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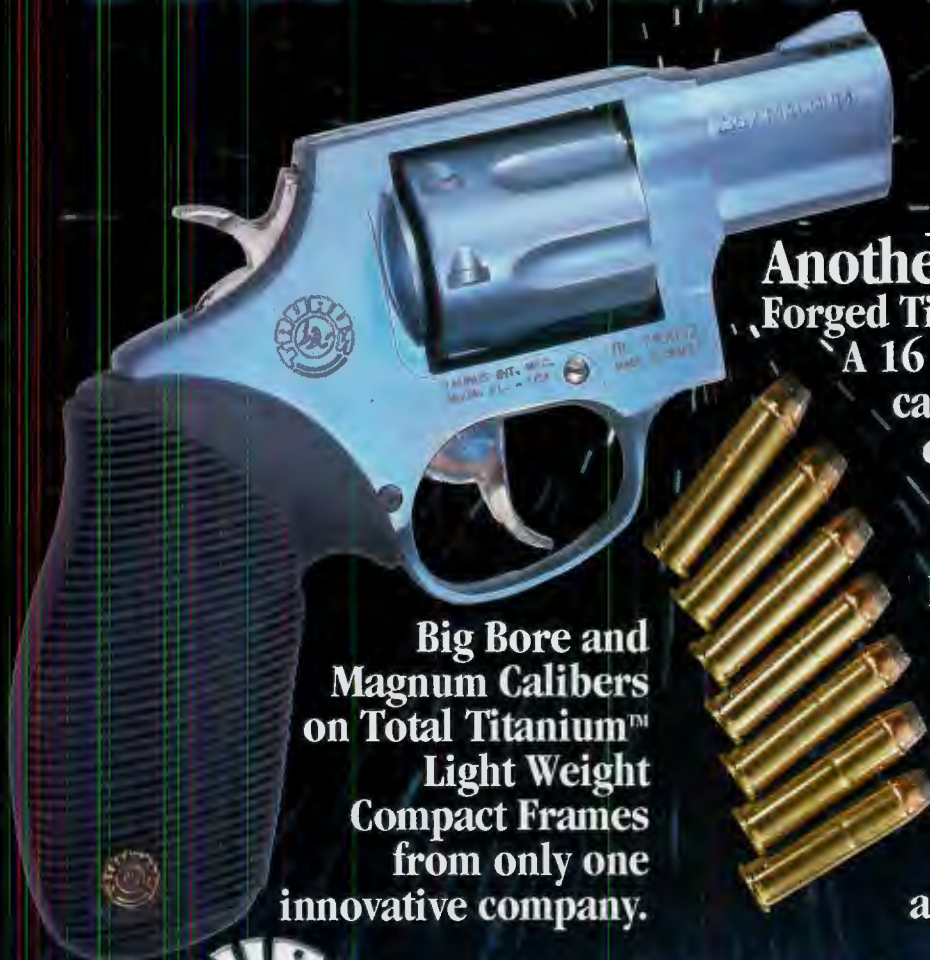
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Peter G. Kokalis

On the Cover

The M134 7.62x51mm Minigun has been improved by Dillon Aero. SOF's Technical Editor, Peter G. Kokalis, gives it a quick 10,000-round run through. See page 48.

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Al J. Venter



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Lockheed

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COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Robert K. Brown

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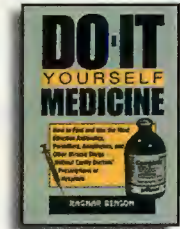
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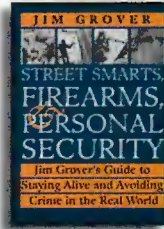
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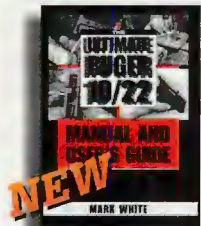
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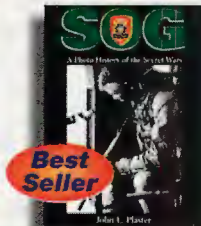
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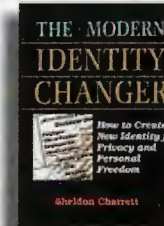
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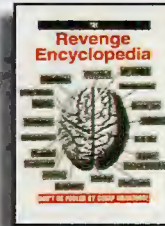
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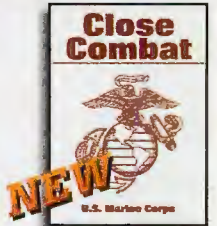
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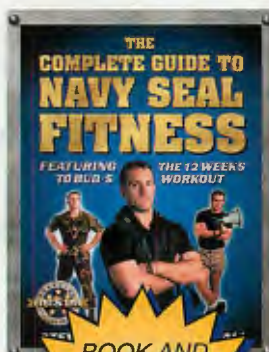
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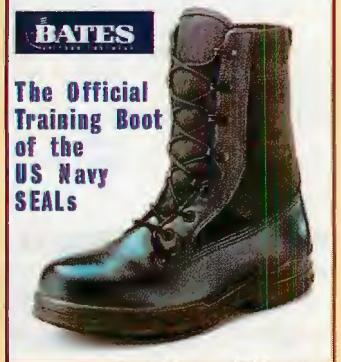
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you don't want the woman behind that particular curtain to follow him to the presidency unmasked, better move now. It is New York, after all, so you can't send guns; they have more lawyers than they can use already: That means, send money.

In reality, Americans vote twice: They first vote with support for the candidate that represents their views, then at the ballot box. Support means bucks, so your candidate has a shot at getting his message out to undecided voters, and to voters who his ideas may represent, but who need a boot to motivate them to get off their whiney duffs to register and vote.

Don't let the liberal elite foist another Clinton on America. Stop this one while you can. Send any amount you can afford up to \$1,000 to: Friends of Giuliani, 59 Maiden Lane, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10038-4502.

For years Mayor Rudy Giuliani has stood for free enterprise, has cut taxes and bureaucratic red tape, supported the family and believed it is the government's job to protect the law-abiding citizens. The choice is clear. The next move is yours. Reach for your wallet.

Union Jack Club

Courtesy of Dr. Bob Cleaves comes some insider information on a very wallet-friendly place for active or retired U.S. servicemen to stay while in London. The Union Jack Club (UJC) was formed in 1904 to honor Brits who fought in the South African wars, and they also welcome Yanks who can present a military ID or copy of honorable discharge papers.

The UJC is ideally situated opposite Waterloo Station, the Eurostar International Rail Terminal, and is within an easy walk to theaters such as Shakespeare's Globe, Festival Hall, and many great museums. The UJC has 152 en-suite rooms that can accommodate singles, couples and families. Also available are 168 singles and 17 doubles with the bath/shower/latrine down the hall. You can get a room with or without TV; there is a good restaurant and bar, plus reading rooms, billiard room, underground parking and more.

Aside from the camaraderie, the best feature of the UJC is the rate structure — about half, or less, than you would expect to pay in London. For the full picture, you can access the UJC web site at www.ujclub.co.uk; their phone is 011-44-171-928-4814. Our thanks to Dr. Cleaves for passing this along.

Arm A Rebellion: Send In The U.N.

The UN Security Council voted on 7 February to double the size of the UN mission to Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), making it the largest ongoing UN peace-keeping deployment. The UNAMSIL force currently has some five battalions with 4,819 soldiers in Sierra Leone, almost half of which are former ECOMOG troops, mostly Nigerians, recently placed under UN command. India has provided 1,442 soldiers and Kenya 843. Nigeria is expected to send approximately 2,000 additional troops, comprising two infantry battalions and a tank company.

This may come as good news to Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels, who have been using the various UN units as their personal quartermaster corps. The Washington Post reported that in one week "peacekeepers from Kenya and Guinea have surrendered at least 110 assault rifles, several rocket-propelled grenade launchers, four armored personnel carriers, communications equipment and other military gear in at least three ambushes ... " In all instances, "the African troops put up no resistance."

On 31 January, some 100 rebels ambushed 20 Kenyan "peacekeepers" and made off with five G3 rifles, ammo and comms gear. A couple weeks earlier, a convoy of Kenyan peacekeepers was robbed of their rifles, and 14 January saw the above-cited attack on Guinean/Kenyan contingent. Congressional sources indicate the actual number of arms seized by the rebels was some 500 AK47s, 209 RPGs and several vehicles, including a truck loaded with ammunition.

Under terms of the UN-brokered and "enforced" peace agreement, rebels who bring in their weapon and commit to either join the new national army or give up being a rebel will get \$300. By

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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.

Have You Ever Felt Fear?

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

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

Fighting Is Fighting With Or Without Weapons

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

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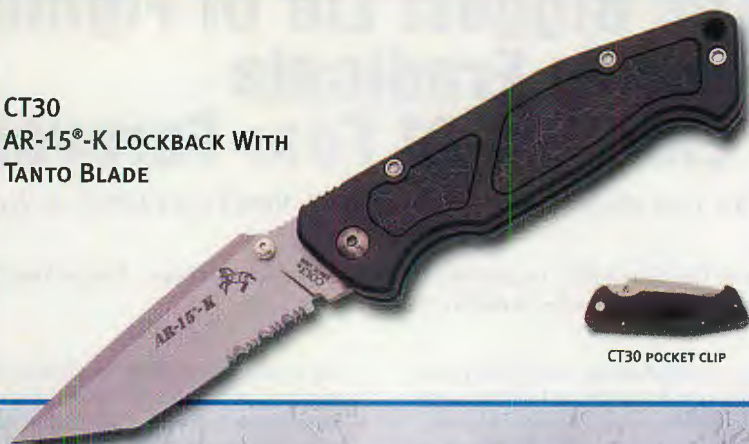
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the end of January, some 7,600 of an estimated 45,000 fighters had taken the UN up on their offer.

Ferengee Corps

There are presently 107 foreign officers and non-coms from 13 countries serving with the U.S. Army under various exchange programs. The highest ranking is Canadian Major General Rick J. Hillier, who serves as second-in-command of the Army's 3rd Corps at Ft. Hood, Texas. Canada, in particular, finds the opportunity to have its field officers on detached duty with American forces of value, because the 1993 Canadian withdrawal of its forces from Europe left them with no venue for close interaction with NATO. Conversely, U.S. officials are pleased to have an infusion of the Canadian experience with peace-keeping operations, particularly when it comes to training U.S. forces scheduled for such deployment.

Although thousands of foreign officers cycle through U.S. war colleges each year, and the U.S. Army regularly exchanges officers with other nations for training, there are relatively few foreign nationals in command positions, such as Gen. Hillier. Although a functioning deputy commander, Hillier is constrained by U.S. law from actually assuming command, or from promoting soldiers, or punishing GIs under the UCMJ. With Canada's entire military establishment only slightly larger than the U.S. Army's 3rd Corps with its 57,000-odd troops, our neighbors to the north welcomed the opportunity to send "something more than captains and majors in exchanges."

Force Multiplier

Pyramid schemes, like chain-letters, work for those who start them, as until the reservoir of recruits is depleted the numbers grow in geometric proportion and before long you have realized a return all out of proportion to the initial effort of setting it up.

Now here's a pyramid scheme for you, where everybody wins and nobody loses (at least nobody you don't want to lose): In the old days of the American Revolution, Minutemen were alerted through what we would today call a "telephone tree," where Paul Revere would alert Fred; Fred would alert John, Jim and Pete; John, Jim and Pete would in turn alert George, Will, Nick, Larry, Ted, Bert, LeRoy Sam and Joe. They in turn would ... well, you get the idea.

What do you suppose would happen if, once you have registered to vote, you shepherded John, Jim and Pete through the registrar's office, and show them how to in turn to each get three Newbies to register, and so on? Then on election day, go through the same drill: the Buddy System on Steroids. A force multiplier that works. Your Bill of Rights hangs in the balance, and the upcoming election is the battleground. Don't just think about it, talk it up, and do it! ✕

HK RECALL NOTICE • HK USC AND UMP

Heckler and Koch, Inc. is voluntarily recalling USC (.45 ACP) carbines and UMP (.45 ACP) submachine guns due to reported breakage of the cocking lever. All of the recalled firearms will be fitted with a newly designed cocking lever (operating handle) by HK's technical department at no charge.

Serial number range affected by this recall:
USC Carbine (.45 ACP) 47-000102 through 47-002600
UMP Submachine Gun (.45 ACP) 163-001001 through 163-001200


Current USC carbines and UMP submachine guns on order will be refitted with the new cocking lever prior to shipment.

HK is recommending that USCs and UMPs covered by this recall not be used until the new cocking lever is installed. Owners and users are requested to contact HK at (703) 450-1900, ext. 226 to arrange shipment to Heckler & Koch for installation of the new cocking lever.

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FREEDOM WATCH

The Whoring of Liberty

MADISON, Wisc.—Is it worth \$500 to give the gift of self-protection, in the form of a handgun, to a loved one? Absolutely. Should you have to pay \$500 to the state government for the right to do so? Absolutely *not*.

However, that's exactly what you'll have to do in Wisconsin if Senate Bill 301 passes. The bill, a shocking anti-gun juggernaut, was being ironed out in the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs at press time.

The bill requires that anyone receiving the gift of a handgun have fingerprints on file with the U.S. Department of Justice. Such a fingerprint database is an obvious gun owner registration system, and a very real danger to your right to keep and bear arms, as registration leads to confiscation.

You would go to a "law enforcement agency" allowed by SB 301 to charge an unspecified amount for fingerprinting you, then you must send another \$10 to the Department of Justice, "which keeps the fingerprints on file."

A waiting period is also called for in SB 301—the waiting period starts when the DOJ acknowledges it has received a background check request. So, if the DOJ doesn't acknowledge, the waiting period *never* begins.

Update yourself on this proposed outrage at: www.legis.state.wi.us/billtrack.html.

One Man's Exile

Editor's Note: The following letter was submitted to Vin Suprynowicz, a columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and a friend of Soldier Of Fortune magazine:

Dear Mr. Suprynowicz:

The title of your recent column, "The Thugs Now Reign in Massachusetts," has a lot more meaning than perhaps even you realize.

Under a 1998 law, I became a felon on my last birthday. I've never had any contact with the law beyond a speeding ticket some years ago, but by the stroke of a pen I'm now a felon.

I became a felon because I own a gun and I refuse to go to the local police station every four years for mug shots and a full set of fingerprints. I also won't immediately notify the state authorities whenever I move.

If I'd been convicted of murder, the cops would have my fingerprints, but once I finished prison and parole I could live anywhere I wanted without reporting in. But because I own a gun, I am treated far worse than those convicted murderers.

Understand, I'm not talking about carrying a concealed handgun, or even "assault weapons" (though the new law has many draconian punishments for people who dare to own a semiauto.) Under this law, possession of any gun, any cartridge (spent or not), any powder, primers, bullets, or shot — even a can of pepper spray — requires me to submit to fingerprinting and a mug shot. The data is kept by the state's Criminal History Systems Division—the same folks who keep the records on murderers,

rapists, and other convicted criminals ...

It gets worse. I'm not only a felon for the 25-year-old 12-gauge pump shotgun that I keep in the closet, I'm a felon for not keeping it locked (and therefore useless) at all times. Locking my front door doesn't count as "preventing unauthorized persons from gaining access to the firearm."

I have not children but the state mandates I render myself completely defenseless to any criminal who cares to rob or kill me. God only knows what will happen to me if I ever have to use the shotgun to defend myself. I suspect I'd end up in prison, paying restitution to the home invader whose "rights" I "violated."

The penalty for each of these new crimes is 10 years in prison. Since I could get charged with a separate count for each round of ammo, that brick of .22 cartridges I bought for my granddad's single-shot match rifle could get me 50,000 years. This is not a theoretical calculation: A Wayland man is facing 70 years for "unsafe storage" of his firearms: seven counts at 10 years each.

I go to sleep every night wondering if the door will be smashed in by ninja-suited armored, machine-gun toting thugs willing to kill me where I stand if I so much as reach for that shotgun. It won't really matter much to me then whether they turn out to be free-lance crooks or professional, government-paid murders. I suppose I should move out of state, but my family has been here for generations; my job is here; and I won't be run off my own property by a bunch of bullies, legal or otherwise.

I'm feeling alone here. The ACLU has abandoned Massachusetts gun owners on the left, and the NRA just betrayed them on the right ... The ACLU fought the Georgia fingerprint-on-your-drivers-license law vigorously. But a million gun owners are forced, under penalty of fines and imprisonment, to give up their fingerprints, and the ACLU won't even answer my letters on the subject, much less file a court case.

On the right, the National Rifle Association now stands with Handgun Control, Inc. in vowing to put people like me behind bars. I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't heard and seen the video recordings on the NRA website. "You touch a gun in Colorado, and you're gonna have five years in a state or federal penitentiary," says Wayne LaPierre, standing on stage with HCI representatives.

Under their Project Exile, anyone caught with an "illegal" gun gets tried in federal court. What the NRA doesn't seem to understand, or perhaps just doesn't care about, is that here in Massachusetts, my guns were made "illegal" by the stroke of a pen.

I'm scared, I'm angry, and I feel terribly alone. The ACLU turns a blind eye on massive violations of its own principles; the NRA has betrayed all gun owners ... and my own so-called representative co-sponsored this new law.

