the Colombia matter ... its pretty cut and dried: the State Department blew it!" says Jack Sweeney, Director of Latin American Policy for the Washington, D.C.-based Heritage Foundation. "It appears that the U.S. Congress has caught the Clinton Administration in another flip-flop."

Our Drug War Is Being Lost

"The narcoguerrillas in Colombia are now attacking in force, and they obviously have the forces to do it," says Col. Johnson. "It's been a long time coming and now the wolf is at the door." Johnson recently met with Gen. Rosso Jose Serrano, Director General of the Colombian National Police, to discuss the deteriorating security situation. "The guerrillas control over 60% of the country, they have killed over 400 security force personnel since May, and lets face it ... you certainly can't fight narcotics-trafficking with all this going on!" Johnson asserts.

A recent example of the narcoguerrillas' strength was the large offensive launched by the FARC on 7 July, which threatened the capitol of Bogota. The Colombian Army's 13th brigade suffered over 60 soldiers killed and 50 wounded; 12 soldiers are still missing. An estimated force of over 1,000 FARC gunman, led by the notorious "Romana," attacked three locations south of Bogota, tying up over 6,000 soldiers and policemen. "That says a lot ... and it could have really made a mess in Bogota!" says Johnson. During the same time frame, in 16 separate actions, the FARC battled front-line Colombian Army units to a standstill. In the city of Puerto Lleras, the Colombian Army claimed a large victory over the FARC, however, independent confirmation was not available.

A precursor to this action took place on 23 June. Units of the Colombian Army's 11th Brigade, headquartered in northwest Colombia, were ambushed by the FARC.



"Romana" Henry Castenillos (top) and "Mono Jojoy" Jorge Bricino are two of the best *comandantes* the FARC have ... and they are brutal. Those whiz kids at the Pentagon don't know what to make of this brand of narcoterrorist ... and neither does the CIA.

Reportedly, an entire infantry battalion was decimated. The commanding officer of "The Rifles" battalion, Lieut. Col. Lopez Hernandez, reported that over 50 soldiers were killed, 48 wounded and over 20 were missing. "This is not an isolated event. The FARC has seized the initiative ... what they do next ... is the critical thing," says Johnson.

"The FARC are assaulting the general order and the rule of law in Colombia and the effects on the society, and particularly the economy, are painfully obvious. The country is a basket case!" says Messing.

"The FARC leadership has proven to be tactically brilliant. You can't take that away from them ... they've organized and trained tactical units in a text-book fashion, and the results speak for themselves ... The Colombian Army is back on their heels."

Messing has put a good deal of study into the FARC, so much so, that he is constantly contacted by the U.S. government agencies that deal with Colombia. "Mono Jojoy" and "Romana" are two of the best *commandantes* the FARC have ... and they are brutal. Those whiz kids at the Pentagon don't know what to make of this brand of narcoterrorist ... and neither does the CIA. It's all pretty much a mess."

The Effect On The U.S.

Because of this, the narcoguerrillas are producing more drugs to fund their 40-year-old war and bringing more weapons to the party, such as mortars, SA7s and their own air force. "As a direct result, in our country, the drug trade is growing ... just ask the DEA stationed in Bogota or on our own cities' streets. From Miami to New York to Baltimore to Detroit and Los Angeles, this is our drug war, too," Messing asserts.

According to the DEA, Colombia is the source of over 85% of the cocaine and over 75% of the heroine captured in the United States today. "The narcoguerrillas increasingly grow, process and move drugs, while the Colombian security forces are tied up with this narcoterrorism throughout their country," continues Messing. "This analysis has been agreed with by numerous DEA agents who are serving in Colombia today. Unfortunately, they don't have a voice in the Clinton Administration."

The growing violence, both by the narcoguerrillas and the paramilitaries, have nearly paralyzed the year-old government of President Pastrana. In May, his justice minister and his defense minister abruptly resigned in the space of just two weeks. The resignation of 20 Colombian Army generals quickly followed. "All this happened after Pastrana announced that he gave the FARC



Colombian soldiers remove their murdered comrades from the battlefield after July's massive FARC offensive. (below) The author, Carson A. Nightwine, Jr. (right), at Colombian National Police Headquarters in Bogota, Colombia, with General Rosso Jose Serrano (left).



a DMZ indefinitely. The FARC has a free ride. Pastrana's security forces are demoralized and clearly on the defensive," adds Messing. Most DEA experts share this gloomy assessment of Colombia's future. "The drug money funds the violence and the instability." Says a recently retired DEA agent with long experience in Colombia. "With the chaos in the Colombian government, drugs pour out of Colombia into the United States. With the current situation both countries are losers ... and the people are bearing the brunt of the failed policy," contends Messing.

