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SOF

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Barry Davies, B.E.M.

On the Cover
The rugged and storied British SAS welcomes qualified foreign volunteers — including Americans. See story, page 44.

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Olympic Arms .300 Winchester Magnum cartridge: Navajo cop- and military-friendly, stable, reliable, and heavier and faster — out to 1,000 yards.

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BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE by Major John Plaster (Ret.) 64
A compelling overview of *SOG: A Photo History of the Secret Wars*, Plaster’s new addition to the Vietnam War’s historical library.



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Barry Davies, B.E.M.

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

A Vital Heads-Up

The following column, reprinted with permission, appeared in the Fall 1999 edition of *The Agent*, the official publication of the National Association of Treasury Agents (P. O. Box 2491, Detroit, MI 48231) — a non-profit organization of concerned men and women agents who are laying their careers on the line to battle government abuse of the citizenry) and was authored by one of the truly good guys in government, or anywhere else, Jim Jorgensen, NATA's Deputy Executive Director.

We are heading toward a class-controlled police state (many believe we're already there). Individual rights have been systematically dismantled by Bill Clinton and his mob of elitist fascist bureaucrats to whom democratic principles equate in value to the now-ignored and generally belittled United States Constitution.

Union people, and many others, are taking it in the neck as the Clinton regime

scratches thousands of American jobs off the roster in his ego-driven Draconian effort to leave as his legacy the foundations of a world super-state. His arrogant and pathetic kowtowing to mainland China is flushing away any serious regard for American national security.

I'll paraphrase a memorable line from Patton, which referred to Eisenhower, but which sadly applies to our Commander in Chief: "This is what to expect when our leader stops being an American."

People, that sonofabitch, in my estimation, never was an American!

When I entered the U.S. Army, I took a solemn oath to "... defend the Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic." That oath's validity did not cease when I was discharged, or when I retired. I am still bound to it — and so are all of you, who remain true Americans!

— Robert K. Brown

As I See It ... Our Government's Been Stolen

Despite being a political science major in college and long-time "history buff," I'm not exactly sure just when the "People's" government was stolen from "the People." Maybe expanding federal bureaucracies after the Civil War and WWII had something to do with it. Whatever. Today many government officials think the government belongs to THEM ... not US. The recent spate of FBI Waco revelations is just one more indication of this attitude and "thievery." Don't these folks get it? Whatever information they have ... does *not* belong to THEM! That information, be it good, bad, or just plain ugly, belongs to "the People." Barring "national security" considerations, the People are entitled to have it. Officials who reluctantly give it up six years after the fact, subvert the Constitution and do a grave disservice to everyone, including those honest federal agents who

seem to lurk in the shadows.

Top officials at ATF still don't get this either. Their Waco cover-up continues unabated since that fatal morning of February 28, 1993. Until ordered by a federal judge, a few weeks ago, they refused to allow Texas Rangers into evidence storage areas to retrieve items needed for an ongoing trial. That refusal speaks volumes!

How many more years will pass until we can truly honor slain ATF agents McKeehan, LeBleu, Williams and Willis with the complete truth? So long as ATF officials continue to stonewall honest Waco inquiry and disclosure ... so long as ATF officials allow the truly culpable to hide behind the coerced and bribed admissions of a couple of patsies ... so long as ATF officials act as if the government belongs to THEM ... there shall be no closure for the Waco tragedy.

— Jim Jorgensen

NATA Deputy Executive Director

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SOG A Photo History of the Secret Wars

SOG: A PHOTO HISTORY OF THE SECRET WARS
by John L. Plaster

In 1972, when the top-secret Studies and Observations Group was disbanded, the U.S. military ordered its thousands of photos and documents burned so that a book like this would not be possible. But some SOG veterans had brought back with them personal copies of "official" photos of SOG in action, as well as snapshots, and kept them secret for more than three decades. While writing his history of SOG, John Plaster contacted his secret-war comrades and uncovered this wealth of never-before-seen photos. More than 700 photos bring to life the stories of the SOG heroes whose names had only been whispered before, as well as all 10 Medal of Honor winners. See for yourself what really happened behind the lines: Operation Tailwind, Son Tay, Hatchet Force operations, Bright Light rescues, HALO insertions, string extractions and much more. Includes first ever photos of U.S. forgeries of enemy documents! 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, 496 pp.

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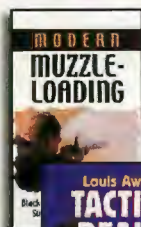
Far left: Hatchet Force troops advance along a Ho Chi Minh Trail side road, 1967.



Upper left: U.S. Navy SEAL Barry Enoch during a raid in the Mekong Delta. SOG employed SEALs on numerous POW rescue attempts in the Delta.

Lower left: CCC RT members ride ladders after emergency extraction from Laos.

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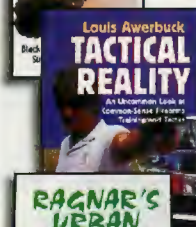


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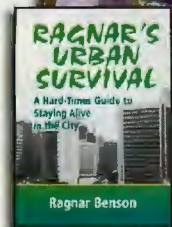


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by Louis Awerbuck

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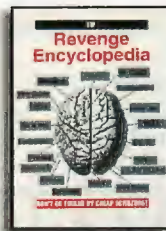
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A Hard-Times Guide to Staying Alive in the City
by Ragnar Benson

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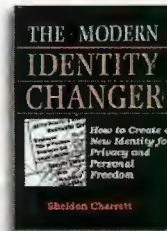
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FLAK

NCO: No Contraband Opuses



I thought you'd like this: My wife just graduated an E4 NCO Development Course, similar to NCO Prep courses. Part of the instructional guidance included appropriate behaviors, recommended professional reading materials (for further development of a well-rounded fledgling NCO's mind), to include "in-appropriate materials" as designated by certain USAF agencies. Guess what? You (*SOF*) are hereby proudly anointed as number 10 on a list of "in-appropriate" materials. Those caught with said materials face expulsion from school, with possible punitive actions. Per the instructor's newcomer orientation brief ... Oh, yes, also

included would be web sites considered radical, inflammatory, racist, and contrary to good order and discipline not in line with USAF standards (i.e. *SOF* under radical and inflammatory).

My wife always (especially after the ALS brief) asks how can I and why do I read such a magazine? Let me be the first to say, *SOF* just happens to be (time and time again) the most accurate, on the spot reporting, of any media I have yet to come across. During the past 15 years that I have read *SOF*, it never ceases to amaze me how stories in *SOF* that others scoffed at, pop up years later as "breaking news," "startling discoveries," and "revealed during our investigative 6-month undercover reporting, brought to you, John Q. Public for the first time ..." Pretty sad when you consider *SOF* is a monthly rag, yet our "mainstream" media is weekly, and in some cases, hourly ...

Keep up the good work. Somebody needs to keep "them" on their toes, and you guys do just that. No bullshit. No sensationalism. Just the straight, raw facts, as it happened. Saying what we, the folks in the field, are bound by oath not to utter. What more can you ask for?

Regards,
(name withheld)

Well, you pretty well described our MOS, and if you judge we're doing it well then we're pleased — although we're a little disappointed about only being #10 on the mudlist. Now, here's the plan, and we hope it doesn't cause you any loss of consortium: Sneak into her lunch pail any of the many issues that had complimentary stories about the Air Force, by Dale B.

Continued on page 10

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THE ONE "BUG" TO FEAR MOST!

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In flagrant violation of federal law prohibiting their use and sale, these devices in various forms are openly advertised in many technical publications for as little as \$30. Literally thousands of these devices are now in the hands of unscrupulous individuals all over the country!

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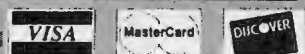
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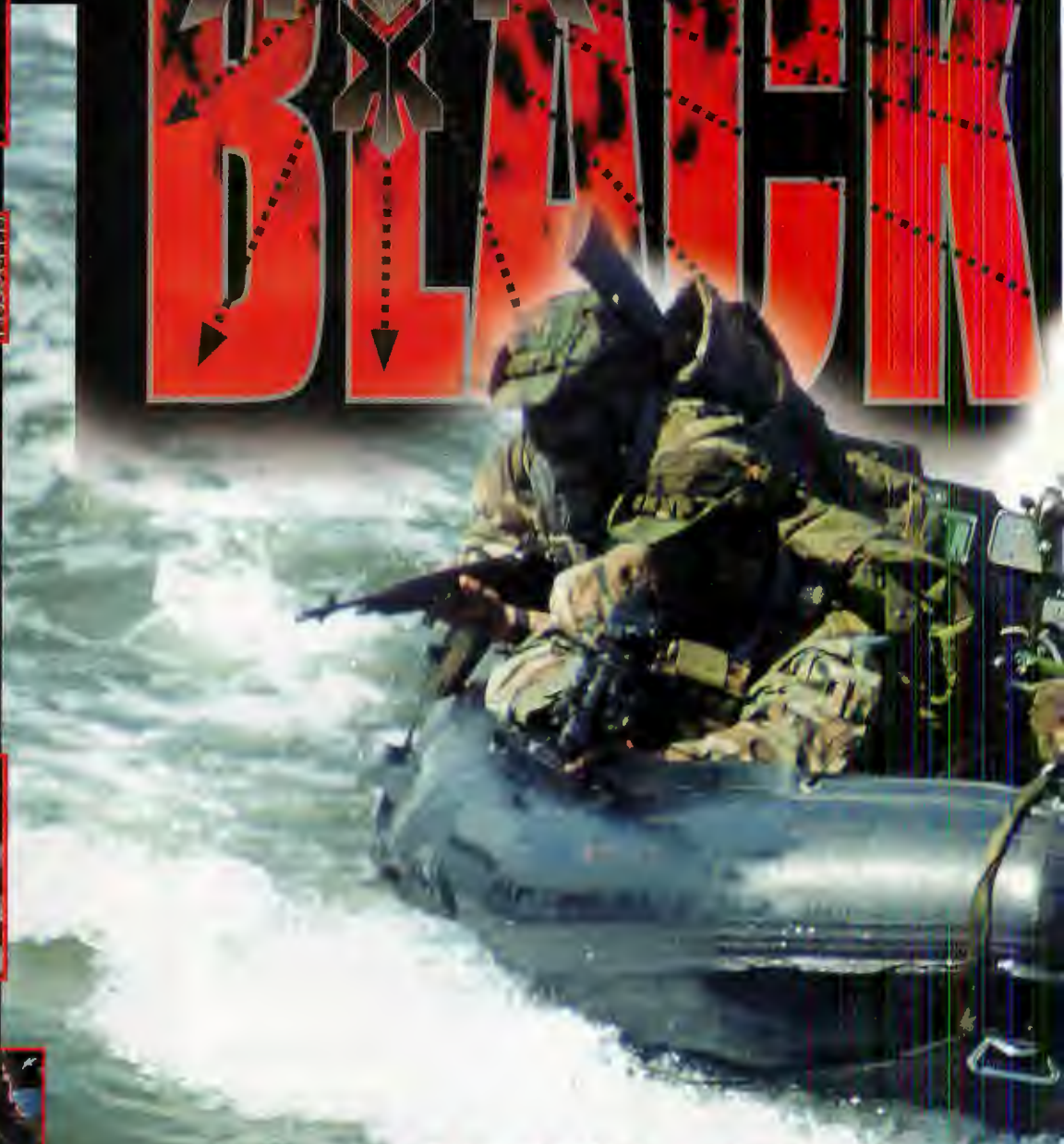
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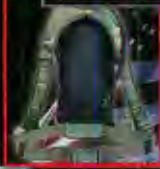
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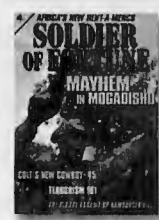
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Cooper; when she gets caught, the brass will have to read the evidence at her summary court, and they might decide we're not such knuckle-draggers after all ...

"Ashes of the A Shau"



I read with interest Tom McCarthy's article "Ashes Of The A Shau, The 30th Anniversary Of The Battle Of Hamburger Hill." I have a black scarf hanging on the wall at home. Sewn on the scarf in red thread are a Torii gateway and the words "101st ABN, 187th Inf, B." When I look at the scarf, I am reminded of the Rakkasan's courage and sacrifice during the 11 brutal, bloody assaults up Hill 937, Hamburger Hill.

Riley King
B/ 3/ 187/ 101 ABN
Corvallis, Oregon

Hmmmmmm....

I wonder HOW you can be "Pro-Police" and "Anti-Tyranny" at the SAME TIME? Sounds like a CONTRADICTION to me.
Poor, Poor Portugal — Since Columbus left, and they commingled [sic] with Black

Africans, they have produced no more intelligent, far-thinking explorers or great artists — 400 years of apathy!

(no name)

In this country, thus far any way, we have a tradition of our police being anti-tyranny; that's why they swear to defend the Constitution, which is the greatest anti-tyrannical document ever penned by man. So we're happy to support them.

Regarding "Poor Portugal," and what we assume is a slam at Sub-Saharan African races: Ahem. Hate to be the one to break this to you, but Columbus was not Portuguese. He was an Italian, who contracted to Queen Isabella of Spain to go exploring, and bumped into the West Indies trying to find a new route to the Orient. Try not to take cheap shots at your neighbors — it really makes you look silly.

Nutzoid Non Carborundum

Hi guys. Been a subscriber for some while. Super good mag. Don't let the nuts get you down. Two questions, below:
Can't find where I read in the last few months, Clinton's administration is valuable in the history of mankind. You see, the article went on to say that law enforcement agencies, nationwide, are using Clinton

video recordings to train detectives on how to recognize a liar. Any info there?

Second, I got second-hand stuff that Israeli Air Force pilots handed USN F-14 and F-18 pilots a lopsided lesson in aerial combat over Israeli skies. It was something about how our USAF pilots fly. Sure would like to see an expanded article on how bad our pilots are, considering the mass exodus of flyboys these days.

Definitely enjoy R.K. Brown's column. Protect him.

David Robinette
(moved from Las Vegas to Montana, missed the Convention this year)

The nuts will never get us down (according to some, it'd be fratricidal fire anyway). Hadn't heard the Clinton training tape story, but it's so good it has to be apocryphal. Regards the entirely plausible Israeli/U.S. wargame scenario, we hadn't heard anything about that either, but bear in mind the Israelis are probably the very best pilots there are: It's not a game to them, as they are surrounded and vastly outnumbered, so they have to be good. The loss of pilots due to morale and other problems has no doubt had an overall affect on our war-fighting ability, but the ones who have stuck it out are probably the better pilots, so as an individual consideration we have lost quantity, not necessarily quality. And, yes, we do try to protect RKB (mostly from himself).

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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 anytime around the "Teams" knows SEAL's fear next to nothing. But Peterson insisted and the demo went on; to the amazement of all in attendance the Peterson-trained SEAL operator DESTROYED each and every of the 'gurus' quickly and effectively. Not only that, these guys easily adapted whether the attackers used fists, kicks, grapples, chokes or weapons... it just didn't matter. Jerry's fighters seemed to just focus on taking out

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

The One True Ultimate Fighting System

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

You Now Live The Fearless Life With The Offensive Mindset™

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

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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

your 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.

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Youngest Delta

Hi, I am a 13-year-old boy who is setting his sights on joining the Delta Force when I'm old enough. I have read your mag for three years and have enjoyed every issue. Your reports are well-written and nicely spread out. But something really stupid is that I was suspended from school for a week 'cause I was reading it on the bus! My teachers also nag me about being a wannabe and all of the news is fake! I still proudly read your mag, and I hope you keep up the great work!!!

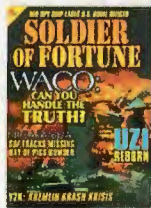
Mike B.
via E-mail

Hey, Pard, thanks for writing. For whatever it's worth, our managing editor started reading SOF at issue #2 when he was about your age, and he went on to West Point — and both of his parents were school teachers. Any time you want to cite SOF as a source in a school paper, we'd be happy to supply you with the original research so your teachers won't have to worry about any of our news being "fake."

Delta represents some of the most capable troops we have, and joining Delta is a laudable goal. If that's your goal, hit the books hard and get in shape and stay out of trouble. See, one of the first things good troops have to learn is to follow orders. Even daft ones. So if SOF is contraband on the

school bus or at school, as long as you're subject to their authority you have to go along with their program. You don't have to agree, but you do have to go along with it for the time being. Delta is looking for troops who can cause serious trouble — but don't.

Raucous Range Roamer



Whoever wrote the article about "Range Roamer" (Dec. '99) is a riot! I need a lot of practice, can I come to your range?

J. Thomason
via E-mail

Sure. Bring your own ammo.

Message Board



First of all, let me congratulate you on a fine, patriotic publication. I have always admired your often unpopular opinions on the Balkan issue and would like to respond to the paranoid delusions of Mr. Sandking in November's issue of SOF:

Since when did defending innocents from the massacre of a tyrant (Milosevic, in

case you forgot) make you a member of the "New World Order" or the oh-so-horrible "Jewish conspiracy"? I suppose you don't believe the holocaust occurred. I bet you also think that any good decision made by a bad leader (i.e. Billy Clinton) is inherently bad. Well, I'm sorry to take the padding away from your cell, but you are wrong.

I do not think much of the current administration, but I also don't want to see a petty tyrant destroy what my grandfathers put their lives on the line for. We waited too long to stop Hitler and Stalin and we can't let it happen again. The war in Kosovo isn't just about the former Yugoslavia, it's about maintaining stability in all of Southern Europe. Let it go, and before long Greece, Albania, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Turkey and the rest of us will be fighting World Wars I and II all over again. No thanks. Pre-empt now, stop Milosevic and move on.

Incidentally, I met a couple of bad-ass Jewish Legionnaires that would like to meet you. Don't forget to take your medication.

Sincerely,
C. Wiggins
via E-mail

As a matter of policy, we don't run responses to FLAK letters from other readers — as we'd end up being a message center and the bickering would never end. However, since Sandking swore he'd never read SOF again, I guess this one time doesn't count ✕

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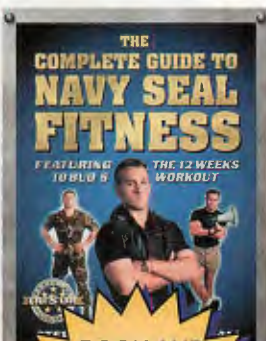
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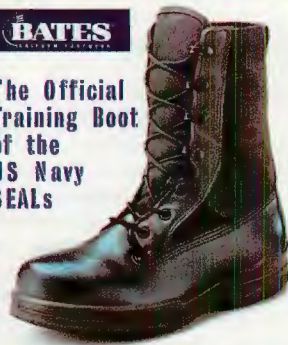


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treat any aircraft carrying the New York senatorial candidate when it takes off, lands and is in the air. Air traffic controllers were told the policy was expected to cause delays throughout the busy northeast air corridor.

The special procedures will speed any plane carrying Hillary Clinton to the front of the line for takeoff, and will prevent her plane from waiting to land while maintaining holding patterns.

Republicans, of course, have charged that the special travel privileges are unethical and give Clinton an unfair advantage over New York Mayor Guiliani, the anticipated GOP Senate candidate.

"Hillary Clinton ought to wait on the tarmac at Kennedy like the rest of us, and she ought to pay for her own planes, like everybody else," said Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson.

The station reported Hillary's new air privileges exceed anything extended by the FAA to former Senator Majority Leader Bob Dole during his entire presidential campaign. Sources at WJLA told the *Drudge Report* that "White House counsel and top FAA officials spent several hours trying to get us to

kill this story."

Kiss Of Death

Senate candidate Hillary Clinton didn't make points with New York's Jewish voters when she gave a kiss and hug to Mrs. Yasser Arafat, immediately after a speech in which Mrs. Arafat accused Israel of deliberately poisoning Palestinian women and children. Arafat said Israel makes "daily use of poison gas," which "has led to an increase of cancer cases among Palestinian women and children." She also accused Israel of putting poisonous "chemical material" into the local water supply (never mind the fact Israelis and Palestinians drink the same water).

Hillary was apparently oblivious to the inflammatory nature of the speech, or too stupid to understand it, until New Yorkers demanded to know why she seemed so approving of it. Then she seemed flustered, and had no idea what the voters wanted her to say. There was no time to take a poll, and precious little time to consult advisors. So she attempted a calming, say-nothing statement that would appease everyone. She said anyone interested in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian issue "should refrain from inflammatory rhetoric and from baseless accusations."

OK, Hillary, then why kiss and hug the public figure who just made the most inflammatory statements and baseless accusations about Israel in recent memory? If inflammatory rhetoric in this situation is a bad thing, then why not soundly refute the statements of Mrs. Arafat and stand up for the interests of your constituency, which is far more Jewish than Palestinian?

Why? Because Hillary is an airhead, which is becoming more apparent with each day of her senatorial campaign. She probably didn't understand Arafat's speech. Furthermore, she doesn't understand the very constituency she hopes to someday represent.

Special Treatment?

The White House ordered the Federal Aviation Administration to treat any aircraft carrying Hillary Rodham Clinton just like Air Force One. An FAA memo, obtained by Washington's WJLA TV, outlines how air traffic controllers must

Leaving Us In Shambles

When the Army let it be known that three National Guard divisions would be put into the rotation for duty in the Balkans over the next three years, Clinton's Pentagon handled the spin control just well enough that most Americans thought little of it. At the same time we were quietly informed of the National Guard deployments, the Pentagon continued assuring us we're prepared to fight two Gulf War-like conflicts on opposite sides of the globe simultaneously.

Here is the fact, however: Under Clinton, our armed forces aren't prepared to police even Bosnia and Kosovo at the same time without calling up the reserves.

Why, specifically, do we need the reserves? Why are we deploying National Guard divisions overseas as discrete units for the first time since the Korean War?

Because, as the *Washington Post* reports, the Army has rated two divisions as unfit for combat. The 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, and the 1st Infantry Division, in Germany, have received the lowest of four possible readiness scores and are "in need of additional manpower, equipment and training before being able to fight in a major regional war."

Both units, says the *New York Post*, have repeatedly been called upon for "peacekeeping" duties in recent years. The 10th Mountain was the principal Army presence in the occupation of Haiti in 1994. Elements of the 10th are in Bosnia today, and the 1st is helping police Kosovo.

In other words, Clinton's "peacekeeping," interventionist foreign policy has destroyed U.S.-readiness, forcing us to call up the National Guard during a time of peace.

"Over the past several years, the Army has been deteriorating as a result of insufficient funding and a foreign policy that has committed military personnel to areas where we have no vital security interests," says U.S. Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Armed Service Readiness Subcommittee. ✕

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I Was There

by Richard Culver

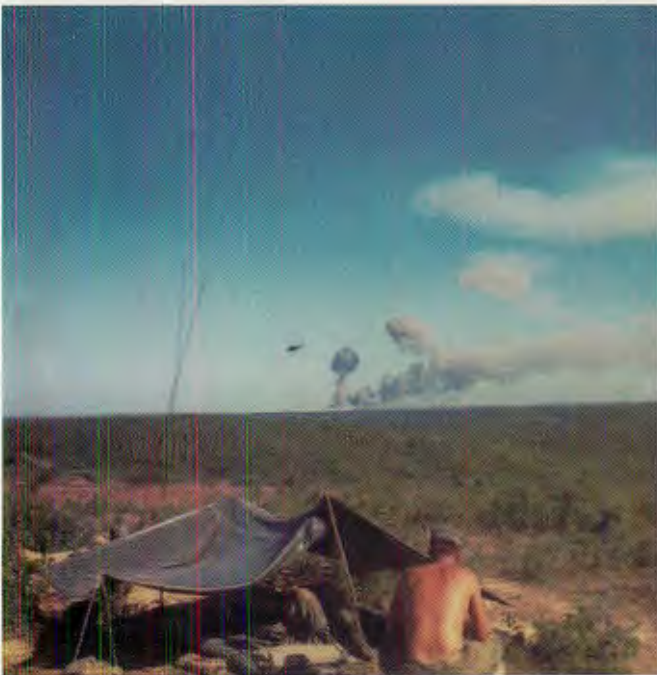
Indian Summer In Indian Territory

The summer of 1967 was beginning to creep into the first stages of fall in the Republic of Vietnam, but you couldn't tell it by the weather. The country just below Quang Tri was hotter than the hinges of hell, appropriately coinciding with the expected results of the upcoming elections. The powers that be had decided to ensure that General Ky would become next the President of South Vietnam.

As the company commander of a Marine rifle company, I had been assigned to join the blocking forces placed to guarantee the fairness of the upcoming election. The fact that the eventual outcome at the polls was a foregone conclusion was of little consequence to those of us performing a minaret for the rest of the world to see and say "Yea, verily ..."

The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, along with its support elements including an artillery battery, an engineer unit, an amtrac company, helicopter support troops, a recon platoon and a helicopter squadron, was one of two battalions designated to sail in small circles in the

(right) Major Dick Culver (below) Blocking for the Elections September 1967. Ammo Dump at Dong Ha burning in background.



South China Sea as a floating reserve for both the 1st and 3rd Marine Divisions. The floating reserves were called the SLF (for Special Landing Force, a sort of predecessor to the modern MEUS).

The SLF was divided into two segments. 2/3 (our battalion) was designated SLF Bravo and the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment comprised the second or SLF Alpha. I was the commanding officer of Hotel Company of 2/3. Our call sign was what would now be considered to be terribly politically incorrect — the Second Battalion of the Third Regiment was known as "Gray Rebel," and I was "Gray Rebel Hotel-Six," most appropriate, I thought, for a gent who had two great granddaddies who had served in the 59th Alabama during the Late War of Northern Aggression!

The SLF was designed to come in and assist any organization that inadvertently stepped in deep kimchi. In other words, we comprised a fire-fighting battalion to assist any unit in I Corps that bit off more than they could chew. To say that the duty was thrilling was something of an understatement (we sustained over 800 casualties in a nine-month tour). Normally, when we were ordered ashore, we knew the landing zone was already hot. Thus, the assignment to "block" for the election was considered soft duty for a battalion that had been on the SLF for six straight months. My rifle company had only five men who had not received at least one Purple Heart —

and I was not one of them.

I had inherited one of the finest rifle companies in the Corps. The lieutenants were the best I had ever worked with and the NCOs were outstanding. Better yet, the officers, NCOs and enlisted worked as one and trusted one another.