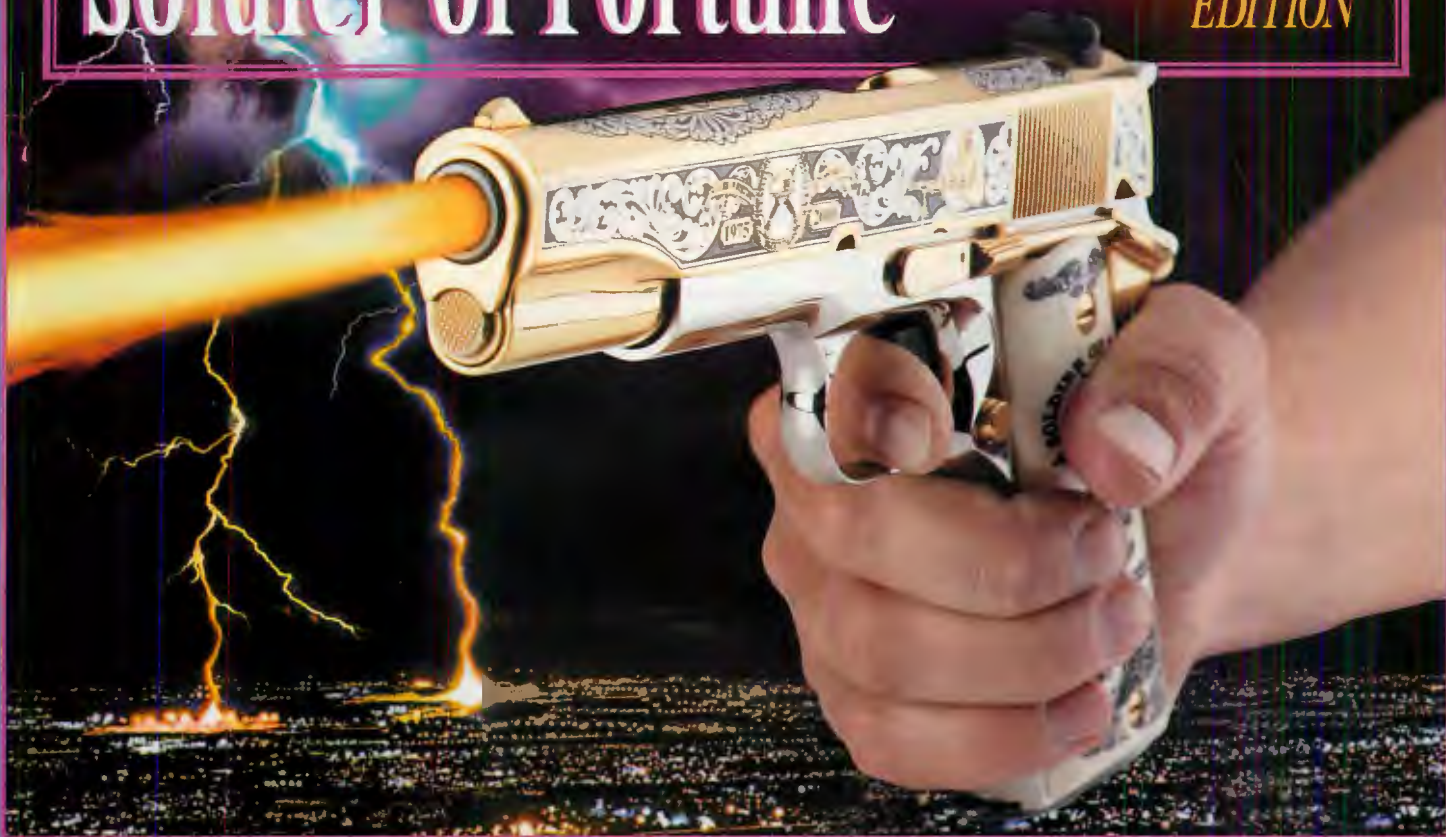
This must be something akin to what the Jews in Germany felt in the late 1930s. Gun owners have been cut out of the herd, demonized, ostracized, and blamed for everything wrong with society.

The thugs now reign in Massachusetts. They reign in the statehouse, in the courts, in the media, and in the police. One million obedient *sheeple* have meekly surrendered their fingerprints and now carry state-mandated papers for having the temerity to exercise their inalienable right to self-defense. They might as well make us wear special arm bands.

Name withheld by request ✕

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Chauchat: The Worst, The Ugliest Machine Gun Ever

Can you believe that the worst, the ugliest machine gun ever fielded, bar none, is now worth at least \$1,800 to machine gun collectors? More about that later, but first a brief history of this horrendous beast is in order.

While manufactured at French arsenals, an experimental weapon developed by the well-known Hungarian small-arms designer, Rudolf Frommer, without doubt inspired the Chauchat machine rifle. Early in the 20th century French infantry tacticians become much enamored with the so-called concept of "walking fire," by which

means advancing troops supposedly created fire superiority over the enemy and prevented return fire by firing bursts from the hip assault position into the enemy positions. For this purpose, a relatively lightweight, portable fully automatic weapon was required. During the first decade of the 20th century, French army Captain Louis Chauchat and armorer Charles Sutter experimented with several designs to meet this MENS (Mission Essential Need Statement). They ended up with an incredibly simple weapon constructed principally from tubular steel and riveted sheet metal.

The Chief of Staff, General Joffre, signed an emergency order for 50,000 of these machine rifles in 1915. A Paris automobile and bicycle company, Gladiator, was awarded the contract. What was to become commonly known as the "Chauchat" was officially designated as the *Fusil Mitrailleur* (Machine Rifle) Mle 1915 CSRG (for Chauchat, Sutter, plant production manager Paul Ribeyrolles, and Gladiator).

The ground version has a bipod (which cannot be adjusted for command height), a slab-shaped wooden buttstock, a rectangular pistol grip and truly weird "tool-handle"-shaped vertical foregrip. The Chauchat weighs 18 pounds, empty. Overall length is 43 inches, with a barrel length of about 17 inches. This weapon was originally chambered for the rimmed French 8x50Rmm Lebel cartridge. The cyclic rate of fire is about 300 to 400 rounds per minute. There is also provision for semiautomatic fire.

The Chauchat Machine Rifle looks grotesque, flimsy and insubstantial, and exhibits possibly the worst human engineering ever applied to a 20th century small arms system. Its well-documented unreliability clearly matched those characteristics.



Without doubt, the *Fusil Mitrailleur* (Machine Rifle) Mle 1915 CSRG, more commonly known as the "Chauchat," was the worst machine gun ever fielded. (below) Cut away on the right side, presumably so that the operator could easily identify the number of rounds remaining, these openings provided ingress for the mud and debris of the battlefield. Worse, the magazines were made of insubstantial sheet metal and all too easily damaged.



However, the method of operation is both unusual and quite interesting. The Chauchat is locked-breech, long-recoil operated and fires from the open-bolt position. Long-recoil operation simply means that the barrel, barrel extension and bolt group travel rearward locked together during the recoil stroke for a distance greater than the length of the loaded cartridge before they separate. A front-locking bolt, of the straight-pull-type as found on the Mannlicher and Frommer pistols, was employed. The bolt has four locking lugs and is actuated by a non-rotating, recoiling sleeve. Included in this group

are the firing pin, a hook that engages the sear, a feed bar projecting under the bolt body and the cocking piece with a rod that operates the feed block. Two cams at the rear of the bolt engage helical slots cut in the sleeve. There are two safety features in this mechanism. As the helical slots are cut on a shallow pitch, the sleeve with the firing pin must travel forward a half inch after the bolt is in battery before the firing pin can make contact with the cartridge primer. In addition, a spring-loaded plunger projecting from the bolt face must be compressed by the cartridge's rim to remove it from alignment the firing pin's tip.

With a loaded magazine in place and the bolt pulled rearward until the sear has engaged the notch in the feed piece, pulling the trigger will release the operating group, permitting it to move forward under the energy of the compressed recoil spring. A rolling motion of the cocking assembly drives a round from the magazine, where the bolt face picks it up and chambering hopefully commences. This action is helped by a cartridge guide, which cams the tip of the bullet up into the chamber. A cam then moves this cartridge guide away from the magazine mouth.

As the bolt group moves forward, the locking lugs are vertical and a bolt stop is used to ensure that they remain temporarily in that position. This peculiar stop is in the shape of a conical plug that fits into both the bolt body and bolt head to prevent a tor-quing motion between these two parts until released. When the cartridge is firmly seated in the chamber, the bolt stop, riding inside the breech housing, forces the bolt to turn. This locks the bolt assembly firmly in place. The recoil spring continues to drive the sleeve containing the firing pin forward and the final rotary movement of the locking lugs

frees the firing pin to strike the primer.

As the reciprocating parts move rearward in the recoil stroke, at a point slightly less than the full stroke, the bolt lugs unlock the bolt group from the barrel and barrel extension. While the sear holds the bolt to the rear, the barrel and its extension begin the counter-recoil stroke. Since the empty case is held to the bolt face by the extractor, as the barrel and extension move forward they pull away from the case. When they are clear of the case, a spring-loaded ejector propels the case out the ejection port on the right side of the receiver. If the trigger remains depressed, the barrel group cams the sear off just before going into battery, to release the bolt that had been held to the rear, and the cycle is supposedly repeated.

That's the way it was supposed to operate. Anyone firing 200 rounds without a stoppage was lucky. Cataloging the Chauchat's deficiencies is a difficult task. There are so many of them.

The human engineering applied to this design was abominable. Principally because of the underside location of its strange curved (required because of the bulbous shape of the rimmed 8x50Rmm Lebel cartridge) magazine, its weight of about 21 pounds with a loaded magazine, and its long, front-heavy configuration, the "walking fire" for which it was supposedly designed was extremely difficult. Firing from the prone position off the bipod was even worse. When a proper cheek weld to the buttstock is assumed, the operator would invariably find his cheekbone in direct alignment with the receiver housing's end plug. The recoil impulse generated by the 8x50Rmm Lebel round was more than sufficient to cause severe bruising. To avoid this, Chauchat gunners were forced to offset their bodies sharply to the left, while positioning the cheek well forward of the rear end of the receiver. The vertical foregrip is also poorly configured for either "walking fire" or prone fire.

The bipod is another design disaster. Nothing prevents the legs from collapsing and unless the gunner throws the gun forward and pulls it to the rear into his shoulder, they will. The bipod assembly can be rotated around the barrel's axis about 180 degrees. For what reason I do not know.

The sights are offset to the left, a location usually encountered only on light machine guns with top-fed magazines. The front sight, a forward taper blade-type, is unprotected and will catch on any obstruction encountered on the battlefield. It's integral with the barrel nut, which can be rotated with a special wrench for adjustment of windage zero. The sliding, tangent-type rear sight has an open V-notch and can be adjusted for elevation in 200-meter increments from 200 to 2,000 meters. Attempting to hit anything at a range of 2,000 meters with a Chauchat is a poor joke. Its flimsy bipod, poorly designed sights, and long-recoil-operation combine to make hitting targets

Continued on page 64

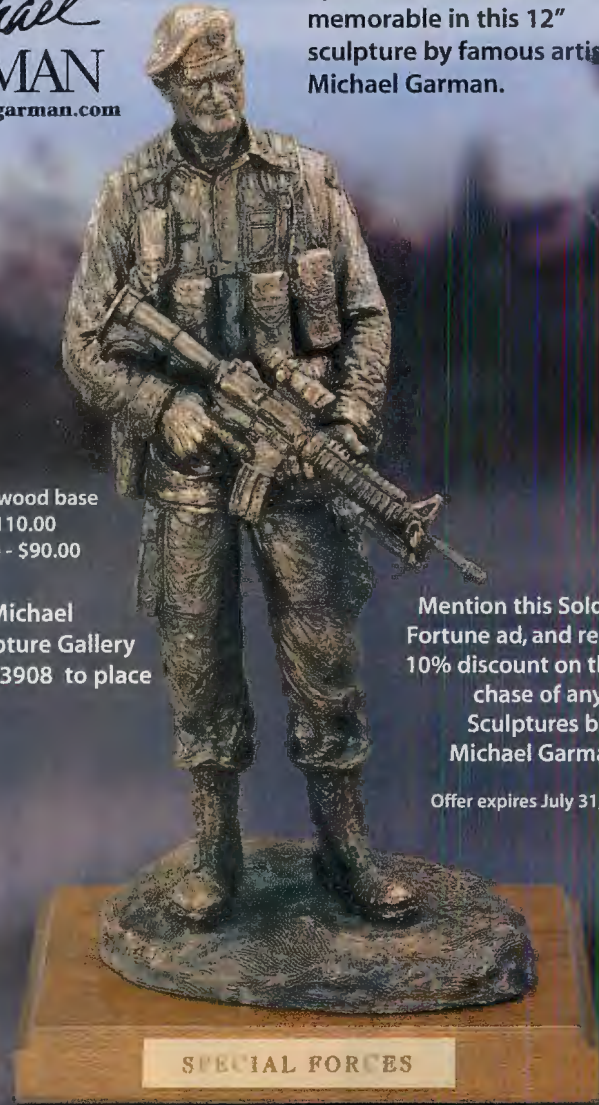
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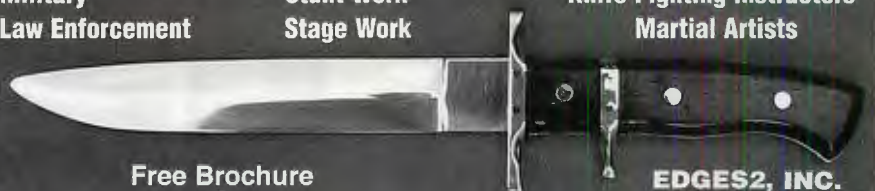
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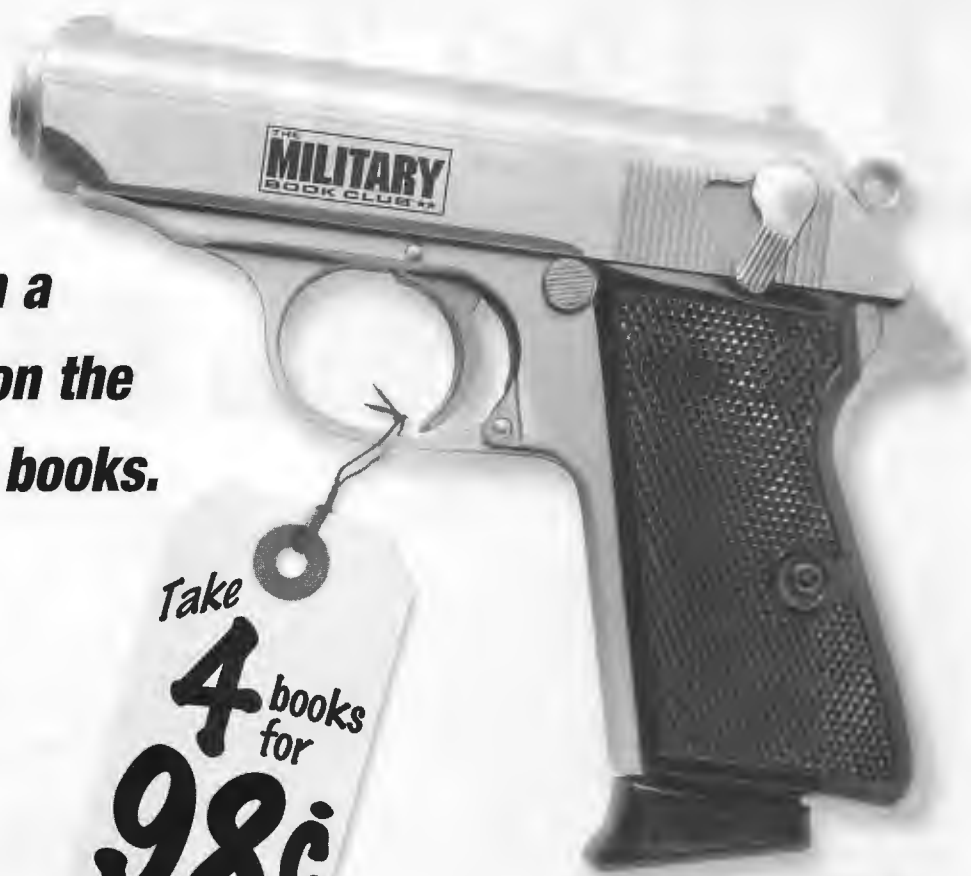
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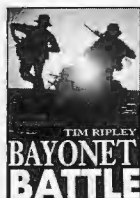
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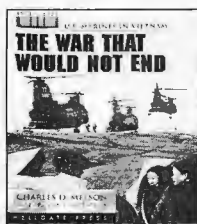
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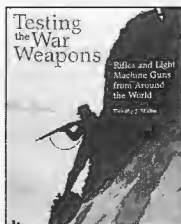
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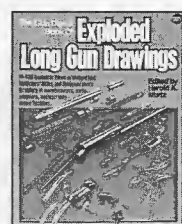
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I Was There

by Dick Culver

COLD STEEL GUNNING

It was the summer of 1967, and the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Marine Regiment was sweating out their assignment as Special Landing Force Bravo. The Bravo Group of the SLF along with SLF Alpha, (the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Regiment), was assigned to bore small holes in the ocean environment off the China Station and as such was seeing more action per square inch than any Marine Battalion in either the 1st or 3rd Marine Division. The job of the SLF was to act as a sort of super Sparrow Hawk to be landed as necessary if things went to hell in a handbasket. As a result, we spent a lot more time ashore than aboard ship. Out of a total of 9 months while assigned to the SLF, we spent a total of 12 days aboard our assigned shipping. It was a thrilling assignment, to say the least. Casualties were high, but troop morale was equal to the challenge. We were professional soldiers with a job to do, and we went after it with a vengeance.