Looking Back

From 1995 to 1998, Colombia had been decertified by the Clinton Administration's State Department for allegedly not fighting the drug trade. "But for allegedly *not* fighting the drug trade, they have paid a horrendous cost in flesh and blood," contends Messing. "Colombia, as a country, was decertified because of the drug-corruption

in the presidency of Ernesto Samper. Those three years of decertification have helped to bring on this current chaos. None of the critically needed training and equipment got into the hands of the security forces ... what you see today, is a direct result and that's why the U.S. Congress is up in arms!"

Samper had taken over \$6 million in drug money from the Cali cartel in order to win the 1994 presidential election. Colombia suffered terribly without U.S. assistance, and by all accounts, today's situation appears to be a direct result.

The costs in this growing conflict are going up each year. According to senior diplomat Juan Orduz of the Colombian Embassy, in Washington, D.C., "In 1998, nearly 30,000 Colombians were killed in Colombia's narcoguerrilla war." Included in that number are nearly 800 soldiers and policemen in just the past year. "President Pastrana is grabbing at straws to stop the violence. The peace process is a disaster. The narcoguerrillas are winning ... they have no incentive to give up their money-making enterprise ... and they sure won't give up their guns," declares Messing (who has interviewed FARC commanders).

Most experts feel the concerns voiced by Congressmen Dan Burton and Ben Gilman should be heeded. "Having a narco-state in our own hemisphere and the loss of the Panama Canal at the same time, is a sure recipe for disaster," says Major Messing. "The situation in Colombia will only get worse, it seems."

Contributing correspondent, Carson A. Nightwine, Jr. is the former Worldwide Conflict Analyst for the National Defense Council Foundation, of Washington, D.C. ✕

One Bomb, One Target

Continued from page 39

the second B-2, was too busy completing the "Fence Check," to ensure his aircraft was configured for combat; radios on the proper frequencies, weapons powered up and ready. The checklist also included personal gear — survival vest securely fastened and ejection seat armed.

"Spirit 73" flew several combat sorties in a B-52 during Operation Desert Storm, but admits it doesn't get any easier the second time around. "You experience a mixture of fear, anxiety and excitement as you go in-country," said the major who kept remembering what the F-117 guys said before they bombed Baghdad during the Gulf War. "We sure hope that this Stealth stuff works — and it did."

Best Seat In The House

It was dark inside the cockpit as "Spirit 96" and "Spirit 73" entered the Danger Zone, on a clear night over Yugoslavia on 24 March. A half-moon illuminated the sky. Cities down below were lit up like Christmas trees, lights twinkling. Until the fireworks began, it was eerie flying over Yugoslavia. "Almost surreal," recalled "Spirit 73."

The weather caused some concern. Even though flying the "stealthiest" aircraft in the world, they still prefer to fly on a cloudy night, but the opening salvo of Operation

Allied Force had already been shoved back a couple of days, and it was time to get the show on the road. Although he was not the lead aircraft, "Spirit 73," one of two Air Force Weapons School graduates on the first B-2 Combat Sortie, had the distinction of dropping the first, second and last bomb on enemy targets in Yugoslavia.

The Joint Direct Attack Munition is the weapon of choice among B-2 crews and targeteers. The 2,225-pound bomb is an

As Correspondent Dale B. Cooper was leaving Whiteman Air Force Base, in Missouri, a B-2 was about to create an international incident in Belgrade. Three JDAMs were dropped on the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, killing three Chinese journalists and injuring more than two dozen other people. But this time the error wasn't made in the heat of battle by pilots fearing groundfire. The SNAFU, a acronym for "situation normal, all fouled up," was caused by someone higher up the food chain. Perhaps in the future, embassies should do what some farmers in America do before the hunting season: Paint their sacred cows with big bold letters — EMBASSY.

incredibly accurate bomb, partly because of GATS, the GPS-Aided Targeting System. Secondly, it's a comparatively inexpensive weapon. The "JDAM" costs about \$8 a pound, or \$18,000 per weapon compared to \$600,000 for a Tomahawk Land Attack Missile, or \$1.3 million for an Air-Launched Cruise Missile.