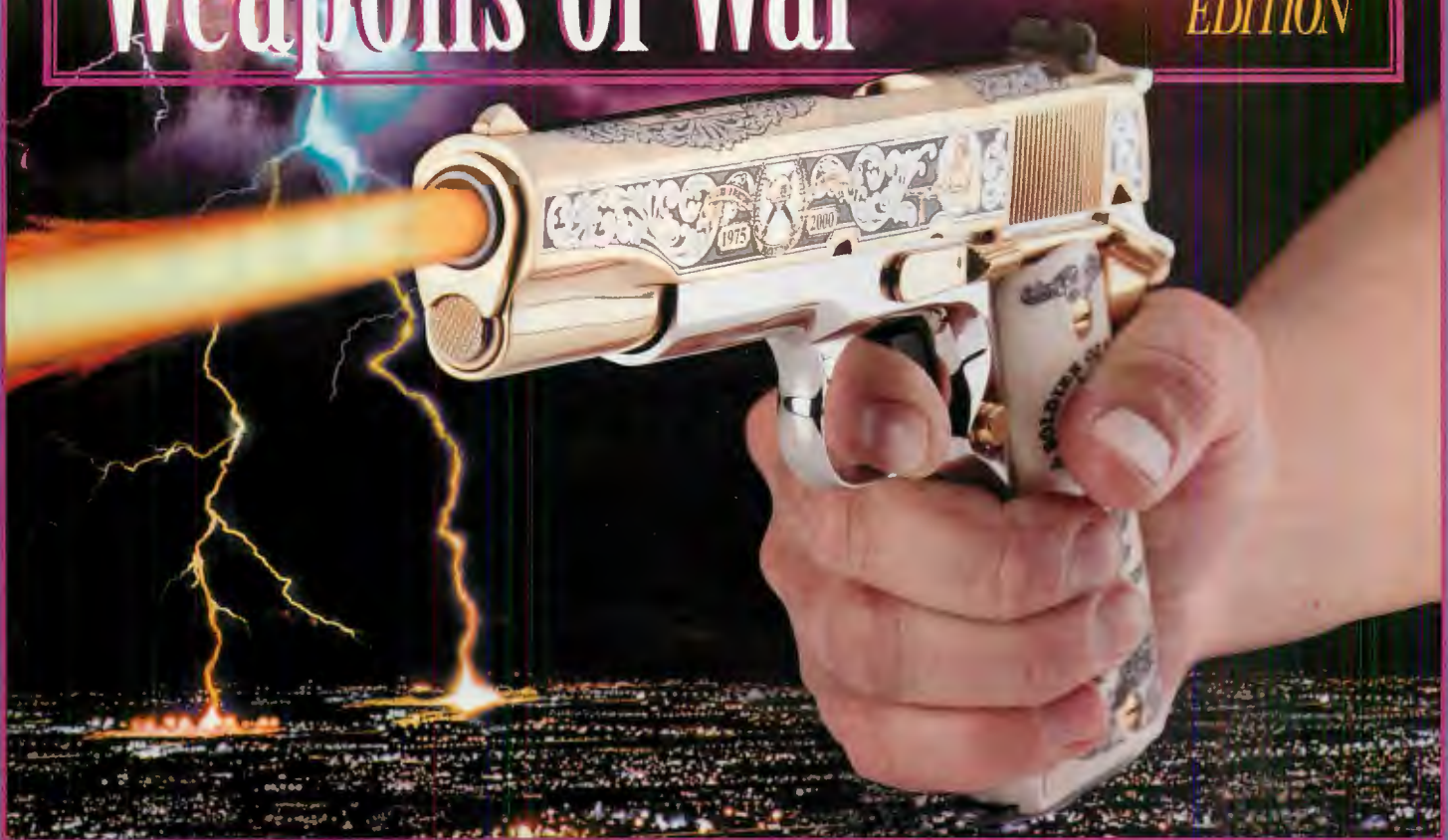
Since we were required to stay in a fixed position, we ensured that our patrolling efforts were heavily beefed up, as were our outposts and night ambushes. Late in the afternoon on the last day of the election frivolities we were sitting on the hillside breaking out our evening C-Rats.

While I sat heating a can of *ham and muvvas* and wearing a soft cover, the sound of a rifle shot cracked. At the bottom of the ridge we were occupying, there was unusual activity in the treeline. My radio operator claimed to have seen some movement and a puff of smoke from below the ridge. I was carrying a .30 carbine with several magazines of tracer rounds to mark close-in targets. I gave my radio operator my binoculars and unlimbered the little gun. I had him pass the word via radio that I wanted everyone on my side of the hill to fire two rounds of 5.56mm into the spot I had fired a tracer. And then the fun began. Every time I would fire the hillside would reverberate with gunfire and the treeline seemed to be alive. My radio operator began to enjoy the situation and gave me several "corrections" that would indicate the perpetrator of hate and discontent was on the move.

Continued on page 68

Weapons of War

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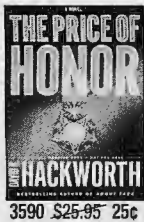


In 1905, John Moses Browning developed the .45 ACP with a 230 grain "hardball" load that became the standard issue sidearm for 75 years. The United States Department of War considered it the best handgun available in 1911 and today it is still used by the Army's Delta Force and the Navy's Seals. It has been praised for its endurance, reliability, and accuracy.

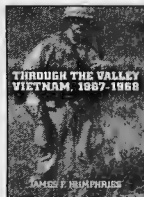
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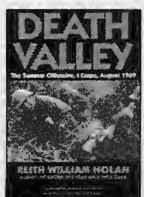
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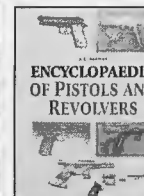
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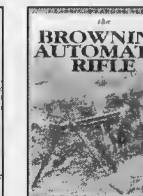
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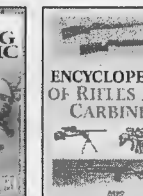
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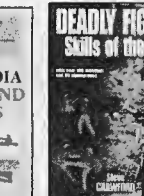
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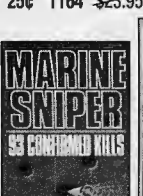
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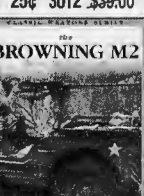
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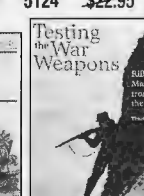
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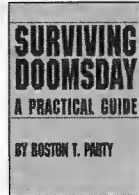
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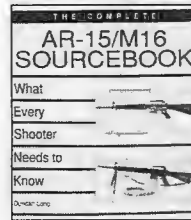
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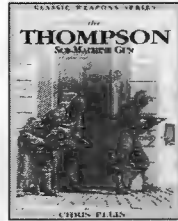
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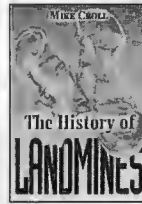
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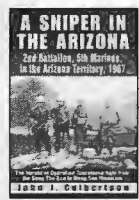
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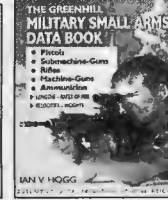
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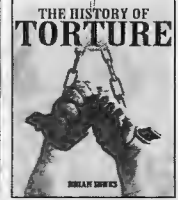
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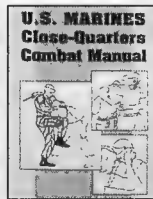
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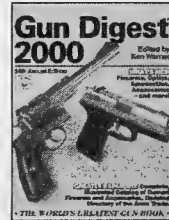
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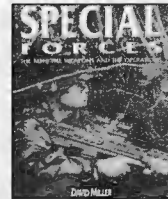
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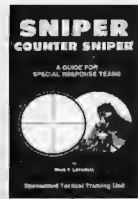
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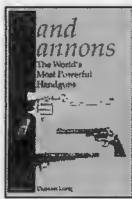
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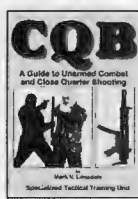
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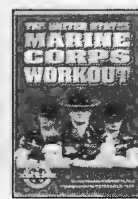
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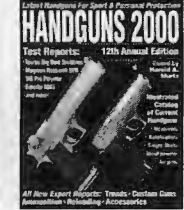
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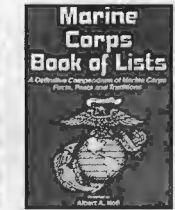
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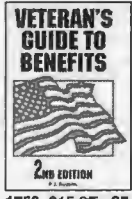
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Spyderco "Delica"

The Spyderco "Delica" is a handy, excellent quality, capable utility knife that is a very easy carry. It is now available in ATS 55, a stainless alloy specifically developed for cutlery. The trademark "round hole" makes all Spyderco folders look like there was a pelican in their lineage — and it also makes them probably the easiest of all non-automatic, one-hand openers (we say "probably" only because we haven't had occasion to work with every knife on the market). An additional benefit of this distinctive one-handed opening/closing system is that when the user first grabs the knife either from where it may be clipped to clothing or LBE, or from the inside of a pocket, the distinctive shape tells the hand without thinking about it how to grasp the knife for one-handed opening. And if one-handed opening is of interest to the user at that point, it is probably because he is concentrating on the work at hand or some other agitation.

The "pocket" clip, which lends itself to handily clipping the knife in myriad accessible places and postures, is reversible on the new Delica, making it even more functional for those more-evolved among us known as southpaws. It may also be removed for comfortable pocket-carry. The hollow telescoping bolt that secures the clip also serves as the bushing for the lanyard hole, always a good option when using the knife in darkness, over or under water or in other environs likely to get it lost. The lightweight synthetic handles are heavily textured for a good grip when wet or covered with fish



slime, blood, oil, mud, etc. The blade locks up securely with a liner-type latch. The Delica is an excellent everyday knife: not in the sense that it's at all ordinary, but in the sense its utility and facility make it a good knife to always have with you.

As one would expect from a company who started in the cutlery industry with a line of innovative sharpening devices, the Delica comes from the Seiki factory razor-sharp, and the stainless ATS-55 blade keeps a good edge. Almost fully serrated, the Delica blade cuts

Continued on page 24

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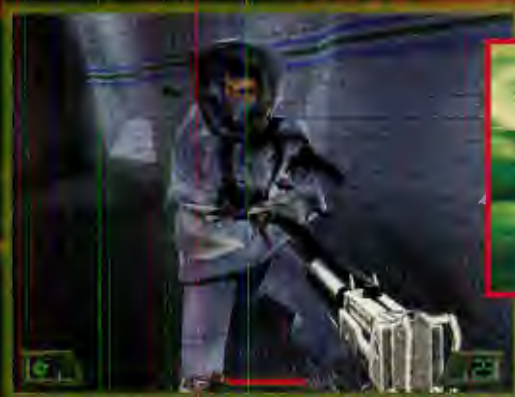
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But it'll take more than good aim and ammo to crush this enemy army. This is a battle of intelligence where strategy is the only plan of attack. Terrorists, drug lords, and countless militants await in 30 of the globe's most dangerous political hotspots, making the hunt just as tricky as the kill. With a sniper rifle, white phosphorous grenades, and a full load of ammo, you blow through enemy lines only to find yourself being tracked by the very organization you were sent to hunt down. The tables have turned. Your cover blown. So much for a successful mission.



You're the world's deadliest soldier of fortune and your mission is clear: survive. Track your prey across the globe in a series of secret missions to take down a fanatical terrorist organization ... before it takes you down. Maintain your cover as a covert warrior in a startling variety of explosive missions ranging from underhanded sabotage to stealthy assassination to full frontal assaults where skill marks the difference between the hunter and the hunted. Welcome to the secret world of the mercenary.



Based on the popular magazine of the same name, the Soldier Of Fortune Video Game delivers the most realistic, covert-operative themed shooter ever created.

The Soldier of Fortune Video Game is the all-new, explosive first-person shooter created by Raven

Software. Like a blockbuster action-thriller, the Soldier Of Fortune Video Game plunges players into the secret and deadly world of the modern-day gun-for-hire via dozens of real-to-life missions spanning five continents and innovative multiplayer modes.

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

THE GAME

Features:

- **Covert Mercenary Missions:** Enter the world of a soldier-for-hire, a deadly killer who journeys across the globe's most dangerous, political hotspots—from a speeding freight train in Africa to Iraqi oil refineries to Russian chemical plants. Take on 30 deadly missions in a race against time that could determine the fate of the world.
- **Deadly Weapons and Violence:** Tear your way past the enemy position utilizing the world's most lethal weaponry, including a .44 caliber pistol, 9mm submachine gun, and prototype microwave pulse guns. Bullets simulate actual damage: shoot someone in the leg and he falls, writhing and grasping his wound; shoot someone in the head and he falls down dead.
- **Living 3-D Environments:** Infiltrate foreign locations as non-player characters go about their daily lives as if you weren't there ... until you blow your cover. Beware, you may find yourself tracked by the very organization you were sent to hunt down. Hollywood motion-capture animation by House of Moves adds realism and intensifies the visual impact.



- **Multiplayer Hunting:** Infiltrate the ranks of the Internet via Deathmatch or innovative multiplayer games, including Assassin, where you track and kill a pre-determined player while someone else hunts you; and Arsenal, where you race to be the first to kill an opponent using each of your available weapons.

- **Revolutionary Shooter Technology:** Reap the benefits of the 3-D accelerator-optimized Quake II engine, upgraded with Raven's new CHOU rendering system for unprecedented enemy detail and violence, faster gameplay, and the most amazing 3-D graphics to date.

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heavy fabric, leather and cordage effortlessly. Spyderco was a pioneer of the serrated blade for implements other than bread knives with their "SpyderEdge" and although not as handy for whittling and skinning, for *cutting* the serrated blade is hard to beat.

The serrated blade, at least a *properly* serrated blade such as the SpyderEdge, cuts faster and with less effort for two very simple reasons, neither of which have much to do with saw teeth, which are actually a series of chisels, and which a serrated blade is not. First, there is more cutting area to a series of arcs than a straight line, so a 4-inch swipe with a serrated blade is equal to a much longer swipe with a straight blade. Second, the pressure applied to a given area with a series of points is much greater than that of a flat blade, so penetration requires less force on the knife handle. Thus, a serrated blade tends to cut with less effort, and your dull serrated blade (shame on you) will still cut when a dull straight blade will not.

The first production folder with a serrated blade was Spyderco's Clipit Mariner, introduced in 1982. This writer has had one for nearly that long, and this all-stainless tool is the best cordage knife we've ever used, and the angular shape with the round-hole opener has proved invaluable in use, as one's hands are always cold and wet (= stiff and clumsy) on a Seattle diving barge.

Spyderco has a world-class assortment of working blades and accessories. Contact them for the dealer nearest you at: Spyderco, Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 800, Golden, CO 80402-0800; phone: 800-525-7770 or 303-279-8383; via Email: custsvc@spyderco.com; check out their web site: www.spyderco.com.

their control will find the GunTracker software system one of the most useful and convenient tools they ever owned.

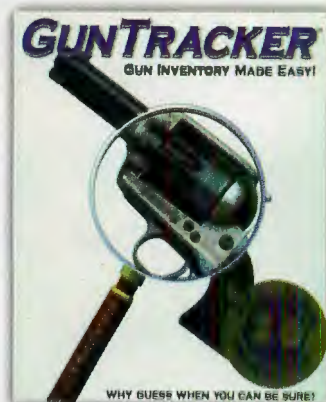
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System requirements are a PC running Windows 3.1, 95 or 98; 8 to 16MB; mouse or equivalent; VGA or SVGA monitor, and appropriate printer.

The GunTracker is based on the *Blue Book of Gun Values*, making it very simple to scroll through the book and flag the guns you have, and the system does all the basic inputting for you. For those rare guns not in that book, you can input yourself, as well as other pertinent custom info you want to store, such as variations, prices and so on. One particularly good aspect of this system is that it allows you to digitally photograph (or scan) the actual gun to record its exact condition, and each year the market price as recorded in the *Blue Book* is updated on the Price Disk, making it easy to keep current with market values.

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Available from Blue Book Publications, Dept. SOF, 8009 34th Ave., S., #175 (GT), Minneapolis, MN 55425; phone: 612-854-5229; fax: 612-853-1486. ☒



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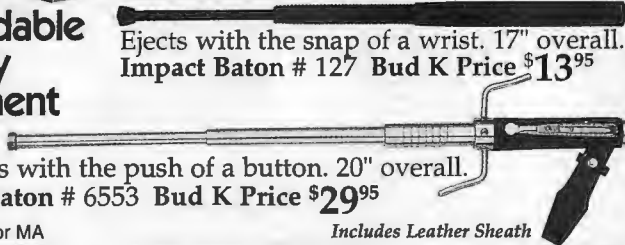
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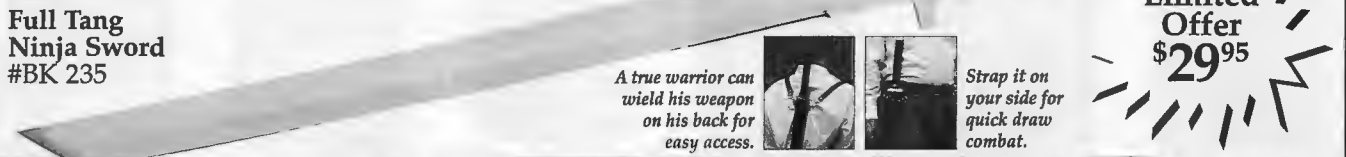
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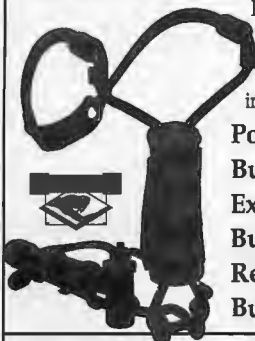
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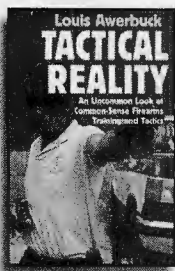
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TACTICAL REALITY

An Uncommon Look at Common-Sense Firearms Training and Tactics

by Louis Awerbuck

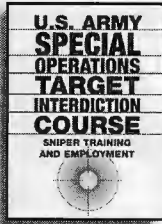
Louis Awerbuck is one of America's premier firearms trainers and instructors. He firmly believes that training and tactics are the most crucial elements in determining how people respond in a real fight. This book brings together a decade of articles by Awerbuck in *S.W.A.T.* and *Soldier of Fortune* magazines on subjects ranging from creative target systems to firearms marksmanship under stress to defensive survival of a deadly-force encounter. But above all the book is intended to promote thought on surviving a gunfight in an increasingly deteriorating society. *Tactical Reality* is not for the person who looks for trouble where he could have avoided it. It is not for the man who shuns cover and takes an unnecessary bullet. It is not for the squeamish or anyone who isn't prepared to fight to defend himself or his family. It is for everyone interested in finding out how to take a realistic approach to training so that, if need be, he can turn the tactical odds in a gunfight in his favor. This book proves that you are what you practice. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 272 pp. #10011013 \$30.00



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by Loren W. Christensen

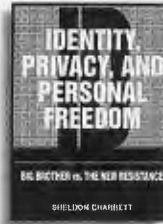
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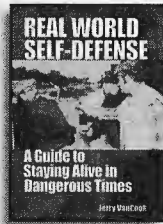
This is the official manual used by the U.S. Army to train snipers in support of Special Operations Forces (SOF) missions. It covers sniper team selection, organization and employment; equipment requirements; marksmanship training; field skills; terrain considerations; ammunition and more. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, illus., 560 pp. #10010783 \$50.00



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by Sheldon Charrett

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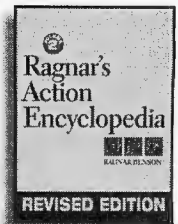
This entertaining book offers savvy advice for dealing with everything from a violent attack to the often ironic legal aftermath. VanCook, a former undercover cop, has experienced the realities of street violence and the legal system. His simple approach to self-defense stresses mind-set and covers armed and unarmed tactics and techniques. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, 224 pp. #10010809 \$20.00



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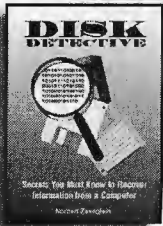
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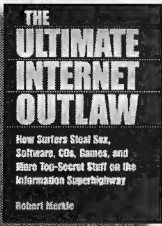
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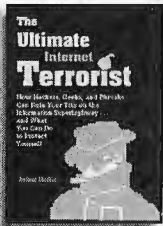
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by Robert Merkle

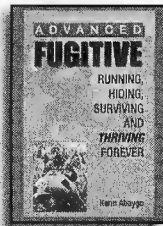
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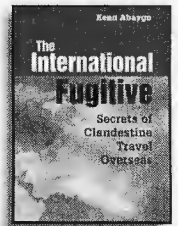
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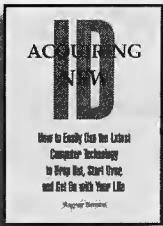
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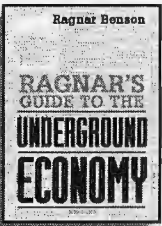
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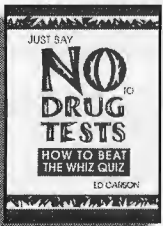
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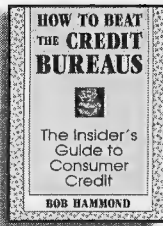
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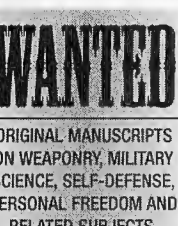
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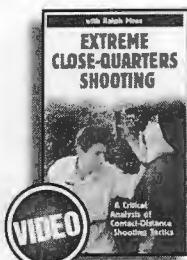
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with Ralph Mroz

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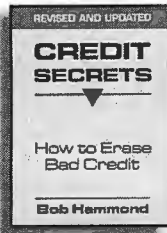


VIDEO



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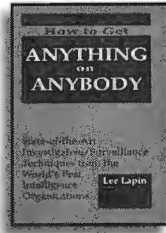
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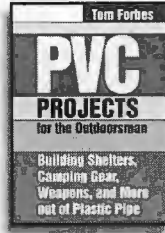
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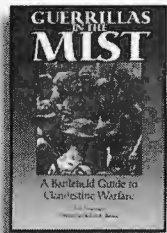
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with Tom Forbes

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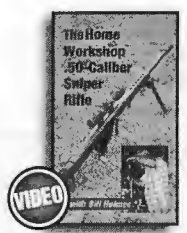
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Foreword by Robert K. Brown
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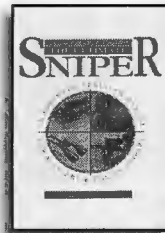
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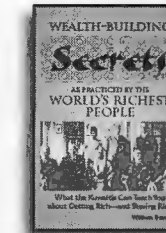
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with Bill Holmes

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The Mysterious ZBvz39



Just when you think you know everything there is to know about a particular subject, some new information surfaces to demonstrate that the word "definitive" is absurd when applied to topics such as historical military small arms research. The Czech ZBvz26 and ZBvz30 (ZB for *Zbrojovka Brno* — Brno Arsenal — and vz for *vzor*, or model) Light Machine Guns (LMGs) are well-known to almost all students of military small arms.

Through a long process of evolution these machine guns eventually led to the spectacular British Bren LMG. The sometimes painful evolution to the Bren's final form continued from the ZBvz30 through three models of the so-called ZGBvz33 and two models of the ZGBvz34 (the "GB" stands for Great Britain), the latter of which was virtually a pre-production Bren. It was at this stage that the acronym "Bren" was created from the letters "Br" for Brno and "en" from Enfield Lock, where the Bren LMG was produced.

To most of us, it was at that stage of development that the ZB LMG series ended. Apparently this was not so. Allegheny Arsenal (Dept. SOF, Box 161-K, Custer City, PA 16725; phone: 814-362-2642; fax: 814-362-7356; web site: AlleghenyArsenal@compuserve.com) has just imported a number of parts kits from the previously unknown ZBvz39, a Bulgarian contract LMG chambered for the 8x56Rmm Hungarian Mannlicher cartridge, and production of which numbered only in the hundreds.

The 8x56Rmm Hungarian Mannlicher's rimmed, bottlenecked case has a distinctive long, sloping shoulder. The round was designed in 1930 in Austria for the Solothurn S-2-200 (Austria's Model 30 and known as the Model 31 in Hungary) LMG. The case is either brass, lacquered or copper-washed steel and Berdan primed. The bullet is streamlined, with a lead core covered by either a copper-washed or cupro-nickel-washed steel jacket. Nominal projectile weight of the spitzer bullet is about 208 grains. The muzzle velocity is approximately 2,400 fps. It was subsequently adopted by Hungary and Bulgaria in 1931 as a replacement for the World War I 8x50Rmm cartridge. It was produced as ball, armor-piercing, armor-piercing-tracer, spotter, short-range and blank-types. It was used for both machine guns and the re-chambered Steyr-Mannlicher straight-pull Model 1895 rifle and Model 1890 carbine. In rifles, especially the short carbine, it kicks like hell. Most of the ammunition in this coun-

ZBvz39 LMG parts kit installed on MkI Bren receiver. This conversion should be approached with caution. 8x56Rmm Hungarian Mannlicher's rimmed, bottlenecked case (inset) has a distinctive long, sloping shoulder.

try was made in the late 1930s by Hungary or during World War II for the Germans. Navy Arms Company (689 Bergen Boulevard, Ridgefield, NJ 07657; phone: 201-945-2500; fax: 201-945-6859; web site: www.navyarms.com) has substantial quantities available.

The ZBvz39 looks very much like the MkI Bren LMG, with a few minor changes, in addition to the difference in calibers. It was obviously derived from the ZGBvz33 and 34 series. The ZBvz39's stainless steel gas block and barrel sleeve does not include an integral flashider. Instead, the blued flashider, a separate component, is threaded to the muzzle end of the barrel and held in place by a washer indexed to a notch in the barrel sleeve by means of a 90-degree projection (broken off on our specimen). The drum-type rear sight, offset to the left, carries its U-notched sight arm forward, instead of aft as found on the Bren. The buttstock, very close to that of the MkI Bren and with a folding shoulder strap, has a tubular steel opening in its underside that appears to have been designed to accept a rear monopod and a conventional sling swivel on the right side that pivots 360 degrees.

When sent to us, it was postulated by some that the ZBvz39 parts kit could be placed on a Bren receiver thus providing a successful conversion to 8x56Rmm Hungarian Mannlicher. Further, it was stated that employing a .303 British barrel rechambered by means of a 7.62x54R chambering reamer would permit firing this conversion kit in the readily available Russian round.

I have serious reservations about all of this. The drawings for the final version of the ZGBvz34 used metric measurements. These were converted to inches by January 1935. With this type of conversion, to permit engineers to work with more manageable figures, numbers will invariably be rounded off resulting in subtle dimensional changes. Thus, there is no guarantee that you can take metric components and successfully, or safely, install them on an inch-equivalent receiver.