Since we had more than our fair share of casualties, we were constantly getting in uninitiated replacements, both officer and enlisted. This was not a particularly healthy assignment in terms of life expectancy, but individual and group morale remained high. If you were looking for a fight, the two SLFs represented an outstanding opportunity to fulfill your fondest dreams. At this point in time, a most unlikely 2nd Lieutenant appeared on the scene. 2nd Lieutenant Gunning was the epitome of the unlikely replacement. He almost immediately became known as "Gunny" (a most unkind take-off of his family name). The term "Gunny" within the Corps usually evokes an image of a knuckle-dragging grizzled NCO of many years service and an intimate knowledge of combat. This was not an apt description. Gunning, if given the benefit of the doubt, looked like anything but a combat Marine. He was an inch or two shorter than 5-foot 8-inches, and weighed in (with a pocketful of rocks) at about 140 lbs. He wore the issue black-framed glasses, and looked for all the world like the small cartoon character that played with the intelligent dog in the Saturday kids' programs on TV. At first glance, Gunning looked like the popular conception of a computer geek — all he needed was a piece of white tape around his glasses, and the obligatory plastic pocket protector. Lieutenant Gunning became something of an affectionate mascot.

Unknown to all of us, was that Gunning's slight frame and outward appear-

ance masked a fighting man of awesome proportions. It turned out that Gunning was a warrior in geek's clothing. We were destined to be treated to an object lesson in the old adage of "Don't judge a book by its cover!" It turned out that young Gunning was anything but a geek. Gunning was about to make S.L.A. Marshall's evaluation of the use of the bayonet in modern combat invalid, at least within the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Marine Regiment. Enter, "*Cold Steel Gunning*," Marine *extraordinaire*.

Almost as soon as Gunning reported to the Battalion, he was bugging the Adjutant for assignment to an infantry platoon. Young Gunning was good-natured and had a sense of humor, but he did not come to Vietnam to be a desk ornament. He had watched all the John Wayne movies and was an extremely motivated infantry lieutenant. Gunning had come to Southeast Asia to make the world safe for Democracy. The entire battalion had considered him to be a "gungy characterization" of a cartoon character and were determined to keep him from getting himself hurt — more to the point, they also were determined to protect the troops from the machinations of an extremely wet-behind-the-ears shavetail.

Gunning was assigned as a "Zulu" staff officer in the Battalion Headquarters, to protect both himself and the troops from being a part of Gunning's learning curve. Gunning began chewing on his upper lip in frustration, and working his bolt on a daily basis to get assigned as a rifle platoon leader. The Battalion staff smiled indulgently, and said nice things about his motivation, but no one was about to turn him loose with a *gen-u-ine* rifle platoon, both for Gunning's own protection and to save the troops from becoming training aids.

Gunning's persistence in his quest for a platoon soon took on the proportions of a major campaign. He lost no opportunity to regale the staff officers with requests for assignment to a *real* combat outfit, and most of us would hide behind rocks to avoid hearing the lament of the extremely frustrated lieutenant. Gunning was rapidly making himself a major pain in the fanny. Finally, in desperation, the Battalion Commander hatched a plan to give Gunning a taste of combat and still protect any enlisted personnel assigned to the platoon. A consensus was taken from all of the companies for the most hardened, savvy, combat-wise, and competent platoon sergeant in the battalion. The young staff sergeant was taken



From left to right: Lt. "Cold Steel Gunning," Col. William Dick, CO of the 4th Marine Regiment, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps General Wallace M. Green, Jr. Photo taken at Camp Evans, slightly southwest of Quang Tri, in the summer of 1967. The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment was temporarily attached to the 4th Regiment for operations while assigned to the Special Landing Force.

aside and briefed on the plan. The staff sergeant was told in no uncertain terms not to allow Gunning to hurt himself, or the troops. In short, the Platoon Sergeant was to be the *de facto* platoon commander, although he was not to destroy Lieutenant Gunning's feelings of self worth. In other words, he was to save Gunning and the troops from himself.

Gunning, now a platoon commander, set about squaring his new platoon away and preparing them for the crucible of combat. He went about it with a will. The rest of the Battalion looked on with benevolent amusement and Gunning's platoon sergeant rolled his eyes in frustration. Lieutenant Gunning was an extremely likeable kid who had been thrown into a real world situation for which he seemed ill-suited — or so we thought.

Finally the day came when Gunning was to sally forth on his first patrol in bandit country. As Gunning left the base camp, everyone held their collective breaths. We were sure that this had the makings of a disaster. Thank goodness Gunning's platoon sergeant was a combat-savvy old NCO.

As luck would have it, Gunning's first foray was anything but uneventful. He was a bit over a klick-and-a-half from friendly lines when the platoon ran into what was adjudged to be an NVA Platoon. The NVA were not about to be run out of Dodge and immediately engaged Gunning's outfit with automatic-weapons fire. Like any intelligent unit, everyone hit the deck behind a convenient rice paddy until they could evaluate the situation. Gunning took a look around, considered the alternatives and yelled to the platoon to "Fix bayonets!" He had seen all the John Wayne movies, and fixing bayonets seemed to be the obvious solution. A dead silence only punctuated by rounds cracking over their heads seemed to prevail for a second or two. Instead of looking at Gunning, every eye was on the platoon sergeant.

The dumbfounded platoon sergeant looked up and down the line, scratched his head and said: "You heard the Lieutenant, fix bayonets!"

The troops looked at one another, looked back at the platoon sergeant — and fixed bayonets! Gunning, in best John Wayne-fashion, yelled "Charge!" and climbed out from behind the cover of the rice paddy dike. Gunning took the lead, firing his .45 at the dumbfounded enemy, followed by an equally dumbfounded Marine rifle platoon. The NVA looked unbelievably at 40 seeming madmen charging at them with knives affixed to their rifles who filled the air with loud and obscene language. A bayonet charge was something entirely new to the minions of Ho Chi Minh, and it must have been extremely demoralizing to a unit not attuned to the mystique of the blade!

The Marines, screaming like banshees, headed for the NVA position hell-bent for leather. Having never faced anything like

Continued on page 70

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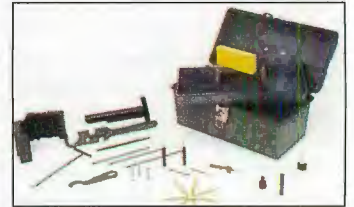
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Bird shall fly or beast may run
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Lurk behind some leafy screen.
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"Never shoot where you can't see."

You may kill or you may miss
But at all times think of this:
"All the pheasants ever bred
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*Written by Mark Beaufoy of Coombe House,
Shaftsbury, Dorset, England, in 1902, on
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Tigersharp's Serrated Blade

At the 1999 SHOTshow in Atlanta, we came across Steve Overholt and his clever new Tigersharp™ knife with its instantly replaceable blade insert (see the May '99 issue for our T&E of that excellent tool). Since then, the Tigersharp received honorable mention in Cabela's Annual Buyer's Choice Award, the only knife so chosen this year. So I was not surprised to see Steve again at the 2000 SHOTshow in Las Vegas, playing one-upsmanship with his own design: He now offers a serrated version of the Tigersharp (i.e. replaceable blades that are serrated for about the first half of the blade). This is a particularly appropriate idea, since the nut of the Tigersharp is to give a fresh, sharp blade to folks who have a hard time getting the edge they want on a regular blade — and proportionally more have trouble getting a good sharpen on a serrated blade. And serrated blades walk through cordage, heavy fabric, sinew and the like with facility beyond the applied effort. The leading radius of these serrated blades is left plain, so the serrations which are so useful at the rear do not interfere with tasks such as skinning or scraping. Once again, good gear from Tigersharp.



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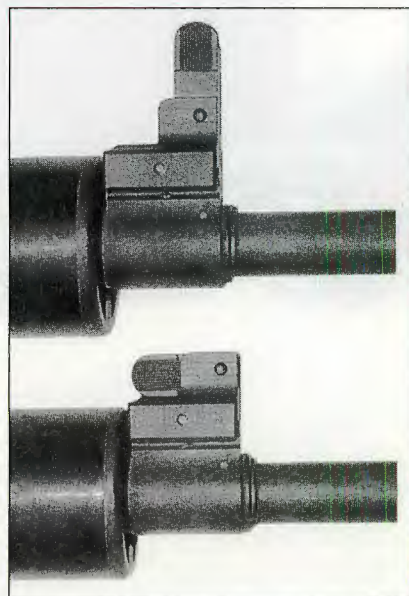
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For more information contact SRM Performance Products, Dept. SOF, 4375-A West McMillan Rd., Meridian, ID 83642; phone: 208-887-9395; fax: 208-884-1746; e-mail: thehajj@uswest.net; or check out their web site: <http://srm.simplenet.com>.

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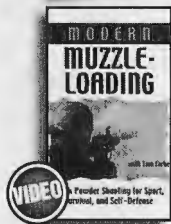
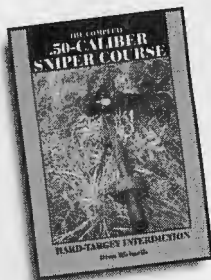
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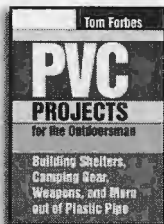
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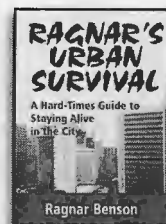
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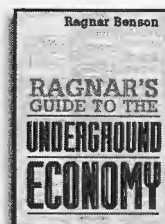
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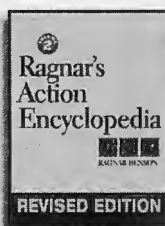
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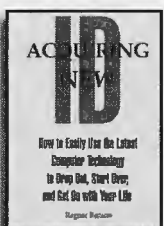
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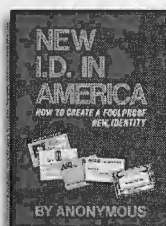
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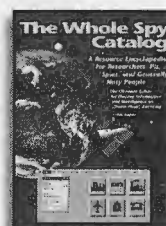
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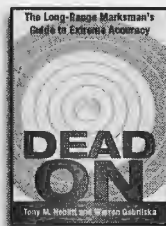
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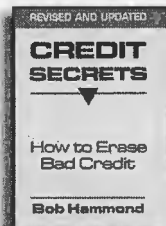
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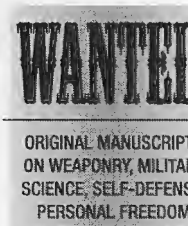
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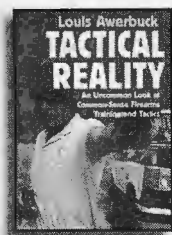
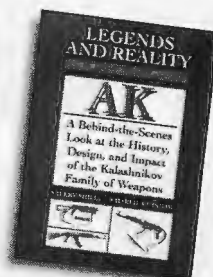
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LEGENDS AND REALITY OF THE AK

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the History, Design, and Impact of the Kalashnikov Family of Weapons

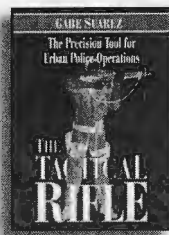
by Val Shilin and Charlie Cutshaw

There are many excellent books about the AK. What makes *Legends and Reality of the AK* different from all the other AK books? It is co-written by a very close associate of designer Mikhail Kalashnikov at the Izhmash Arms Factory and one of America's most respected military small-arms experts. Because of Val Shilin's close ties to both the designer and the factory, the authors were able to gain access to information, photos and weapons never before seen in public, including the AKB and AKB-1 assault rifles, the mysterious A-62 and the very latest prototypes of the AK's replacement, the AN-94. They fill in the gaps in the knowledge about the history and development of not only the Kalashnikov family of weapons but of other Russian small arms as well. Most important, as a friend and colleague, Shilin adds a personal perspective on the man behind the design of some of the most legendary weapons of the 20th century. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 192 pp. #10011351 \$35.00



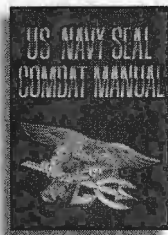
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by Louis Awerbuch

A decade of articles from one of America's premier firearms instructors offers realistic training and tips for police, military and civilian shooters. Turn the tactical odds in a gunfight in your favor by learning and practicing the proven firearms techniques taught in this book. You'll be glad you did. 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, photos, 272 pp. #10011013 \$30.00



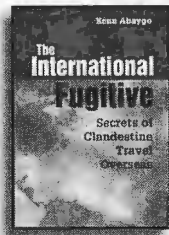
THE TACTICAL RIFLE
The Precision Tool for
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by Gabriel Suarez

Here Officer Gabe Suarez exposes the myths that have long kept the rifle out of urban policing. He also details the many advantages it affords the inner city police officer in a wide range of scenarios and presents new and innovative techniques that are replacing "traditional" ones among agencies that have adopted the rifle. 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, softcover, photos, illus., 264 pp. #10011021 \$25.00



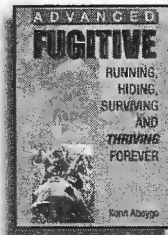
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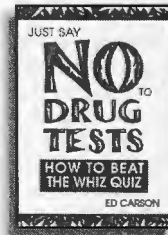
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by Kenn Abaygo

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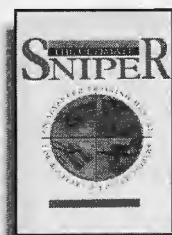
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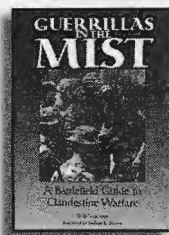
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by Ed Carson

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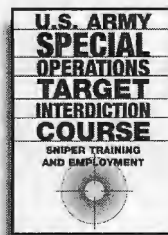
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by Maj. John L. Plaster,
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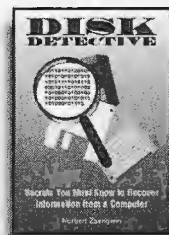
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by Bob Newman

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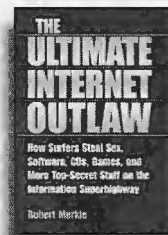
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and Employment

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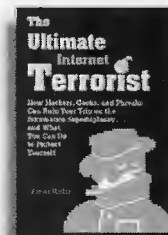
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WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Branch Davidians: Waco-siege simulation causes lawyers for the government and the victims of 1993 fire that killed more than 80 Branch Davidians to claim validation of their respective versions of events. Test was held to determine if federal agents fired shots at the compound. Results are to be disclosed in spring. • **Black Panther shootout:** Ex-Black Panther leader Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin, known in the 1960s as H. Rap Brown, arrested by federal agents in Alabama following a Thursday shootout in Atlanta, during which Al-Amin allegedly killed one sheriff's deputy and wounded another. • **Missile defense:** Clinton's missile-defense decision to be pushed back until final weeks of presidential campaign because a critical test of system was put off until June. Tests have been inconclusive, and politics may now determine deployment. • **Naked truth:** Military's highest court upholds criminal convictions of a runaround staff sergeant caught in bed with another NCO's wife. Staff Sergeant Ronald L. Diggs was sleeping with the wife of Sergeant Patrick Vaden at Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany, on 16 Sept. 1996, when Vaden unexpectedly returned home from Bosnia, court documents claim. Court-martial panel convicted Diggs of assaulting a noncommissioned officer and resisting apprehension. Diggs was also convicted of violating rules and regulations by being naked in Vaden's bed.

2

RUSSIA

Tough guy: Putin flies into Chechnya's war-ruined capital in fighter jet, burnishing tough-guy image ahead of presidential elections. Russian forces free captured pilot as they mop up rebel resistance in Komsomolskoye. Capitalist entrepreneurs wary of Putin's rise, fearing he will squeeze them out with bureaucratic red tape. • **Military industrial complex:** Putin sets goal of expanding economy at least 7% per year by bolstering military-industrial complex. His aim of exerting federal control is expected to face strong resistance.

5

SERBIA

Ethnic attacks: NATO peacekeepers hand out leaflets in Mitrovica urging calm ahead of war games that are stirring fear in Kosovo's Serb enclaves and in Serbia itself. Leader of province's ethnic Albanians pledged to try to halt ethnic attacks in Serbia's south.

6

SENEGAL

Socialist victory: President Abdou Diouf loses runoff re-election bid to longtime opposition leader Abdoulaye Wade of the Senegalese Democratic Party, whose Socialist Party ruled the West African nation since its independence from France in 1960.