En route to the target, the aircraft talks to satellites and compares the location information it receives with on-board navigation systems. The mission commander then feeds that information into his system, constantly updating his weapons as to where they are in space.

When the bomber approaches the area, the targeting system refines the exact location of the target. Once ejected from the weapons bay, the bomb uses a satellite to guide it to the target, carrying 945 pounds of high explosive.

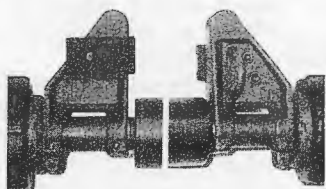
In addition to sixteen JDAMS, B-2s can also carry 80 500-pound iron bombs, 34 M-117 general-purpose 1,750-pound bombs, 34 CBU/89B cluster bombs, 16 MK-84 LDGP [low-drag, general-purpose] 2,000-pound bombs, or eight 5,000-pound bunker busters.

When each B-2 crew dropped its last weapon on 24 March, the pilots and mission commanders gave each other high-fives, and headed home.

A frequent contributor to SOF, Dale B. Cooper's last story dealt with the USAF's B-1 "Bone" bomber and the men who fly them. ✕

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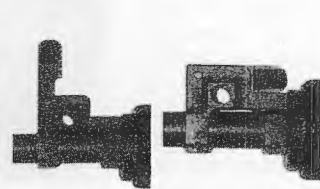
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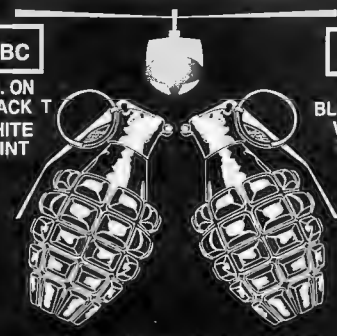
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B.A.D. ATTITUDE

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1AY F.F. ON BLACK T WHITE PRINT

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KA-BAR was there

Y2K War Wagon

Continued from page 62

photo lab. This was removed and an M48 ring mount was installed. With an FN MAG 58 GPMG attached to it, I have accounted for a substantial number of the styrofoam airplanes that Mike Dillon usually brings to the shoots.

After all of the exterior work was complete, and the engine rebuilt by Paul Bible, the truck was painted using the camouflage pattern indicated by a U.S. Army field manual for a vehicle of this type. I chose a desert pattern because I live in the lower Sonoran desert, although this color scheme did not exist in 1957. My attempt throughout was not to restore the vehicle to historically correct "show" status, but for actual use in the field.

The principal focus of our restoration and redesign remained the interior of the van body. All of this work was designed and built by Alex M. Pappas, a highly skilled TIG welder and metal fabricator. The original duct work, walls, ceiling and a portion of the wooden flooring were removed. Styrofoam panels were used as insulation behind the new wood wall paneling. A white Masonite ceiling was installed. Linoleum was put down on the floor before the main fixtures and cabinets were installed. A 14-gallon propane tank and both black water and gray water waste tanks were attached to the van's underside on the exterior.

A flush toilet was installed in the shower stall which features a stainless steel floor and drain. I obtained three pieces of propane-operated equipment from an RV salvage yard: Dometic refrigerator/freezer, hot water heater, and Wedgewood four-burner range and oven. All of the appliances, cabinets and the bunk beds were set into custom-made, TIG-welded, 1-inch steel square tubing frameworks for maximum support and stability. A stainless steel sink was installed in a Lexan counter top. There is an electric-pump-operated 140-gallon water tank under the bottom bunk bed. Steel shelving was fabricated to stow .50 caliber ammo cans. Fluorescent lights operating off the interior's 12-volt system are supplemented by an emergency light that runs off the truck's 24-volt circuitry.

All of this has served me well and I have stayed out for as long as seven days in this rig. However, don't for one moment imagine this thin-skinned truck is some kind of armored fighting vehicle. A single .30 caliber full metal jacket bullet would destroy the engine or most likely pass completely through the van body. No, this certainly won't protect you from FBI or BATF shock troops. In any event, if you decide to go up against the federal government, no matter how righteous your cause, be prepared to die. They'll eventually get you, even if they have to deploy Apache attack helicopters. I have no illusions in this regard and built my rig only to camp comfortably. ☒