We were able to install the following ZBvz39 components on our MkI Bren receiver: the barrel assembly complete with its four-position gas regulator, the entire buttstock and trigger group, the piston/slide and bolt, magazine dust cover, spring-loaded magazine catch/release, ejector, the retracting handle assembly and the curved 25-round, staggered-column, detachable, box-type magazines. All of the reciprocating components move freely without binding and the bolt appears to lock in battery. Breech-locking in these guns is accomplished by a tilting block system in which the rear end of the bolt body is lifted by a post on the bolt carrier (or slide) into a locking recess in the top of the receiver. A locking shoulder in the recess, against which the bolt abuts, was available in several sizes. Held in place by a screw and then staked, I do not know if the locking shoulder in my (or your) MkI Bren receiver interfaces properly with the ZBvz39 8x56Rmm



bolt. I was not so bold as to test this with live firing. I cannot recommend anyone else does either, unless the battery lock-up is measured with the proper gages. This conversion may very well be possible, but approach such a project with great discretion.

The ZBvz39 barrel locking nut was installed only with difficulty and the use of a dead-fall hammer. We could not install either the bipod or the rear sight. The latter component does not mate with the rear most dovetail on the MkI Bren receiver.

The complete ZBvz39 parts kit, complete with one magazine, costs \$495. A dummy gun made using one of the parts kits sells for \$595. Other available accessories include: the transit chest (\$90); spare barrel (\$125); 25-round magazine (\$20); gunner's kit (partially complete, \$175; 95% complete \$475); anti-aircraft sight of the ZBvz26 type which, however, is attached by means of wrist-type mount onto a fixed locator boss at the very rear of the receiver (\$495); canvas cover (\$50); sling (\$25); small magazine pouch (\$10) and large magazine pouch (\$25). The magazines, which accept 7.62x54R cartridges, may be adaptable to the Dragunov and Tokarev rifles. All of the parts are in excellent condition. Allegheny Arsenal also has imported German MG34 parts kits and accessories in really fine condition.

The ZBvz39 is a fascinating and previously unknown aspect of the ZB/Bren LMG story. But, please don't just slap the parts kit on a Bren receiver and start blazing away. Anyone who does so is a dummy, and I will not respond to phone calls or mail from hysterical dummies in high whine.

More or less in this same area of historical interest, Peter Laidler (2 Anson Close, MARCHAM, ABINGDON, Oxfordshire, OX13 6QF, England) is in the throes of writing a complete history of the Bren Gun and is requesting information from *SOF* readers who own Bren Guns, especially those chambered for the .303 British round. He needs to know the serial number (complete with letter prefix), the mark of the gun, the manufacture code and the year of manufacture. In addition, those who own Brens in the extremely rare transitional period between the MkI and MkIM, which is the serial number range from C5000 to E9999, should hopefully be able to provide more specialized information about their specimen. While Laidler has thousands of L4 series 7.62x51mm NATO Bren Guns he can examine, no more than a few hundred original .303 Brens still exist in jolly old, completely anti-gun, England.

Laidler is the author of *The Guns from Dagenham*, which is the story of the Sterling submachine gun and the soon to be published *The Sten Machine Carbine*. All of these important volumes are, or will soon be, available from Collector Grade Publications (P.O. Box 1046, Cobourg, Ont K9A 4W5, Canada; phone: 905-342-3434; fax: 905-342-3688; e-mail: info@collector-grade.com). Look also for a revised and enlarged edition of Thomas B. Dugelby's highly regarded *The Bren Gun Saga*, from Collector Grade Publications. ✕

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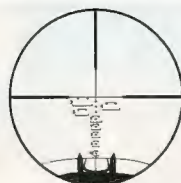


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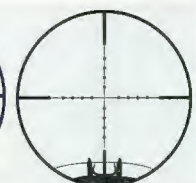
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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Drug war: The war on drugs has boosted the number of U.S. women in state prisons for drug crimes to 23,700 in 1996, says new study by the Sentencing Project. That's nearly 10 times the total of all men and women incarcerated for such offenses 10 years earlier. Prison industry: New categories of crime and intensified enforcement of existing statutes has resulted in an increase in non-drug incarceration from 17,200 in 1986, to 39,000 in 1996, the latest year reliable data was available for the study. **Clinton's soldiers pay:** Army demotes highly decorated general to colonel after hearing found that he had affairs with subordinates' wives. Major General John J. Maher, III also will retire from a 29-year career at a reduced pension.

2

RUSSIA

Missile tests: Before leaving for a 54-nation security conference in Turkey, Russian Prime Minister Boris Yeltsin signed a draft law approving a global nuclear test-ban treaty. As he was signing the draft, his Navy was busily conducting tests of submarine-launched missiles. **Chechnya:** Clinton confronts Yeltsin about U.S. objections to war in Chechnya, despite warnings to Clinton from Moscow. • Russian airstrikes in Chechnya kill at least 25, including two Red Cross workers, in a clearly marked refugee convoy west of Grozny. Moscow called refugee convoy a "rebel convoy." • Escape routes south of capital remain under fire. Shelling of towns near Grozny increase possible preparation for assault on the Chechen capital.

5

INDONESIA

Aceh independence: An Aceh independence vote may be held soon, President Wahid says. Media report that many non-Acehnese are making preparations to flee the restive province in north Sumatra. Jakarta inquiry found troops killed 54 civilians, not rebels, in July 1999 incident in Aceh. **East Timor retreat:** Last of Indonesian troops leave East Timor, ending a 24-year occupation of the Portuguese ex-colony.

6

CUBA

Long live the Commies: Castro fought Spanish criticism during Latin American summit in Havana, vowing never to abandon communism. The meeting, which spotlights human rights, featured the first visit to Cuba by a Spanish king.

1

14

6

10

12

9

PAKISTAN

Mass arrests: Government arrested hundreds of politicians and industrialists accused of graft. Arrests began hours after a deadline expired for debtors to repay their loans. They also followed enactment of an anti-corruption law that provides for prison terms of up to 14 years and bars politicians found guilty of graft or of defaulting on loans from holding offices for 21 years. It fulfills a vow made by Gen. Musharraf, the military leader, when he threw out the elected government on 12 Oct. **Execution looming?** Ousted Premier Sharif charged with crimes that could lead to his execution.

10

VENEZUELA

Power grab: Leader Chavez further undermines nation's Congress, refusing to submit his budget for approval. Rather than submit, he turned to a special assembly that is set up to adopt a draft constitution vastly increasing his powers.

13

JAPAN

Western fish invasion: Western culture in Japan is beginning to smell. Among the biggest threats today for the Imperial Palace are fish, both dead and alive. It seems North American bluegill and largemouth bass have invaded eight of the royal castle's 13 moats, threatening to kill off all native Japanese species of fish in the water. Japanese officials take the problem serious, saying it symbolizes too much Western influence in Japan.

14

MEXICO

U.S. taxes: The U.S. and Mexico reached an interim agreement on the taxation of U.S.-owned assembly plants, or *maquiladoras*, operating in Mexico. The pact eliminates potential double taxation because of Mexico's willingness to abandon efforts to calculate taxable income from the earnings of *maquiladora* establishments.

3

CHINA

Tiananmen Square: Police arrest 20 *Falun Dafa* members who unfurled a banner on Tiananmen Square during a visit by the U.N. Secretary-general. Beijing officials explained their crackdown on the banned spiritual sect to Annan, who said he now has a better understanding of issues involved. **U.S./China:** Top U.S. Pentagon official visits Beijing to discuss resumption of U.S.-China military ties. Ties were severed after U.S. planes bombed China's Serbia embassy 7 May, during the Kosovo air war. **Super-powered economy?** Supreme leader Jiang Zemin's son, Jiang Miianheng, is quietly building grand telecommunications system experts say may turn China into the most interconnected economy on earth. Extended phone calls to New York, under proposed system, would cost the equivalent of pocket change in U.S. currency.

4

TURKEY

Bypassing bullies: Heads of three governments in the Caspian Sea region — Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey — signed pact to build Caspian oil pipeline. Little oil has been found to substantiate viability of the \$4-billion project. Pipeline is said to have substantial geopolitical ramifications, if it works, because it would provide an outlet of oil from Azerbaijan, through Georgia and Turkey, while avoiding Russia and Iran. The United States has lobbied hard for the pipeline, as a way to reduce the dependence of Caspian states on Russia and Iran. **Viewing the carnage:** Clinton visits tent camp for survivors of earthquakes that killed more than 17,000.

7

ANGOLA

The Savimbi scamper: Government claims its troops have United leader, Jonas Savimbi, on the run after his main highland bases were taken over. Luanda says the rebel leader's capture is imminent, but the claim can't be verified.

8

IRELAND

Catholics & Prots: The IRA agreed to name a representative to a disarmament commission after a new power-sharing government for Northern Ireland is set up. The statement is the last part of an emerging deal to salvage the Good Friday peace accord. It drew a cautious welcome from the biggest Protestant party.

12

COLOMBIA

Serial killer: About 140 Colombian children were killed over five years by a drifter who confessed last week to using disguises and fits to gain trust. The suspect, Luis Alfredo Garavito, would become the worst serial killer in history if convicted.

11

GERMANY

Slave compensation: Negotiators say agreement closer than ever for Nazi-era forced laborers compensation fund. Faced with potential class-action suits, Germany's biggest companies are trying to set up a fund for slave laborers and other victims never included in previous German restitution programs. In return, industry representatives want lasting protection from U.S. lawsuits and regulatory sanctions.

15

ARMENIA

Parliament seizure: Armenian Parliament seized by gunmen who killed Prime Minister Sarkisian and at least six others, took hostages and demanded to meet with President Kocharian. Gunmen, one of whom was said to be extreme nationalist, said they were staging a *coup*.

16

KOSOVO

Unrest continues: Kosovo Albanians attacked a NATO-escorted convoy of Serbs trying to leave the province, setting several vehicles ablaze and dragging people off trucks. Several Serbs were missing after the incident in Pec.

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

BULLETIN BOARD



C. Boyles

Race With The Devil

When Bob Brown goes off on one of his esoteric and arcane adventures, he rarely goes alone. He almost always gets some other poor soul involved in whatever madness he's hatched this time.

Brown's trip to St. Petersburg, Fla., in September, to race with Southern Thunder was no exception. The hapless recruit was Tim Abell, erstwhile star of the *Soldier Of Fortune* TV show. "When Bob first called me, at first I wasn't sure what it was," he says. "He said, 'How would you like to go to driving school with me? It's a race car kind of thing.'"

Then a staff member from the *Soldier Of Fortune* office called him and told him the entire story. He and Brown were going to Florida to race Southern Thunder race trucks at Sunshine Speedway, in St. Petersburg, in advance of an *SOF* competitive race in February 2000. Abell says the experience was a lot more than he anticipated: "I expected to be driving some kind of a cheap car that would go about 50 miles an hour, or some kind of training vehicle," he says. "I was really blown away that we got to drive the *real* race trucks. When I stepped on the gas, wow!"

No one rode with either Brown or Abell. The pit crew talked to them on helmet-mounted radios, but when they got into trouble — and both of them did — they had to straighten things out on their own. Coming out of a turn, Abell spun out and wound up looking back the way he had come: "When I spun out and almost hit the wall, I was amazed that they weren't concerned about it. I thought the guys would come on the radio and bust my balls about it. Instead, the guy was laughing and saying, 'Hey, good move! Now slow it down a little bit in the corner and try it again.'"

This September race between Brown and Abell was the preliminary event to a full *SOF* race in February. Readers are invited to come to St. Petersburg and try their skill at dancing with Southern Thunder against the two of them. You'll be driving the full Monty: real race trucks on a real race track, no ride-alongs — but genuine seat time. Whether you stay on the track and make it through the course, or spin out and pile up on the wall, is up to you.

Would Abell do it again?

"Oh, hell yes!" he says. "I'll be back for the race in February if I possibly can. I wouldn't miss it for the world."

For more information about the *SOF*/Southern Thunder race on

28 February 2000, call Phalanx Outdoor Adventures at 813-831-1944 or 800-329-2254; or contact them at phalanxoutdoors@prodigy.net .

— Carolee Boyles

19 Delta ... A Tankless Job?

In the current world scenario where U.S. forces can get a 911 call for rapid deployment to virtually any theater, speed counts heavily — and weight does not often equate to speed. Thus the Army's new Chief of Staff, General Eric Shinseki, has unveiled his vision of a rapidly deployable "medium weight" army without tanks as we know them: Shinseki proposes to replace the 70-ton M1-series Abrams with lighter, all-wheeled vehicles.

If implemented, this could be a watershed decision, especially in light of former-Soviet countries' fielding of advanced T80 and T90 tanks, and Russian development of the Black Eagle, a seriously armored tank that will mount a 138mm main gun. Plans call for the concept to be initiated this fiscal year by converting selected heavy brigades from Ft. Lewis to the medium-weight configuration. With no further TO&E, heavier tracked vehicles could be phased out of service during the next 10-20 years. It is not known what would be the fate of current developmental programs for new tanks and self-propelled guns.

Shinseki is counting on technology to come to the fore to validate this vision. He told the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army that, "We will seek technological solutions ... We want the best technologies that will provide survivability through low-observability, ballistic protection, long-range acquisition, deep targeting, early attack, and first-round kill at smaller-caliber solutions." The goal is to be able to deploy a combat-ready brigade anywhere in the world in 96 hours, with the rest of its division on site within another 24 hours, and five divisions within 30 days. Since its announcement, Shinseki's concept has met with mixed reviews from armored troops. Although intrigued with the ability to deploy rapidly, many reservations have been expressed about the ability of such a "medium" unit to duke it out with the enemy once swiftly deployed in wheeled vehicles. In an interview with *Army Times*, Major Eric Schwartz, XO of 1st Bn, 68th Armor Regiment, from Ft. Carson, Colo., noted "I just hope we are not giving up lethality for speed. Eventually you have to close with and kill the enemy. I see no better weapons platform than the M1 to do that."

PLA Officials Urge "Dirty War" Against U.S.

A series of books recently published in China advocate the use of terrorism, germ and chemical warfare, environmental attacks and computer viruses against Western public infrastructure and financial institutions as a means of winning a future war against the West. Senior PLA officials are openly urging Beijing to abandon conventional strategies and prepare for a "dirty war" because China cannot match the technological might of the West. One such book written by two PLA Air Force colonels lists 24 types of dirty war that could be used to bring America and her Western Allies down.

Author of another book, Col. Qiao Liang, justified such dirty strategies in a full-page newspaper article, saying that "All strong countries make rules, while all rising ones break them and exploit loopholes. Barbarians always rise by breaking the rules of civilized and developed countries, which is what human history is all about."

These various blueprints for dirty war urge the infiltration of Chinese Army personnel into Western banks and the public sector,

where they would be in a position to bring down the pillars of Western society — pinpointing the global economy as the weak point for attack. A recent article proposed China dedicate \$100 billion as a weapon to disrupt the West's economic system. Authors of a book *Unrestricted War* note that such a no-holds-barred war "surpasses all boundaries and restrictions. It takes nonmilitary forms and military forms and creates a war on many fronts. It is the war of the future." One passage of this book criticizes Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic for not exploiting fully the use of hostages as human shields to inhibit missile attacks by the United States.

Such books and periodical articles have been widely disseminated. The *China Youth Daily* said, "Westerners enjoy a high level of civilization and will think the measures indecent, however, no one will be merciful when war breaks out. A poor country will risk a great deal when fighting against a strong country face-to-face, so the strategy of 'unrestricted war' is relatively humanitarian."

Navy Promotes Lt. Daly

A Navy special selection board has promoted Lt. Jack Daly to Lieutenant Commander, reversing an earlier decision and finding that Daly was a victim of "reprisal" (see "In The Blink of An Eye," Dec. '99). Daly and a Canadian counterpart suffered serious eye damage from a Russian laser aboard the spy ship *Kapitan Man* in Puget Sound, and Daly had charged the U.S. ignored the situation because no one wanted to upset diplomatic relations with Russia.

"The laser threat to our air crews remains and hasn't gone away," Daly said, "and the issue of the Russians conducting espionage activities in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere continues with impunity."

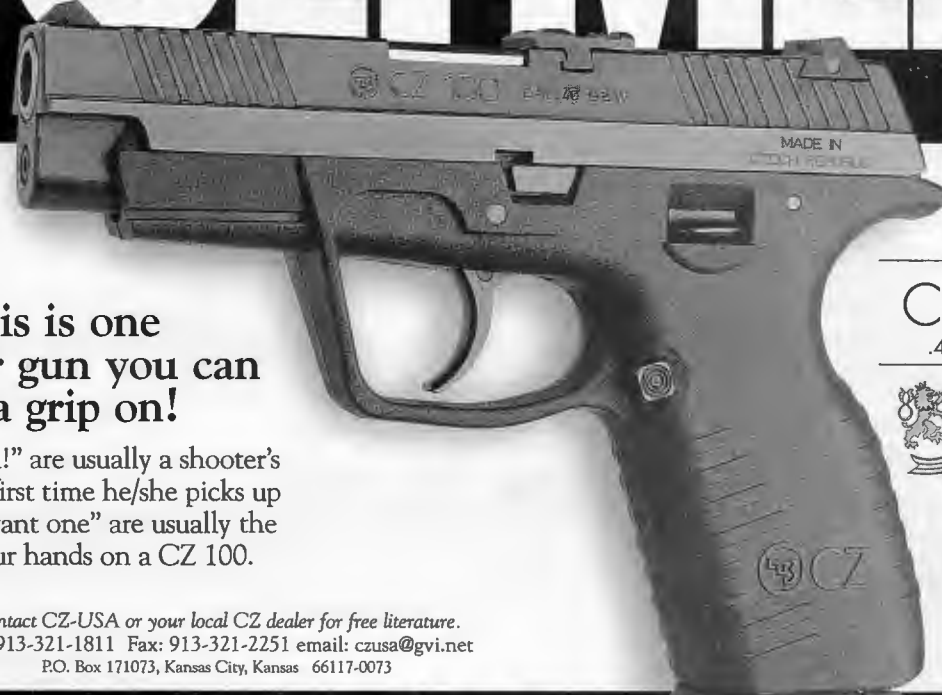
Help the Persecuted

Paul Behrends is a friend of *SOF*, involved indirectly in several



overseas projects. A Marine reserve officer, he was on active duty as deputy operations officer of JTF Provide Promise, which ran a Balkan hospital "for the UN guys who stepped on mines." Spending seven years as foreign policy adviser to Congressman Rohrabacher (R.-CA), he is now chairman of Christian Freedom International (CFI), a non-profit bringing relief to interdenominational Christians and others suffering persecution: medical and other practical help, and advocacy via documenting atrocities and informing Congress and the media. CFI is supporting jungle hospitals and backpack medics for Karens inside Burma, and supporting practical training and other help to embattled Christians and animist freedom fighters in Sudan. CFI's frontline mission is worthy of your support. All contributions are tax-deductible. Make checks to: Christian Freedom International, Box 16387, Washington, D.C. 20041-6367. CFI's information hotline is 800-323-2273; detailed information on the web at: www.christianfreedom.org.

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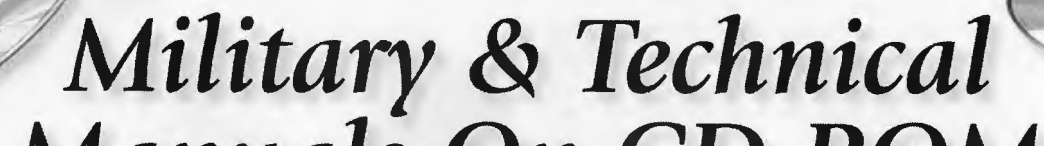
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Omega PROVEN Ground

Olympic Arms .300 Winchester Magnum

Olympic Arms (Dept. SOF, 624 Old Pacific Highway, Olympia, WA 98513; phone: 360-923-4303) donated to the Navajo Police, one of their fine lightweight tactical rifles chambered for the .300 Winchester Magnum cartridge. The .300 Win Mag has long been considered a fine long-range, bench-rest cartridge and the Army and Navy both have sniper rifles chambered in that caliber. Nearly all special operations units are investing in new .300 Magnums. Unfortunately, this fine cartridge has been passed over by most law enforcement agencies at the same time it has been put into wider military use. The primary difficulty cited is over penetration in most law enforcement scenarios, which are short range. The recoil of the .300 Win Mag also requires more marksmanship training to achieve precision proficiency than does the .308 Winchester.



But the Navajo reservation is mostly wide-open, long-range country. That is the kind of terrain where the .300 Win Mag is at its very best. You can see almost forever in the San Juan basin country. But remembering Murphy, if you can see your adversary he can certainly see you. The Navajo Police tactical teams are often called upon to search among the sagebrush of the high desert or the boulders and crevasses of the red rock canyons. Trying to provide sniper cover for that kind of operation requires a flat trajectory and good terminal ballistics out to distances that could be as far as 600 to 800 yards. The heavier and faster .300 Win Mag bullet will handle that kind of situation quite adequately out to 1,000 yards and will be more stable in all conditions.

Five days into a manhunt, cop killer Robert Mason fortified himself behind a hastily built defensive berm that had clear firing lanes in several directions as well as the ability to see for a considerable distance. When a San Juan County Utah Deputy appeared on a bluff about 300 yards distant and 50 feet above Mason's position, the fugitive shot him twice. Resting a scoped FN FAL on the berm



Mason put one Winchester 150-grain .308 Fail Safe in the deputy's shoulder and another in the back when he turned to run for his patrol unit. Fortunately, the Fail Safe failed to expand at that distance.

After the shooting the FBI sent an agent around to local firearms instructors asking if they knew who had taught Mason precision shooting. But it really wasn't shooting anymore precise than what your average military recruit learns in basic training or what your average deer hunter ought to be capable of before getting a hunting license. If Mason had been a better precision shooter, the deputy would likely have gotten himself counterpunched.

Had Mason decided to make a fight of it instead of committing suicide it would have become necessary to engage him from a distance beyond the easy reach of the FN FAL. A .300 Win Mag tactical rifle like Olympic Arms model with the Burris Signature 4-16X Mildot scope would have allowed police marksmen to more safely deal with the problem.

There is a number of bolt-action receivers available on the market that do not require extensive machining to produce benchrest accuracy. One of those actions is the L691 Sako, which is what Olympic Arms used to build the Navajo Police precision tactical rifle. According to Olympic, very little has to be done to true up the Sako receiver: They are precise in almost all areas as they come from the factory. Olympic Arms gunsmith Steve Houseman said they always face off the receiver as a matter of course, lap the bolt lugs and check all other surfaces, but the Sakos require little else.

The Sako receiver was mated with an Olympic Arms #2 contour

fluted stainless barrel. Olympic makes their own barrels using 416 stainless blanks which they broach cut. The barrel used on the Navajo Police .300 Win Mag has four-groove rifling with a one turn in 10-inches twist. Olympic also makes their own chambering reamers and they cut minimum tolerances, SAAMI spec, match chambers using a 2-degree lead-in for the throating. That twist and lead-in provide wide latitude in bullet choice.

The barreled action was set into an H&S Precision aluminum bedding block stock. The bedding block was skim bedded from the rear tang to about an inch up the barrel. The rest of the barrel was free floated and the Sako trigger was set to break crisply at 2.5 pounds.

Using Black Hills .300 Win Mag SEAL-type ammunition, the light contour barreled Olympic Arms rifle with the Burris 4-14X scope, put five rounds in .667 inches at 250 meters (273 yards) during initial factory testing. That's about .25 MOA. The ammunition, which is the same used by Olympic Arms and other makers of .300 Win Mag sniper rifles is loaded with moly coated 190-grain Sierra BTHPs in Norma cases. It is also the basic load used by U.S. Navy SEAL teams in their sniper rifles. The main difference is the overall length. The SEAL load uses an overall length which puts the bullet ogive just off the lands, whereby the Black Hills load is SAAMI-spec overall length.

Both the SEAL team loads and the Black Hills load develop 2,950 fps at the muzzle in a 26-inch barrel and 3,100 fps in a 28-inch barrel. That makes the .300 Win Mag every bit as hot as the .300 Weatherby.

—John Hogan

Burris Mildot Scopes

Soldier Of Fortune magazine and the Burris Co. (Dept. SOF, 331 East 8th St., Greeley, CO 80631; phone: 970-356-1670) provided the Navajo Police with 4-16X Signature Series scope which Olympic Arms mounted on a .300 Win Mag tactical rifle.

The scope features a 44mm objective, which is good for light management but not a pain to mount like a 50mm. The high mounts required by 50mm objectives makes a proper cheek weld difficult and forces a shooter to hold their head higher than what comes natural in a tactical situation.

Those are the reasons the Marines did not choose a 50mm objective when they were designing the requirements for sniper scopes.

Another innovative light management feature of the higher powered Burris Signature Series scopes, is an adjustable aperture that allows you to control how much light is entering the scope. When the sun is bright enough to cause glare you simply close the aperture. At dawn and dusk you open it up for maximum brightness and contrast.

Since Burris was late to enter the tactical rifle market with a suitable scope, that company's fine instruments are not yet widely used in law enforcement applications. That will probably change and more Burris scopes are mounted on law enforcement weapons. No one uses better lenses than Burris and the internal component parts of their scopes are over engineered specifically to hold zero no matter what. Not only does Burris build heavy-duty scopes with great

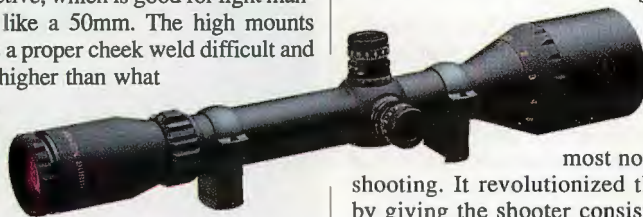
optical qualities; they are now building them with what may be the very best mildot reticles.

Burris offers four scopes with mildot reticles. Most of the mildot reticles currently used by scope manufacturers are barely recognizable as such. Not so with the Burris mildots. They are perfectly shaped ovals uniformly .25 mils in length. They are spaced .75 mils apart between the ovals and it measures 1.0 mils from the center of one oval to the center of the next.

The mildot reticle is one of the most notable developments in the history of shooting. It revolutionized the meaning of precision rifle work by giving the shooter consistent reference marks to use as aiming points and as an aid in estimating distance. Unlike most of the bullet drop compensating reticles on the market, the mildot is not limited to specific ballistic coefficients and velocities. It works equally well with any bullet and velocity because the dots on the reticle mark miliradians. One mil equals approximately 36 inches at 1,000 yards.

According to Major Dick Culver, USMC (Ret.), former commanding officer of the Marine Corps Sniper School and one of the three inventors of the mildot reticle, the mildot concept was intended to allow Marine snipers to quickly engage targets at various ranges by holding exactly over or under instead of diddling with knobs moving the crosshair up and down.