10

COLOMBIA

Dam attacks: Rebel attacks cut power across much of nation's center and northeast, including Bogota and oil-producing areas. In series of attacks on pylons, rebels opposed to privatization of power firms cut links to three hydroelectric dams.

12

11

LIBYA

Visit Tripoli: U.S. State Department sends team to Tripoli to consider whether Americans should be allowed to visit Libya for first time in 19 years. Libya's surrender of Lockerbie bombing suspects is driving effort for reform of U.S.-Libyan policy.

14

GREECE

War games: U.S. Marines debarked in Greece for Kosovo war games that have made Serbia nervous. Kosovo Serbs balk at joining a provincial government, and top U.N. official says ethnic reconciliation is "impossible" for now. Serbia cracked down on seventh opposition TV station.

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JAPAN

Troubled bridge over water: Government announces plans to build concrete bridge to replace temporary iron-and-plank bridge built by U.S. Army in Honduras that collapsed in March, injuring 60 people. The vintage World War II bridge was among six put up by U.S. troops in the wake of Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The temporary span, which was visited by Clinton in 1999, fell about 100 feet after splitting apart, leaving two sections tilting downward into the trickling Choluteca River.

3

CHINA

"One-China": Government rejects quick summit with president-elect of Taiwan. Jiang says any talks would have to be based on "one-China" principle, or reunification under Beijing's rule, which means two sides will feel each other out for awhile. Adviser to President-elect Chen Shui-bian sees eventual return to formula that let Beijing and Taipei hold discussions in early 1990s. • **U.S. trade:** As protests continue against President Lee Teng-hui, blamed for National loss, China's moves watched closely by U.S. officials as trade legislation hangs in balance. U.S. special envoys travel to Beijing. • **Criminals killed:** Government executes 11 people in Xinjiang province for charges including murder and separatism. Muslim Uighurs were convicted of robbery and killing policemen, among other violations.

4

ISRAEL

New map: Israeli cabinet approves map detailing troop withdrawals from 6.1% of West Bank. • **Hope of the Pope:** Pope John Paul II visits Israel and Palestinian lands, escalating tensions in the region. Israeli soldier kills Palestinian woman at checkpoint after three Israelis were wounded in drive-by shooting. Peace talks resume in Washington.

7

INDIA

Kooks with nukes: Clinton warns Kashmir that violence must stop, but fails to persuade India to curb its nuclear-arms plans. Appearing with Prime Minister Vajpayee, president appeared to put onus on Pakistan-backed groups for slaying of 40 Sikhs in Kashmir. An earlier Bangladesh threat was linked to Osama bin Laden.

8

CUBA

The kid story: Elian Gonzalez case dismissed by federal judge, setting back efforts by Florida relatives to block U.S. from returning boy to his father in Cuba. Appeal is being weighed. Presidential candidate George W. Bush backs keeping Gonzalez in United States; Gore says decision is up to courts.

9

TAIWAN

Stoned loser: Lee Teng-hui steps down as Nationalist leader after crowds stone party offices. Protesters blame him for driving James Soong from the party, causing split that let Democratic Progressive Party's Chen Shui-bian win presidency with 39% of vote. Chen was singled out by China's Premier Zhu in a bellicose warning to Taipei to stop trying to slip Beijing's tightening embrace. • **Commie headache:** Party of Taiwan's president-elect reconsiders plank advocating independence, which may mollify China. Example of robust democracy in Taiwan may pose headaches for Chinese communists.

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BAHAMAS

Whale suicides: Mysterious whale beachings may be linked to Navy sonar tests during antisubmarine exercises on 15 March, marine researchers report. Navy says there is no evidence to back the assertion. Fourteen whales ran aground right after test, and eight died.

13

UGANDA

Human suicides: More than 470 cultists die in mass suicide. Members of the millennialist Movement for the Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God feasted, burned possessions, locked themselves in a church and set it on fire.

16

IRAN

Sanction, smaction: Reaction is tepid to U.S. overtures that include easing sanctions on non-oil items and expression of regret for 1953 coup and lack of support in the Iran-Iraq war. Tehran says more than that is needed to mend ties.

17

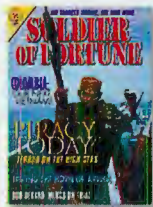
ITALY

Air Force One? Premier Massimo D'Alema presents Italy's version of "Air Force One," an Airbus A319. The plane will be used primarily to transport top government dignitaries. One Italian news agency put the cost of the jet, including its fancy outfitting, at \$54 million.

World Sitrep is compiled by the SOF staff with information from various media and correspondents.

FLAK

Herky/Dakota?



Yeah, I know you know, and I'm probably about the 999th guy to write in, but the plane on page 55 of the April issue ain't a C-130. Try C-47. In fact it looks like one of the modified turbo-C-47s.

I wouldn't have mentioned it but a dull Sunday afternoon, three Scotches and the second time through the mag so don't miss a word all add up to this.

BTW, that's a great article on piracy. Things have changed since I was in the Caribbean in the '60s.

Fred Schwenken
via e-mail

So, Fred, good catch. Maybe they should

issue your brand of Scotch to the CAP? Actually you were the only one to write in by press time, and the second to catch the gaff — the first was staff who caught it on the "boards" but for some reason the change didn't get made. Glad you liked the piracy series, and glad you read every word — it helps keep us honest.

Thanks For Helping SOF On The Stands



A few issues ago I read a brief paragraph which encouraged me to place your wonderful publication at the front of magazine racks whenever encountered [and ask for it when not]. As I was advised, SOF was

always stuck to the rear behind the guns and hunting rags. It was also evident the lack of exposure was hurting sales as no matter the time of the month, issues were always available.

I happen to live in a middle-class neighborhood surrounded by three very up-scale semi-wealthy ones. Much to my surprise, the three main grocery chains in those neighborhoods carry SOF.

For the last two issues I have been moving SOF to the front only to come back several days later to find them all gone. I checked to ensure they had not been relegated once more to the rear. In one store the manager helped me look, but as Gomer would say, "surprise, surprise, surprise" — they were all sold. I will continue to attempt to get your word out.

Michael Trester
(former 1st Bn, 9th Marines)
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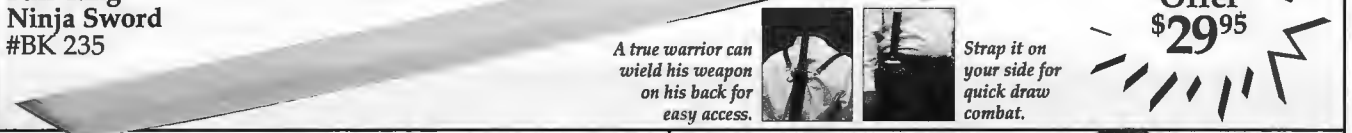
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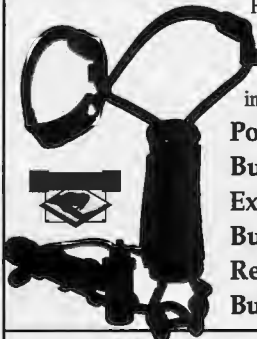
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Only Hits Count

I've been a long time reader of *SOF*, keep up the good work. I must comment on Mr. James' article on the SigPro pistol ("Omega Proving Ground," April '00). As a member of the Texas highway patrol I have to say that we (or at least a majority of us) are very pleased with the performance of the .357 Sig round. But anyone with any sense knows that it is shot placement that counts, not the fact that you think your pistol is some sort of "death ray."

Trooper

NRA Directors



As I don't have time or resources to keep up with all who are running for the Board of Directors of the NRA, I rely on your recommendations. I trust and believe you, and think you do a valuable service for the thousands

like me who are fully in favor of what the NRA stands for and does, but just can't keep up with the day-to-day politics of the organization.

Vaughn Jerome

Colonel Brown's choices for the NRA Board appeared on page 4 of the March 2000 issue. You will find each candidate's campaign statement in the issue of *The American Rifleman* that has your ballot. In alpha order, Brown's picks are: I. Benzion, D. Boehm, R. Brown, R. Cahen, D. Caplan, D. Causey, J. Cooper, B. Cubin, K. Elliott, M. Fernandez, J. Foss, S. Hornady, D. Julien, G. Norquist, S. O'Grady, E. Reynolds, W. Ross, R. Schmetts, B. Stern, R. Viden, Jr.

Hybrid, Not Homemade



Congratulations on your January 2000 issue. As usual, you present excellent data on conflicts and areas the mainstream press do not want to bother with. Just one small correction: The Falintil guard on page 45

("Independence or Insurrection, East Timor: From Voting to Violence") is clearly carrying a Portuguese Model 48 FBP Submachine gun. This is obviously not "homemade," as the article implies.

Doug A.
Miami

You're right, of course. This workable

but rather unremarkable arm combined some of the successful features of the British Sten and U.S. M3, and is still found in former Portuguese territories, in this case East Timor. Simple guns, like simple editors, last best.

Rangers Lead The Pack

I'm a PL in the 82nd. I need to get some info on the assault/raid packs the RGR REGT uses. They are made by a company called "Londonbridge," but I don't know how to contact them. I don't see their advertisements in *SOF*. Have you heard of them, or know how to contact them? The REGT told me who makes them but nothing further. I'd sure appreciate some intel if you have any, besides you have always been a great resource of G2 in the past.

Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Rusty Bradley

Well, you stumped us, as we do not have a POC for "Londonbridge." The wellspring of information may well be your contacts in RNGR REGT. If the packs are a proprietary item, their supply dudes will have paperwork authorizing their use; if the packs are an item of standard issue there will be all sorts of paper trails, and SJA should be able to find a

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federal stock number that will lead you to who makes them. Another possibility would be to punch up "Thomas Register" on your favorite search engine (it's on Google.com, for instance) and search for "Londonbridge," or just do a general web search for that name.

Finally, if any readers have a POC for "Londonbridge," they can write to us and we'll print it. Hope one of these leads works for you. Next to your boots and rifle, your pack is your most important gear.

Sub-Saharan Satisfaction



As a long-time reader (January '82), let me tell you, I think your magazine is great! Keep up the good work!

I very much enjoyed the March 2000 article on Eritrea. I seem to remember some kind of "break-away" province in northern Somalia, as well. When can we expect more "central/northern" Africa articles? I don't know what the general opinion is, but I find the area fascinating.

Again, keep up the good work. You guys are one of the very few American magazines out there who actually report what's going on in the world.

Sincerely,
Michael A. Cessna

Yes, Africa is a fascinating continent, with the propensity for ongoing political wars exacerbated by outside interests, and borders that are often illogical remnants from colonial days when the continent was carved up for its resources by various powers whose only claim to legitimacy was that they had better weapons than the locals.

You could, in fact draw a close parallel between Ethiopia/Eritrea and Serbia/Kosovo: In each instance the mother state can make a strong argument that the breakaway state represents scant more than immigrant land thieves, and the rebels can make a good case they are freedom fighters struggling to throw off the chains of an illegitimate and oppressive government. But unless Adam and Eve show up at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates, there is no population on the planet that can trace "original ownership" of any particular real estate, and one can hope people will eventually see the benefit in trying to get along with their neighbors du jour.

Tying oneself to his grandfather's wars is like one cat tying itself to another: Your grandchildren will never know the benefits of peace. There are enough new reasons for wars, without rehashing the old ones. ☒

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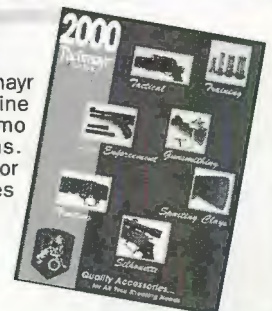
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SIG's ATM Gun

by Frank W. James

The subject of firearms safety has been in the forefront of the news, as many who are opposed to private ownership of firearms, especially handguns, have worked harder than ever during the Clinton presidency to remove those rights from our daily lives.

The latest scheme has been to create something called "Smart Gun" technology, a subject many small-arms designers believe because of the complexities involved in the parameters of a defensive small arm is doomed to failure from the beginning — if the consumer demands 100% reliability.

SIG Arms, Inc., however, is quick to point out their new EPLS system is not smart gun technology. The SIG EPLS is an Electronic Personal Lock System.

Essentially, it is a modified SIG 229 with a keypad permanently attached to the frame forward of the trigger guard. Developed specifically for the commercial market and home-storage applications, the



EPLS uses an electronic motor similar to the ones employed in 35mm single lens reflex cameras in combination with a magnet to create an electronically operated locking system for a handgun.

The system can be programmed by the owner to operate in an unlocked/ready mode, locked/secure mode, and with a one-hour time-delay locked/secure mode.

The SIG EPLS is designed to employ a four digit code, selected by the owner, to operate the locking system. If the battery fails, the system is programmed to stay in the mode it was in at the moment of power failure. The battery is a 3.5 volt unit similar to those used in many popular 35mm cameras.

The SIG EPLS is inoperable without the correct code if the gun is stolen in the locked mode. Of course, if a customer owns a SIG EPLS and forgets their own four digit code, they will have to contact SIG and receive a master code to unlock the pistol. However, they will also have to verify that they are, in fact, the lawful owners of said SIG EPLS pistol.

Did someone just say "gun registration?"



The New Arms Race

Smuggling Weapons Of Mass Destruction

Text & Photos by Al J. Venter

Smuggling throughout the whole of Central and Eastern Europe has been on the upswing since the breakup of the former Soviet Union. The economic conditions are prompting smugglers to transport items ranging from blue jeans to nuclear reactor components. Because the border crossings lack funds, adequately trained personnel and technology, the smuggled goods have a better chance of making it through.

— Dr. Bill Cliff, Program Manager For International Border Security in Pacific Northwest National Lab's Security Division.

IN the shadowy arena where weapons of mass destruction proliferate, and technology and materiel leak into unauthorized hands, the future looks bleak. Which is why there are Russians, Slovenians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis, as well as border enforcement personnel from a host of other Central-and-East-European countries, training at border posts in the sand and sagebrush around the U.S. nuclear facility at Hanford in eastern Washington state.

The first group of 24 Russians — many of them para-military customs officers and headed by a major general, arrived at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) for a two-week course late last year. More Former Soviet Union (FSU) officers followed last June. There are some 50,000 customs officers in the Russian Federation, complementing more than



Aerial view of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

250,000 border guards.

At this American facility, East European students learn to scrutinize trucks, railcars, passengers, freight, oil tankers and a lot else for nuclear, chemical, biological and missile components and technology being smuggled out of former Warsaw Pact countries. The U.S. Customs and Department of Defense, in conjunction with the Department of Energy as well as the Department of State — have not only been lifting the veil on procedures that only a short time ago were secret, but the U.S. taxpayer is picking up the tab. More significantly, the recipients of so much sensitive information, until recently, were sworn enemies. Now, however, there is a strong mutuality of interest to prevent nuclear materials from falling into the hands of rogue states or terrorist organizations.

Elaborate classes on the best ways of preventing weapons smuggling are being

held several times a year, on a rotational basis, at the \$30 million facility code-named HAMMER, the acronym for Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response.