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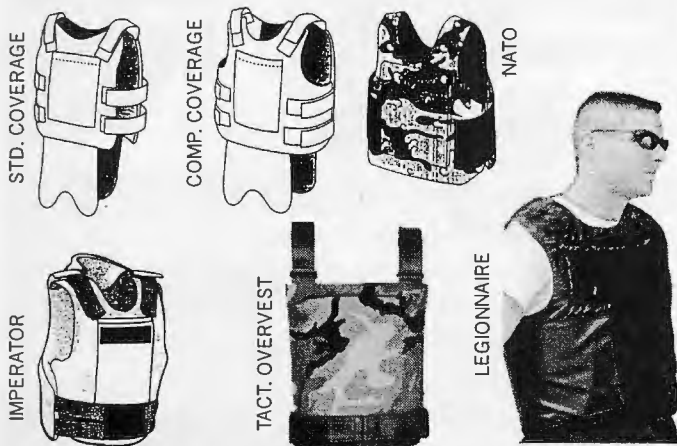
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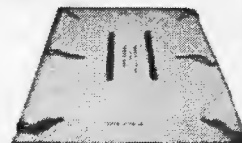
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I Was There

Continued from page 35

hiding out in the city.

After returning to our parent headquarters in Italy, we were again ordered to fly, in spite of the regulations that required those who had been behind enemy lines be transferred from that theatre of operations.

My bad luck with B-24s continued. On 15 January 1945, we were shot up over Graz, Austria, but flew on. Eventually, we bailed out from our crippled aircraft, but this time my chute malfunctioned because of rusted pins. As I clawed and struggled to rip open my pack and tug out the chute, a solitary thought bombarded my mind: "I'll be damned if I die a virgin." I crashed to earth unhurt, but was soon captured near the city of Karlovac, Yugoslavia (Croatia), by the *Ustashi*.

I was unaware of the *Ustashi's* reputation for taking revenge on their captives but some inner voice prompted me to answer their questions the way they wanted. An English-speaking interrogator asked me, "What are you Americans doing fighting on the same side as the atheistic communist Russians?" I replied, "Roosevelt drafted me." Then he queried, "And what do you think of Roosevelt?" I said, "Roosevelt's a Democrat, and I'm a Republican." That seemed to satisfy him.



courtesy author

Author receives Meritorious Service Medal upon his Air Force retirement in March 1977.

Red, the radio operator, and I, the tail-gunner, were treated well by the *Ustashi*. In fact, we were not even locked up but bunked in the guards' quarters.

However, this would soon change as someone caught wind of our brewing escape plans and we were turned over to the German *SS* or *SD* (*Sicherheitsdienst*, the uniformed *Gestapo*). They assigned us to a hell camp in Karlovac, Croatia — a nasty miniature of Auschwitz. Following intense interrogations presided over by German officers and a former railroad worker-turned-sadistic interpreter (who definitely wanted us dead), Red and I were separated and tossed into adjoining dark and death-reeking cells.

Cursing, I pulled myself up on a bench and prepared to die.

But then I felt warmth; the inviting

warmth of soft breasts pressed against my back as a woman's arms enveloped me; her soft voice cooing unintelligible words of affection and comfort. Later that night I responded to her embraces and her obvious desires. Her name was Dragonita.

As the days passed, we conversed in sign language. One afternoon, Dragonita pointed at me and made the sign of the cross and pointed at me again. I shook my head "No," gathering that she was asking if I were Roman Catholic. Then she crossed herself again, differently. Again I shrugged and shook my head.

After five days in "hell camp," an *SS* officer came to transport us to Zagreb. I asked him about Dragonita.

He explained that she was a Serbian terrorist who had slain 55 Roman Catholics by slitting their throats. He said that if she thought that I was Catholic, I'd have been number 56.

This near-miss, coupled with what I learned much later, convinces me that the Balkans' troubles lie in the spilt blood between the Roman Catholic Croats, the Eastern Orthodox Serbians and the adherents of Islam, including Bosnian Serbian converts to Islam, as well as the Moslem Albanians.

What in the hell are we Americans doing involved in this unholy — and unresolvable — mess?

Edwin O. Learnard lives in San Diego, Calif. ✕

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The New Spetsnaz

Continued from page 47

fatal one: one blow — one kill.

While with Krechet, I took part in the group's fire training. Their most preferred exercise is a "Duel Shootout." Two "duelists" take their positions on the fire line, with two targets at ranges from 10 to 15 meters. Their pistols with only two rounds in a magazine and put on safety, are either stuck under the belt or holstered (the two parties decide — which way they like better). A referee counts: "One, two, three: Fire!" The pistoleros draw, remove the safety, chamber a round and fire. Only hits into a head count. He who fires first and knocks the target down, is the winner.