For example, if a 7.62x51mm NATO caliber sniper rifle is zeroed



at 600 yards, holding exactly 5 mils above the reticle center, will put the rifle dead on at 900 yards. The alternative would be changing the elevation knob down 16.9 MOA for 100 yard targets and up 17.5 MOA for 900 yard targets. Needless to say, losing click count under pressure or improper knob diddling could put your zero into confusion.

The same principles apply when using horizontal mildots to compensate for wind or to lead a moving target. Of course mildots can also be used for range estimation, but faster more certain methods like the RCA laser range finding binoculars, have long been available to Marine snipers.

The mildot was derived from artillery principles. Both Culver and Lieutenant Colonel Jack Cuddy, the current Sniper School CO, had spent time as artillery officers. Working with the late Carlos Hathcock, arguably one of the greatest snipers in history, they came

up with the mildot system which was initially only used in the exclusive USMC-issue Unertl sniper scope.

As the group fired from the Olympic Arms .300 Win Mag on the test target at 250 meters indicates, the Burris Signature tactical mildot is a precise instrument. But testing it on a much harder recoiling .375 H&H Magnum proved to *SOF* that the Burris scope can take abuse that others can't. Unlike some of the higher priced scopes on the market, there is nothing delicate about the Burris erector system. How well the erector system works in a scope is the measure of repeatable accuracy.

The Burris Signature proved to be built extra stout. The exact same .375 H&H treatment using the same rifle and loads, sent a competing scope back to the shop not once — but twice — for replacement of the entire erector assembly. — *John Hogan*

The Bush Pilot's Expedition Case

The old advice to new entrepreneurs “find a need and fill it” is gem with many facets: First one has to recognize a genuine need. And understand what it *really takes* to do the job. Then, to be more than the *caffee-cup-and-campfire* millionaire who says “you know, somebody ought to ...” Then — and this is the pivotal part — have the moxie to create and manufacture a product that is as good as it can be, that answers the need in every regard.

The archetype of this ideal need+response scenario well might be Bob and Babette Robertson of Bear Track Cases up in Wyoming. Bob is a seasoned Alaska bush-pilot and guide, spending many years loading client's gear in an out of his plane — and noticing what gave out and risked his client's rifles or cameras, and should have been made different and/or stronger. The need was there.

Bob's answer was to re-engineer the common hard-side rifle/pistol/camera cases. He started with the heaviest aluminum sheet in the business. Then he selected industrial hinges/hasps/clasps and handles — no “luggage” stuff on Bear Track Cases. Then he redesigned how the cases are put together: He saw far too many aluminum cases with welded corders break at the weld, so Bear Track cases are *formed and lapped* at the corners, so there is not only no weld to break, but the heavier-gauge aluminum he uses is doubled-up where the stress is. We tested one of his pistol cases a while back and concluded it was the strongest on the market. It had a no-nonsense esthetic and a practical bead-

blasted finish, and was lockable with a serious padlock, not one of those placebo locks they try to sell you at airport luggage shops.

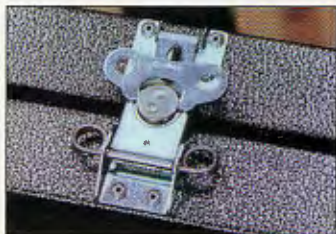
This time we tested their two-scoped-rifle case, and the best has gotten even further ahead of their pack of thin-fiberglass or stamped-out-tin competitors. This is serious gear you can confidently and safely use to protect and carry your most valued hunting rifles. Why anybody would ever put fine, thousand-dollar rifles in \$19.95 plastic cases is beyond me, when the Bear Track Two-Scoped Rifle case (52x15x4.5”) is only \$255 and guaranteed for as long as you own it.

The Robertson's have also added some more options, in the form of very attractive and super-durable powder coatings (the esthetic is now less Bradley IFV and more Boeing 737), black ballistic nylon covers with shoulder straps, and other niceties. Of course, options have always been a hallmark of Bear Track cases, as from the git-go they have specialized in custom cases or modifications exactly to the customers' specs.

The stock line is very comprehensive, including off-the-shelf double or single-rifles cases, folding shotgun cases, single- or double-layer pistol cases — even a .50 rifle case and a two-gun safari case. What ever you want, they'll probably have on the shelf, and if not they can darn well make it to your specs, and at prices that represent a genuine bargain for what you get and what these fine cases will do. Your small arms, camera gear, precision instruments of all kinds will be better protected in a bear track case than anything else on the market.

For more information on their complete line, or their custom capabilities, contact: Bear Track Cases, 43 Dunham Road, Rolling Hills, WY 82637; phone: 307-436-2814 (or 888-754-0081); fax: 307-436-8181; e-mail: beartrack@coffey.com .

— *Don McLean* ✕



TITANIUM BULLS

Taurus' Ultra-Lite Guns Lead The Herd



TEXT & PHOTOS BY PETER G. KOKALIS

Within a period of just over a decade, polymer has almost completely taken over as the material of choice for semiautomatic pistol frames and other components. With good reason, as modern polymers are tough, durable and incredibly cost-effective. Now it looks like titanium is poised to take a dominant position in the manufacture of high-quality, double-action revolvers designed for concealed carry.

Smith & Wesson's AirLite Ti series of revolvers feature the use of titanium in the cylinder, firing pin and the center pin bushings and the frame studs. Taurus International (Dept. SOF, 16175 NW 49th Avenue, Miami, FL 33014-6314; phone: 305-624-1115; fax: 305-623-7506; web site: www.taurususa.com) has recently introduced the Taurus Total Titanium series of revolvers that moves significantly beyond S&W. Not only are

the cylinders and many small parts made of titanium alloy (containing vanadium and other metals), but the frames, yokes, barrel shrouds and side plates as well. Why titanium? Simply because it's amazingly strong, corrosion-proof and ultra lightweight.

Soldier Of Fortune was sent a specimen of a Model 450Ti Taurus Total Titanium revolver for test and evaluation. The finish I requested and received is matte Stealth Gray. Two other finishes are available: Spectrum Blue and Gold. In my opinion, neither will appeal to *SOF* readers. This is a proprietary process in which variations in temperature and electrical charge result in different colors. Matte and high-gloss finishes are achieved by the degree of polishing employed prior to processing. Be advised that the color is a thin layer of specially treated titanium that is subject to the same effects of wear and abrasion as bluing.

Cylinder-to-forcing-cone gap on our test specimen is 0.003-inch (0.003- to 0.008-inch is the generally accepted tolerance range). Fore-and-aft cylinder play is almost nonexistent and the lateral play is minimal. The cylinder holds five rounds, and rotation is to the left (counterclockwise) in the Smith & Wesson manner (Colt cylinders rotate to the right — clockwise). To insure that the cylinder remains in precise alignment within the frame at the moment of ignition, Taurus has installed a spring-loaded detent system to the top of the yoke on the Total Titanium series (and the Model 85Ti MultiAlloy .38 Special as well). This, in turn, has permitted them to extend the overall length of the ejector rod, providing more positive ejection of fired cases than most snubnose types. The cylinder latch together with its retaining screw are steel components, as are the hammer and trigger. Patterned after that of S&W, it must be pushed forward to swing out the cylinder.

The 2-inch stainless steel barrel (because titanium galls too much to be used for this purpose) is equipped with a titanium shroud. The importance of this must not be underestimated. Barrel shrouds on the S&W AirLite Ti series are made of aluminum.

Thus, they cannot be ported, as propellant gases would eat them away in short order. By using a titanium barrel shroud, Taurus designers were able to place three barrel ports on each side of front sight blade. As a consequence of this, and the unique grip panels, no ammunition restrictions have been placed on the Taurus Total Titanium revolvers. S&W has stipulated that only jacketed +P bullets can be fired from their AirLite Ti series, as lead projectiles, due to the severe recoil impulse, will jump forward and bind up the cylinder's rotation. This is a serious deficiency, in my opinion, since in several instances (such as the .38 Special "FBI" load with its 158-grain lead hollow-point bullet) unjacketed bullets furnish superior wound ballistics potential.

The barrel has six grooves with a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches, standard for this caliber. Overall length of the Model 450Ti from the muzzle to the tip of the grip is 8.5 inches, with a weight, empty, of only 19.2 ounces. The height is 5.5 inches and the width is 1.5 inches.

A guide-in-coil-type mainspring is set into the round-butt frame. The steel trigger is smooth, as it should be for double-action shooting. The single-action trigger-pull weight is an incredibly light 2.75 pounds. Double-action pull weight is also excellent

at 9.0 pounds with absolutely no loading at the end of the stroke.

Mounted in the frame, the floating firing pin must be struck by a transfer bar which, in turn, receives the hammer's full impact. Should the finger slip off the trigger while the hammer is falling forward, the transfer bar will drop downward, out of the hammer's path, and the firing pin will not be driven forward.

"Locked" And Loaded

All Taurus revolvers are now equipped with their excellent key-lock safety system. To deactivate the revolver, you must insert a key over a hexagonal-shaped pin at the rear of the hammer. Turning the key clockwise will raise the pin and its shroud to impinge against the frame if someone attempts to roll the hammer rearward. Turning the key counterclockwise will lower the pin and shroud and permit the hammer to be fully rotated to the rear. This is quite an innovative and effective system. However, no one in my loop will use it, as the most effective safety system of all remains Rule Three (Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target) and the intelligence and training to apply it.

The fixed sights on this revolver consist of a serrated ramp-type front blade, 0.125-



Taurus Total Titanium series sets the standard for the most comprehensive use of this exotic metal in a revolver. The Model 450Ti (above) Total Titanium caliber .45 Colt revolver features a titanium-alloy cylinder, frame, yoke, barrel shroud and side plate, along with many small parts. (left) The Taurus Model 85UL/TI MultiAlloy .38 Special revolver has a titanium-alloy forged barrel shroud and extruded cylinder, a high-tensile-strength stainless steel barrel, forged aluminum alloy frame and sideplate, and carbon steel hammer and trigger.

inch wide, and an open, square-notch rear sight, 0.130-inch in width, milled into the rear end of the top strap. They are more than adequate for the applications this handgun was designed to cover. The sight radius is 3.9 inches. Winchester's Personal Protection .45 Colt ammunition with its 225-grain Silvertip hollow-point bullet shoots directly to the point of aim at 7 yards.

The so-called "Ribber" one-piece grips installed on the Taurus Total Titanium series are another important factor in taming the not-inconsiderable recoil impulse generated by these lightweight revolvers. Full-length on each side of these black synthetic rubber grips are a series of ribs in horizontal alignment. On the front strap area these ribs protrude by as much as about 0.15-inch in the form of raised fins that collapse under recoil and then reconstitute. The grips come up under the trigger to protect the middle finger. All very innovative. The Ribber grips are retained by a 3mm allen-head screw threaded to the butt of the frame.

Like a young widow's grief, the recoil generated by the Taurus Model 450Ti is sharp, but of short duration. It should be of little consequence to anyone with a modicum of experience. The Ribber grips really absorb recoil. However, the flash signature generated by the six muzzle ports would be could be somewhat disconcerting in a low-light-level environment.

When fired offhand using a strong two-handed Weaver hold, slow-fire, double-action shooting will produce groups under 3 inches. Picking up the cadence will enlarge the group size — and this is as it should be. You should never attempt target accuracy in



(above) Five beans in the wheel: Both the Taurus Model 450Ti .45 Colt (left) and Model 85UL/Ti .38 Special (right) revolvers have five-shot cylinders. Spring-loaded detent system (at right) added to the top of the yoke on the Total Titanium series (and the Model 85Ti MultiAlloy .38 Special as well) permitted a longer ejector rod, providing more positive ejection of fired cases than most snubnose types.



stress environments. Placing all your shots within the approximately 8x12-inch area of the target's upper torso (commonly referred to as the "center of mass") with as much speed as practical is far more important than obtaining precisely aimed 1-inch groups.

This is a superb revolver, chambered for a magnificent, gunfight-proven, man-stop-

THE HISTORY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE .45 COLT CARTRIDGE

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

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

While commercial production of the .45 Schofield round was discontinued in about 1939, the .45 Colt cartridge, now 126 years old, continues to march straight into the millennium. It was, and remains, one of the most effective handgun cartridges ever developed. Throughout its long history, the most commonly encountered factory load was a 255-grain lead-alloy, round-nose bullet with a flat point (RNFP) that left the muzzle at approximately 860

fps. While that is not fast enough for today's ballistic speed freaks, the fact is that this round has done great execution and has never been found wanting as a man-stopper. Its large, heavy bullet makes a big hole and penetrates deeply enough to crush, cut and break through the human body's vital structures and organs. Remember, once we've obtained the required penetration, the bullet that makes the biggest hole will do the most damage.

The .45 caliber bullet certainly makes a big hole, but we can further enhance this characteristic if we employ a soft-point or hollow-point bullet that will reliably expand to no more than twice the original diameter. It's important to remember that if we drive a hollow-point at too high a velocity, it will inevitably overexpand and reduce the penetration to an unacceptable depth. It may also fragment to an undesirable extent. There's a correct velocity for every handgun bullet, and it's *never* the highest velocity possible.

The only factory hollow-point .45 Colt ammunition presently available provides excellent wound ballistics performance. Winchester's Personal Protection .45 Colt ammunition (#X45CSHP2) features a 225-grain Silvertip hollow-point bullet that leaves the muzzle at about 960 fps. In soft tissue it will usually expand to about .70 caliber with very little fragmentation and penetrate well beyond the minimum 12 inches desired by most authorities.

Today, bore diameters for .45 Colt barrels are usually 0.451-inch, which duplicates that of the .45 ACP. The SAAMI maximum average pressure for this cartridge is 14,000 psi. While the original factory load was 40 grains of black powder (granulation not specified) over a 250-grain lead projectile, this was eventually dropped to 35 grains (Frankford Arsenal used 30 grains) for safety reasons. Today, about 8 grains of Alliant Unique propellant will provide about 900 fps from a 5 1/2-inch barrel. — P.G.K.



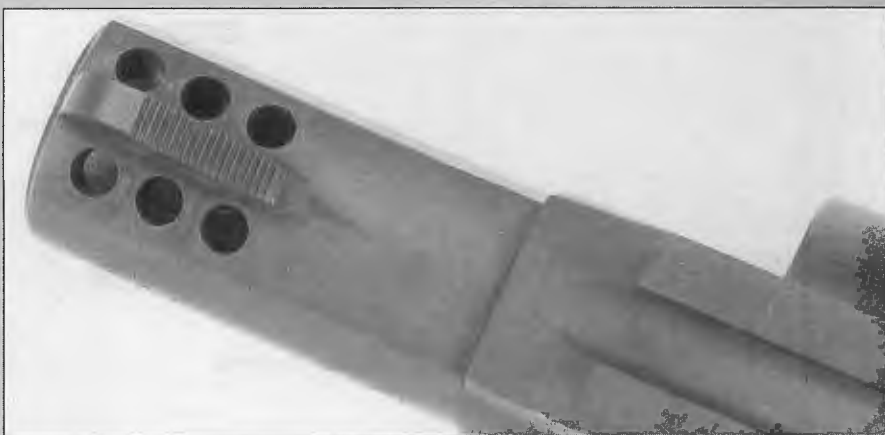
(above, right) By using a titanium barrel shroud, Taurus designers were able to place three barrel ports on each side of front sight blade. As a consequence of this, and the unique grip panels, no ammunition restrictions have been placed on the Taurus Total Titanium revolvers. (above) Taurus uses guide-in-coil-type mainsprings set into either round-butt or square-butt frames.

per cartridge. It has all the attributes a wheel-gun advocate could ever desire. The suggested retail price is \$599. The Total Titanium series is also available chambered for the .38 Special, .32 H&R Magnum, .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum (comes with 2.5-inch barrel), and .44 Special rounds.

Multi Metals

SOF was also sent one of the new Taurus Model 85UL/Ti (Ultra Lite/Titanium) MultiAlloy .38 Special snubnose revolvers for test and evaluation. This slick little 2-inch snubnose features a forged barrel shroud and extruded cylinder, both made from a titanium alloy; a high-tensile-strength stainless steel barrel; forged aluminum alloy frame and sideplate; and carbon steel hammer and trigger. Can there be any question as to why Taurus refers to this as a "MultiAlloy" revolver?

The six-groove bore has a right-hand twist of one turn in 18.75 inches. The height of this revolver is 4 5/8 inches, with a width of 1.25 inches. Overall length is 7 1/4 inches. The weight empty is 13.5 ounces. The two-piece grip panels on the Taurus Model



.38 SPECIAL: 100 YEARS AND MORE SPECIAL THAN EVER

Development of what was to become the .38 Special cartridge commenced a century ago. During the Philippines Campaign, which began in February 1899, the .38 Long Colt cartridge used by the U.S. Army failed to stop the Moros led by Filipino Emilio Aguinaldo. That the Moros were more often than not sky-high on drugs was of no consequence to those looking to lay blame for the guerrilla warfare that cost far more money and took far more lives than the Spanish-American War. The insurrection essentially ended in 1901 with the capture of Aguinaldo by General Frederick Funston. It's highly doubtful that any handgun round could have guaranteed consistent stopping power against "true believers" under the influence of strong drugs.

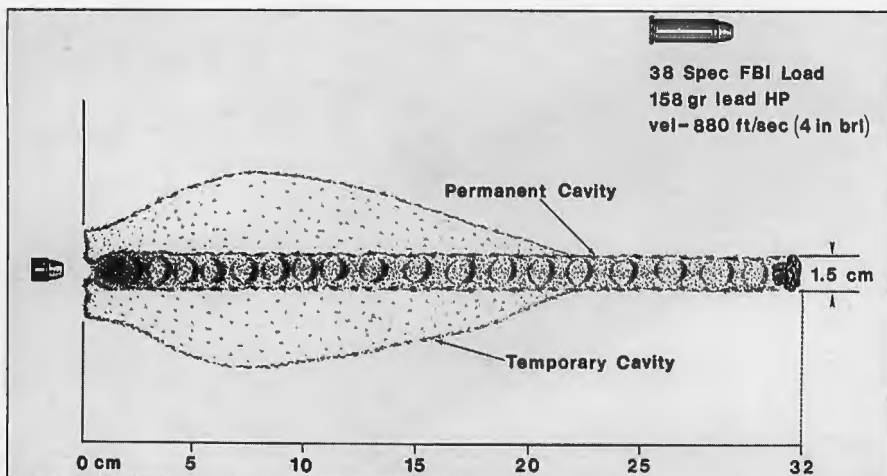
With the thought that he might convince the U.S. Army to adopt an improved .38 caliber round, Daniel B. Wesson designed the .38 Smith & Wesson Special cartridge. It contained 3.5 more grains of black powder (from 18 grains to 21.5 grains) than the .38 Long Colt and increased the projectile weight by 8 grains (from 150 grains to 158 grains) because of its flat base bullet. The increased bullet weight was made possible because the relation between the bullet and groove diameters was held to a much closer tolerance, making the previously required expansion of the bullet's skirt on firing unnecessary.

This was, however, to no avail as by this time the U.S. Army became locked into a .45 caliber round for its future handguns. Toward the end of 1899, the .38 Smith & Wesson Special cartridge, together with the new S&W Military & Police revolver, were introduced to the public. Subsequently, what became known as simply the .38 Special was adopted by almost every police department in the United States. It remained the premier law enforcement handgun cartridge until the 1970s when the .357 Magnum began to replace it as a service round. By the 1980s the revolver itself was replaced in department after department by large-capacity, large-frame, 9mm Parabellum service sidearms.

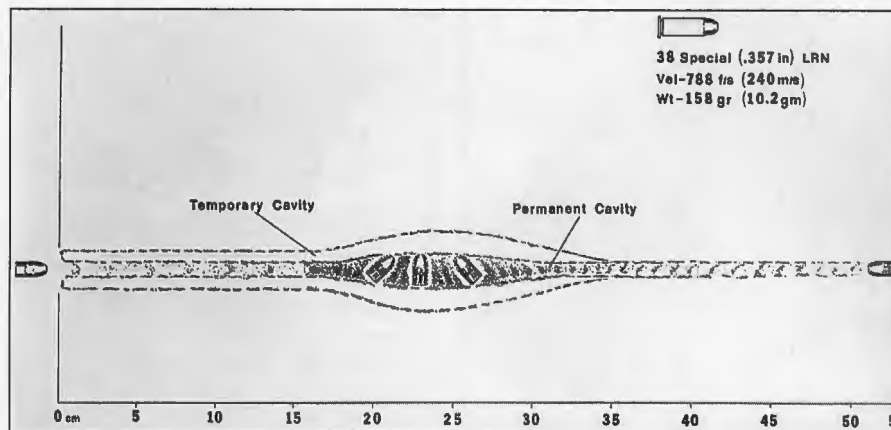
In 1930 Smith & Wesson introduced their .38/44 revolver — a heavy-duty .38 on a their .44 frame. The was a result of experimentation by Elmer Keith and research by Major Earl Witsil, Chief Ballistician of Remington Arms Company. During its law enforcement heyday, the 158-grain roundnose lead bullet was the most commonly employed projectile. It was a poor performer in soft tissue. Frequently, this bullet will yaw 180 degrees in living tissue and end its travel in the body base forward. It does not expand, and since it most often will travel almost 21 inches in soft tissue the problem of exiting the target and hitting an innocent bystander is ever present. The 200-grain roundnose was no better.

The .38 Special's wound ballistics potential began to improve with the development of expanding hollow-point ammunition. At first, these bullets were driven at such high velocities that they invariably overexpanded and thus underpenetrated. However, in recent years bullet designers have heeded the advice of Dr. Martin L. Fackler, who conducted his early research at the U.S. Army's Wound Ballistics Laboratory at the Presidio, and are now producing bullets that reliably expand to no more than twice their original diameters at moderate velocities up to +P velocities. The very best .38 Special ammunition you can stuff into the cylinder of your Taurus 85UL/Ti MultiAlloy is Federal's so-called "FBI Load." This features a 158-grain, lead, hollow-point bullet with a muzzle velocity of 880 fps from a 4-inch barrel. This bullet will reliably expand to .59 caliber, at this velocity and somewhat less, and penetrate almost 13 inches of soft tissue. This is just the performance we are looking for. And remember, you can shoot this lead +P load in the Taurus 85UL/Ti but you cannot in the S&W Model 337 AirLite Ti revolver.

—P.G.K.



(above) The .38 Special "FBI Load" has a 158-grain, lead, hollow-point bullet with a muzzle velocity of 880 fps from a 4-inch barrel. This bullet will reliably expand to .59 caliber, at this velocity and somewhat less, and penetrate almost 13 inches of soft tissue. (right) The .38 Special 158-grain, roundnose, lead bullet is a poor performer in soft tissue. Frequently this bullet will yaw 180 degrees in living tissue and end its travel in the body base forward. It does not expand, and since it most often will travel almost 21 inches in soft tissue, the problem of exiting the target and hitting an innocent bystander is ever present.



85UL/Ti MultiAlloy revolver are made of black Santoprene, a rubber-like synthetic. They also come up under the trigger to protect the middle finger. The sights are those of the Taurus 450Ti Total Titanium revolver, except that the sight radius at 3.7 inches is slightly less.

The cylinder holds five rounds. The cylinder-to-forcing-cone gap on this revolver is 0.004-inch. Again, the fore-and-aft cylinder play is almost nonexistent and the lateral play is minimal.

The guide-in-coil-type mainspring and transfer-bar trigger system are those of the Total Titanium series and the other Taurus revolvers. The double-action trigger-pull weight was measured at 9.75 pounds using dead weights. The single-action pull weight

TITANIUM WHAT IS IT AND WHY USE IT?

Titanium is a lustrous, silver-white, metallic element in Group IV B of the Periodic Table. Titanium (symbol: Ti) has an atomic number of 22 and an atomic weight of 47.90 with a melting point of 1,800 degrees C.

Its principal sources are the minerals Ilmenite and Rutile. Ilmenite is titaniferous iron ore found as beds and lenticular bodies enveloped in gneiss and other crystalline metamorphic rocks. Rutile, a titanium dioxide, is found in granite, granite pegmatites, gneiss, mica schist, metamorphic limestone, and dolomite.

Titanium's chemistry shows similarities to that of both zirconium and silicon. Its various compounds have a wide range of commercial importance. Titanium dioxide is used as a white paint pigment. Barium titanite is piezoelectric and is used as a sound and electrical transducer. Titanium tetrachloride is used for smoke screens and in skywriting. Titanium esters are employed as waterproofing chemicals for fabrics.

Because of its high strength-to-weight ratio titanium metal has been long-

favored in the aerospace industry for the construction of both frames and engines. These properties of both light mass with correspondingly very high tensile strength, even at high temperatures, are what attracted the Taurus designers. Furthermore, titanium has a much higher "modulus of elasticity" (the property of returning to an initial state without rupture after deformation) than steel — an important property because of the sudden and very high pressure peaks associated with the ignition of small arms ammunition. And, rightly or wrongly, those who carry concealed weaponry most often desire as light a handgun as possible.

However, although it's one of the earth's most common elements, titanium is difficult to refine. Titanium metal cannot be produced by the usual dioxide reduction method, as it reacts with both oxygen and nitrogen at high temperatures. Most often, titanium is extracted by passing chlorine over the ore. The titanium tetrachloride that results is condensed, purified by fractional distillation and then reduced with molten magnesium at high temperature in

an atmosphere of argon. This is an expensive operation, with the result that titanium barstock costs 10 times as much as the stainless steel Taurus uses in many of its revolvers.

Titanium is also highly corrosion-resistant. It withstands saltwater spray and marine environments even better than stainless steel and most Teflon-based gun coatings. Amazingly, it is immune to a substantial number of both acids and alkalis. This is principally because of the tough oxide skin that forms on its surface. If scratched or ruptured in some manner, this surface oxide film regenerates itself almost immediately.

Using modern CNC equipment, Taurus machines its titanium revolver cylinders from titanium alloy extrusions. The Taurus frames, yokes, barrel shrouds and side plates are drop-forged from titanium alloys in their justifiably famous Brazilian forging facility. Forging is commonly recognized as the preferred process when high-precision, titanium components are desired.

— P.G.K.



Taurus key-lock safety system raises a pin and its shroud to impinge against the frame if someone attempts to roll the hammer rearward.

is exactly 3.0 pounds.