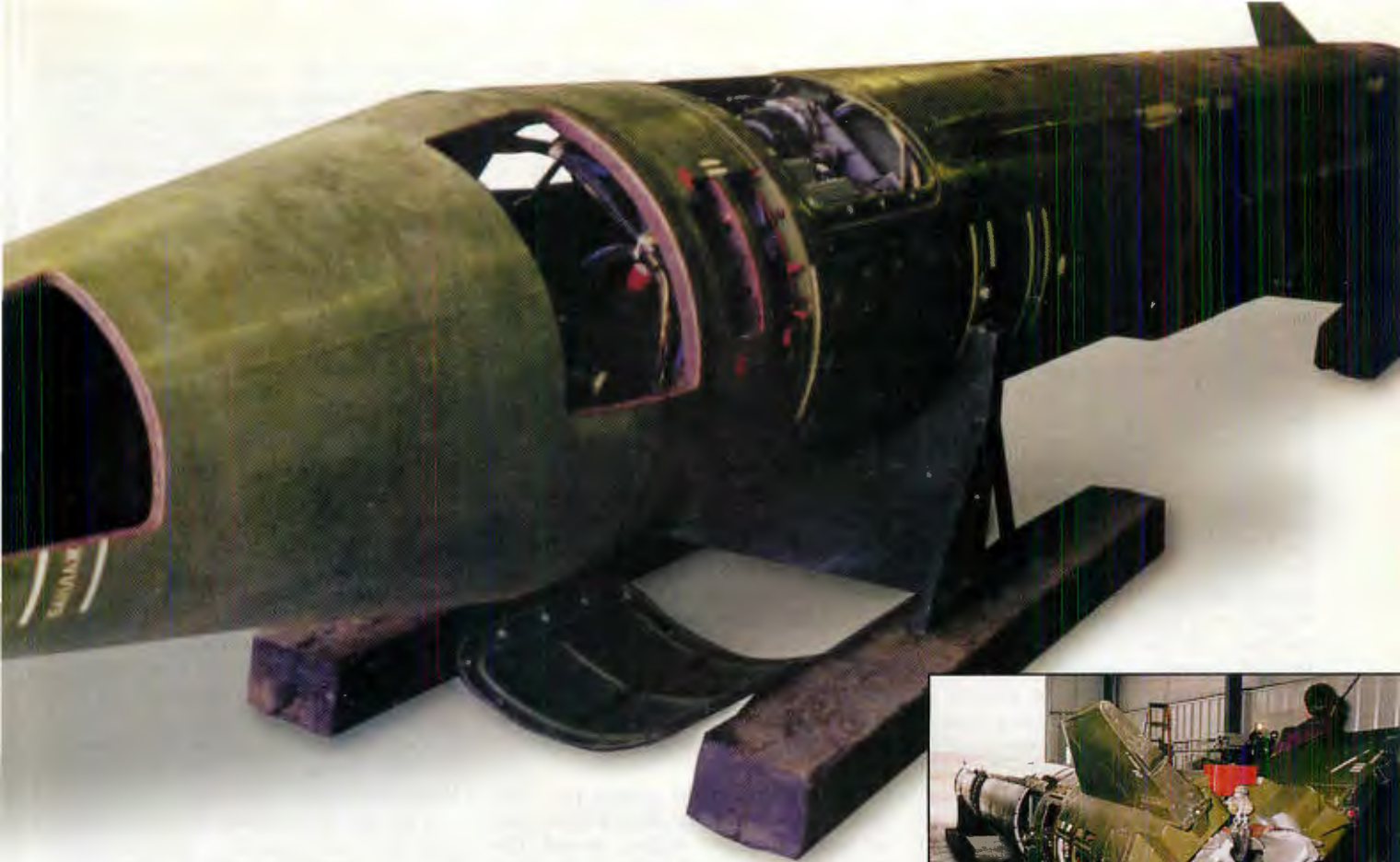
Courses are conducted at PNNL by Interdict/RADACAD (“Interdict” for interdiction of substances associated with mass destruction weapons — and “RADACAD” for Radiation Academy) and run for several weeks. They utilize the full range of equipment that you are likely to find at any East European border post, harbor, railroad station or airport.

Topics dealt with cover the spectrum: They include such arcane issues as threat assessment of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), nuclear concepts, advanced detection techniques, nuclear technology identification (both trigger list and dual-use list) as well as missile technology (which includes the on-site examination of the innards of a Scud missile).

The Ubiquitous SCUD

Russia's Scud missile — and subsequent versions that flowed from the original design — gets a lot of attention at the Hammer site. Outdated it might be, but there are nevertheless many countries that have it, including almost all of those who are said to be developing WMD of their own like Iraq, Iran, Syria and others.

The smuggling of Scud components has been a problem for years. This was recently underscored by the UN Special Commission (on Iraq) investigating that



country's illegal acquisition of dozens of missile gyros. Originally salvaged from surplus Russian submarine ICBMs, dozens were smuggled to Baghdad. One of the conclusions subsequently reached was that it would have been impossible first, to remove such sophisticated devices from the original missiles without the authorities being aware of it, and second, it would have been equally difficult to take them out of the country if there hadn't been some sort of collusion from "on high."

Moscow has never adequately explained how scores of such sensitive devices were clandestinely shipped to the Near East. While some of the gyros did reach Baghdad (and were later dumped into the Euphrates when UN Inspector Scott Ritter got wind of them), many more were intercepted at Jordan's Amman Airport when American agents acted on a tip. And though some of those involved were arrested, none of the big fish involved in the transfer were ever identified.

Because the Scud is notoriously inaccurate, the gyros were apparently to have been used in later Iraqi versions of the missiles. Late generation ICBM gyros would have increased reliability ten-fold. There are still about two dozen that the UN knows about, but which were never recovered. Prior to the withdrawal of UNSCOM, quite a number of Iraqi Scuds had been modified to hit Israel.

Among Scud components which the students are instructed to be on the look-out for are a variety of instrument-section com-

ponents (range accelerometers, horizon gyros, vertical gyros/lateral accelerometers, flight computers and gyro mounting-boards). Engine components comprise regulator and stabilizer valves, including balance diaphragms, turbo pumps (both turbine wheels and inducer impellers) fuel and oxidizer injectors as well as thrust vector control sets and jet vanes. The latter are made of advanced steels to withstand the tremendous temperatures generated by the rocket blast.

Syllabus for Security

Topics for study are diverse and vary from radiation protection to the elements of biological warfare. Time is also spent viewing the operations and use of sensitive equipment at a fully functional international border crossing, in this case Blaine, on Washington State's Canadian frontier.

The Interdict/RADACAD training session is comprehensive. Usually numbering a couple of dozen participants from two compatible East European countries (representatives, for instance, of Chechnya and Russia on the same course could lead to problems), participants go straight into the language of weapons of mass destruction. That is followed by a WMD threat assessment with breaks for practical demonstrations, followed by targeting and selectivity as well as risk assessment. Radiation in all its facets is dealt with in depth: Sessions include practical demonstrations with items such as gamma spectrometers and pagers. Altogether, seven different types of leading-



Russian SCUDs land in a U.S. nuclear facility? Yes, and plenty of Russians and officials from their former allies, too, as the U.S. spearheads an international effort to train Central and East European border and customs officers to foil smugglers moving weapons of mass destruction to the hands of rogue states and terrorists. Cutaway SCUD trains officials to recognize crucial components of this antiquated but ubiquitous delivery system.

edge, portable technology are provided for the detection and identification of suspect materials and components.

The esoterics of export/import documentation and a string of conspiracies related thereto also get detailed attention. Also introduced is what is termed "the New International Criminal." Even behind the old Iron Curtain, said one authority who goes there often, "crime associated with the illegal movement of WMD has achieved an incredible level of sophistication." Taken together, the Richland courses are the most comprehensive anti-proliferation sessions held anywhere in the world.

The objectives are clear: A massive U.S. effort and a great deal of money are going into efforts to stop the smuggling of weapons of mass destruction out of Eastern

Europe. Experience has shown that in the past, much of it was headed for countries such as Iran, Libya, Iraq, Syria and North Korea — nations that have shown they could not be trusted with a sharp stick, let alone WMDs.

Phony, Profitable, "Proliferation"

A notable aspect is the time spent on scams *pretending* to be nuclear trafficking. Until recently, few outsiders were aware that a multi-million dollar industry had sprung up, involving some of the best swindlers in the game. Many of those involved are Russian or Ukrainian.

It can be dangerous work. The number of people that have been murdered because they were involved in red mercury scams in South Africa alone over the past 10 years are well into double figures. Though details are scanty, red mercury traffickers in Europe and the Middle East have also recently been in the spotlight. The reasons are basic. Red mercury is a modern fraud that has generated immense amounts of cash. Though purported to be a factor in nuclear weapons development as a neutron donor, this is fiction. Such is the extent of the trade that several books have appeared on the subject.

Other nuclear frauds involve Osmium-187, Philippine "uranium," Southeast Asian "uranium" and radiation gauges. It is interesting that agents are taught that Osmium only recently emerged as a common nuclear trafficking scam in FSU states. PNNL officials point out that it has no known weapons application. Nor is it radioactive.

There is a corollary. Whatever it is that the smugglers are trying to dump on some unsuspecting buyer — and there have been a lot of takers from unsophisticated buyers in the Middle East who equate "radioactive" with "fissionable" — the laboratory warns that some of it will almost certainly be "dangerously radioactive" and likely to harm those handling it. One of the tasks taught at Richland is the ability to recognize this danger and blow the whistle when it occurs, not only for their own protection but

for others as well, said an instructor. There have been cases where it was already too late for some couriers by the time that they were arrested.

Scam prices can be awesome. Candium (another essentially weapons-useless Russian radioactive substance) sells upwards of \$50,000/kilo. One hustler tried to offload a kilo of Osmium-187 to an Iranian agent for \$70 million. In the words of one specialist: "there are a lot of basket cases out there and some of them have millions of dollars."

Nuclear physicists at the PNNL facility stress that in the wrong hands, some radioactive materials or sources might be used for terror or extortion. A "dirty" conventional bomb spreading radio-active contamination in a metropolitan center could pose a real problem. The course's 600-page handbook — which is given to every student on arrival in his own language (including Cyrillic script for Russian speakers) cites the case of a group of Chechen separatists who, in 1995 threatened to use radioactive dispersal devices in Russia. They even staged a media event to prove that they actually possessed a radioactive substance.

Clearly, one of the nuclear physicists told *Soldier Of Fortune*, there are also a lot of legal radioactive isotopes around. The majority serves good purpose. Together with dozens of other radioactive substances, some of these substances have also been used in hoaxes. Obviously some offer quite lucrative returns, or those doing it simply wouldn't be involved. Although *SOF's* source would not be specific, Washington is aware that Iraq has wasted millions in such under-the-counter rip-offs.

Success of Project Amber

The Richland laboratory, with a staff of 3,500 and an annual budget of \$500 million, is one of nine national multi-program laboratories in the United States. PNNL was created in 1965 when the government's research laboratory at the Department of Energy's site at Hanford along the upper

Columbia River was separated from Hanford's nuclear operations. The PNNL program was originally developed under the sponsorship of the Pentagon's counter-proliferation program, with technical direction by the U.S. Customs Service.

As a result of Project Amber (a classroom program initiated in 1994 involving foreign officers from more than a dozen eastern European countries), almost 200 agents have been trained in the U.S. over the past three years. Several hundred more were instructed on-site in Poland, Estonia and Uzbekistan, and other Central and East European states.

Ultimately, extensions of Project Amber will include Cyprus and Malta, underscoring their strategic potential in the Mediterranean, especially since both countries are keen to enter the European Union.

There have been some notable interdictions, some of them involving past students of the facility:

- 22 tons of radioactive-contaminated concentrate detained near Krasnoyarsk. This material appears to have been sent to Russia to be dumped.
 - An American company in 1996 shipped 78 tons of radioactive scrap steel from Houston to China.
 - Radioactive suppliers sent scrap metal from the Czech Republic to Italy, so "hot" that many people near the path of the train had to be given medical examinations.
 - Contaminated scrap copper from Poland got turned back at the German border. It eventually found its way to Slovakia where it was processed and went out as product.
 - Two tons of radioactive tungsten was caught entering Lithuania from Belarus. The driver suffered a serious radioactive dose.
 - Mexican tables contaminated with radioactive metal were sent to the U.S.
 - A large shipment of Uranium 235 was interdicted in Bulgaria. It was thought to have been en route to the Middle East.
- Among equipment now being offered to PNNL students are two state-of-the-art



Classroom sessions are multi-lingual — and coordinated so only "friendly" former allies go through together. Here Slovenians and Armenians near the end of the book-work portion of their instruction. (above) Hands-on instruction includes the use of various instruments to detect contraband: Here instructor uses radioactive element in smoke detector to illustrate use of radiation-detecting instrument.

portable detection devices: a Material Identification System (MIS) and an Ultrasonic Pulse Echo (ultrasound) instrument. An unspecified number of these devices have already been sent to other East European and FSU governments. The first device discriminates between a variety of strategic metals; some of them used in WMD. Comprising a laptop computer with a plug-in instrument card that fits in a cd/floppy disc port, it operates with a hand-held probe.

Winnowing The WMDs

The problem being encountered here is that most metals — including those used for strategic purposes — are very similar in appearance. It is difficult, if not impossible, for a border inspector to visually determine whether a particular metal is what it's purported to be. And since advanced weapons programs require advanced types of steel, MIS — based on non-contact electrical conductivity — can tell whether a batch of metals in a cargo is high-tensile pressure-vessel steel or garden-variety 1018.

The ultrasonic pulse echo, in contrast, is based on advanced ultrasound technology and was developed to inspect chemical weapons stockpiles and discarded munitions by UN officials after the Gulf War. It can also locate hidden packages or cavities in a container that might hold drugs or other prohibited material. U.S. Government agencies have ordered another 20 sets for use at some European border crossings.

Other advanced equipment used in the training include:

- gamma and neutron spectrometer to identify radioactive isotopes such as nuclear weapons material (Pu239, U235 and U233) as well as commercial and medical isotopes
- radiation pager that alerts border enforcement personnel that there might be a radioactive substance present
- gamma densitometer which is used to locate items hidden behind walls and in tires or other cavities in shipping containers or liquid tanks
- fiber-optic scope for viewing inside dashboards, fuel tanks etc. and
- electronic measuring tape for detecting hidden compartments and false walls through dimensional discrepancies.

It is interesting that the U.S. government is also providing almost every East and Central European customs service with numbers of X-ray detection vehicles. Costing about \$300,000 each, three have gone to Russia with more to follow. For their size, the vehicles are well equipped. While 10,000 ordinary packages might be scanned without prompting a reaction, anything radioactive triggers an alarm. For this purpose, each vehicle is fitted with a forward scanner and backscatter X-ray, together with a variety of other systems able to detect the full spectrum of nuclear-related materials. These include plutonium, uranium, carbons, lithium, beryllium and zirconium, all substances covered by the Nuclear Suppliers' Group.



U.S. Customs officer trains student in use of X-ray vehicle as suspect box goes through on conveyor. Many of these vehicles have been supplied to customs and border officials in Eastern Europe.

Wanted the Worst: Weapons-Potential Materiel

At the core of it, the thrust of training at the Interdict/RADACAD facility centers on the material components and commodities associated with the development, deployment and delivery of WMD. Consequently, there is emphasis on the full nuclear fuel cycle — from yellowcake uranium concentrate to weapons-grade highly enriched uranium, plutonium as well as substances which might already have been weaponized.

A feature of some of the classes involves trying to track actual smuggling patterns. Other sessions concentrate on the routes that operators are likely to use, if only because, once acquired, the stuff still needs to cross frontiers to reach its destination. As one instructor explained, once a border



Many components unique to WMDs are similar in appearance to dual-use or garden-variety industrial components. Here Dr. Bill Cliff shows "sharp-edge" graphite components for nuclear reactors. Designed to hold nuclear fuel cells, they may look like components to an electro-winning cell, but are unique to nuclear applications, and suspect.

crossing or an airport is regarded as unsafe by those involved, they will try to move their contraband to another checkpoint where controls aren't quite so stringent.

"You need to pre-empt such developments. If you don't, you could be wasting your time. It all takes time and effort coupled with a good bit of imagination," he added. In one important aspect of training, participants are shown procedures that need to be followed in primary and secondary searches. For this purpose PNNL has involved some of the best inspectors and agents in the U.S. Customs Service. There are also specifics about the need to follow-through on cross-border arrests in order to ensure that suspects and contraband do not disappear into what one official described "the usual Eastern European bureaucratic labyrinth."

While Washington has been low-key on the nature and the extent of the help being extended, several authorities fear that the rigmarole might possibly be too little and too late. One specialist who asked not to be named, said that considering the huge distances (across seven time zones in Russia) — and the manifest interest of so many rogue states in acquiring NBC-related materials — it was almost impossible to keep track of everything that was going on. This was specially marked since the Russian Mafia had become involved, he reckoned.

Others maintain that everything done to counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction can only be to the long-term benefit of society.

Michael O'Hanlon, a Foreign Policy Studies Fellow at Washington's Brookings Institution, told *SOF* that Russian nuclear security was vital to the security of the international community. In a statement, he declared that so far the Nunn-Lugar threat-reduction program had done a good job of helping to centralize and consolidate storage of Russian nuclear materials.

"However, its focus has been on spending dollars in the United States. So it has primarily been providing Russia with special equipment — to the tune of \$100 million in FY 2001 — not direct financial support. The guards and troops charged with actually ensuring the security of the materials have, as a result, remained severely underpaid." The United States, he added, had helped to pay some Russian salaries, "but generally, only those of scientists whose services might otherwise have been obtained by the likes of Iran or Iraq and who can be paid to do civilian research.

"We have not paid Russian security personnel. Given the recent downturns in the Russian economy, we should reconsider. It is not wise to have hungry people guarding nuclear weapons. And as the drug war experience in the United States should have taught us, it is not good enough to focus on interdicting stolen weapons just before they leave the country."

Al J. Venter has been a frequent contributor to SOF for some two decades. ✎

COLUMBINE: What Really Happened



A Timeline Of Terror

by Hugo Teufel

PHOTOS: AP/WIDE WORLD



20 April 1999, began normally for Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold. The two seniors at Columbine High School went to their 0620 bowling class. The weekend before, they had attended prom activities. It was, from all outward appearances, just another partly cloudy, Colorado spring day.

The two boys knew differently, however. Originally scheduled for Monday, 19 April, and inexplicably moved to Tuesday, the two had been preparing their assault for more than a year. The day would not end in ordinary fashion. When Harris and Klebold were through, 12 students and one teacher would be dead. Twenty-three others would be wounded. The school building would suffer significant damage, and dozens of unexploded improvised explosive devices (IED) would be strewn throughout the building and on the campus grounds. Harris and Klebold also would be dead.