**In this fight there are very few taboos:
— do not hit the groin;
— do not hit the back with elbow;
— do not hit elbows with a straight leg.
Other than that, it's "no holds barred."**

Lieutenant Colonel Oleg Pestov, Krechet's CO, once suggested that I fire with him so as to be able to assess Krechet marksmanship. I took the challenge. We both selected the APS Stechkin pistol. I know I am not the coolest pistol shooter, who lacks regular practice, but I never realized how bad I am: I hopelessly lost two duels in succession. Good enough, out of four rounds I fired, three hit the head, one missed. But where I lost, was the time. When I was still pulling the pistol from under my belt, releasing the safety and chambering a round, Oleg was already standing by and watching me (already dead!) finish the procedures. It was just incredible. After reviewing the video tape, I realized it took him about two seconds to kill the target twice.

However, I found a good excuse to save face — "I'd be damn disappointed if you lost the battle to and old crap like me," I said indulgently. Everybody laughed. Understandingly.

Still, I was given an opportunity to take a slight revenge (note: very slim!) in a semi-auto shotgun contest. My SAIGA-12K, with a short barrel and a pistol grip, did not miss this time. Counting the scores, I confessed: "I thought I could shoot. With you guys, I changed my mind. You are professionals. Period."

And so they are.

OSOM — the Troops of Operational Support — is a special force of FSB (Russian Federal Security Service, former KGB). It is one of the first such units organized on the regional level, in the winter of 1982, in response to a need demonstrated in late fall of 1981, when a group of deserters took hostage one full class at a local school in Sarapoul, a city in Udmurtia of about 100,000 souls. The terrorists demanded money and a quick airlift to a foreign country. The situation was assessed as extremely

dangerous when one of the schoolboys managed to write a note and drop it through a window: "They are drunk and one of them smokes hashish." While representatives of the local government kept on negotiating with the terrorists, a Federal "Alpha" force was mustered from Moscow. Time was critical. Before Alpha arrived, members of the Udmurt KGB were standing by, prepared to respond if the situation spun out of control.

Further developments reached a critical point when it became obvious that further waste of time might cost human lives. As a result of a dynamic entry, two deserters were shot dead and the other two overpowered. All hostages were successfully rescued. A few months later, the government of Udmurtia approved the organization of OSOM as a part of the regional Security Service.

A basic unit of OSOM — a squad —

consists of what is known as "narrow" specialists: sniper, rifleman, driver, demolition engineer, psychologist, etc. However, the professionalism of OSOM fighters is quite diversified beyond their particular specialty.

Among other skills in OSOM, marksmanship is brought to almost absolute perfection. A typical exercise comprises shooting on the move at both stationary and mobile targets, rapid (instinctive) fire at the targets at various ranges, shooting in twilight under conditions of poor visibility, shooting at the source of noise (zero visibility), gun fights in closed-quarters (inside aircraft, passenger vehicles, etc.). Along with climbing walls, driving various types of vehicles, the OSOM fighters take a course in diving, pyrotechnics, parachuting, a knife fight, hand-to-hand combat and other specific skills.

For every Spetsnaz, the hardest and at the same time the most prestigious qualifying test is the "Red Beret" battery. Requirements are the same for all, despite age, rank or service achievements. The Red Beret-qualification has to be reconfirmed every year. In this contest, everybody is equal. The test consists of three stages:

The first one serves to display physical fitness: 8 kilometers of cross-country race are followed by a 100-meter sprint. Most of the distance is either fording a swamp breast-deep in foul water, or crossing a "contaminated zone" with a gas mask on. To add to the difficulties, the contaminated zone has a few "special tracks" with land mines, smoke and fire. In certain parts of special tracks, a soldier has to run through smoke and fire, with heavy truck tires swinging like pendulums, hitting his head, hands, legs or sides. From time to time they run or crawl under real gunfire. To worsen the situation, special groups of "psychological enhancement" create additional obstacles. The "psyches" run parallel to contestants and shout, and spray them with mud or throw pyrotech-

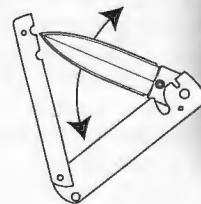


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tical packets underfoot. These are of an "untouchable" caste — a contestant is not allowed to argue with them, let alone exercise physical force on them.

This part over, without a break, a man has to run another set of sprint distances: 4 x 100 meters. Then come pull-ups and acrobatics. Only "excellent" marks are counted.