As it also carries three barrel ports on each side of front sight blade, no ammunition restrictions have been placed on the Model 85UL/Ti MultiAlloy revolver either. While it weighs just 2 ounces heavier than its S&W equivalent, the M85Ti sells for \$515, which is more than a hundred dollars less than the S&W M337 AirLite Ti. More important, the barrel ports do moderate the perceived recoil to some extent. Make no mistake, any extremely lightweight revolver firing +P ammunition is going to kick hard. The Taurus Model 85UL/Ti MultiAlloy and Total Titanium series revolvers were not designed for plinking. They are concealed-carry wheelguns intended for hanging from your belt on a daily basis. These are dedicated self-defense firearms and the recoil they generate shouldn't bother an experienced shooter anymore than a .505 Gibbs you fire at a charging Cape Buffalo 10 paces from you.

Accuracy duplicated that of the Model 450Ti. With 158-grain bullets, the Model 85UL/Ti MultiAlloy .38 Special Revolver shoots directly to the point of aim. This is a fine piece and it has been a frequent companion of late. Taurus has made tremendous strides in the last decade. Originally little more than a less expensive copy of Smith & Wesson, in recent years they pulled up even and now, in my opinion, with their Total Titanium series they may have surged somewhat ahead. ☒

POINTS OF CONTACT

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TAURUS MODEL 450TI TOTAL TITANIUM REVOLVER

SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:** .45 Colt (also available chambered for .38 Special, .32 H&R Magnum, .357 Magnum, .41 Magnum, and .44 Special).
- Operation:** Five-shot revolver. Exposed-hammer, single- and double-action. Coil-spring ignition with floating firing pin and transfer-bar safety. Unique key-lock safety system.
- Weight, empty:** 19.2 ounces.
- Length, overall:** 8.5 inches (from the muzzle to the tip of the grip).
- Height:** 5.5 inches.
- Width:** 1.5 inches.
- Barrel:** Six-groove with a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches. Stainless steel barrel with titanium-alloy shroud. Three ports on each side of the front sight.
- Barrel length:** 2 inches (2.5 inches, .41 Magnum only).
- Sights:** Fixed: serrated-ramp front sight blade, 0.125-inch wide; open, square-notch rear sight, 0.130-inch in width, milled into the rear end of the top strap. Sight radius: 3.9 inches.
- Grips:** Ribber, one-piece synthetic rubber.
- Construction and finish:** Titanium-alloy cylinders, frames, yokes, barrel shrouds and side plates and many small parts. Stainless steel barrel. Carbon steel hammer and trigger. Stealth Gray, Spectrum Blue or Gold titanium finish.
- Suggested retail price:** \$599.
- Manufacturer and importer:** Taurus International, Dept. SOF, 16175 N.W. 49th Avenue, Miami, FL 33014-6314; phone: 305-624-1115; fax: 305-623-7506; web site: www.taurususa.com.
- T&E summary:** Lightweight titanium technology taken to its maximum potential in a revolver. Recoil impulse substantially moderated by ported barrel and especially effective synthetic rubber grips. Test specimen chambered for a proven man-stopper.

TAURUS MODEL 85UL/TI MULTIALLOY REVOLVER

SPECIFICATIONS

- Caliber:** .38 Special +P.
- Operation:** Five-shot revolver. Exposed-hammer, single- and double-action. Coil-spring ignition with floating firing pin and transfer-bar safety. Unique key-lock safety system.
- Weight, empty:** 13.5 ounces.
- Length, overall:** 7 7/8 inches.
- Height:** 4 5/8 inches.
- Width:** 1.25 inches.
- Barrel:** Six-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 18.75 inches. Stainless steel barrel with titanium-alloy shroud. Three ports on each side of the front sight.
- Barrel length:** 2 inches.
- Sights:** Fixed: serrated-ramp front sight blade, 0.125-inch wide; open, square-notch rear sight, 0.130-inch in width, milled into the rear end of the top strap. Sight radius: 3.7 inches.
- Grips:** Two-piece black Santoprene, a rubber-like synthetic.
- Construction and finish:** Forged barrel shroud and extruded cylinder made from a titanium alloy, a stainless steel barrel; forged aluminum alloy frame and sideplate, and carbon steel hammer and trigger.
- Suggested retail price:** \$515.
- Manufacturer and importer:** Taurus International, Dept. SOF, 16175 N.W. 49th Avenue, Miami, FL 33014-6314; phone: 305-624-1115; fax: 305-623-7506; web site: www.taurususa.com.
- T&E summary:** Innovative, multiple-alloy technology. Lightweight. Ported barrel, possible only because of titanium-alloy barrel shroud, moderates recoil and permits use of the highly effective 158-grain, lead, hollow-point +P "FBI" load.



Britain's Elite
SPECIAL
AIR

Text & Photos by Barry Davies, B.E.M.

In the world of war and terrorism, one name stands out: the Special Air Service. When its soldiers do battle, the news spreads like wildfire. SAS actions are normally swift and hard-hitting — then to enforce the myth, they fade back into obscurity.

What the public has seen of them, like the spectacular hostage-rescue at the London Iranian Embassy, confirms the truth for many other unseen actions. Yet few see the SAS for what it is: 200 men, the best Britain can find, rigorously selected, highly trained, and with a spirit to dare. They go willingly, deep behind enemy lines, take on incredible odds, and risk their lives to defend that which is worth defending — democracy and freedom. Today the SAS have become part of a modern mythology — new heroes for our age, winning battles and achieving daring feats. While some of the stories are true, others have become so distorted by the media to the point where they bear little resemblance to the truth. Small wonder the public often holds a total misconception about who the SAS really are, or what they do. They can be portrayed as superheroes, or on some occasions, gun-toting yobs — their missions becoming acts of glory or exploits of unwarranted aggression. As always, the SAS say nothing, maintaining a policy of silence. But one thing is certain: The history of the SAS is full of true stories of bravery, both physical and moral, performed by men who are not superheroes or super-thugs, just professional soldiers doing their job.

Renegade Origins

Originating in the Second World War as a renegade unit, the SAS has since developed an awesome reputation based upon its bravery, skills and professionalism. It all started in 1940, when a young Lieutenant, David Stirling, who was serving with No. 8 Commando, promoted the concept that a small band of dedicated men could operate successfully behind the enemy lines. He managed to present his plan to General Richie, who at the time was Deputy Chief of Staff. His idea and memorandum finally reached the Commander in Chief of the Middle East, General Auchinleck, and the SAS was born.

The name Special Air Service was chosen to advance the idea that the British had an airborne unit in the region. As the founder of the SAS, Stirling's main strength came from his ability to select and enlist men who had both daring and vision.

The first SAS raids against the Germans were very much a disaster mainly due to the parachute-entry techniques. They then turned to a much safer form of delivery — the American Willys jeep which were light, agile and robust, and ideally suited to desert conditions because of its four-wheel drive. The jeep had a top speed of 60 mph and a range of 300 miles, although this could be greatly extended by carrying additional fuel. During the North Africa campaign the SAS jeeps were normally overloaded with extra water fuel and ammunition. The SAS also added some heavy firepower in the form of .50 caliber Browning heavy machine guns and Vickers machine guns that had been found sitting disused in an aircraft hanger. So equipped, the



SERVICE

Do You Have What It Takes?



jeeps were not simply used as a means of transport but also as a weapon. On many occasions they were driven, guns blazing, directly into the German airfields from where they would wreck havoc on the rows of parked enemy aircraft. These hit-and-run raids became so successful, that the SAS were destroying more enemy aircraft than the RAF.

Later on, men of the 1st SAS who were parachuted behind German lines to support the Normandy landings. During several of these operations, many men were captured by the Germans and executed under Hitler's executive order that all SAS were extremely dangerous and should be executed when taken. On one occasion captured SAS rushed the German firing squad, and although several were killed, many escaped. By the end of WW II there were five SAS Regiments, which comprised mainly British, French and Belgian soldiers. The British were disbanded, while the French and Belgian were absorbed into their respective armies.

Born-Again Commandos

The birth of the modern-day 22 SAS, came into being because of the Communist troubles in Malaya between 1950-1959. In the early 1950s, a British officer, Mike Calvert, who was serving in Hong Kong at the time, was instructed to appraise the Communist influence in Malaya. Calvert, a tough soldier who had commanded an SAS brigade during the last war, innovated the idea of the Malayan Scouts (SAS). He instigated many of the basic tactics that exist today, the most famous being the four-man patrol. They performed and operated under very hostile conditions in enemy territory. The Malayan Scouts formally became known as 22 SAS and Calvert instructed John Woodhouse to return to England and set up a formal selection course whereby the right caliber soldiers could be recruited and trained. The concept of that original selection course has changed little over the years, although much more is expected of the modern SAS candidate.

As the SAS established itself once more as a regular British unit, the tasks set for them grew thick and furious. Between 1959 and 1967 the SAS were active in Borneo and Aden. Of these, Jebel Akhdar, in 1959, was the scene for a daring SAS operation. Some 70 men from 'D' Squadron, were transported directly from the jungle to the desert, where they immediately went into action. During the assault on Jebel Akhdar, a young Captain by the name of Peter De la BilliÈre won the Military Medal for his actions.



(top) For shorter-range targets, the anti-terrorist team has taken to using the Heckler & Koch G3 sniper rifle for the role. (above and left) SAS members take part in hostage retrieval training. Planning an assault requires consideration for every possible method of entry. (below and right) These rare pictures show both Prince Charles and Princess Diana taking part in hostage training. While Prince Charles seems to be enjoying the demonstration, Princess Diana is protecting herself against the ordeal. All the targets around the royal couple have been hit with several rounds. The royals seem much more at ease posing with some of the anti-terrorist team members after the exercise.





Rappelling down a rope and smashing through a window may look dramatic, but may be the only solution to entry. (below) A diver launches himself into the water from a helicopter. Many different entry methods have been tried, including firing divers from torpedo tubes on submarines. (right) An SAS diver has to be ready to operate the moment he is ashore. This MP5SD-brandishing soldier is taking part in a 1995 anti-terrorist exercise. (bottom) When swimming ashore, equipment can be kept dry inside special waterproof bags.



(The same man was to command the British Armed Forces during the Gulf War during which he made sure the SAS were skillfully deployed.) By 1970, the Oman war had erupted and the SAS were back to their fighting role again, supporting the new Sultan against the Communist-backed *Adoo* guerrillas. By this time, the *Keeni-Meeni* patrols had developed into the Counter-Revolutionary Warfare (CRW) unit at Hereford. This was mainly due to the rise in terrorism both at home and internationally.

While Northern Ireland soon became the proving ground for CRW training, the anti-terrorist team, known originally as the SP (Special Projects) team, was set into motion to combat international terrorism. The SP team remained fairly secret until such headline-makers as the Mogadishu Hijack and the Iranian

Embassy Siege. Despite such media coverage, the SAS still maintained their normal combat capabilities, as was seen during the Falklands War. Even here, many of their actions went unreported to the general public.

During 1991, the world watched as the Gulf War unfolded, bringing new and wondrous weapons to the theater of war. Stealth bombers and smart bombs gripped the world's imagination. The SAS was used along with American Special Forces on clandestine missions where patrols were sent deep behind enemy lines. Operating at great risk, the gathered intelligence, hunted mobile Scud missiles and laid sabotage to the Iraqi war machine infrastructure.

"Who Dares Wins"

The popular "gung-ho" image of life in the SAS bears little relation to the facts. Although the role of the regiment is continually changing, and the uniform

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MOSCOW — On a sunny Saturday afternoon this past September, hundreds of Russian law enforcement officials and a few thousand onlookers stood behind hastily erected barricades to watch demolition experts pulverize a bomb-damaged building in a southeast Moscow suburb.

The seven-story apartment block on Ulitsa Guryanova was literally split in half two weeks earlier by what police said was a terrorist bomb planted in a first-floor office space by Islamic militants. Ninety-four people died in the Ulitsa Guryanova bombing, and before month's end another 200 Russians were blown to bits in a string of four similar attacks.

The militant's plan, according to the police, was nothing short of launching "a Russia-wide war to destroy the state, and in the ruins create their own."

After decades of supporting international terrorist groups bent on destroying western interests, terror had come home to roost in the Russian capital and *Soldier Of Fortune* was there.

Nuclear Targets

The rumor mill was in full-swing, with dire predictions that the next targets would be nuclear reactors and key military facili-

The gutted ruins (above) of Ulitsa Guryanova are demolished by Moscow civil defense experts, nearly a week after a terrorist's bomb split the apartment block in two, killing more than 70 people. Russian police continue with their massive, nationwide sweep to find those responsible for a series of deadly bombings which have left more than 300 dead in two weeks.

Operation

Russia's Heavy-Handed Search For Terrorists

Text & Photos by Mark H. Milstein

ties. Nerves were fraying and anyone looking even slightly Chechen or Caucasian was a suspect. The Kremlin came within inches of declaring martial law to find those responsible and damper the mass hysteria that was then sweeping the country.

Events were spinning out of control.

Citizen vigilante groups were quickly formed and took to the streets. Hundreds of false alarms were sounded, stretching Moscow's emergency services to the breaking point. Kremlin officials quickly unleashed the largest and most comprehensive police action the country had seen since Stalin began his purges in the 1930s.

Code-named "Operation Whirlwind,"

tens of thousands of police and federal agents, backed by elite interior troops, patrolled the streets, searched more than 30,000 apartment buildings in Moscow and checked documents with an aggressiveness that would have put a smile on Beria's face.

Within days police efforts paid off, and Russian interior ministry criminal investigators announced the identity of the bombers — Mukhit Laipanov and Denis Saitakov.

Bad Tenants

Police charged Laipanov and Saitakov with renting first-floor offices in both the Ulitsa Guryanova apartment building and

another apartment building across town the two blew-up a week later.

Police believed that after the offices were rented, explosives were brought in — probably disguised as bags of sugar — and detonated with crude timing devices.

There was, however, one small problem: Mukhit Laipanov, according to police records that surfaced hours after the initial announcement, was dead. He'd been killed years earlier in a car accident.

That meant whomever was masquerading as Laipanov was still unknown to them, and by now had possibly changed identities and wouldn't surface until he was safely back in Chechnya's lawless capital, Grozny.

"Yes, it was a serious worry to us," Moscow police tactical squad (OMON) spokesman Vladimir Lysak told *SOF*. "We were under a lot of pressure to capture both men as soon as possible. Not knowing the true identities of the terrorists meant losing time and we couldn't afford that. We were scared they might strike again."

Two days later, however, interior ministry spokeswoman, Nina Frolova, made a surprise announcement to *SOF* and a standing-room-only crowd of local journalists that the police had determined the true iden-



(above) Men from Russia's Caucasus arrive at a police station in south Moscow after being arrested as part of a nationwide search for those responsible for a series of deadly bombings which have claimed nearly 300 lives. Police officials claim that the bombers are most probably from either Chechnya or Dagestan. (below) A Moscow city policewoman guards a bus full of men from the Caucasus region, arrested as part of a nationwide hunt for those responsible for a series of deadly bombings in Russia.

Whirlwind



Moscow special police search unregistered Chechens at an outdoor market in Moscow before arresting them as part of a nationwide search for the men responsible for a series of deadly terrorist bombings.



After making a mass arrest of Chechen and Dagestani men at a warehouse complex south of the Kremlin, Moscow police collect identification papers and passports from the prisoners before bringing them to a central holding facility for questioning.

tity of the man who posed as Mukhit Laipanov.

Frolova said his name was Achemez Gochiryayev, a native of the North-Caucasus republic of Karachayevo-Cherkessia.

Frolova said investigators suspected Gochiyayev might have spent time in Chabanmakhi, one of the villages where Islamic radicals had defied Dagestani government authorities for more than a year before being crushed by Russian troops this past summer.

A senior official with GUBOP, the Russian interior ministry's anti-organized crime department, told SOF they had seized a video tape that showed Gochiyayev among Islamic fundamentalists in Chabanmakhi, and through computer-aided comparison had realized he was using Laipanov's identity papers.

Although we had our doubts as to the validity of the claims, a Russian federal security service (FSB) agent later confirmed to SOF's Russian translator, Tamara, that such a tape existed.

Fravola said the other suspect, Saitakov, was believed to have attended a training camp in Chechnya run by a Jordanian-born Islamic militant who fights under the *nom de guerre* of "Khattab."

Khattab, together with Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev, led the Islamic offensive in the Moscow-controlled republic of

Dagestan last summer and triggered Russia's most recent invasion of Chechnya.

Despite Khattab's denials of responsibility for the Moscow bombings, the operations appeared to be associated with him, his group or his associates.

Whether he and Basayev have an accommodation on tactics wasn't then known. What could be said, however, was that the planning for the bombings began long before their activities in Dagestan.

Frolova then dropped a blockbuster when she announced that two other men, both natives of Chechnya, had been arrested overnight by Federal Security Service (FSB) agents and were being held at Moscow's Lefortovo prison in connection with the bombings.

She identified them as Bekmars Sautyev, 40, and Timur Dakhkilgov, 32, two relatives originally from Chechnya. According to a Moscow TV news show SOF watched later that night, traces of the explosive powder, hexogen, were found by police on Dakhkilgov's hands and in Sautyev's apartment, a charge both denied by saying the explosive had a similar chemical makeup to a paint thinner they had used earlier that week while painting a friend's apartment.

Fravola finished by saying that starting in the morning security forces were going to begin a second massive wave of arrests

throughout Moscow to pick up those "terrorists" still at large who were sought in connection with the bombings.

Terror Insurance

Tamara, our translator, began desperately working the telephone to get us a place in a Moscow police OMON squad car so that we could accompany them during the next few days of operations. Things were going to get nasty, and we didn't want to miss a minute of it.

Meanwhile, SOF had heard that the FBI was flying in a forensics team to Moscow to examine whatever physical evidence the Russians had collected and were keen on comparing the explosives to those found at the U.S. embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

The rumor mill was now spinning tales that Khattab and Basayev were working as sub-contractors for Osama bin Laden. Several Moscow-based insurance companies had even put up billboards advertising a new service: terrorism insurance.

It was cold and damp when we arrived at OMON headquarters in northwest Moscow shortly after 0700.

A luke-warm cup of tea and two large, rather red, pickled beets later, we found ourselves crawling through thick traffic on the outer-ring road in a convoy of three school



Caucasian prisoners (above) await processing at a Moscow police station. The men were arrested earlier in the day as part of a nationwide sweep to catch those responsible for a string of deadly bombings which claimed the lives of nearly 300 Russians. Police believe the culprits are from either Chechnya or Dagestan. (inset) Two men from Russia's Caucasus region wait to be processed at a Moscow police station. Both men, along with nearly 50 others, were arrested at an outdoor market in west Moscow as part of a nationwide sweep to find those responsible for a series of deadly bombings in Russia which have left nearly 300 dead. Human rights activists, however, characterize the police sweeps as being an unjust harassment campaign aimed at dark-skinned residents of Russia.

buses packed with crack OMON troops. Ahead of us, acting as pathfinders, were a small group of squad cars full of police detectives and brass, driving toward an unknown location in Moscow's south central industrial suburbs.

Overnight another deadly bombing had occurred, this time in the southern Russian city of Volgodonsk, killing at least 17 and bringing the total number of Russians killed in the past week by the killers up to more than 300. One of the OMON team leaders told Tamara that they had word that the bomb had been hidden in a truck and parked outside the building. Shades of Oklahoma City, we mumbled to ourselves.

Russians were itching for revenge. Arresting thousands of Chechans and other Caucasians living in Moscow was meant to satisfy their dual urge to rid their city of dark-skinned foreigners and send a message to the bombers that they can run and hide, but eventually one of their cousins or brothers or sons will be caught and through *creative* interrogation techniques will rat them out.

Swift Brutality

After 45 minutes of driving we finally arrived at the Noviy Tchernomushky fruit market, a sprawling complex of warehouses and shipping containers staffed by hundreds of men from the North Caucasus.

The OMON were swift and brutal. Teams of two and three ran from warehouse to warehouse, rounding up any and all men and women with even the hint of suspicion in their eyes. Everyone arrested was marched, hands clasped behind their heads POW-style, toward a fleet of empty buses that were being used to transport the prisoners to a nearby jail.

Meanwhile, other OMON officers collected papers, documents and passports and went over them with a fine-tooth comb. Those with their papers in order could expect to go home within hours. Others, however, faced long stretches in prison, and maybe deportation or worse.

Three sniffer dogs began their rounds through the complex, looking for explosives. An OMON "entry team" arrived with special power tools to take off the locks on a number of shipping containers that no one could seem to find the keys for.

Sparks flew as the locks snapped open. Yards away OMON troops began beating two men found with stiletto knives hidden on their persons. Leather truncheons filled with sand smacked against cheeks and skulls and the police pushed the men to the ground before cuffing them and taking them to another bus for further questioning.

Sixty-four men and women were under arrest within an hour, and we were soon standing in the hallway of a dank, puke-green-painted Moscow jail waiting for the



(above) After making a mass arrest of Chechen and Dagestani men at a warehouse complex south of the Kremlin, Moscow police bring them to a central holding facility for questioning. The police continue their search for the unknown terrorists responsible for a string of deadly bombings in the capital which have left nearly 300 dead. (left) A Moscow police picture of Mukhit Laipanov, one of the prime suspects in two terrorist bombings in Moscow which resulted in the deaths of more than 200 people. Laipanov died in February and someone else is believed to be using his identity, police said.



paperwork to be processed before the OMON team could go on to their next deployment, an outdoor flea market across town.

The scene at the flea market was pretty much a repeat of the morning's raid. Dozens of scruffy-looking Chechans and Dagestani men and women were arrested, questioned, sometimes beaten, and then taken to jail for further processing.

Russian TV was reporting that more than 2,000 people had been arrested since the morning in Moscow, with no end in sight to the police dragnet.

Rodney King, Russian-Style

"Do American police also beat their prisoners?" an OMON officer asked *SOF* as we sat in the bus awaiting order to move out. We told him about Rodney King and a number of other celebrated cases, including the story of the New York police sodomizing a Haitian refugee with a night-stick.

"That's great," the officer replied with a loud laugh.

The next day was more of the same. We accompanied a team of nearly 40 OMON troops to a number of outdoor markets and warehouse complexes in northwest Moscow.

Arrest after arrest was made, with hundreds of men and women from the Caucasus finding themselves crushed into holding cells with no charges pending and no opportunity to argue the point until they were interrogated by teams of FSB agents.

"Everyone here is guilty of something," said Aleksander Gregoriavic, an OMON squad leader, pointing his index finger into a stuffed four-foot by 10-foot holding cell packed with some 30 men tagged for further investigation by FSB agents.

"Look at them," Gregoriavic told *SOF*. "These guys would kill us both if they had the chance. Fuckers. Murderers. I'll see

them all in a grave for what they've done here in Moscow."

Back at the Hotel Belgrad, our temporary base in Moscow, we spoke with a number of American and European law enforcement officials based in Russia about Moscow's chances of actually nabbing those responsible for the bombings.

"You know as well as I do," a law enforcement official with the British embassy in Moscow told *SOF*, "that if they don't nab these bombers within the first day or so that their chances become slimmer and slimmer and the trail grows colder. The Russians do, however, have a few advantages over Western law enforcement. They won't let civil rights stand in their way and they will eventually find someone who will confess to the crimes — whether they are guilty or not."

Mike Hurley, the FBI's man in Moscow, told *SOF* that it was doubtful that Russian law enforcement officials would ever get their hands on those responsible for ordering the bombings. "I'm not going to speculate who those men are, but there's no doubt that they are well-trained, highly-disciplined and not in Russia. Those who have already been arrested and have been charged as accessories to the crime are small fries."

When we asked Hurley about the FSB's unusual move to level the remains of the Ulitsa Guryanova apartment block before thoroughly sifting through the remains, Hurley refused comment. He said that it would be improper for him to talk about another law enforcement organization's investigative methods.

The next morning we accompanied an OMON platoon on a not-so-routine "search-and-arrest mission" at a market behind Moscow's Kiev Rail Station.

Two female officers with the pick-pocket squad were also along to interrogate any

Continued on page 74

WACO:

courtesy author



In three short, obscure chapters of the Old Testament, the prophet Nahum predicted the fall of Nineveh, a city of corruption, iniquity and bloodlust. But, as many would suggest, he could have been describing Washington, D.C.

"Woe to the bloody city!" Nahum wrote. "It is all full of lies and robbery. ... There is a multitude of slain and a great number of carcasses ... They stumble upon their corpses because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the well-favored harlots, the mistress of witchcrafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts.

"Behold, I am against thee ... I will shew ... the kingdoms thy shame," Nahum prophesied.

Old Nahum would have been pleased, then, that MGA Films and producer Rick Van Vleet chose Sodom on the Potomac to premier their latest work, *Waco: A New Revelation*, researched and co-produced by independent filmmaker Mike McNulty.

Even in a city as jaded and jaundiced as Washington,

by James L. Pate

where the press corps has spent years ignoring the bloodiest government scandal in U.S. history, *Waco: A New Revelation* won a respectable turnout from the Fourth Estate, and even attracted a few members of Congress, when it premiered at an invitation-only screening a five-minute walk from Capitol Hill.

It's a shame, then, that so many of the people whom we elect to protect the citizenry from encroachment by a power-hungry and increasingly imperious and arrogant government, could not spare the time to watch the latest documentary on Waco.

Because *Waco: A New Revelation* is the catalyst that ignited the various investigations now underway into whether the Clinton Administration illegally deployed U.S. commandos against a religious retreat occupied mostly by women and children, and whether the FBI, the Justice Department and other government agencies have lied and covered up their own crimes and misdemeanors at Waco.

This assumes, of course, that former Senator John Danforth will do a fair, full and impartial investigation, and that members on both sides of Capitol Hill have the courage to follow through on their TV vows to renew hearings.

A New Revelation

Startling New Video Ignites Investigations

No Truth In "No Shots"

Most notably, the film utterly demolishes the FBI's persistent claim that no shots were fired by government personnel during the 51-day siege. It began 28 February 1993, with an ill-advised and bloodily botched attempt by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to arrest one single man, Branch Davidian leader David Koresh, a high school dropout and self-taught Bible scholar whose unpopular beliefs about sex, family and self-defense made him a favored whipping boy of the press.

Using the FBI's own Forward-Looking Infrared Radar, or FLIR, video, the film uses the government's own experts to demonstrate that a major firefight erupted behind Mount Carmel in the time leading up to the fire. This is the film's strongest and most incontrovertible evidence, bolstered by conventional VHS video that clearly shows a swivel-mounted M60 machine gun firing several bursts from an Army heli-

copter into Mount Carmel's rear, an area that included the chapel, where 15 Davidians were found shot dead.

Indeed, the only Davidians who survived the fire emerged from the front of the sprawling building, in full view of news photographers.

Narrated by a fired FBI whistle-blower, Dr. Fred Whitehurst, who was a top scientist in the FBI's crime lab and narrated many of the bureau's training films, the film also contains an interview with retired CIA intelligence operations officer Gene Cullen.