Duet Of Mayhem

Harris and Klebold prepared well for their duet of mayhem. The two had brought to school four guns: a Savage Model 67H pump action shotgun; a Savage Model 311D double-barrel shotgun; a Hi-Point model 995 carbine, in 9mm; and an Intratec DC-9 semi-automatic pistol in 9mm. As well, they had plenty of ammunition and spare magazines. Finally, the two had approximately 95 IEDs (Improvised Explosive Device), including 48 carbon dioxide bombs (known as crickets); 27 pipe bombs; 11 bombs rigged to 1 1/2-gallon propane tanks; seven IEDs with more than 40 gallons of flammable liquid, including napalm; and two bags filled with liquid propane gas tanks rigged to timers and explosives. The two had put together a plan rivaling that of any revolutionary guerrilla or professional terrorist.

What happened at Columbine? To much of the public, and many law enforcement officers, Columbine was about SWAT

team members clad in body armor and camouflage, armed with select-fire weapons, standing by helplessly as two active shooters went on an unabated shooting spree throughout the Littleton, Colorado school.

Sadly, despite our living in the "information age," much of what we think happened at Columbine is inaccurate. For instance, though Columbine has a Littleton, Colorado, mailing address, it is neither within the geographic boundaries of Littleton, Colorado, nor is it within that municipality's school district. Columbine is located in unincorporated Jefferson County (Jeffco), Colorado, and is part of that county's school district.

The greatest inaccuracies about Columbine, though, relate to law enforcement's response: the belief that officers did not enter the school to save lives and neutralize the suspects until several hours after Harris and Klebold were dead; that all responding SWAT officers stood idly by while the two killed students with impunity; that SWAT officers from all of the teams discharged their weapons recklessly.

"This wasn't a SWAT problem. This was a patrol problem," said one senior law enforcement official on-scene and in the main command center on 20 April. Much of the killing was over before SWAT teams could get to the

school. Only officers from two agencies fired weapons that day. What did happen, then, that fateful day in April, 1999?

Columbine, first opened in 1973 and remodeled in 1995, had nearly 2,000 students in April 1999. The building has 250,000 square feet of floor space, 75 rooms, 600 interior spaces, and 25 exterior doors. Columbine would be an easy target for active shooters, and a formidable building to retake, were active shooters to occupy it.

To effectuate their lurid fantasy of mass murder and destruction, Harris and Klebold had developed a comprehensive, but simple, plan. The two students had placed IEDs a few miles from the school to distract law enforcement. Another set of IEDs were in the cafeteria, timed to go off when the maximum number of students would be eating lunch. The two had a third set of IEDs in their cars, timed to go off when law enforcement and rescue personnel arrived. Many of the IEDs had timers. The two placed their timers upside down so that onlookers would be unable to see when the bombs were set to explode. After the IEDs detonated, it is believed that the two planned either to rush into the school, shooting students and teachers, or to wait outside for students and teachers, and then begin shooting. In a videotape made prior to their assault, Harris likened their assault to the action in the popular video game "Doom."

As anyone who has been in combat or a gunfight knows, no plan ever survives first contact. This is so, no matter how solid and well thought-out the plan.

At approximately 1119 hours, one of two diversionary IEDs placed in duffel bags on a bike path a few miles from the school detonated. The diversionary device was late, and might not have exploded at all, had a maintenance worker, upon finding the duffel bags, not hurled one against a nearby fence. Law enforcement began responding to the explosion.

Minutes later, at approximately 1121 hours, the communications center for the Jeffco Sheriff's

Office (S.O.) began receiving calls of an explosion in the general area of the high school. At around this time, a custodian at the high school informed the School Resource Officer, Jeffco Deputy Neil Gardner, of an explosion in the southeast parking lot of the school. There was also a report of someone moving toward the school with a shotgun.

It was Harris. He and Klebold had begun shooting students, killing two. Many of the IEDs that the two had prepositioned in the cafeteria had failed to detonate. The two active shooters apparently decided to move into the school to set off the explosives placed in the cafeteria. What the two did not know was the cause of the failure: a simple electronic error in the detonating mechanisms of the IEDs.

At 1126 hours, the Jeffco S.O. received another emergency call, reporting a student down in a south parking lot of the school. Upon hearing of the downed student, Gardner immediately responded, and began searching for any armed persons. Shortly thereafter, in the vicinity of the parking lot, Gardner engaged the active shooter, Harris.

Gardner and the perpetrator exchanged shots, with Gardner expending nearly all the rounds from his .45 caliber handgun at the



(above) SWAT team leads an unidentified man out of Columbine High School in the wake of the massacre. (opposite page) Outside, some SWAT cops walked around confused. Inside, their colleagues fought smoke, fire sprinklers, blaring fire alarms and communication problems. (inset) SWAT sniper situates himself on roof just across a field from Columbine High School after two active shooters rampaged the school on 20 April 1999.

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active shooter from a distance of 60-65 yards. Gardner did not hit Harris directly, though it is believed that he put one round in the magazine of Harris' gun. Shortly thereafter, another Jeffco deputy, Paul Smoker, arrived on the scene and began exchanging shots with Harris. Gardner and Smoker did not pursue Harris and Klebold. Instead, they dropped back to maintain a perimeter, as their training instructed them to do.

After the exchange of fire, Harris and Klebold entered the school through the West entrance. Upon entering the building, they left a napalm-based IED against the door. Shooting students, the two walked down a hallway. Teacher Dave Sanders was shot at this time. Dropping to his hands and knees, Sanders continued to direct students to evacuate the building.

During this time, a number of emergency calls came into the Jeffco S.O. Communications Office, reporting shots and explosions at Columbine. As well, two other Jeffco deputies were arriving on the scene. The deputies made a quick assessment: More help was needed. By 1138 hours, the S.O. sent out a call for mutual aid. Officers from other agencies began responding to the call. Based on the calls, responding law enforcement officers believed there were five to six shooters, including shooters on the roof of the school with scoped rifles. Additionally, officers believed that a hostage situation existed. They did not know that only two students were involved, albeit very bright, motivated, and well-prepared students.

The Library Scene

Harris and Klebold entered the library at about 1132 hours. One of the wounded, teacher Patti Nielson, had dialed 911 just prior to the active shooters' entrance. Because of her call, law enforcement has a reasonably good audio recording of these events. To date, this tape has not been made available to the public, and the press has had very limited access. Those who have heard the tape, whether in raw form or as enhanced by the FBI, describe it as horrific.

The tape begins with Nielson, speaking very quickly and with a high-pitched voice, reporting to Jeffco S.O. that a student has shot out a window. At the time, she was unaware that she had been shot in the back. "Under the tables, kids! Heads under the tables, kids!" Nielson screams with great urgency as sounds of the two active shooters come nearer to the library, where 55 students and one teacher are hiding.

The dispatcher on the other end of the line repeatedly asks Nielson if there is any way that she can barricade or lock the doors of the library. Nielson demurs, stating "He's right out in front" of the library. Later, she states, "I'm afraid to go to the door." Then, Nielson hysterically utters, "Oh God! Oh God!" as one or both of the shooters apparently entered the library.

The two active shooters taunt students in the library. They randomly select and shoot their victims. Smoke from their bombs fills the room. During their spree, a student can be heard screaming, "Oh my God, don't shoot!" In nearly eight minutes, the two expend more than 50 rounds, detonate a few "crickets," and kill 10 students. Another 15 are wounded. Interestingly, no other students were

killed or injured after 1139 hours, the time that Harris and Klebold left the cafeteria.

Within 15 to 20 minutes, a number of officers from other jurisdictions arrived. Littleton P.D. SWAT and officers from Arapahoe County S.O. and Denver P.D. were on the scene too, including carbine-equipped officers and members of those agencies' SWAT teams. Two Denver P.D. officers, graduates of their agency's Urban Rifle Training program (based heavily on the Thunder Ranch course) and equipped with Colt AR-15 carbines, rushed toward the school to pull injured students away from the building and out of the line of fire. Neither officer was with Denver Metro/SWAT: One was assigned to a gang unit; the other is believed to be a patrol officer.

The active shooters fired down on the officers. The officers shot back. The gang unit officer, in his after-action report, stated that as he was crouched down by the school, a window above him exploded. One of the active shooters was "shooting out of the windows just in front of my location. I immediately returned fire."

The other officer used a one-handed firing grip on his carbine to return fire at one of the active shooters, as he dragged a student to safety. The two officers expended a total of six .223 rounds, forced the active shooters to seek cover, and were able to pull more students to safety.

Fog Of War

Students were flooding out of the building. This raised a number of problems. First and foremost, law enforcement could not immediately tell friend from foe. Second, fleeing students were giving conflicting descriptions of the active shooters. Some said there two, others three or more. The shooters were in fatigues; they were wearing black dusters; they were in

white T-shirts. Knowing that students were involved in the shooting, but not knowing how many were involved or what they were wearing, responding officers had to assume that all fleeing students were possible accomplices. Von Clausewitz' "fog of war" has descended upon the school and the responding officers.

At approximately 1144 hours, Harris and Klebold went downstairs into the cafeteria to detonate the IEDs they had placed there. No less than four video cameras recorded their actions. After firing on the IEDs and detonating a smaller IED, all in attempt to detonate the larger explosives, Harris and Klebold headed back toward the library. The detonations of IEDs had set off fire alarms throughout the building, and sprinklers in the affected areas.

At around 1146 hours, experienced officers from Littleton P.D. and Jeffco S.O. set up a tactical operations center (TOC) a short distance from the school. A number of on-duty Littleton P.D. SWAT members began arriving. At this time, the Littleton SWAT officers were the only personnel with their full complement of equipment. Their two ballistic shields were the only portable protection for officers entering the building for some time. At about this time, SWAT officers begin coordinating their efforts.

By 1155 hours the TOC had two teams in place and ready to enter the building. One of the teams was an ad-hoc team comprised of two Jeffco SWAT members, two Denver Metro/SWAT members and two Littleton SWAT members. Some have commented critical-

"Under the tables, kids! Heads under the tables, kids!" Nielson screams with great urgency as sounds of the two active shooters come nearer ...



SWAT members, marching on Columbine High School. There's little any SWAT team can do to prevent an active shooter from killing, but proper training can lower the bodycount.

ly that this ad-hoc team had never trained before as a unit. The criticism misses the mark; the officers were highly motivated to enter the building and save lives by stopping any ongoing shooting.

At approximately 1200 hours, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) personnel had established a triage station. By the end of the day, more than 150 students and teachers would be triaged. None of the responding agencies or their counterpart fire departments had tactical paramedics. This would change after Columbine, with a number of agencies now having SWAT team members cross-train as paramedics, or having EMTs cross-train with SWAT.

At approximately 1202 hours, personnel from Littleton Fire and Rescue units 11 and 12 removed three persons from the West parking lot. The rescue personnel had responded to Columbine unaware of the shootings or the active crime scene. Nevertheless, they would carry out their jobs, pulling the injured to safety, in spite of the gunfire directed at them.

Having failed to detonate the IEDs in the cafeteria, Harris and Klebold returned to the library. For whatever reason, known only to them, at approximately 1205 hours, the two committed suicide (to date, only Harris' autopsy has been made public); Harris with a shotgun; Klebold with a 9 mm. The two active shooters were stilled, 45 minutes after they had begun.

Some have said that between 1205 hours and 1215 hours, a student in the vicinity of the library, who had either witnessed their suicides or had seen their corpses, had phoned in the information to 911. It is said further that the student informed the dispatcher that he was going to leave the premises immediately. The dispatcher, perhaps fearing that the approaching teams might mistake the student for one of the active shooters, and also not knowing whether other active shooters were in the building, pleaded with the student to remain where he was. It is believed that this information may have made its way to some of the teams inside the building and preparing to enter the building.

Meanwhile, the first ad-hoc team entered the building. Carefully moving the napalm-based IED away from the door, the team went inside. Upon approaching a hallway, one of the Denver SWAT officers in the ad-hoc team peered around the corner of the hallway and emptied a full magazine from his MP5 down the hallway. There is a dispute over the officer's target. Some have said that the officer was engaging Dylan and Klebold. Others claim that he was providing "covering fire." Still others have stated that the officer had no target when he fired. He is alleged to have stated afterwards, "Maybe I shouldn't have done that."

The result of the officer's discharging his weapon was that the officers not with the team, some of whom may have known that Harris and Klebold were dead, immediately assumed that other active shooters were in the school. Further adding to "the fog of war," was the call to Littleton P.D. dispatch from the front desk at Columbine, indicating that there was a "hostage situation" in that office. This, of course, was untrue. There were no hostage situations at Columbine. The crush of calls to authorities, many with incomplete or incorrect information on the number and location of suspects, and number, location, and condition of victims, would

increase over the coming few hours.

Complicating matters were problems with radio communications. Reception was poor for some agencies. Even when radios worked, the differences in frequencies among the various responding agencies made communication difficult. Moreover, some Denver Metro/SWAT units, acting independently of the TOC, may not have bothered to stay in communication.

Other officers began pouring into the vicinity. Within time, SWAT teams from Arapahoe and Jeffco S.O.s, and Denver, Lakewood, and Littleton P.D.s were ready to go into the school as complete, coherent teams. The official version is that the different teams were each given responsibility for a particular portion of the school. For example, Littleton P.D.'s area of responsibility was the east side of the school. Lakewood had the north side. Jeffco and Denver were responsible for the west side. Again, it is said that some teams may have acted independently, in particular those from Denver, without regard to the on-scene command. Later in the day, however, all of the teams would coordinate their efforts.

Full Sniper Coverage

By 1246 hours, the first sniper, of a total of eight snipers from five agencies, would deploy. About 10 minutes later, the second sniper deployed. Both snipers were with Littleton SWAT. One sniper, the father of a Columbine student (later found unharmed), set up outside of the school, approximately 75 yards from the east side of the school. The on-scene commanders, believing a hostage situation existed or might arise in the building, and recognizing that because of the size of the building, the possibility existed for 50- to 75-yard precision shots inside the school, deployed the second sniper inside Columbine. It was a tactically sound, but novel, deployment. By 1342 hours, the other six snipers would be deployed, many on the roofs of neighboring homes, often at distances of more than 100 yards. There would be full sniper coverage of the school.

At 1352 hours, law enforcement closed the airspace around Columbine. At about 1300 hours, a news helicopter had begun low passes over the school. It is believed that Denver P.D. or Metro/SWAT officers either commandeered the helicopter or requested its use in exchange for the station getting close-up footage. It is also believed that Denver officers were attempting to ascertain whether there were active shooters on the roof with scoped rifles. It was later discovered that the person whom many had seen on the roof was not a shooter, but a workman who hid once

the explosions and gunfire erupted.

During the fly-overs personnel from other agencies expressed concern about the tactical advisability of the fly-overs. Subsequent to 20 April, Denver and Lakewood P.D.s exchanged correspondence over the incident. One Lakewood officer stated, "this was extremely dangerous for all of us," given the relative ease of bringing down a helicopter with small arms fire and the incomplete picture, at that time, of the full complement of active shooters operating in the school. Denver P.D. responded that officers had informed the TOC of the plan to check the roof with a helicopter, based on



SWAT members take a break outside of Columbine High School, late on the day of the infamous massacres.

**For whatever reason,
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Harris with a shotgun,
Klebold with a 9mm.
The two shooters
were stilled.**

Metro/SWAT's interest in verifying whether another shooter was on the roof and in putting officers on the roof. Denver attributed the problems to "difficulty in communication."

Meanwhile, SWAT teams were working their way through the building. The officers did not know that there were only two perpetrators. Everywhere officers faced the incessant clanging of the building's fire alarms. Many parts of the school were soaked with water from the sprinklers, with some floors covered in four inches or more of water. The teams moved cautiously, not knowing if other shooters lay in ambush or whether the shooters had rigged devices to explode at a particular time.

At approximately 1302 hours, the suspects' identities and descriptions were aired. Shortly thereafter, a report came in of a teacher and eight students down in the cafeteria. This report was proven to be incorrect. It would not be the last such report to bedevil responding officers.

At 1315 hours, Arapahoe County S.O. SWAT deployed to provide medical triage security. Ultimately, 10 fire trucks, 48 ambulances, and more than 160 EMT and fire personnel would respond, coming from Littleton Fire and five other local fire departments. Many officers on-scene have described the EMT and Fire personnel as the real heroes of the day.

Police officers and sheriff's deputies were not the only law enforcement officials on the scene. Officials at the First Judicial District Attorney's Office, whose jurisdiction includes Jeffco, were watching coverage of the incident on television. Hearing the names of the suspected students, District Attorney Dave Thomas and an assistant district attorney accumulated as much information on the suspects as possible and then headed down to the high school. The two would coordinate with others at the District Attorney's Office to hurriedly draft warrants, for the seizure of evidence at the homes of Harris and Klebold.

Sea Of Fish

At 1332 hours, law enforcement received information that the shooters would attempt to leave the building by blending in with other students. This was, of course, untrue, though the officers on the scene did not know so at the time. It is worth noting that one need not have read the *Urban Mini Manual*, or the works of Ho Chi Minh or Mao Tse Tung, to appreciate that the active shooter, urban guerrilla, or terrorist who looks like his victims can easily swim within the "sea of fish" that resemble him.

A little later, law enforcement personnel arranged for school buses to go to Columbine to transport rescued students to another location for identification and interviews.