The second phase begins immediately after the first one. Every contestant has to excellently fire the RPG-7 anti-tank grenade launcher, the AGS-17 automatic grenade launcher, the PK and PKT machine guns, the AK-74M assault rifle, the Stechkin and Makarov pistols and the SVD rifle. When firing the Dragunov sniper rifle equipped with the unadjusted scope, a shooter has to fire two test shoots and be able to zero the rifle for both windage and elevation. By the next two series of two shots each a sniper has to "kill" two targets at extended ranges. Tired and exhausted, a contestant receives a command "Assault! Hostages in the center (to your left or to your right)."

Performing a dynamic entry, with four shots from a pistol, a soldier has to service two targets. Finally, cadets approach a table with a knocked down radio station and quickly put it into operation, establish communications with the HQ and report that the mission is in progress.

The third round is probably the toughest. It lasts only 12 minutes, but cadets call this test "12 minutes of hell." The 12 minutes are divided into four periods of three minutes each. This is exactly the duration of a round in a hand-to-hand fight. Every new round is with a new competitor — who is a certified Red Beret. In this fight there are very few taboos:

- do not hit the groin;
 - do not hit the back with elbow;
 - do not hit elbows with a straight leg.
- Other than that, it's "no holds barred."

Dima, an officer in Krechet, says it took him three times to pass the test. The third one was successful. To say that the fight is tough is like to say nothing ... a broken tooth or rib, a bleeding nose or a black eye is like babytalk: "It takes a lot of guts to prove you deserve the Red Beret," said Dima.

He who passes the stringent test, is awarded with the Red Beret and thus joins the elite group of those selected who proved to be best among the best. The Red Berets serve in various MVD Special Forces: OMON, SOBR, etc. It is believed that a squad with half of its contingent being Red Berets is a very good one. The Krechet squad I worked with during research of this article was comprised totally of Red Berets. To own a Red Beret is like owning a token of belonging to the professional elite. To grant this qualification or not, is a decision made by a special Red Beret Council consisting of the most skillful and distinguished men, who possess the highest service scores and the best professional reputation.

Valery N. Shilin is a former Soviet service veteran who lives in and writes from Izhevsk, Russia. ✕

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Killing Fields Of Kosovo

Continued from page 43

laid a decade ago don't become inactive with time. Van Zyl was considering hiring a Caterpillar, though he wasn't sure what the authorities would say — much less the owners of the machine.

Signs Of Disaster

One of the observations during our visit was that because the town of Gospic lies on a main road heading toward the Dalmatian Coast on the Adriatic Sea, it is often crowded with German and Scandinavian cars heading south for summer. Very few of them are aware that there are mines in the surrounding countryside, and the reason is simple: Zagreb does not allow the authorities to put out any warning signs.

Consequently, said a UN official, most people passing through the country and perhaps picnicking en route, have no idea that they might have stopped on the verge of a minefield. "Sometimes I see cars parked with children playing in nearby fields. It's only a question of time before there is a disaster," he intimated.

Significantly, most of the minefields — both Serbian and Croatian — are mapped. Colonel Todd says he receives calls from former JNA soldiers almost daily, offering him information about old minefields.

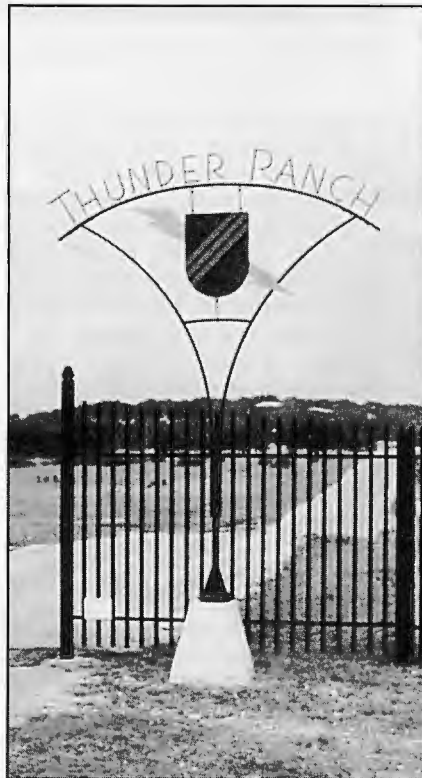
"There is a price, of course," he says. "Some want money, others try to use it as leverage to return to their old homes."