On camera, Cullen relates first-hand accounts he later heard from members of the Army's super secret Combat Applications Group, better known as Delta, who reportedly told Cullen their role was much more active than the government has admitted. Delta operators were inside armored vehicles, and may have even entered the building before and during the fire.

The film even manages to put the viewer inside one of the

... First Lady Hillary Clinton was a key decision-maker, and the whole operation was being micro-managed from the White House. The chain of command apparently went from the FBI to Associate Attorney General Webb Hubbell, a longtime Clinton family friend, then to White House Counsel Vince Foster, and to the First Lady, all three former law partners ...



SOF files

... a TV cameraman, whose partner helped evacuate wounded ATF agents from the initial February assault, is surrounded, cursed and beaten by hysterical ATF agents venting their rage ...

armored vehicles, using video shot by one of the participants somehow obtained by McNulty.

The issue of whether the FBI used pyrotechnically discharged CS riot-control munitions is also established beyond the shadow of a doubt. In the weeks leading up to the film's premier, retired FBI agent, Danny Coulson, admitted that one such device, which includes a well-known fire danger, was used in a tunnel several feet from the building.

FBI Lied About Flammable Munitions

The film also establishes that the FBI and Justice Department knew for years, despite repeated denials, some of which were perjurious, that flammable CS munitions had been used. It also reveals that six pyrotechnic flash-bangs, mislabeled by FBI evidence technicians as sound suppressors, were found at the southwest corner of the building, and in the dining area and the chapel. These are the three areas where the government's own arson experts say the fire started. The so-called sound suppressors were used by the judge, in part, to add an extra 30 years to the sentences of some Davidians.

Some viewers — although probably not most *SOF* readers — may be disturbed by some of the film's images of grotesquely charred corpses of women, small children and infants. It also includes autopsy photos of the grisly remains of Jimmy Riddle, whose body apparently was run over and ripped apart by a tank after he was shot behind the building.

Although much of the video aired on television will be familiar to most viewers, the film has celluloid nuggets that put the audience at the scene, showing the chaos, fear and rage. In one sequence, a TV cameraman, whose partner helped evacuate wounded ATF agents from the initial February assault, is surrounded, cursed and beaten by hysterical ATF agents venting their rage.

Other highlights of the film include:

- Lon Horiuchi, the FBI sniper from the Hostage Rescue Team, may have fired into Mount Carmel. After the fire, Texas Rangers recovered three pieces of spent .308-caliber brass at his shooting position. Horiuchi, who killed Vicki Weaver in Idaho as she stood in the door of her humble cabin with a baby

daughter in her arms, also set in motion the chain of events leading up to the fire at Waco.

- Michael Schroder, a Davidian not at Mount Carmel when the ATF raid began in February, may have been summarily executed by vengeful ATF agents, outraged over the deaths of four fellow agents in the initial assault. Schroeder fell wounded by ATF gunmen in a pasture behind Mount Carmel hours after the assault. As two other Davidians were led away, they tell of hearing two more shots. Although no powder residue test were performed, autopsies show Schroeder died from two apparently close-proximity gunshot wounds behind his right ear.

- FBI agents or Justice Department lawyers apparently disposed of inconvenient evidence. One example: a pyrotechnic CS riot-control dispersal device was missing from tons of evidence, although it appears in an evidentiary photograph.

Had To Have Known

The film also makes a mockery of the FBI's claim that they had no idea that a fire was a possibility. The Davidians, apparently attempting to stop armored vehicles knocking their home down around their ears, hung out a banner that said "Flames Await."

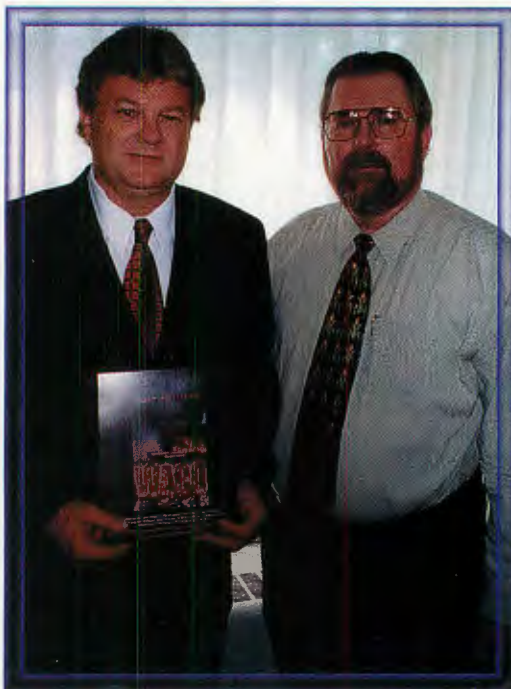
In a cell phone call from Steve Schneider to his sister on the final day — a call easily intercepted with even unsophisticated electronics — the Davidian second-in-command discusses the Old Testament book of Nahum, a key to Koresh's prophecy for his group.

There's no doubt the call was intercepted. The film includes a segment of Schneider's recorded conversation.

As Schneider reads passages to his sister, it sounded like a description of the 51-day standoff, when the Davidians had to catch rain water in buckets for drinking after the FBI cut off their water supply. The scripture also apparently described the assault by armor spewing poison gas into Mount Carmel, Schneider suggested, and included a prophecy of doom.

"The chariots shall be with flaming torches ... The chariots shall rage in the streets ... they shall seem like torches," according to Nahum. "... Draw thee waters for the siege, fortify thy strongholds. ... There shall the fire devour thee ..."

Nahum also could have been describing the Waco atrocity,



Executive producer Rick Van Vleet, of MGA Films (left) and co-producer Michael McNulty with some early promotional art for the film, at a private advance screening for *SOF* last August.

Michael Schroder, a Davidian not at Mount Carmel when the ATF raid began in February, may have been summarily executed by vengeful ATF agents ...

and its persistent, long-term negative impact on the collective American psyche, when he wrote that “there is no healing of thy bruise; thy wound is grievous.”

Indeed, just when everyone thinks this story is going to fade into oblivion — no doubt the fervent prayer of numerous federal agents, U.S. Army SpecOps commandos and Clinton Administration bosses — the Waco massacre rises from its media grave like a mummy that refuses to die. And the truth behind the story keeps unraveling.

The first time the Waco story rose from its death bed was 19 April 1995, the second anniversary of the fiery deaths of about 80 religious ascetics outside Waco, when a good soldier-turned-angry-bomber named Timothy McVeigh, and “others unknown,” committed our nation’s *most terrible* act of domestic terrorism in Oklahoma City. McVeigh was angered by the government’s callous disregard for the well-being of dozens of women and children besieged by military armor at the Branch Davidian retreat outside Waco known as Mount Carmel.

Waco was resurrected again after McNulty became obsessed by the horror of Waco, due in large part to the stories he read in *Soldier Of Fortune*. Eventually, the Vietnam veteran quit his job as an insurance broker and began his quest to unearth the truth about Waco. The result was his first documentary, *Waco: The Rules of Engagement*.

It won wide acclaim at its premier at the Sundance Film Festival, all the more notable because the festival is bankrolled by liberal film actor and director Robert Redford, and because McNulty had no experience in filmmaking or journalistic research. But mainstream press paid little heed. That changed, though, when *Rules of Engagement* was nominated for an Oscar, won an Emmy for investigative reporting and was showcased on HBO.

Round Two

That was almost two years ago, but by the time it all died down, McNulty had already signed on with Van Vleet and MGA Films to do a sequel. After 18 months, *Waco: A New Revelation* premiered in November. It casts new light on what happened and puts heats right where it belongs: on the FBI, the Army and the White House; heat that promises to keep the Waco pot boiling in Washington for the next several months.

Actually, the heat was on well before *A New Revelation*’s premier in November. In the spring of 1998, after months of dogged negotiations, McNulty finally won permission to inspect the tons of evidence collected from the among the charred corpses and ashes of Mount Carmel.

McNulty and Van Vleet repeatedly were denied access to the tons of evidence collected after the fire. The evidence had been turned over to the custody of Texas Rangers. The Rangers told McNulty they could not grant permission without concurrence of the Justice Department. DoJ said they could not give permission to examine evidence not in its custody. A neat *Catch-22* trick bag.

But McNulty won the confidence of Bill Johnston, an assis-

The film also establishes that the FBI and Justice Department knew for years, despite repeated denials, some of which were perjurious, that flammable CS munitions had been used ...

tant U.S. attorney who helped prosecute the Davidian criminal case. Johnston contacted Bert Brandenburg, head of public affairs at DoJ, who agreed.

Despite his differences with McNulty’s first Waco documentary, Johnston, in a letter written in August to Attorney General Janet Reno, noted that “to stonewall McNulty tended to lend some credence to his already held belief that the government had something to hide ... I am glad that McNulty was allowed to see the evidence.”

That letter to Reno warned her that she apparently had been kept in the dark about the truth of what happened at Waco by high-level subordinates in DoJ. Johnston warned her that he had seen documents indicating that other Justice Department lawyers had known for years that FBI agents had used pyrotechnic devices the day of the fire.

Nothing Trumps Principle and Courage

“We wouldn’t be here today if McNulty wasn’t allowed in,” Johnston told *The Dallas Morning News* in an interview in September. “Pandora’s box was opened, and I gave him the key, and I do not regret it.”

Johnston’s decision was not popular in Washington. He received angry calls at home from DoJ lawyers involved in defending the government’s conduct in civil suits alleging wrongful death, a lawsuit set to go to trial this spring. His office received telefaxes of transcripts indicating that Johnston’s own career might not withstand a re-examination of the Waco atrocity.

“I have been seen by many as a mutineer,” Johnston wrote Reno. “... I was handled as if I had some strain of intellectual leprosy ... I am in disbelief that someone in the Department did not advise you of” the revelations that evidence had been hidden, destroyed and withheld.

“So long as it is the truth ‘hanging over my head,’ I am not afraid,” Johnston wrote Reno. “I will not be intimidated by anyone in the Department of Justice. I will assist the Congress or any other body who seeks the truth ...”

Where The Chips Are Likely To Fall

The truth may be very ugly. In its concluding segment, the film tackles the question of who was making decisions and where the chain of command stops. Although still short of conclusive evidence, the film supports what was years ago reported in *SOF*, that First Lady Hillary Clinton was a key decision-maker, and the whole operation was being micro-managed from the White House. The chain of command apparently went from the FBI to Associate Attorney General Webb Hubbell, a longtime Clinton family friend, then to White House Counsel Vince Foster, and to the First Lady, all three former law partners in the Rose Law Firm, of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Using official FBI interviews, the viewer learns from Foster’s widow that he was very upset by what happened at

Continued on page 72

... the film utterly demolishes the FBI’s persistent claim that no shots were fired by government personnel during the 51-day siege ...



PART II

REMEMBERING RENAMO

A Cold War Counterinsurgency Case Study

BY DR. TOM MARKS
PHOTOS COURTESY MANTRACK



Already well-motivated and well-disciplined, RENAMO troops were selected for airborne training inside South Africa.

Last month we traced the beginning of the Mozambican anti-communist counter-revolutionary movement RENAMO through its popular birth in the aftermath of a Marxist-Leninist takeover concurrent with the departure of colonial Portuguese powers, to the beginnings of what became the first movement to nearly overthrow a communist government. We continue as RENAMO draws aid and support from South Africa until it is able to go it alone. South Africa had taken up the reins of support for RENAMO after the fall of Rhodesia, sending a recon force to examine the RENAMO movement, its forces and materi el, and to see what South Africa could do to further the cause for a mutuality of benefit.

Given the concerted effort to tar RENAMO's image that continues in some quarters to this day, one observation of South Africa's Captain David Smythe would seem particularly noteworthy: "We saw no anti-personnel mines," he observes. "Everything was anti-vehicular. And that was all we gave them instruction with as well. "They certainly were not to us the

brutal thugs as portrayed by the Mozambique government disinformation campaign. The alleged massacres we heard about simply did not check out.

"To the contrary, Cuba and Moscow, with the Mozambique government, created pseudo-groups, *SNASP* (I can't recall what it stood for) they used to perpetrate atrocities which were then blamed on RENAMO. Yet how could they [RENAMO] have been [brutal thugs] and continued to live with the people?

"The one case I knew about, where a man broke the rules, they burned his eyes out with a red hot poker and let him wander in the bush 'till he died. It was very clearly pointed out [by commanders to subordinates] that to abuse the populace was not only counter-productive but also counter-revolutionary. There is no doubt whatsoever they acted on that."

It was a point Smythe made to South African Army Headquarters when he and his team were extracted, and he was called to Pretoria to debrief. What impressed him most, in fact, was the discipline and willingness to learn on the part of the RENAMO guerrillas.

Hence, his recommendation that further training would have a salutary effect was accepted, with plans instituted for a larger effort within South Africa itself.

No Holds Barred

As a result, two groups of roughly the same size, altogether 550 RENAMO cadre, were trained over the next two years at a special facility constructed in South Africa's Kruger National Park. One group covered on foot the more than 600 kilometers necessary to reach the facility from Mozambique, the other was picked up on the coast, moved by ship, and then was flown in.

The first group, when its training was completed, infiltrated overland back into Mozambique. The second group, though, had something special in store. Trained in jump techniques at a school constructed on the campsite, it parachuted back into the war zone.

Smythe's charges lived up to his expectations in every way. "They were incredibly well-disciplined," he observed. "In the entire two years, I had occasion to apply discipline to just one man. And he was not a member of their uniformed cadre — he was trying to sneak into the tent area of the 48 Mozambique females being trained as nurses.

"He received 25 lashes with a fan belt. He had the shit beaten out of him, but I talked with him afterwards, and he understood that he had been in the wrong."

It was the RENAMO chain of command that actually ran the camp and its personnel. Apart from the change of location, the routine and substance of instruction was much as had gone on within Mozambique itself. The difference lay in the absolute security and the training team's ability to cover the entire array of military skills in great depth at this secure and remote site.

Again there were some 30 instructors. Though this time South Africans were added to the ex-Rhodesian contingent, no racial problems developed with the black RENAMO cadre.

Says Smythe, "In the South African military, we [ex-Rhodesians] got screwed over in everything, from decorations to promotion to [being given] the toughest assignments. Yet Pretoria could see the need to recruit a buffer. That drove larger policy, such as dealing with RENAMO.

"At our level, there were no problems [of individual attitudes], because there was respect from one fighting man to another. RENAMO was simply very, very good.

"Look what they accomplished. They came within an ace of overthrowing a communist government. That would have been the first time that had happened.

"And they didn't lose. They forced the other side to agree to elections."

That they did. Battered first by RENAMO, fighting in conjunction with the Rhodesian SAS, Mozambique now found itself hammered by an insurgency energized further by the comprehensive training and resource influx carried out under South African auspices — by some of the same Rhodesian personnel who had been its nemesis all along.

The result was a Mozambican cry of "Uncle," at least as concerned South Africa. Angola's Machel was smart enough to recognize that he had gotten onto a treadmill he could not control. The more estranged from the people his FRELIMO government became, the more the government had to turn to the communist blocs, Soviet and Chinese, for support. And this only further alienated important segments of the populace. Indeed, the "selling out" of the country to the more than 4,000 Soviet advisers (among numerous others, such as Cubans and East Germans), became itself an important propaganda theme for RENAMO.

Hence, in the 1984 Nkomati Peace Accords, negotiated between the two countries, the now-not-so-communist Mozambique agreed to cease allowing use of the country by the African National Congress (ANC) insurgents. In return, Pretoria was to end its RENAMO support mission.

This was done. Nevertheless, 30 of the best RENAMO cadre were enlisted directly into 5 Recce Regiment, so that a cadre of linguists and guides would be available, if needed, for future work.

They were not. Mozambique apparently kept its side of the bar-



Senior RENAMO commander presents weapons to new RENAMO guerrillas, realized through capture and outside largess; (below) batteries were so scarce, however, they had to be issued directly by higher command echelons within RENAMO.



gain, as did South Africa. The loss of support made little difference to RENAMO, which by this point, after training by some of the best special operations personnel ever to take the field, was a vibrant organization. Its attacks retained all the ferocity and effectiveness for which they had been known during the heyday of the partnership with the Rhodesian SAS. Its numbers mushroomed even as FRELIMO was forced back into the urban areas.

By mid-1985, the insurgents effectively controlled 80% of the country. The government's lines of communication were kept open only with difficulty, if at all. Provincial capitals were being supplied by air, and external links continued only because the new government of Zimbabwe had committed 20,000 of its own troops to such duty (they were eventually to suffer 151 dead).

When Machel was killed in an October 1986 air crash, it seemed that the whole post-independence world in Mozambique was finally crashing down.

Just how bizarre the situation had become was demonstrated conclusively in 1987, when Lieutenant Colonel Coventry, the former Rhodesian mastermind of assistance to RENAMO, now 72, accompanied his Zimbabwe parachute forces in a Harare-ordered assault on RENAMO headquarters. He reportedly directed his men on the ground armed only with a walking stick.

Coventry had become inextricably linked to Mozambique. A 1938 Sandhurst graduate, he had served in Ireland, India's North-West Frontier, and Afghanistan before finding his true calling with special operations (SpecOps) during World War II. He ended the war a lieutenant colonel but reverted to captain in the inevitable post-war draw down. Extensive counterinsurgency service in Cyprus, Palestine, and Malaya (with SAS 22 Regiment during the Emergency) culminated in a singular gesture of contempt for a desk job to which he had been transferred — he resigned and joined the French Foreign Legion, soldiering in Indochina (he was one of the few to escape Dien Bien Phu) and Algeria.

By 1961, though, he was with the Rhodesian Army, picked to become head of the resurrected C Squadron SAS to be based in Ndola, Northern Rhodesia. When the command went instead to Rhodesian-born, Sandhurst-trained Court Welch, Coventry became a company commander in the Rhodesian Light Infantry (RLI). Later, when the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland broke up in 1963 (Nyasaland became Malawi; Northern Rhodesia became Zambia; and Southern Rhodesia became Rhodesia), he became commanding officer of the new SAS of Rhodesia — subsequently instrumental in beating back communist black nationalist assault. (Court Welch opted to join the British Army, where he ended up a brigadier.)

At 55, no longer the young warhorse who was identified in the official history of Royal Marines 45 Commando as having killed a German soldier with a single punch to the jaw, Coventry transferred to the Rhodesian Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO). There, for some 10 years, he ran the "S-desk," or, as it was called, "the funnies department." One of his "We don't do that"-SpecOps was RENAMO.

After Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, Coventry stayed on, and with a fateful twist of history when the RENAMO he help create was later supported by South Africa and he continued in the Zimbabwean Army he found himself now facing, in effect, his own children.

The Zimbabwean-ordered assault on RENAMO headquarters was "successful," because RENAMO had already slipped away into the countryside. Not a month later, largely unscathed, the guerrillas reoccupied the site.

For Coventry, the ironies must have been legion. It was a last hurrah, and he adjusted

with some difficulty to civilian life in Harare, as director of a transport company. He was by then losing sight in one eye and hard of hearing. In a final twist of fate, he was ultimately bludgeoned to death in his sleep at the age of 78, by a never-identified intruder wielding an 1873 Winchester rifle Coventry had brought back from an operation in Mozambique many years earlier.

Smythe's story had a happier ending. Seconded to the South-West Africa Territorial Force, he commanded a company of 701 Battalion, comprised of indigenous personnel. Its operational mission included border patrol and raids into Angola. He was in his element.

Promoted to major in late 1988, he immigrated to the United States in 1989 and today runs — for law enforcement and military personnel — what is certainly one of



(above) Although it was unnecessary for South Africans to engage in "hearts and minds" activities as RENAMO already had good rapport with locals, this villager, hit by PG-7 round, had his leg amputated by 5 Recce (ex-Rhodesian SAS) medic using Swiss Army knife. He survived — but medic was later killed by friendly fire. (left) Cadre from 5 Recce oversees survey of captured ammunition for resupply.

the world's premier mantracking schools (contact: mantrack@aol.com).

Useful Case Study?

RENAMO's fate has fallen somewhere in-between that of Coventry and Smythe. During the Reagan administration, when the tide was turned in the Cold War, and communist gains were reversed in any number of areas, RENAMO was so vilified by the effective Soviet-scripted disinformation campaign that it was unable to gain the same support offered to, for instance, UNITA in Angola and the contras in Nicaragua.

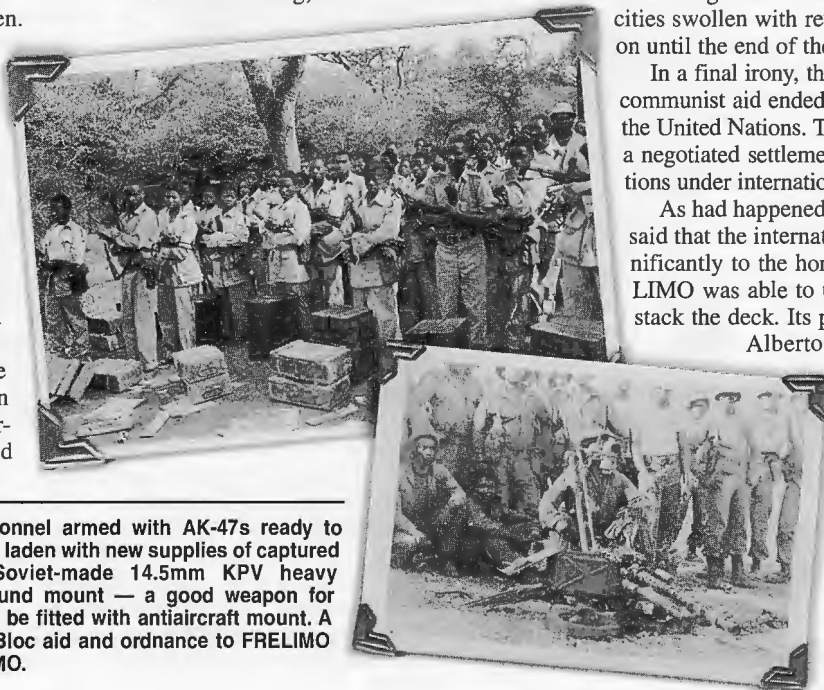
Consequently, it was unable to deliver the knockout blow. Mozambique, like a fighter down for the mandatory eight-count, controlling but a fraction of its national territory, its cities swollen with refugees fearful of conflict, hung on until the end of the Cold War.

In a final irony, this brought not collapse, even as communist aid ended, but deliverance in the form of the United Nations. The interest of the world body in a negotiated settlement led in October 1994 to elections under international supervision.

As had happened in Rhodesia, it can scarcely be said that the international presence contributed significantly to the honesty of the proceedings. FRELIMO was able to use its power in urban areas to stack the deck. Its presidential candidate, Joaquim

Alberto Chissano, defeated RENAMO's Dhlakama, 53.3% to 33.3%. In the assembly elections, though, forces were more evenly matched, with FRELIMO winning 129 seats to RENAMO's 112 (the Democratic Union holds 9 seats).

One faction of RENAMO, the bulk of the movement, chose to let the results stand, flawed though they were, and to remain in the political arena



(above) RENAMO personnel armed with AK-47s ready to return to combat zones, laden with new supplies of captured ammunition. (right) Soviet-made 14.5mm KPV heavy machine gun with ground mount — a good weapon for guerrillas — could also be fitted with antiaircraft mount. A massive influx of ComBloc aid and ordnance to FRELIMO in turn supplied RENAMO.



RENAMO fighters ranged from 14 to 40 but typically were quite young, as shown in these photos (above). (below) SpecOps cadre, in the classic mission first envisioned for U.S. Special Forces, molded RENAMO's resource of manpower into an efficient, disciplined fighting force.

as the opposition. Another, smaller group returned to the bush, where it remains today.

What to make of the long fight of the Mozambique resistance? Smythe surely has the right take on things when he states, "RENAMO did all that could be hoped for. It fought FRELIMO and its communist dictatorship to a standstill, despite massive aid from abroad, beyond anything we even thought of putting in. It forced FRELIMO to hold elections."

That the elections were flawed was perhaps inevitable, given the long course of the war and the bitterness that developed between the two sides. Nevertheless, the same point illustrated by the U.S.-supported Contras would seem to have been made: Dictatorships can be, if not exactly overthrown, forced into receivership.

In the case of the contras in Nicaragua, the Sandinistas were swept from office. In the case of Mozambique, it may take longer for FRELIMO to be so-treated. Yet the opportunity remains.

In creating such opportunity, well-directed and -supported special operations clearly can play a significant role. In the RENAMO case, both the Rhodesian and South African campaigns may be criticized as standing for a larger wrong — white rule — but the facts discussed above indicate that the reality was considerably more complicated, surely more nuanced, than the caricature.

Summarizes Smythe: "The RENAMO case goes to prove that a popular, democratically oriented guerrilla movement may not, for all its strengths, have the ability to go it alone. Legitimacy does not automatically convert to capability. Thus there is a significant role for the highly specialized and focused expertise brought by special operators."

A West Point graduate, Dr. Tom Marks has filed uncountable combat analyses for SOF over the years from hotspots worldwide, most written after on-the-ground involvement. ✕



Training cadre from 5 Recce relax on furniture field-improvised from ammo crates (left and above). Beards were encouraged in field for hygiene (danger of infection due to cuts), and as easier to camouflage for night ops, plus general alteration of identity and profile.



FAITH OF MY FATHERS

Reviewed by James H. Warner

Photos courtesy Random House

This book is more than the story of three generations of McCains and how each, in his turn as a naval officer, did his duty in the face of adversity. The grandfather was a naval aviator whose aircraft carrier task group played a crucial role in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The father was a submarine commander during the war, who later became Commander in Chief of U.S. Forces in the Pacific during the Vietnam War. The son, Lieutenant Commander (now United States Senator) John Sydney McCain, spent five and one-half years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam. I met him there.

My circuitous route to meeting John McCain began in October of 1968. I was in the ill-fated camp at Son Tay. From the interrogation room we could see Mount Ba Vi, a distinctive landmark. We estimated that it was approximately 10 clicks to the southwest. One man, who had been allowed to write a letter home the previous year, anticipated that he would be allowed to write a Christmas letter again that year. He reasoned that our government, if a letter were received from one of us, would have the good sense to spray it with iodine, which would cause any hidden starch to turn black. Therefore, he prepared "invisible ink" using rice paste and a pen made from a sliver of bamboo. The "ink," being diluted, and the same color as the paper, could not be seen. He gave our location, the number of prisoners in the camp, the names of those with health problems, and asked "if you read this give us two booms at noon on November 10." We waited throughout 1969 to see if his letter would be acknowledged.

The two sonic booms came, a month late, on 10 December, at noon. We were elated. This meant that they had found the

camp, had seen how isolated it was, and would consider a rescue. The attempt came on 21 November 1970. However, by that time, we had been moved, and were in a camp a few miles closer to Hanoi.