At 1411 hours, SWAT teams were given photographs of Harris and Klebold. A little later, at 1416 hours, Jeffco S.O. dispatch advised that it had received a call from students in the building who were performing CPR on a wounded person in the "Finance Room," which is located on the second floor in the Southeast corner. It is believed that the victim was wounded teacher, Sanders. In fact, Sanders was in a Science room on the southwest side of the school. Littleton personnel searched the Southeast side of the building in vain, hoping to rescue the wounded person.

At about 1440 hours, students inside the building reported shots fired. Throughout the afternoon, students had reported hearing gunshots, some apparently coming from full-auto weapons. It is believed that some of the weapons fire came from either Denver P.D. or Metro/SWAT using breaching rounds in their shotguns to forcibly open locked doors in the school. There is no explanation for the automatic gunfire.

Within a few hours, more than 600 law enforcement officers from nearly 30 jurisdictions were on-scene. By day's end, 900 officers would be on-scene. Besides keeping a tight perimeter around the school, officers searched students as they came out of the building. Officers would question every student and teacher to gain as much intelligence as possible about the conditions in the building and the perpetrators.

At nearly 1500 hours, Lakewood P.D.'s radios malfunctioned. Because other agencies' personnel were assigned to work with the Lakewood teams, and were in radio contact with the command post, the communication failure had minimal impact.

Shortly thereafter, the Denver-based FBI SWAT team arrived on-scene. The TOC deployed FBI SWAT to provide perimeter and overwatch coverage. As well, teams reported the lower level and northwest wing of the school clear. At about 1517 hours, an armored personnel carrier arrived and was deployed on-scene.

At about 1530 hours, officers with Denver P.D. and Denver Metro/SWAT entered the library. The officers advised that 12 bodies were on the floor. Two minutes later, the Denver officers advised that the bodies of Harris and Klebold, apparent suicides, were also in the library. Shortly thereafter, the various teams converged on the southwest corner of the school. One of the teams found Sanders, near death, in a room directly abutting one of the science rooms. Sanders died shortly thereafter. His wounds have been described as non-survivable.

At 1600 hours, the agencies involved (Lakewood, Littleton, and Denver P.D.s, and Arapahoe and Jeffco S.O.s) declared the building clear. Law enforcement began the next

stage of its work, removing explosives from the building and finding any additional victims or hidden students and teachers.

By 1730 hours, the primary response teams from the five agencies left the school. Secondary SWAT teams and Explosive Ordnance Disposal ("EOD") experts, Crime Scene technicians, and search and bomb-sniffing dogs entered the building. The secondary teams (from Boulder, Commerce City, and Thornton/Northglenn P.D. SWAT, Adams and Boulder County S.O.s) had additional assets available to them, including forward-looking infrared radar, to detect hidden persons.

Bombs were not the only problem that SWAT teams had to face. The fire alarm sirens continued to blare, drowning out sounds beyond room range. Further, the fire sprinklers continued to spray water down on the crime scene and officers. Thomas Lofland, an electrician for the Jeffco School District, received a call to go to Columbine. The controls were in the administration offices. EOD personnel cleared a path to the front office for Lofland. He was able to turn off the alarms and sprinklers.

The day would hold at least one more surprise for law enforcement. As Lofland conversed with law enforcement officials outside the school, an IED exploded as technicians were placing it into a bomb disposal device. No one was injured, but command personnel decided to stop for the evening, 12 hours after Harris and Klebold began their reign of terror.

The official record, to date, indicates that Harris and Klebold expended 188 rounds: Harris, 25 shotgun shells and 96 9mm rounds; Klebold, 12 shotgun shells and 55 9mm rounds. Officially, law enforcement expended 144 rounds. According to CBI, the ballistics evidence does not support a finding of additional shooters. Only the four guns that Harris and Klebold had with them were used to shoot victims. There were no other active shooters at Columbine.

Importantly, according to the official record, no victims were hit by "friendly fire" from law enforcement. Officially, 11 officers fired their weapons and each of these weapons was collected, examined, and test-fired. It is believed, though, that not all law enforcement weapons fired at Columbine were collected. And, as mentioned previously, at least one officer may have fired his weapon without a target in his sights, emptying a whole magazine. Additionally, of the 144 rounds officially fired by law enforcement, approximately 14 came from .223 carbines. Six came from two AR-15's deployed by Urban Rifle qualified Denver PD officers. However, investigators found a number of spent nickel-plated .223 cases, believed to be Federal Cartridge

**Within a few hours,
over 600 law enforcement officers from
nearly 30 jurisdictions
were on-scene. By
day's end, 900 officers
would be on-scene.**

(right) SWAT snipers surrounded the building, hoping for any opportunity to take out the active shooter.

Co. Tactical rounds, of unknown origin.

Surprisingly, to date there has been no tactical debriefing of the officers who deployed at Columbine on April 20. What Columbine has highlighted, however, is the relative ease with which an active shooter can cause mayhem on a large scale at a public facility.

Law enforcement initially confronted an unknown scenario with reports of six to eight active shooters, including some equipped with scoped rifles shooting from the roof of the building. Reports came in of shooters holding hostages (untrue), and bombs (true). Escaping students hindered rescue efforts, by their mere presence and by their similarity of appearance to the suspects.

Arriving parents, onlookers, and the media strained the capabilities of law enforcement to contain them. Traffic management was a significant problem. The proliferation of cell phones resulted in a telecommunications gridlock, with large numbers of inaccurate and bogus calls to authorities. Law enforcement had a number of sites with evidence relevant to the investigation. Warrants were required, followed by timely searches and seizures, to secure and protect evidence before its destruction, whether intentional or unintentional. Responding officers and SWAT teams needed to coordinate with EMTs and EOD technicians.

As well, grief counseling for first responders on the scene of widespread and significant carnage is very important. One of the lessons from the bombing in Oklahoma City was to provide to first responders counseling in a timely manner. A number of first responders to the Murrah Federal Building later committed suicide, because of tremendous feelings of grief and helplessness.

Within hours of the shootings at Columbine, there were a number of counselors available on-scene; each assigned to specific agencies or teams. In the year since Columbine, there have been no reported cases of suicide or depression from first responders, though a few members of the second group of SWAT teams to enter the school have since quit SWAT, because of what they saw in the school.

SWAT Can't Do It

Perhaps the most important lesson from Columbine for law enforcement is that SWAT cannot resolve active shooter incidents. SWAT procedures do not allow for the rapid deployment and neutralization of active shooters. It often takes 30 to 45 minutes, minimum, for a SWAT team to deploy. From the first calls to 911 until Harris and Klebold committed suicide, no more than 45 to 50 minutes passed. Only the ad-hoc SWAT team was on-scene and active while the two were still alive.

Active shooter resolution likely will fall upon the shoulders of first responders, not specialized units. This requires training patrol officers in necessary tactics and techniques. Moreover, it requires fielding the proper equipment. One wonders whether Harris and Klebold would have been able to kill the number of students that they did, had determined officers with carbines, such as the two Denver P.D. officers, been on-scene earlier.

Finally, why did Harris and Klebold do the things they did on 20 April 1999? Beyond the information provided in the diaries and on the videotapes they left behind, we will never know. Certainly, the alienation they felt as adolescents, and the morally permissive society in which we live play roles. As well, the parents of the two boys may share some moral responsibility, if not legal responsibility. It is possible that Harris' prescription medication may have played a role, though no alcohol or drugs were found in either perpetrator. Whatever the reasons, sadly we can expect more of these incidents. Without committed, trained, and properly equipped police officers, they will result in higher bodycounts.

**From the first
calls to 911 until
Harris and Klebold
committed suicide,
no more than
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passed.**

Hugo Teufel is an attorney in Colorado who represents military and civilian contractors and small arms manufacturers. He's the former Deputy Solicitor General for the state of Colorado and a law enforcement academy graduate who is P.O.S.T.-certified. ✕



BREAKOUT

The Chosin Reservoir Campaign, Korea 1950

BY MARTIN RUSS

Published by Fromm International, \$27.50

A Review by Bob Poos

In November of 1950 some 15,000 United States Marines of the First Marine Division positioned near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, almost on the Manchurian border, found themselves surrounded by six divisions of the Communist Chinese Army, upwards of 60,000 men. They had three alternatives: surrender; flee as individuals or small units with almost certain capture or death; or unite their scattered elements and fight their way 80 miles to the seaport of Hungnam and evacuation.

This last option included overcoming indescribably cold weather — 20 to 30 degrees below zero — with bitterly harsh winds and sometimes blinding snowfalls, and a narrow winding mountain road as the only avenue of transit. Never mind the legions of Chinese soldiers, many of them hardened veterans of long combat service used

to harsh weather, short rations and long marches. Russ says of them: “In 1950 the Chinese Communist infantryman was probably the toughest and hardest in the world.”

The Marines never even considered anything but fighting their way out as a cohesive unit, bringing with them all their wounded, many of their dead, most of their equipment and vehicles — and what remained of a shattered 7th Division of the U.S. Army.

They brought off what is universally considered one of the great military accomplishments of history. Two of the reasons they did, as author Martin Russ, himself a Marine veteran of later in the Korean War, makes clear, were O.P. Smith and James Gallagher.

Major General Oliver Prince Smith commanded the division.

Private First Class James Gallagher carried a machine gun in it.

Smith provided a standard of moral and physical courage which inspired subordinates to perform beyond their normal capabilities. The former trait he exhibited by defying or avoiding criminally stupid orders, directions and suggestions from his hopelessly incompetent superior — 10th Corps commander Lieutenant General Edward Almond, a sycophant of the Supreme Commander in Korea, Gen. Douglas MacArthur. It was Almond who suggested that the Marines might try an every-man-for-himself approach to an escape effort.

Maj. Gen. Oliver Prince Smith

Russ has this to say about Smith: “Oliver Prince Smith was something rare: a colorless Marine officer ... Smith was as spare as the Marine Corps itself. Tall, gaunt and gentlemanly, he was known for his steadiness and common sense. Working very slowly up the ranks, he had been a captain for 17 years in those days when that was not unusual in the Corps, where officers were rigorously tested before being promoted ...

“A former regimental and assistant division commander in combat in World War II, and “close to retirement when the Korean War broke out in June (25) of 1950, the white-haired general was sent to Camp Pendleton to take command of the First Marine Division” (it was called the First Marine Provisional Brigade, essentially a reinforced 5th Marine Regiment, when it sailed for Korea).

“A soft-spoken undemonstrative leader, Smith preferred to set policy, issuing carefully considered general orders and trust his

By December 1950, Marines were exhausted from two weeks of a fighting withdrawal — but they took with them all wounded and most dead and weapons.

AP/Wide World



hand-picked subordinates to carry them out in detail. Ironically, he is best remembered today for a colorful remark he is supposed to have made ... "Retreat hell! We're attacking in another direction."

Russ explores that alleged remark through interviews with several people present at the time Smith supposedly made it. As best as can be determined, what Smith actually said in response to a question was: "Retreat? Heck no. We are just going to attack in a different direction."

Colorless? Perhaps. But it was just as Col. Alpha Bowser, the division's operations officer, said: "We had the right general commanding the First Marine Division during the Chosin Reservoir campaign."

Machinegunner Jim Gallagher typified many of the teenagers who made up 80% of the First Marine Division that went to Korea in 1950. A pal, a Navy medical corpsman, described him thus: "He was a young man of limited potential in the world at large, but a brave and daring Marine in combat. Five and a half feet tall, with a leprechaun's face, he was powerful and pugnacious."

What Gallagher did, when an under-strength Marine platoon, almost out of ammunition and about to be overrun by a mass of Chinese in the first fight of the Chosin Reservoir campaign, was, "Come running up the slope behind them cradling in his arms a 50-pound load of machine gun with tripod and can of ammunition. The gun was ready to fire, with one end of the ammo belt clamped in the receiver. Gallagher set it up in a spot with a good field of fire and began knocking Chinese down the slope."

That bought just enough time for a half-platoon of Marine reinforcements to appear, catching the Chinese by surprise. "It was the most beautiful thing I ever saw in my life," said an observer, "They met them fuckin' shambos head on."

Russ comments: "The Chinese Communist Army met the U.S. Marines for the first time in history and were the worse for it."

"They Can't Out-Fight Us"

As Fifth Regiment CO, Lt. Col. Ray Murray said, "They can out-march us and out-fast us, but they can't out-fight us."

General Smith may have preferred to leave the details to his subordinates, but as Russ makes clear, what subordinates they were. Commanding the division's three infantry regiments were three of the finest combat leaders the Marine Corps has ever produced:

— Col. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, commander of the First Marines, a Marine Corps legend even before World War II, who became even more so on Guadalcanal and Pelilu — and in Korea would pick up his fifth Navy Cross for valor and became the most decorated man in Marine Corps history.

— Col. Homer Litzenberg, CO of the Seventh Marines, a fierce disciplinarian whose men performed splendidly, if not because they loved him, because they knew he was cooler, braver and more skilled than any of them.

— And Lt. Col. Murray, of the Fifth Marines, the only "light" colonel commanding a Marine infantry regiment, he had led troops in the Guadalcanal, Tarawa and Saipan battles of World War II. A soft-spoken, modest man and the epitome of a Southern Gentleman, Murray's Marines were fond of him, respected him, and some did, indeed, die for him.

And, of course, there were the noncoms, the backbone of any mil-

itary unit but in the U.S. Marine Corps occupying a position far more lofty than that of their counterparts in the Army, Navy or Air Force.

Men like Gunnery Sergeant R.W. Barnett, one of whose troopers, Corporal Patrick Stingley, recalls admiringly: "If you ever needed someone to climb the Empire State building and swat airplanes out of the sky, here was your man. He had this strange habit. He would pick you up and hold you at arm's length above him whenever he wanted to emphasize a particular point. This was great fun to watch when he did it to someone else, but this time it was happening to me.

"What I want you to do, Stingley, is shoot any gooks who come up that draw," he indicated the spot with his big jaw. "Got that?"

Russ, weaving interviews with veterans through his own powerful narrative, lets the reader feel just what it was like to be a Marine in North Korea the winter of 1950. "During the night of November 9-10, the first snowfall of the season whitened the bleak narrows of the pass. The following day, shockingly, the temperature plummeted 40 degrees in a few hours. By nightfall, it was eight degrees below zero, made much worse by a 20-30-knot Siberian wind.

"The Cold"

Lieutenant junior grade Henry Litvin, Navy battalion surgeon: "The effect on the line Marines was drastic. There were numerous cases of what appeared to be shock. But it was the shock of a terrific cold spell they weren't ready for."

Sergeant Carl Winslow of Fox Company, 7th Marines: "I woke up nearly paralyzed from cold and hurried to light a fire for coffee ... I took off a mitten and lit a match — and watched it snuff out in the wind, despite the screen of my poncho. The poncho was whipping and fluttering so much you could hardly hear anything else."

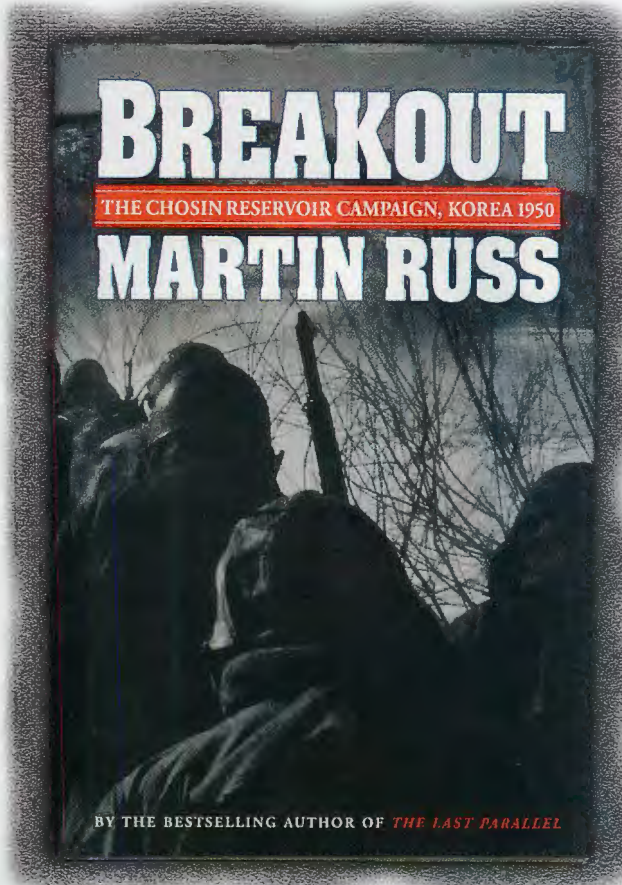
Corporal Ray Pearl: "I grew up in Minnesota so I was used to temperatures like that, but the thing that shocked me was the suddenness of it. I saw several guys, some of them from the South, in tears. We dragged over some boards from a bombed-out house and with the help of a splash of gasoline got a fire going. Our C rations turned out to be frozen solid. It wasn't

easy to heat them up, even in a roaring fire like that."