It was notable, traveling about Croatia, that every third or fourth house or farm that we passed had been broken down, burned or trashed. All had formerly belonged to a very large Serbian community that lived there before the war. Most of the families had been there for centuries. Like Albanian Kosovars, almost all of them had become refugees.

Postscript: Since SOF visited the Mechem operation around Gospic, the company finished its contract and in the two month time frame, lifted about 60 mines of which about two-thirds were anti-personnel. There were no casualties in that time. That contract, though small by international mine-clearing standards, was worth \$1.3 million and was the biggest single mine-clearing contract to be awarded in Croatia this year.

Mechem has since successfully tendered for two more mine-clearing projects, one in the northeast near the Hungarian border — which van Zyl reckons is "a bastard of a job because of all the booby traps" — and another close to the Dalmatian coast, west of Gospic.

Al J. Venter is a senior SOF foreign correspondent. He went into the Balkans twice during the war, once with the United States Air Force on a Joint-STARS mission. On a separate occasion he ventured into old Serbian minefields where he looked at the threat from "real up close." ✕



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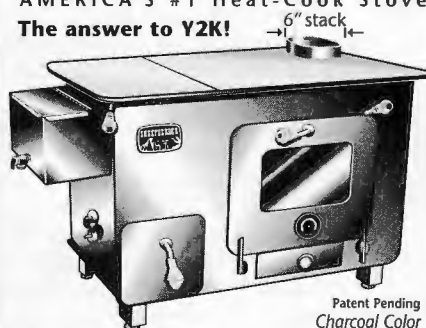
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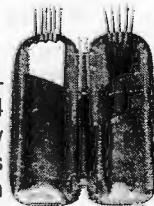
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Clinton: War Criminal?

Continued from page 53

intended to fight alongside the KLA."

Even more provoking are accounts that Osama bin Laden was a protégée of the CIA's training of the Mujahideen in Afghanistan. Let's get the story straight. The U.S. inadvertently trained bin Laden who trained his followers, some of whom are buddies of the KLA, to blow-up U.S. embassies. The U.S. trained and armed members of the KLA, who then perpetuate the duplicity by attacking the NATO troops in Kosovo. Then, if that dreaded bodybag carrying a U.S. soldier comes back, the U.S. is shocked that the KLA is capable of such treachery. No problem. Blame it on the inefficiencies of the UN mission. Pretty scary foreign policy.

War Criminals?

Although lacking jurisdiction, the frustrated Court nonetheless admonished the U.S., stating "All parties before it must act in conformity with their obligations under the UN Charter and other rules of international law ... whether or not States accept the jurisdiction of the Court, they remain in any event responsible for acts attributable to them that violate international law, including humanitarian law ... the use of force under the present circumstances ... raises very serious issues of international law.

The case in the World Court is pending against eight NATO allies. The complaint in the Criminal Court is being investigated.

A terrifying precedent has been set: That of encouraging violent secessionist movements. In this case the repercussions were plowed under by the West, but a case would take on a different character if Taiwan decided to "secede" from China, for example.

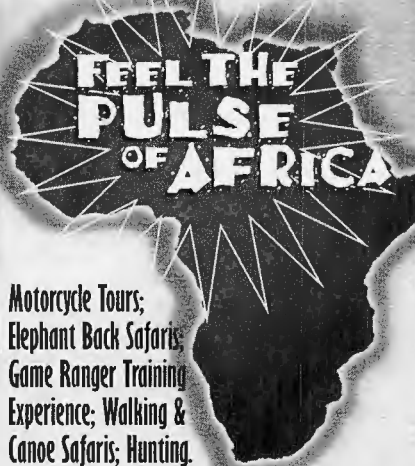
Most of the Serbs have been brutally forced out of Kosovo and the ethnic Albanians are facing what may well be the most tyrannical regime in the history of Kosovo.

Why did NATO decide to take such drastic action by bombing populated areas, thus killing the helpless and innocent, destroying the system of health-care and civilian infrastructure with prohibited weapons on such a large scale?

NATO briefings, according to the transcripts, stated that pressuring the population with the purpose of creating internal political upheaval and overthrowing Milosevic was an objective. NATO officials have bragged a 99.6% accuracy. Considering all of the documented non-military and non-combatant hits, things do not look too promising in the Criminal Court. At what point in history Clinton, Albright, Cohen and their minions may be declared war criminals, only time will tell.