But the Son Tay Raid put the Communists into a panic. They moved us all into Hoa Lo Prison, the infamous "Hanoi Hilton." There were 348 of us in the camp, and we were in cells with as many as 60 men. Prior to Son Tay, we had been in small cells, either in solitary, or small groups. We quickly established communications, and the senior men, for the first time, took direct command.

Whatever security problems they solved by bringing us all together, they created new ones for themselves. We were now a coherent unit, and we were seething with resent-

ment over several years of bad treatment compounded by a series of escalating confrontations which led to an order, from the Communists, that we would not be allowed any religious observances in our cells. We were not even allowed to pray. The pace of confrontations accelerated, resulting in what has become known as the "church riots."

Seeing that they were losing control, the Communists removed 36 men from the general population. I was one of these. We were divided into two groups of 18, and put in the back of a refrigerator truck. The cooling was not working, but the trucks were airtight. With 18 men in an insulated chamber, our body heat was trapped. As the heat rose, our metabolisms rose, and we used more air. By the time we arrived at the new camp, our air was almost exhausted, and we were in no shape to make trouble.

We were in a camp with 36 solitary cells, each 6-feet-6-inches by 3-feet-3-inches. They told us that this was a camp for "hard-core, black-hearted, reactionaries." It was here that I met John McCain.

Lineage

John McCain's family comes from the Highlands of Scotland, where they were allied to Clan McDonald. My family are Scots, and were members of the Chattan Confederation, which was allied with the McDonalds. In 1646, during the English Civil War, several of his ancestors were slain by Clan Campbell, after having surrendered. The survivors fled to Ireland. Before our Revolution they came to America. One of the Senator's ancestors was an aide to General Washington.

Eventually, the McCains settled in Mississippi. Relatives of the Senator served in the Confederate Army, and two were

Senator John McCain proved to be a worthy heir to father and grandfather.





FAITH OF MY FATHERS

JOHN
MCCAIN

WITH MARK SALTER

killed in action. The first McCain to serve the reunited nation was Henry Pinkney McCain, who graduated from West Point and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Cavalry. During World War I he organized the Selective Service.

John Sydney McCain, the grandfather, was the first member of the family to graduate from Annapolis. His shipmates always knew him as "Slew." As a young officer, Slew served with William "Bull" Halsey on the *U.S.S. Panay*, a gun boat which we had seized from the Spanish Navy in 1898. The two became friends and frequently served together. Both Bull Halsey and Slew McCain went through Naval Flight Training at Pensacola when they were in their 50s.

Shortly after the Battle of Guadalcanal, Slew was recalled to Washington and put in charge of Naval Aviation. He remained there until the summer of 1944, when he returned to the Pacific to command Task Group 38.1, which included the fast aircraft carriers, under his old friend Bull Halsey. Slew McCain was commanding this Task Group during the invasion of the Philippines.

By the autumn of 1944, the end was in sight for the Axis Pact. Italy had surrendered. Mussolini, and the remnants of the Fascist Party had been set up in Northern Italy as the "Social Republic of Italy." Following the invasion of Normandy, it was clear that National Socialist Germany could not survive much longer. Only the Japanese

had any realistic hope for anything resembling victory. The survival of Japan depended upon keeping the Philippine Islands.

The liberation of the Philippine Islands began on 20 October 1944. The Japanese had nothing to lose, and launched a desperate naval campaign, with nothing held in reserve. The Battle of Leyte Gulf began on the 23rd. The plan was to send a force of four aircraft carriers, under Admiral Ozawa, to attack Admiral Halsey from the North, hoping to lure him away from the invasion fleet. The remainder of the Imperial Japanese Navy, under Admiral Kurita, would then attack the invasion fleet from the South. Halsey had sent Slew McCain and Task Group 38.1 to refuel. Without the support of the carriers which were with Halsey, in Task Force 34, or those with McCain, the invasion fleet were threatened by a vastly superior naval force.

On the 24th, Halsey ordered McCain to return at flank-speed. On the morning of the 25th, Halsey received the famous message from Admiral Nimitz: "WHERE, REPEAT, WHERE, IS TASK FORCE 34? THE WORLD WONDERS." The radioman was not supposed to decode the second sentence, it had been added to confuse enemy cryptanalysts. Halsey responded: "I HAVE SENT MCCAIN." Perhaps, if had been another name, Nimitz would have asked for more details. Halsey believed that it was enough to say that he had sent McCain. Apparently Nimitz agreed.

Admiral Slew McCain, along with Bull Halsey, was on the deck of the *U.S.S. Missouri* to observe the surrender of the Japanese. On the same day he was able to spend time with his son, Commander John Sydney McCain, known as "Jack" to his shipmates. Slew then boarded a plane and flew back to the States. Jack never saw his father again. A few days after his return, Slew died of a heart attack.

A Salty SUB

Jack McCain also graduated from Annapolis. John told me that his father made it a practice to devote time, each night, to the study of military history, strategy, and tactics. This so impressed me that I have followed the example of Admiral McCain. Apparently his son, Senator McCain, did not. While in prison I had remarked that the French and Indian War was called the Seven Years War in Europe, and had been fought all over the world, including India, where the British East India Company defeated the French at Pondicherry. Both John McCain and Orson Swindle, now a U.S. Trade Commissioner, thought that this was obviously wrong. In 1975, John introduced me to my future boss, Ronald Reagan, and to Ross Perot, as the man who had the mistaken view of the French and Indian War.

I met John's father. We had gone to a reception at San Clemente, and President



Nixon introduced me to Admiral McCain. I told the Admiral that I had taken up his practice of daily study of military history. He told me that a knowledge of the art of conflict would serve well, even if applied outside of armed conflict. When he was distracted, Nixon said that Jack McCain was one of the finest leaders ever to serve our country, even though, in Nixon's words, he was "a salty SOB."

During the war, John's father torpedoed and sank a Japanese ship. Instantly, two escort destroyers began searching for him. McCain took the boat down and rested on the bottom while depth charges were falling around them. They stayed down until the oxygen in the air was foul, and the batteries, on which the boat depended underwater, were almost gone. When I read this, I remembered the foul air, with the oxygen almost gone, during that ride in the refrigerator truck to the camp where I met John McCain.

In 1967, President Johnson named Jack McCain to be the Commander In Chief of U.S. Forces in the Pacific. In the book John mentions that his father was called upon to order bombing raids over Hanoi, the city where his son was being held as a prisoner. I take that as testimony that Nixon was right — Jack McCain really was "a salty SOB."

A Worthy Heir

John told me only one thing about his mother, and this was not included in the book. When his father was appointed as a naval advisor to Ambassador Adlai Stevenson at the United Nations, John's mother told his father that she would try to be a good diplomat's wife, that she would entertain and be gracious about it. However, she made one rule which could not be broken: She would not permit a communist in their home.

Senator John McCain proved to be a worthy heir to Slew and Jack McCain. While in prison, the Communists constantly told us that we did not have to stay there. If we would apologize, they would release us. A handful did so, and were released.



John McCain III was tortured, held in solitary confinement, and imprisoned for five-and-a-half years after refusing an early release out of a sense of honor.

The rest of us refused, since this would harm the moral position our country had taken. George "Bud" Day, John's first cellmate, told me that when the Communists learned that John's father was Commander in Chief of U.S. Forces in the Far East, they leaned on him hard to get him to go home. John refused. Bud told me that they would twist John's broken arm when he refused. Today, 32 years later, his arm is still crooked. However, the measure of a man is his character. I was with him where character counted, and can attest that I do not know another man more utterly dependable, or steadfast in the face of trouble, than John McCain.

The Roman historian, Livy (Titus Livius), tells a story of the time of the establishment of

the Roman Republic. The last king, Tarquin, had been expelled and a royalist army was raised by Lars Porsena to restore the monarchy. An early battle in this war was remembered by Thomas Babington McCaulay in "Horatius At The Bridge," a poem which schoolboys, in an earlier America, were called upon to recite from memory.

In the course of the war, Porsena laid siege to Rome. A young noble, Mucius Scaevola, determined to avenge the shame which he felt by his city being under siege. He hid a dagger beneath his tunic, and stole out of the city and into the enemy camp, determined to assassinate Porsena. Unfortunately, it was payday for the enemy army and Porsena stood with the army paymaster. Scaevola knew that one of the two was his intended victim but he could not ask which was which without giving himself away. By fate, he made the wrong choice. After slaying the paymaster, he was brought before Porsena. Porsena pronounced the death sentence. Scaevola sneered, exclaiming that 300 of his comrades had pledged to come, one at a time, to slay Porsena. "Then I will torture you to reveal their names," replied Porsena.

A fire was burning in a brazier near the king, having been lighted for a religious ritual. Scaevola thrust his right hand into the flame to show that pain meant nothing to him when compared to his love of Rome. Porsena was so impressed that he set the captive free and lifted the siege.

The Roman Republic endured for 450



years because it had men such as Scaevola, with strength of character and moral integrity. It fell when the number of men with these qualities became insufficient to preserve it. If the American Republic is to endure, it must produce more Americans like Slew, Jack and John McCain, and fewer like Bill Clinton, Jane Fonda and Webster Hubbell. Read this book. In addition to being a hell of a good story, it is a step in the right direction for America. A free republic cannot endure if its people lack integrity and moral character. These qualities must be learned, they are not born in us. They are best taught by example, and this book offers examples of how an American should act.

Faith Of My Fathers, by John McCain with Mark Salter, is published by Random House, \$25.00. James H. Warner is an intellectual property attorney who frequently contributes to Soldier Of Fortune magazine. ✕

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Bravest Of The Brave

SOG: A Photo History Of The Secret Wars

by Major John Plaster (Ret.)

Editor's note: *The following are selected, excerpted profiles from the book that was never supposed to be published — SOG: A Photo History Of The Secret Wars — about the secret wars that the U.S. Government always denied. It's a companion photo history to Major John Plaster's award-winning book, SOG: The Secret Wars of America's Commandos In Vietnam. This small sampling will give you a taste of the book, but can't begin to do justice to all that's contained in its 485 pages of text and photos. Published by Paladin Press, the book can be purchased at your local Paladin retailer or ordered by calling (303) 442-8741. For credit card orders, call toll-free 1-800-392-2400 (U.S. and Canada). Visit the web site at: www.paladin-press.com.*

Bravest Of The Brave: Bob Howard

Among such extraordinary soldiers, it is hard to single out one recon man as the very finest, yet SOG possessed a man worthy of superlatives, Sergeant First Class Robert Howard. Unique in U.S. military annals, Robert Howard was submitted for the Medal of Honor *three* times in 13 months, and many thought he should have received all three.

This selfless soldier is *the* most highly decorated American of this or any age, his uniform displaying the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, and numerous lesser awards, plus eight Purple Hearts, all earned in SOG. This is the man who one night ran alongside an enemy truck, tossed a claymore mine in back among a bunch of startled NVA troopers, and then detonated it. Another time, he saw a VC terrorist on a motorbike toss a grenade at a G.I. chow line. Howard snatched an M16 from an amazed security guard, dropped to one knee, carefully aimed, shot the driver, and then chased the passenger a half-mile and shot him dead.

His first Medal of Honor submission came in November 1967



Gene McCarthy

Bob Howard with badly shot-up Huey at Dak To, 1968. Rock-hard physically, and a man of incredible courage, he was equally unassuming and decent.



Bob Howard carries a wounded NVA prisoner to the CCC dispensary.

for screening a Hatchet Force mission. While the Hatchet Force destroyed an enemy cache, Howard's team came upon four NVA soldiers, all of whom he shot; but then his team was pinned-down by machine gun fire. Howard killed an NVA sniper and then rushed the machine-gun nest and shot all its occupants at point-blank range. When a second machine gun opened fire, he crawled forward again. "Pinned down directly outside the strongpoint with a blazing machine gun barrel only six inches above his head," his award citation later read, "he threw a hand grenade into the aperture of the emplacement, killing the gunners and temporarily silencing the weapon." When more NVA took over the gun, Howard seized a rocket launcher and "stood amid a hail of bullets, fired his weapon, and completely demolished the position." Howard's one-man attack so demoralized the enemy soldiers that they abandoned the hill. Though recommended for the Medal of Honor, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

In mid-November 1968, Howard accompanied a Hatchet Force into The Bra, its mission to draw NVA forces away from a besieged CIA-supported force deeper in Laos. After four days of sporadic contact, on 19 November, the Hatchet Force members were ambushed by a large enemy force, the deadliest fire pouring from a PT-76 tank's turret-mounted 12.7mm machine gun. Howard crept forward to fire two LAW rockets, silencing the gun and destroying the tank. Later, when a medevac Huey was shot down, Howard ignored his own wounds to dash, alone, 300 yards through enemy fire to scoop up a wounded doorgunner and lead the surviving pilots back to safety. During a subsequent barrage, 14 pieces of shrapnel slashed Howard, so infuriating him that he charged into the enemy soldiers; he surprised three of them, shooting two, and bringing the third back as a POW. By the night of the third day, he had been perforated 50 times and lay weak, bleeding from his arms, legs, back, and face. When a 37mm antiaircraft gun halted the force members' extraction the following morning, Howard again crept between NVA positions to pour a dozen 40mm grenade rounds on the gun, killing its crew and allowing the extraction to finish. For the second time in 12 months he was recommended for the Medal of Honor, but

a combination of politics and petty jealousy got it downgraded to a Silver Star. Because he was a humble man and cared more about his comrades than any award, Bob Howard said nothing.

Then a few weeks later, Private First Class Robert Scherdin was wounded and separated from his RT in Laos; an emergency radio beacon was detected on the hill where he had disappeared.

The next morning Howard accompanied a 40-man Bright Light platoon, led by Lieutenant Jim Jerson, to search the hill. After bypassing a reinforced NVA company, the platoon began climbing the hill, almost certain it'd be ambushed. It came with a terrible blast — a Chinese mine that badly wounded Jerson and Howard. When Howard awoke he ached all over, and his shredded fingers were almost useless, but he managed to drive away a flamethrower-wielding NVA soldier. Too injured to stand, Howard dragged himself to Jerson — he was alive. Howard clumsily carried and dragged him off the hill, pausing to fight and kill enemy soldiers on the way while himself suffering a gunshot wound to the leg. Assembling some 20-odd survivors, Howard prepared to fight to the death, that night even calling a Spectre gunship's fire through his own position. But then, miraculously, a surprise night extraction under parachute flares caught the enemy off-guard, and the platoon survivors made it out. Displaying courageous leadership to the end, Howard was the last man to board a chopper.

He awoke briefly in a field hospital to find his hands bandaged and face covered with ointment and to learn that Lt. Jim Jerson had died.

This, Robert Howard's third recommendation for the Medal of Honor, was not downgraded. But when the medal was awarded American patriotism had plunged, and no special accord was given him — not one second of national TV coverage for the most decorated man ever to wear our country's uniform. He deserved better.

"Babysan" Davidson

Second only to Jerry Shriver in respect and achievements while running recon at CCS was Staff Sergeant. David "Babysan" Davidson. Even though he was 23, Davidson looked barely 16, with his red hair and freckles, and his 5-foot, 6-inch frame that weighed only 130 pounds. "If you didn't know who he was, you'd think he was just a baby-face kid that got stuck up in the draft like all the other baby-face kids," Ben Lyons said. "When they tagged him 'Babysan,' they tagged him right."



Cecil Carle

Understandably nicknamed "Babysan," David Davidson displayed boundless courage and became one of SOG's finest One-Zeros.



"Babysan" is presented with Silver Star for Gallantry.

Davidson was among the first U.S. combat troops to serve in the war, arriving as an 18-year-old paratrooper in 1965. After a stint with the 101st Airborne Division, he volunteered for Special Forces and served another year, as a parachute rigger with the 5th SFGA. In June 1967, he was among the very first Project Omega recon men to penetrate Cambodia and continued running recon until May 1968. Babysan went back to Ft. Bragg's 7th SFGA but apparently didn't care for Stateside duty. He returned to SOG in August 1969. "He was good in the woods," fellow One-Zero Sonny Franks said, "but he didn't mind a scrappin', and when he got in a firefight he always got 'em out."

On 21 February 1970, Davidson's team made one of SOG's rare static-line parachute inserts, jumping deep into Cambodia in the middle of the night. By October 1970, though only 23 years old, he had spent one out of every five days of his life in Vietnam and was into his third year of running SOG recon. When Cambodian cross-border missions ended that summer, Babysan transferred to Danang-based CCN and continued running recon, this time leading RT Fer de Lance.

On the afternoon of 5 October 1970, RT Fer De Lance was on a Laotian ridge just south of Route 922, 10 miles west of where the road entered the northern A Shau Valley, at Hamburger Hill. A FAC arrived as Babysan reported NVA forces sweeping for the RT, but solid clouds covered the area. The FAC had to refuel, and by the time he returned the team had been in one firefight — Babysan had been shot and fallen down a slope — and his One-One, Sergeant. Fred Gassman, reported that many NVA troops were advancing on him from three sides. Then Gassman called, "I've been hit and in the worst possible way." The radio went dead.

The next morning six FACs scoured the ridge at treetop level but found nothing. To this day, the North Vietnamese have refused to acknowledge any information about Babysan Davidson and his teammate Fred Gassman.

Above and Beyond: Fred Zabitosky

RT Maine One-Zero Fred Zabitosky, 26, did not relish going into "The Bra" for his final recon mission. Named for the double river curve where Highway 110 split from the Trail's major north-south road, The Bra contained Binh Tram 37, whose hidden stockpiles and truck parks were defended by masses of antiaircraft guns, security battalions, and counter-recon units. Zabitosky recently had led two perilous Bright Lights, recovering a One-Zero's body after the NVA burned him to death and then searching for Charlie White, who'd fallen off a McGuire Rig.

On 19 February 1968, Zabitosky, along with Staff Sergeants Doug Glover, One-One, and Purcell Bragg, One-Two, landed safely in The Bra and had barely entered a narrow canyon when an NVA platoon opened fire. Zab told Glover to lead the team back to the LZ while he bought time for fighters to get there. SOG intelligence later determined the canyon had contained a regimental command post,

possibly the headquarters of Binh Tram 37, itself.

Zab repulsed the NVA platoon by blowing a claymore, tossing several grenades, and firing his CAR-15, tactics he repeated for 30 minutes until he heard A-1s overhead. In one fast dash, he ran all the way to the LZ, where he found RT Maine, but before a Huey could come in, hundreds of NVA troops attacked. No sooner had Zab's men halted one charge than another NVA company arrived and it, too, attacked through napalm and cannon fire. Then Covey had RT Maine run along a streambed and through a woodline to another LZ.

When Covey sent in a Huey, Purcell Bragg and two 'Yards made it out safely. Then 100 NVA soldiers assaulted from three sides, and Zab's men were down to two magazines apiece. Under the heavy fire of gunships and A-1s another Huey came in just as the NVA soldiers rose up again. The doorgunners and SOG men mowed down a long line of NVA, and then everyone fired as the Huey lifted off — they were 75 feet up and almost clear of the LZ when an RPG struck the helicopter, splitting it in two and dropping it. It crashed on its side, burning furiously.



Fred Zabitosky receives the Medal of Honor from President Richard Nixon.

Thrown free, Zabitosky forced himself awake to extinguish his burning clothes. In addition to severe burns and shrapnel wounds, he'd suffered several crushed vertebrae and broken ribs. Inside the nearby burning wreckage he could see the pilots still lashed in their seats, trapped in the flames, while in back the white-hot burning Huey already had consumed Doug Glover, four 'Yards, and the two doorgunners, Sergeants Melvin Dye and Robert Griffith.

Zabitosky stumbled to his feet and tore open the pilot's door, grabbed the semiconscious First Lieutenant Richard Griffith, and dragged him to safety. Everything was burned off Griffith except his leather gunbelt. Zab climbed back into the flames and undid Warrant Officer John Cook's harness. The fuel cells then exploded, blowing the two men clear.

Despite heavy ground-fire, another Huey made it in, so Green Beret medic Luke Nance could help Zabitosky drag the two men into the aircraft. Evacuated to Japan, John Cook thanked Zabitosky before succumbing to the burns that covered 85 percent of his body. The other pilot, Richard Griffith, eventually recovered and spent a career with the Michigan State Police.

One year after that day in The Bra, RT Maine One-Zero Zabitosky was presented the Medal of Honor by President Richard

Nixon. "I was presented and I wear the medal," he would say, "but it was earned by Doug Glover and my other Special Forces team members."

Fred Zabitosky died in early 1997 while surgeons were attempting to remove a tumor from his brain, a humble, devoted man to the very end.

Franklin "Doug" Miller: One-Man Assault Force

The tri-border area of northeastern Cambodia's Ratanakiri Province — dubbed Base Area 609 by U.S. intelligence — typically contained at least two NVA infantry regiments of about 1,000 men each. Almost any SOG team venturing into that heavy jungle was likely to find trouble.

That was the case when CCC's Kontum-based RT Vermont landed there on 5 January 1970 to search for enemy base camps. RT Vermont's One-Zero, Staff Sgt. Franklin "Doug" Miller, had been in SOG for a little over six months, but he was hardly new to recon. Although Miller was trained as a Special Forces demolitions man, when he originally arrived in Vietnam in 1966 he'd been assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Division where he spent two-and-a-half continuous years in a long-range reconnaissance patrol company. With that much time in combat, especially in recon, he was instantly accepted when he volunteered for Top-Secret SOG duty in 1969.

Miller soon adjusted to SOG's most demanding environment and became One-Zero of RT Vermont. His One-One, Sgt. Robert Brown, was a Special Forces medic with one previous mission, while his One-Two, radio operator Sgt. Edward Blythe, was on his first mission.

Not long after RT Vermont left its LZ, an indigenous soldier noticed a thin cord tied across a trail and, not believing the enemy would booby-trap his own rear area, he yanked on it. Instantly there was a tremendous roar, and four team members collapsed, seriously wounded. Worse yet, the hastily emplaced booby trap had been put there by a reinforced NVA squad, which now rushed forward to assault the disorganized SOG men.

Unwounded, One-Zero Miller and Montagnard pointman, Hyuk, let loose a heavy volume of fire at almost point-blank range, buying

time for Brown and Blythe to lead the injured men to safety.

With half his men incapacitated and more NVA troops now rushing into the area, Miller hastily helped bandage the wounded. Then, leaving most of their rucksacks behind, they made their way across a stream and 150 meters up a small hillside to a bomb crater. Taking cover there to watch their backtrail, Miller and his pointman could see to where they'd left their rucksacks — a North Vietnamese leader looked through the backpacks and then waved over more of his men and signaled for a wide sweep toward where Miller and his teammates were hiding.

Knowing he could not move his men because of their wounds, Miller opened fire with his CAR-15, knocking down several enemy soldiers. Then Hyuk added more fire, forcing NVA troops to fall back, but soon still more of the enemy arrived. Fanning out right and left, an estimated NVA platoon-strength body rushed up the hill, aggressively advancing despite Miller's and Hyuk's well-aimed CAR-15 bursts.

Meanwhile, Sgt. Brown was bandaging the wounded and radioing for air support. Then the NVA assaulted again, their massed fire killing the pointman and seriously wounding One-Zero Miller. By now an evacuation Huey was inbound, but heavy enemy fire drove it off.

Again Miller exposed himself on that dangerous downhill flank and, despite taking an AK round through his left arm, placed effective CAR-15 fire on the NVA forces, repelling their assault. By now every member of RT Vermont had been wounded.

Despite his condition, One-Zero Miller led the team to a more protected position, where a Huey was at last able to land a Bright Light team that helped to evacuate the wounded men.

Staff Sergeant Miller was awarded the Medal of Honor, SOG's second such award for a covert ground action in Cambodia.

The Indefatigable Billy Waugh



Billy Waugh, aboard a Kingbee, 22 kilometers northwest of Khe Sanh, about to land in Laos in 1967.

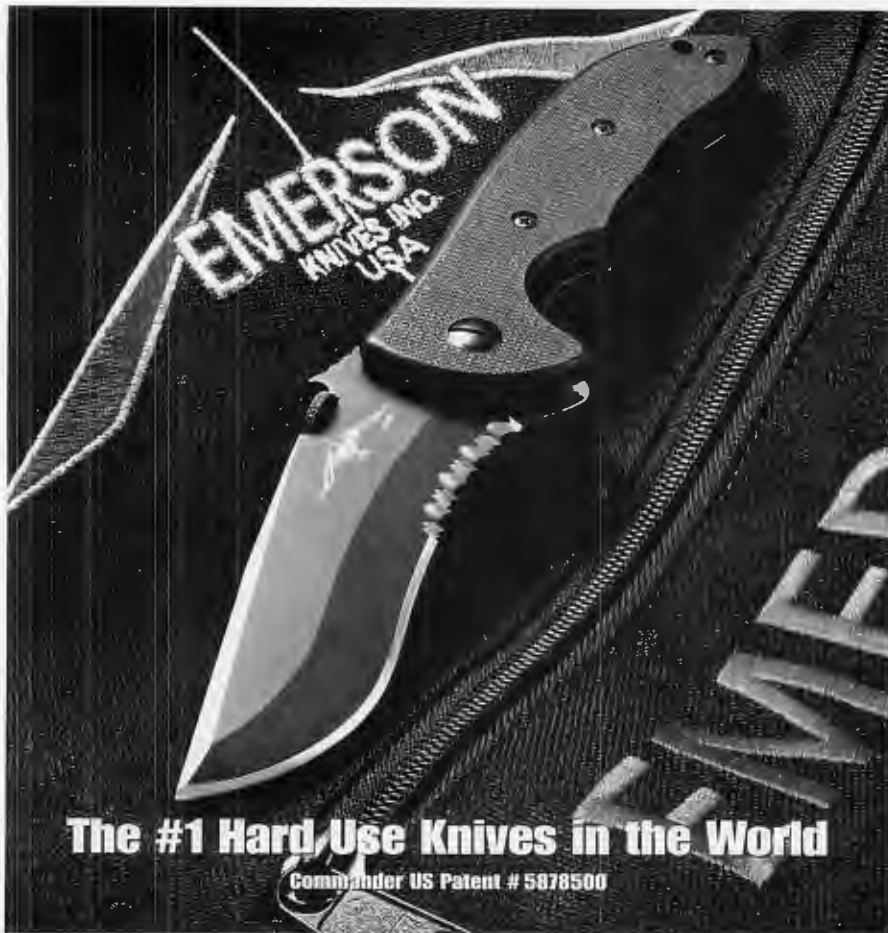
It is doubtful that any man in SOG fought more battles, served on more assignments, and tempted fate more often than Sergeant Major William "Billy" Waugh. Tough, two-fisted, whiskey-drinking, and never too shy to avoid a fight, Billy Waugh was everywhere in SOG.