Martin Brass is SOF's international law correspondent. ✉

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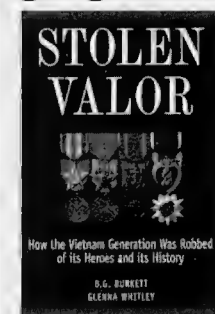
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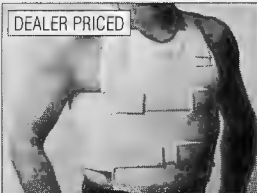
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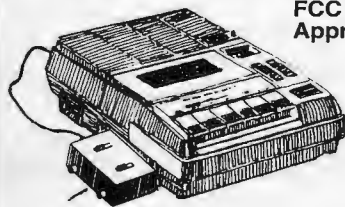
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For Whom the Bell Tolls

Maybe you didn't get the word that two American soldiers died in Kosovo. The media were so busy bludgeoning the nation with JFK, Jr.'s sad story that none of the major networks bothered to report on the deaths of these two Army grunts. Brokaw, Jennings and Rather and the 24-hour news channels were all too busy wailing over past and present Kennedy misfortunes, which — more than incidentally — kicked-up TV rating numbers and brought in big bucks.

Thousands of newspapers around the nation also joined the mourning. But few carried even a mention of the names of the two soldiers who died in Kosovo, let alone told their stories.

These two soldiers were not Kennedy-famous, so they didn't rate much media time. They were just plain grunts from ordinary American families with the bad luck to be on patrol when their armored vehicle rolled over. They were G.I. Joes, not much different from the tens of thousands of American soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen deployed around the world as the spearhead of "The Clinton Doctrine." Like JFK, Jr., our two dead warriors had loved ones, hopes, dreams and aspirations. But, unlike Kennedy, they died doing their duty while trying to bring peace to a province ripped asunder by 600 years of civil strife.

Sherwood Brim and William Wright have now joined David Gibbs, Kevin Reichert and Anthony Gilman, soldiers who also recently died in the Balkans. Let's not forget any of them or the scores of other service men and women who've paid the supreme price, just since 1993, when "The Clinton Doctrine" received its baptism by fire and 18 American warriors were killed in the streets of Mogadishu.

Since then more than 100 uniformed guardians of this country have died while on global duty executing Madeleine Albright's "Indispensable Nation" strategy. But you seldom hear about these deaths unless the catastrophe is so big it can't be hidden or ignored — like the shootout in Somalia or the U.S. Air Force hotel bombing in Saudi Arabia.

We take for granted the grave dangers our warriors face in places like Bosnia, Colombia, Haiti, Kuwait and now Kosovo, where, as I write this, soldiers are at maximum alert for terrorist rockets, ambushes and incoming hand grenades.

Perhaps the reason so many Americans and the majority of



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.

our media are so cavalier regarding these dangers is because those serving are all volunteers from other towns, other neighborhoods, other families.

Perhaps the attitude expressed by Albright prevails among most citizens who don't have loved ones securing the new American Empire — that if they get hurt, so what, they're Regulars, they signed up for it.

Maybe we should go back to the draft. Get back to sharing the pain between the rich and the poor, the black, the brown and the white. In Vietnam, once the upper classes started dying side-by-side with those at the bottom, that bad war suddenly became *every* U.S. citizen's concern, not just the poor's.

Had JFK, Jr. bought it in that armored vehicle in the killing fields of Kosovo instead of while winging off to the Cape for a weekend of wedding fun, the media — and certainly the powerful Kennedy family — would be asking some hard questions.

You can bet your 401K that if an Albright, a Gore, a Bush or a Gates were blown apart in one of Clinton's global villages, these questions would be asked: "Why are we trying to police the world? Why are so many of our soldiers put at such high risks? Why are so many bodybags being filled with our youth when our national security isn't involved? Why is

Clinton still trying to fix all the problems in the world on our warriors' backs when those being "saved" want "Yankee [to] go home?"

On the seventh day of the media extravaganza on JFK, Jr.'s death, an Army recon plane went down over Colombia. All five missing soldiers are presumed dead. Again, this story got little press coverage.

If we had a draftee Army again, the bell would not toll just for our royalty, but for every American in this land of the free and the equal.

Bet you a buck, it would toll a lot less frequently, too.

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

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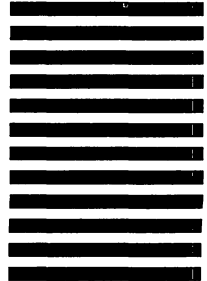
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