When cross-border missions turned bloody in 1966, he recovered the bodies of One-Zero Harry "Crash" Whalen's lost men. A year later he was a Covey Rider and witnessed the costly attempt

Continued on page 73



Miller during a recon mission in Laos.



Suddenly the 60mm mortar NCO asked permission to shoot-in his night defensive fires. Since he had a grin on his face, how could I refuse? The thud of outgoing 60s soon reverberated in the evening air. No sooner had the 60s left the tubes, then the 81mm section chief asked my blessing to get clearance from the FSCC to shoot in his night defensive fires. The 81s were soon challenging the 60s for supremacy. The company gunnery sergeant asked if I had any objections to having the 3.5 rocket gunners to join in the fray, and the one-sided firefight escalated. The edge of the woodline began to smoke with white phosphorus- rounds. The "Zips" hadn't given up, however, as when one of the 3.5 gunners went into a kneeling position, the desperate NVA tried to spoil the aim of the gunner. A quick round between the 3.5 man's legs did the trick and he yanked his shot ricocheting a 3.5 WP round off the ground about 30 feet in front of him and sending it mercifully unexploded into the treeline to detonate harmlessly.

I began to get a bit suspicious when the artillery forward observer asked to check his night defensive fires, but what the hell, fun was fun! I was gratified that the artillery was on target, and could be depended on to do evil things to sappers if they decided to molest our position during the night.

The Battalion S-3 called in and asked what the hell was going on? I described a firefight of sufficient proportions to justify our somewhat heavy expenditure of ordinance. He told me that they had just received notification that there were two F-4s returning to base with unused 250-lb. Snake-Eyes and wanted to know if I could use them. The company was now beginning to get with the program and was helping with all the small-arms fire we could muster without expending our ready supply of ammo. I answered in the affirmative on the air support and told them that I would mark the target with 60mm WP.

The woodline soon was ablaze and the entire earth shook, since the edge of the treeline was only about 200 yards distant. Needless to say, we were not molested that night! A search of the treeline in the morning revealed the remnants of what appeared to be an NVA platoon, but it was pretty hard to say, since the 250-pounders left few remains to recognize.

The withdrawal from the ridgeline went smoothly and all seemed to be progressing well as we headed for the beach to meet the mike boats.

I was located about the middle of the column while my executive officer, Mike Chervenak, was bringing up the rear with the company gunnery sergeant, Franklin Craddock. Mike was about as savvy a lieutenant as I have ever served with. Mike and I tended to have the same thoughts at the

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same time — this made tactical deployment in a firefight a piece of cake.

Gunny Craddock was a former drill instructor with the fighting heart of a Roman Centurion. My company first sergeant was an old-time NCO from Korea and a two-time drill instructor from Parris Island. Jones was better known as “Horrible Jones” or “Locker Box Jones” throughout the Corps. He was a true professional.

As we got within striking distance of the beach, I suddenly became aware of the sound of mortar rounds leaving the tubes. And they were close! The only possible point of origin had to be the treeline about 150 yards on our right flank. Without even thinking, I got Mike on the hook and told him to get the 81s on the treeline. He chuckled a bit and told me that they were already on the way. Soon both the 60 and 81 mortars were on target and the M60s were joining the fray. I was just asking the Artillery FO to contact Quang Tri for a fire mission. The next step would have been to call the Battalion CP for the possibility of bringing in air — when I noticed a long bamboo pole coming out of the treeline, unremarkable in and of itself, but this one had a small white handkerchief tied to the top of it! I called a ceasefire!

The spectacle of a line of troops wearing U.S.-style helmets — and what appeared to be ARVN Uniforms — came winding out of the foliage. The most notable thing about our former adversaries is that they all had their hands in the air and their rifles slung muzzle-down. It appeared that these guys had done this before!

I called battalion and told them what we were observing, and asked what disposition they wanted of the “marauding troops.” I was fully in favor of tying their hands and marching them to the Mike Boats. Heck, the brass could sort the thing out! Some of the troops, of course, had more imaginative suggestions. Since no one had been injured on either side, I allowed reason to prevail, and stripped them of all the ammunition I could find and sent them back to Quang Tri on their own recognizance.

I have always had a soft spot in my heart for the helpless and inept so I let them go. In retrospect, I have always wondered how many deaths these guys were later responsible for?

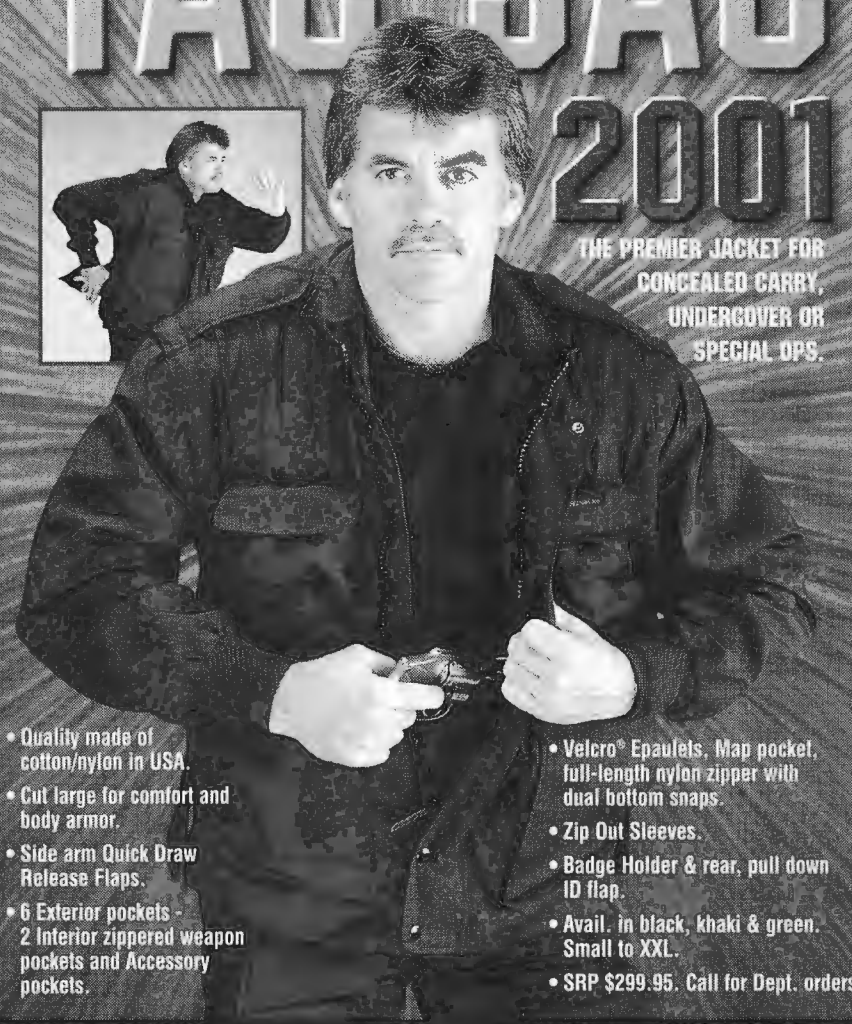
We continued to the beach when some unnamed Marine started singing the *Marine Hymn*. I expected some disgruntled trooper to fling a dirt clod at the “gungy” Marine. Instead, the entire column slowly took up the refrain and, much like a John Ford movie, the entire company was singing “From the Halls of Montezuma ...” at the tops of their lungs.

General Ky was victorious in the election, of course, and I suppose we were successful in our blocking efforts — as there were only twice as many kidnappings and murders in the surrounding villages as usual.

Dick Culver and his wife, Gloria, reside in Idaho. ☒

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seems to be one of civilian dress, it should not be forgotten that all SAS men are soldiers, first and foremost. Any soldier, sailor or airman can join the SAS; it is a simple matter of applying via the correct channels. When called, the candidate will be required to attend the Special Forces Briefing Course (SFBC) week-end course at the Regiment's barracks in Hereford, home of the SAS since the early '60s. The SFBC is there to ensure that prospective candidates are fully aware and prepared before they attempt SAS selection. It is also an opportunity for the regiment to look at prospective candidates, making sure they like what they see and that valuable training time is spent on only the very best recruits.

Ideally, candidates for the SAS need to have had at least three years' military service with a parent unit, or service with other armed forces (the SAS has, and will, take soldiers from other countries). This ensures that the basic training requirements and disciplines are already in place.

Self-discipline is most important in the SAS and it has taken nearly 50 years to establish a code that is acceptable, a code where each man knows what is expected of him. Candidates leave the SFBC after a series of briefings and presentations about

the role of British Special Forces in general and have some six months to prepare for SAS selection. However, many arrive at Hereford, but few manage to stay — physically, selection requires *everything* you have, and then some.

SAS Selection

Selection is a funny word to use. The verb 'select' means to pick out the best or most suitable; while the adjective means, chosen for excellence. The problem is nobody picks or chooses the candidate; he must earn his place. Therefore, it's more a case of the individual candidate selecting himself. It's what makes the SAS so unique — a bunch of individuals, but with the capacity to act as one instrument like the cogwheels of a well-oiled watch.

Some six months after their SFBC, successful candidates will be called to do SAS selection — and this is *hard*, there is no other way to say it. Selection takes place mostly in the Brecon Beacons of South Wales, and although not a high range of mountains, they are treacherous. Exposed and battered by constant weather changes, death by hypothermia is seldom far away for the soldiers, and many candidates have suffered this slow demise.

Through the years many different training methods have been tried and tested, but little has changed since John Woodhouse first set out the basic format; if anything, selection gets harder. Stamina and fitness, plus the ability to read a map and use a compass, remain the backbone of completing the set

march routes inside the given time. At first the candidates will be marched over a series of mountainous routes carrying rucksacks. While these are strenuous they are more designed to weed out the weak, reducing the average SAS selection course from around 120 starters to some 30 remaining candidates. Those who do remain will prepare themselves for Test Week.

Test Week comes at the end of the first phase of SAS selection, and is designed to test individual fitness and stamina. It is by far the most grueling physical requirement of the entire course, as each candidate must complete a set route march in a given time while carrying a variety of weights. A brief example of a day's routes would be the Fan Dance. This means walking up and down the highest mountain in the Brecon Beacons from three different start points. It is a total 18 miles with 40-lb. rucksack and a rifle with just six hours allowed to complete the march. Sounds easy, but you should try it.

To give you some idea, the average calorie burn is estimated at around 8,000 calories per day during Test Week; therefore, it is sound advice for those who want to make it through Test Week, to eat as much food as possible, especially breakfast. At the end of Test Week the remaining candidates come face to face with the Endurance March. Little prepares anyone for this. With a rifle and *bergen* weighing 70 pounds, you are expected to walk 40 miles in a time of 20 hours. The problem is the route runs over the rough-

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est terrain of the Beacons mountains.

For those who make it through Test Week, continuation training follows. Here all the necessary basic skills required of the SAS soldier are taught, practiced and mastered. It's back to basics: weapons training, patrolling skills, SOPs (Standard Operational Procedures), escape and evasion exercises, parachuting (for those not already qualified) and finally five weeks' jungle training. Then, for those who cannot swim or drive, there is a crash course in both before the candidate is allowed to enter an SAS Squadron. At this stage the newcomer will still be on probation as he will have a whole host of new skills to learn — diving, free-fall parachuting, rock-climbing, explosives, and highly advanced communications, just to name a few. Equally, for those candidates who pass selection and join the SAS, they must give up any previous rank held in their original regiments and revert to trooper. The individual must then work his way back up the promotion line under SAS eyes. To compensate for this, the SAS qualify for special pay which far exceeds that of a fast-jet pilot, a small token of their worth to the British Government.

Finally, when all this is done, the successful candidate will receive his beige beret, with its famous winged dagger — as any SAS man will tell you, it is a special moment and a fabulous feeling!

Life in the SAS is not guaranteed. The newly adorned soldier will be expected to learn many new skills and perform accord-

ingly well under combat conditions. While skill and expertise are vital, courage during conflict is equally important.

There are two types of courage: physical courage, and, more importantly, as far as the SAS is concerned, *moral* courage. Physical courage alone can often cause a man to act foolishly in the face of danger for fear of otherwise looking cowardly. Moral courage is rarer and tempers bravery with wisdom. A man with moral courage will not only work well in a team, but also by himself as he doesn't need praise or flattery to keep going. This type of person will be able to cope with most undesirable predicaments — even capture and interrogation by the enemy, as happened to SAS soldiers during the Gulf War.

Leading — And Supporting — Roles

So what makes these elite soldiers risk their lives? There are probably many reasons, but the first and foremost is the desire to be an unquestionable soldier; a member of the elite group. Such concepts may sound gung-ho, but to a professional soldier it will make sense.

Recently, the SAS have been involved in a variety of missions:

In Albania they were called upon to rescue a British couple who ran an orphanage, as well as the children who lived there. This was achieved with maximum efficiency and minimum fuss.

In Bosnia, as part of the peace-keeping

efforts, the SAS has been involved in the arrest of war criminals. Their actions made the headlines in July 1997 after they shot dead one of the men they were arresting. The man, Simo Drljaca, upon being challenged, pulled a gun on the soldiers and wounded one in the leg. This imprudent action that cost him his life.

There is absolutely no doubt that the SAS will continue to be Britain's elite fighting force for decades to come.

Author's note:

There have been a number of Americans in the SAS. As a U.S. Army Special Forces officer, Colonel Charlie Beckwith trained with the SAS and saw action in Malaya. He later developed a reputation for bravery in the Vietnam War, where he commanded Project Delta. In 1977, he was given the task of setting up the U.S.'s first counter-terrorist unit, Delta Force. Beckwith based his new unit on the SAS — and indeed the first Delta recruits trained at Hereford.

Barry Davies' decorated service with the SAS is well-known. The unit's history is graphically covered in two of his books, Joining The SAS, and SAS: The Illustrated History (Virgin Publishing, Ltd., London; fax: 011-44-171-386-3680. Design for the latter by Design 23, London.). The U.S. distributor for many SAS titles (some carried by Barnes & Noble and others) is Lewis International, Inc., Miami, FL; phone: 1-800-259-5962. ✕

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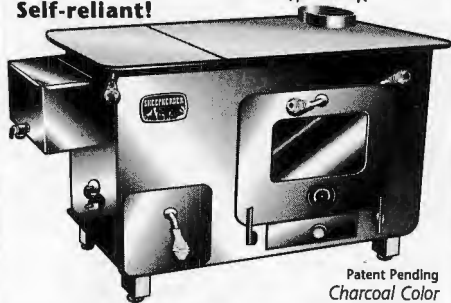
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Waco: New Revelation

Continued from page 55

Waco, so much so that he felt personally responsible. In a neat twist, the film suggests that a phrase in Vince Foster's purported suicide note — "The FBI lied to me." — was a reference not to the scandal surrounding the White House travel office, but to Waco.

Foster's secretary and a Secret Service agent reveal that Foster's secret report on what happened at Waco was removed from Foster's office immediately after his death. The former intern who actually retrieved the box of files containing Foster's Waco report said he was told by Maggie Williams, the First Lady's chief of staff, to take the files to the Clinton's private residence "for review." Foster's Waco report has not been seen since.

The film's weakest point is an assertion that the government actually planted a shape charge on top of an interior concrete structure where the FBI believed Koresh was hiding, but which actually was a refuge from the fire for women and children. Footage here is strong in one respect: It shows the charred remains of victims huddled under the remnants of wet blankets, suggesting that they were not trying to embrace a suicide pact, but survive.

But the evidence of a government-planted explosive — a photograph of an unexplained hole in the top of the concrete bunker, showing the *lattice*work of steel reinforcing bars bent downward — is tenuous at best. But it certainly points to an issue that demands further explanation by the government.

Where Will The Thread Of Evidence Lead?

No doubt such explanations will be a long time in coming. It has taken six years to get this far, to learn what little of the ugly truth that is known. What it means for the future is uncertain, but the probable picture isn't pretty.

Clive Doyle, who survived the fire, echoes *SOF's* second story on Waco, that the atrocity was not an isolated event, but in a continuing series of outrages, perhaps a horrifying harbinger of things to come.

Waco and its many investigations aren't the end, Doyle says in the film.

"I believe Waco was just the beginning," he said.

If the guilty parties among government officials are Bible readers, they might want to turn to the Old Testament book of Nahum for food for thought. But the truth in this case might make everyone sick to the stomach.

"The Lord avengeth and is furious," Nahum wrote. "The Lord will take vengeance on his adversaries ..."

SOF investigative reporter James L. Pate has been covering the assault on the Davidian compound and the ensuing assaults on justice since day one. He will continue. ✕

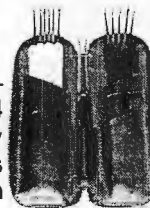


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Bravest Of The Brave

Continued from page 67

to raid the enemy's Ho Chi Minh Trail headquarters in Target Oscar Eight. By 1970, he was Recon Sergeant Major at CCN, continuing to run recon despite attaining a rank usually found behind a desk. When Chief SOG assembled a top-secret training mission to assist the surrounded Cambodian army outpost at Ba



At Ba Kev, Cambodia, in 1970, where Waugh led a SOG team that helped defend a cut-off Cambodian outpost.

Kev, he could think of no one better to lead it than Billy Waugh, who went in with Melvin Hill, Warner "Rocky" Farr, Joe Smith, and Tomas Ruiz-Irizarry. Later in 1970, Waugh selected the world's first HALO team, and then a few months afterward, unable to watch while others were jumping, he organized and trained his own team for SOG's third HALO jump. Then he served as a HALO instructor at SOG's school at Camp Long Thanh.

During a protracted search in Laos in 1971 to find an escaped U.S. POW, Air Force Lt. Jack Butcher, Sergeant Major Waugh twice took in all-volunteer teams that nearly reached Butcher before he was recaptured. Like so many of SOG's most seasoned soldiers, Billy Waugh never received much in the way of deserved awards — he was too busy fighting and looking out for his men — but he's deeply respected by all those who served with him.

John Plaster is a decorated sniper who served in SOG from 1968 through 1971. He's the author of many books, and a frequent contributor to Soldier Of Fortune.



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Chechen women taken into custody today. Within minutes of arriving at the market, OMON troops had fanned out into the labyrinth of stalls and kiosks looking for an unidentified man they later told us might have sold Sautyev and Dakhkilgov the hexogen used in the two most deadly Moscow bombings.

"If he's here, we'll get him," Oleg Akysyonov, a ministry of interior press officer told SOF as we trailed the OMON team.

We ran from stall to stall with three OMON officers outfitted with body armor, webbing, what appeared to be a sawed-off Remington pump shotgun and standard-issue 9mm pistols.

Terrorists And Bandits

Shoppers began scattering as the officers shouted for people to make way. A Moscow police helicopter could be heard overhead, and if the police still had the element of surprise after five minutes in the market then they would surely get their quarry.

A group of four OMON troops came by in the opposite direction with a line of freshly arrested Chechen men. Their man wasn't among the scraggly group of prisoners.

"Terrorists," one of the OMON officers said to us as he walked by. "Bandits," said another.

Finally, after 20 minutes, OMON commanders called off the sweep. "He's not here," Akysyonov said. "He's smart, but we'll get him."

By week's end, police announced the security sweep had netted some 11,000 people, including 30 suspected of involvement in the bombings. They also claimed to have seized 74 bombs, found hidden in various apartment and office blocks in Moscow.

Shortly after SOF left Moscow, the Kremlin surprised everyone with an announcement that Russian troops were moving quickly to create a 10-mile security zone separating Russia from Chechnya.

Tens of thousands of Russian troops were involved, with dozens of air force fighter jets offering support to ground troops.

If the bombers couldn't be caught in Moscow, the Kremlin reasoned, they would be forever prevented from entering Russia from their bases in Chechnya.

Less than three weeks later, Russian forces had come within rifle-shot of the Chechen capital Grozny and showed no signs of stopping short of actually capturing the breakaway republic.

Despite the Kremlin's deployment of nearly 100,000 troops, Khattab and Basayev continue to remain active.

"There is no government in Russia now with which it would be possible to negotiate," Basayev told a Czech journalist. "The state in effect does not exist. The only thing which is left is the police apparatus."

Mark H. Milstein is a senior SOF correspondent based in Hungary. ✉



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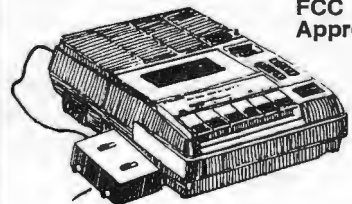
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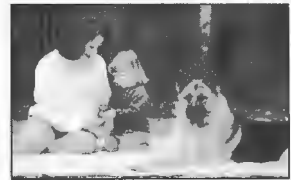
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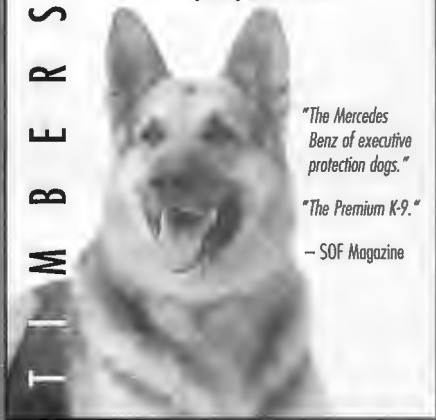
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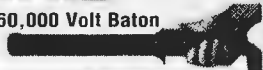
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PARTING SHOT

by Wayne Laugesen

Guerrilla Attack by a Media Merc

Few know the failings of the American media better than gun owners, military veterans, cops and other soldiers of fortune. All get maligned by an emotional press corps indifferent to truth. In Boulder, Colo. — home of Soldier Of Fortune magazine and the infamous JonBenet Ramsey murder, one man fought the national press in a guerrilla-style attack some reporters will never forget. (Read more at www.Laugesen.com.)

JonBenet Ramsey's ghost must be smiling. Finally, after three years as the carcass for a media bloodfest, the dead six-year-old's dignity was restored by media mercenary Jann Scott.

It's 11 October, outside of the Boulder County Justice Center. Dozens of TV, radio and print reporters, from around the world, are hanging out in anticipation of a grand jury indictment announcement by Boulder District Attorney Alex Hunter. Satellite trucks drone in the background making the exact same noise as carnival rides.

Joining the pack is Scott, who hosts a little-known public access TV show. For the next three days — morning, noon and night — Scott roams the carnival with his high 8 camcorder. He videotapes reporters and antagonizes them with tough questions.

Scott proves relentless. Reporters who snub him receive extra attention.

The result is a hilarious hour-long video on public-access TV (to order, see note below).

Here's a typical exchange, featuring ABC reporter Steve Walsh. As Scott approaches with his camera, Walsh waves his hand like a parent warning a child to stay back.

Walsh: "Not ... not now we're busy."

Scott: "What?"

Walsh, angrily: "Get away from us."

Scott: "That's great, Steve. Say 'hi' to Boulder, because they always like to see news people act like pricks."

He approaches long-time CBS correspondent Bob McNamera and asks: "Aren't you a former CBS correspondent?"

McNamera: "Current."

Scott: "Oh, I thought you died."

He walks up to a CBS crew and mocks them, pretending to be impressed by their plastic badges.

"You're from CBS?" Scott asks excitedly. "Oh my Gawwwd! Do you mind if I zero in on your press badges?"

Throughout the mediafest, Scott's camera keeps close tabs on Lawrence Schiller, author of the bestseller *Perfect Murder, Perfect Town*. Schiller loiters at the carnival knowing bored reporters will interview him as they wait for Hunter to appear. That will sell books, earning him more money from JonBenet's corpse.

Schiller, as Scott approaches: "I'd appreciate my privacy, if I may."

Such requests aren't honored by Scott, who repeatedly lectures reporters about his principled practice of keeping the camera rolling no matter what.

Scott moves on to visit a CBS film crew producing a four-part mini-series on JonBenet. A producer asks Scott to leave.

Producer: "We're trying to work here, so do you mind?"

Scott: "So am I."

Producer: "Yeah, I understand, but I'm not interfering with your work."

Scott: "So what's your name and what are you doing? Who are you?"

Producer: "I'm just hanging out."

Scott: "Just hanging out?"

Producer: "Yeah."

Scott: "That's what I'm doing. I'm just hanging out with my camera."

One reporter puts his hat over Scott's camera, saying "I don't like your stupidity."

Scott: "Are you drunk today, Frank, or sober?"

Most of those who treat Scott with blatant arrogance are has-beens, wannabes and known losers. Among the most arrogant is Tom Kenworthy of the *Washington Post*. He pauses for Scott's camera to proudly announce his name and affiliation, then gleefully walks away saying, "I don't do interviews."

The show climaxes when Scott approaches Craig Lewis, a notorious reporter for the *Globe*. Lewis faces criminal charges on suspicion he tried to bribe a handwriting expert to sell him the famous Ramsey ransom note for \$32,000.

Scott: "So you're out of jail?"

Lewis: "I've never been in jail, you fucking moron."

Scott: "Do you have your toothbrush packed?"

Lewis: "Why don't you suck my c**k."

Scott: "You still working for the *Globe*?"

Lewis: "Kiss my ass, you fu**wad. Put that on TV, you mo*****er."

Scott: "We are putting this on TV."

Lewis: "Go ahead, dipshit."

Scott: "Did you try to bribe that guy for \$32,000 for the ransom note?"

Silent pause.

Scott: "Hey, Greg?"

A man approaches Lewis, document in hand. He's an agent with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. He flashes a badge, hands Lewis some papers, and says "See you Monday" in court.

Scott: "Hey, Craig. What's the subpoena for? Is it a subpoena or a warrant?"

Lewis: "Let me explain it to you," putting his mouth inches from the camera lens. "Suck my c**k, you dipshit mo*****er."

The carnival ends Wednesday, on 13 October, when the DA announces that the grand jury will indict no one for the death of JonBenet. The next day, Hunter stages a press conference and Scott shows up in his favorite Hawaiian shirt. He asks the best question of the day.

Scott: "Did you get a true-bill signed by the grand jury, and how many dissenters were there?" The answer, of course, would tell us whether the grand jury was instructed not to indict, or chose not to.

The DA, you see, doesn't like hard questions and he never gets them from "real" reporters, who he's successfully bamboozled.

If JonBenet's ghost can see the media zoo in Boulder, she's probably laughing with Jann Scott, not at him. ❧

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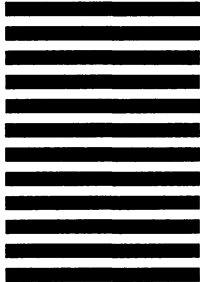
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