This book is certain to be controversial and a lot of U.S. Army veterans are going to dislike it, because Russ makes no effort to rationalize the sub-standard performance of the other outfit which made up 10th Corps — the Army's 7th Division — nor to conceal the contempt with which the Marines regarded it — indeed, an emotion many of them retain to this day.

Two of the examples Russ cites, one by an officer and one by an enlisted man. Lieutenant Joseph Owen, of Baker Co., First Battalion, 7th Marines: "They were a rabble, those doggies. There was no unit integrity. They were just a mob looking for shelter and safety. None of this surprised us; the GIs had behaved this way all through the southern campaign in the summer [fighting around the Pusan perimeter in which the Marines played a crucial role in preventing an evacuation from Korea].

Private First Class Ralph Milton: "Those so-called professional Army officers weren't doing shit for their troops. They should have been court-martialed. They left their weapons and wounded behind. Is there anything worse?"



Continued on page 66

My

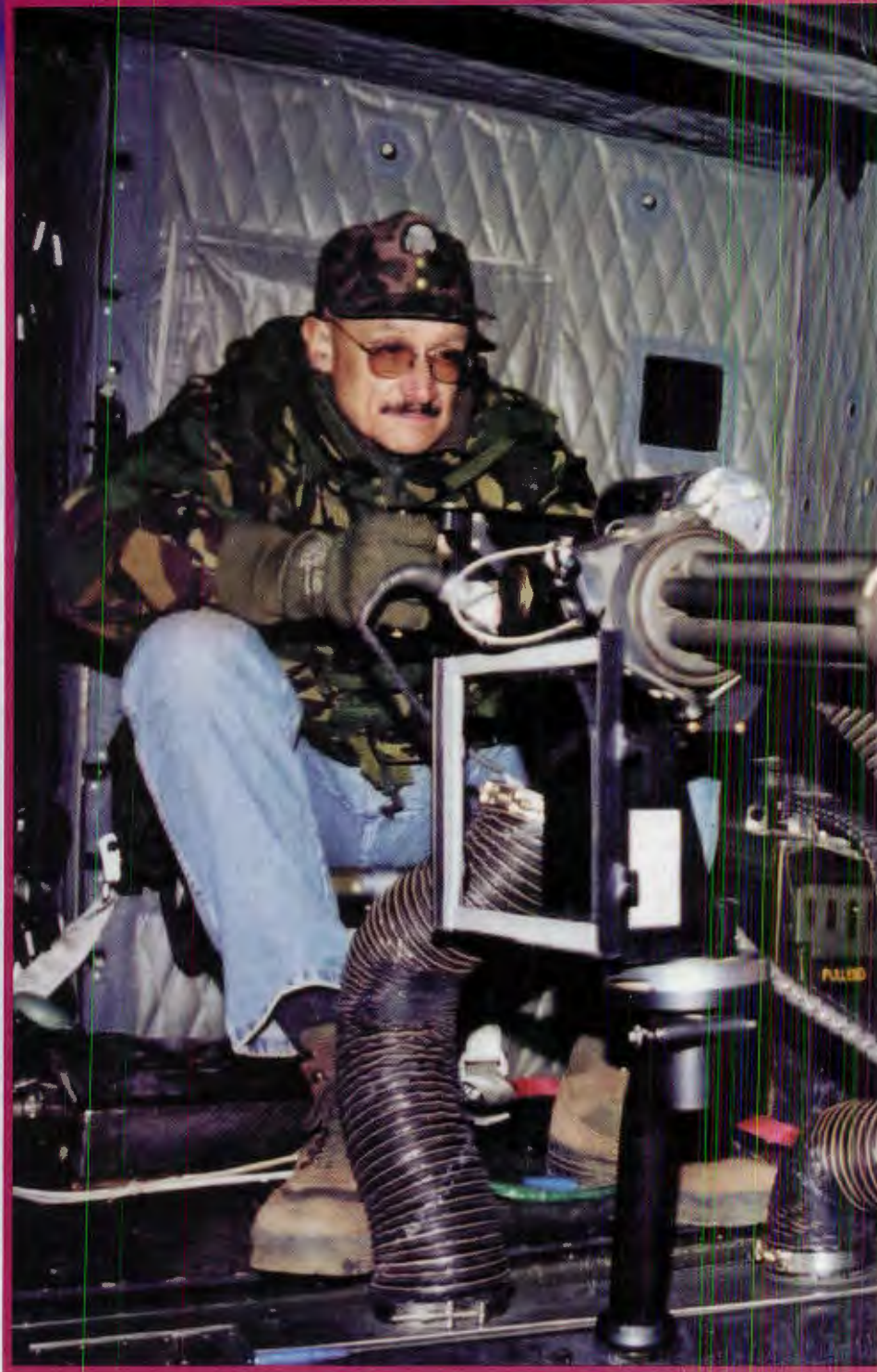
first exposure to the General Electric GAU-2B/A 7.62x51mm Minigun was in combat.

Impressions made under traumatic circumstances of that type etch deep into the mind. It was not a favorable experience.

It was 1985 in El Salvador. I was flying in an ancient AC-47 (Attack/Cargo-47) armed with three AN-M3 .50 caliber Browning machine guns in the two windows adjacent to the left cargo door. Stationary or slow-moving ground targets are best engaged by fixed-wing aircraft equipped with side-firing weapons. The basic maneuver involves a so-called "pylon turn" (derived from the racing era and the pylons pilots flew around) in which the aircraft is placed into a left bank and flown in a circular path around the target. In this manner, relatively low-flying, low-speed prop planes can keep their guns continuously on target. Ironically, the side-firing system was first combat tested in 1964 by Captain Ron Terry when he mounted three GE GAU-2B/A Minigun pods in the cargo compartment of a C-47 flying mail runs out of Nha Trang.

Our fire mission that day in El Salvador was to Chalatenango Province and Cinquera in Cabanas Province. Passing the large manmade lake, Embalse Cerron Grande, we reached our first target area. The pilot spotted our quarry far below and banked into his turn. Flying parallel to the target until it passed between the left prop hub and the very top of the engine cowl (about 100 degrees aft of our forward position), the pilot computed our "slant range" to be 3,000 feet. This required a 25- to 30-degree bank and in short order we were blazing away. As we moved from target to target I concentrated on blasting the guerrilla strongholds. Seemingly in slow motion and in a macabre manner, body parts, rifles, backpacks and other equipment could be seen flying in every direction.

At first we worked alone, but shortly we picked up our teammates: two UH-1Ms and a Hughes 500M-D. The UH-1M, or so-called Mike Model, was a beefed-up UH-1C which carried launchers for 2.75-inch folding-fin aircraft rockets and a 7.62x51mm GE Minigun on each side. The Hughes 500M-D pilot had located some Gs and shot the roof off their hootch with his 7.62x51mm Miniguns just as we had arrived.



Below us the helicopters looked like armored water bugs flitting across the surface of a deep green pond. As they skimmed across the jungle treetops, I watched from far above as tracers erupted from their muzzles. And then, in front of my mesmerized glare, one by one the tracers disappeared and the water bugs darted away. We were left alone with our grim reaping.

It was five hours before we landed back at Ilopango Airbase with only a 25-minute fuel reserve. I sought out the helicopter pilots and asked why they left us before our killing work had ended. I was informed that all of their Miniguns had eventually

jammed because of problems with the feeder/delinker. While spare parts for the GAU-2B/A were in short supply in El Salvador and their maintenance procedures were highly suspect, I was to learn later that these problems were endemic to the system.

The GAU-2B/A caliber 7.62x51mm Minigun is a direct descendant of the Vulcan M61A1 20mm cannon. The mode of operation is similar to that of the manually operated Gatling gun designed by Richard J. Gatling in 1862. Development of the GAU-2B/A Minigun commenced at General Electric, Burlington, Vermont in 1960. The first burst was fired in

FAST GUNS

The M134 7.62mm Minigun Reborn

by Peter G. Kokalis

Photos by Dillon Aero, Inc.

December 1962 from a prototype weapon. Extensive tests were conducted both at Springfield Armory and Elgin Air Force Base throughout 1964.

Contemporaneously, the "Side-Fire" concept of using M37 .30-caliber Browning machine guns firing out of the port windows of a C-47 at ground targets was also being tested at Elgin Air Force Base. The M37 could not provide the degree of fire power desired and it was suggested they be replaced with 7.62x51mm Miniguns. The "Side-Fire" AC-47 Gunship was in combat with Miniguns in Vietnam by the end of 1964. These gunships became known as

"Puff the Magic Dragon" because of the incredible hail of lead they dispersed. It should be noted that all of the Miniguns used in "Puff" aircraft were of the linkless feed type, in either SUU-11B/A pods or MXU-470 modules (a large feed drum with the gun mounted on top of it). The first one million rounds had been fired through Miniguns by late 1967 and by January 1972 over 300 million rounds had pumped down the bores of Miniguns. By January 1971, General Electric had manufactured 10,000 GAU-2B/A Miniguns. Production ceased shortly thereafter.

I've known Mike Dillon for more than

More than a quarter-century after its development in the Vietnam War, the Minigun remains a viable gun system that offers precisely directed, devastating firepower no other small-arms-caliber weapon system can provide.

30 years and fast guns have always fascinated him. Several years ago, Mike acquired a large number of Miniguns, spare parts and six SUU-11B/A pods. Mike ended up with the usual mishmash of spare parts: a lot of some and almost none of others. As a consequence, he was forced to start producing Minigun parts. Eventually, when GE would get inquiries about Minigun parts, they would just refer them to Mike Dillon. Throughout, Mike had problems with the feeder/delinker. For awhile he almost lost interest in the Minigun, until in the innovative and ambitious manner that has made Dillon Precision completely dominant in the reloading press arena, he decided to do something about it.

How The Minigun Operates And What Mike Dillon Did To Improve It

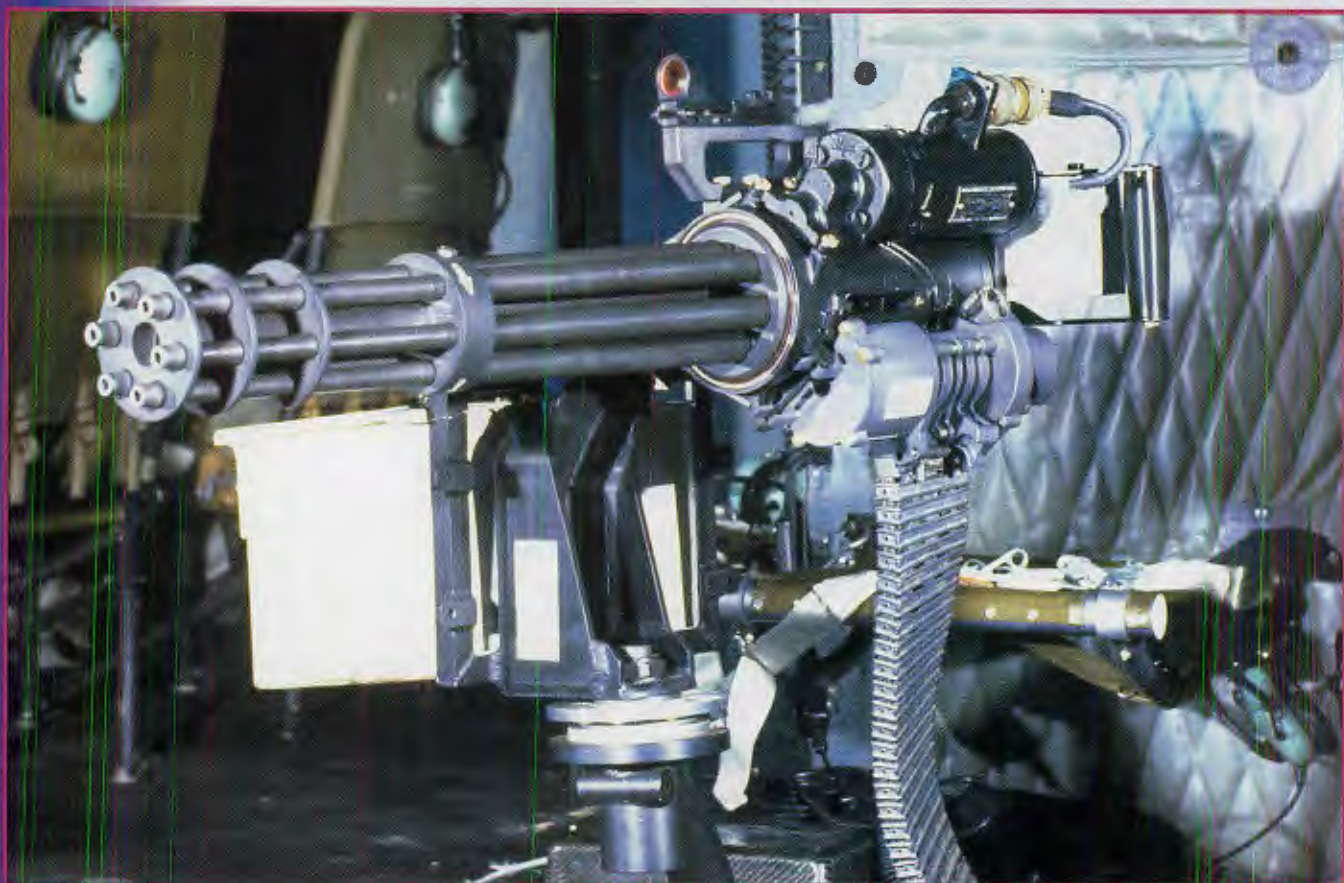
Electrically operated, the GAU-2B/A (or M134 as it is called in some of its configurations) is a locked-breech system with six barrels and bolts and chambered for the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge. The barrels rotate counter-clockwise and fire in turn when they reach the 12-o'clock position.

Its breech mechanism features a rotating-type bolt head with two locking surfaces. Very reminiscent of the German World War II MG34 GPMG, a helical tang on the bolt head mates with a helical groove on the bolt body (usually referred to as the "bolt subassembly"). Rotation into battery is clockwise (from the rear perspective). The bolt head rotates around the firing pin, which holds the entire bolt assembly together. The bolt head locks into recesses in the rotor (the main structural component of the gun), while the barrel interfaces with the front of the rotor. A roller on top of the bolt subassembly, moving in an elliptical cam path in the receiver housing, drives the bolt forward. A flat profile (or "dwell" profile) in this cam path holds the bolt locked briefly until the bullet has traveled past the muzzle and the pressure has dropped to a safe level. After extraction and ejection, the bolt has completed a 360-degree cycle and is positioned to pick up another round. All



(above) The complete M134 Minigun as manufactured by Dillon Aero, and including the gun itself with drive motor, feeder/delinker, trigger box, flash hider and side-mount pin-

tle, weighs a total of 65 pounds. (below) A typical Dillon Aero M134 7.62x51mm Minigun stand-alone helicopter application. The installation time is only five minutes.





Dillon Aero M134 7.62x51mm Minigun — in a recent 10,000-round test in which SOF participated, there was only one stoppage and it was cleared in seconds!

six bolts repeat this identical process in sequence. Pins in the bolt head interface with cam surfaces on the firing pin and cause the striker to rotate with the head.

Off-center firing pin strikes were a problem with this system from day one. As the bolt head moves forward into battery, just prior to rotation it loses all alignment guidance, which was provided by machined lobes on the rotor. This allowed the bolt head to wander off-center, resulting in off-center firing pin strikes. Increasing parts wear and tolerances beyond those specified magnifies this problem. Dillon Aero, Inc. (Dept. SOF, 8009 East Dillon's Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; phone: 480-948-8009, fax: 480-998-2786, e-mail: dillon@dillonprecision.com) manufactures a new rotor and holds its tolerances much closer than usually encountered on the well-worn rotors so prevalent today. The clearance between the bolt head and the end of the barrel is only 8 thousandths. The rotor, a machined component, rotates on ball bearings at the front and a plain bearing at the rear that is part of the clutch assembly.

A tang at the rear end of the firing pin moves in a cam path in the rotor. Just prior to locking. The tang catches on a cocking surface in the rotor. This cocks the spring-loaded firing pin as the bolt subassembly is driven forward to rotate the bolt head into battery. Rotation of the bolt head in turn rotates the firing pin causing its tang to drop off the cocking surface and permitting the firing pin to travel forward and strike the primer.

The Minigun is well known to be a lubricant-sensitive gun system that requires a Teflon-enhanced lubricant to function reliably. During the Vietnam War, LSA-T was the lubricant of choice. It's no longer available and today Dillon Aero recommends TW25B, which is also used by the U.S. military.

The six barrels are held to the front of the rotor by an integral interrupted flange on one side of each barrel that requires a 180-degree turn for retention. All of the barrels are prevented from rotating out of their retained positions by a barrel clamp which mates with four flanges on the front of each

barrel. This clamp is held in place by a single bolt. Originally, a 1/4-inch steel bolt was threaded to a self-locking nut. This nut all too frequently wore so badly that the clamp was shot off the gun. Dillon employs the U.S. Navy fix that involves the use of a 5/16-inch bolt screwed into a castellated nut, locked in place by a cotter pin. The barrels are 22 inches (559 mm) in length with four-groove rifling and a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254 mm).

There is a clutch assembly directly in back of the rotor. Operating with a 28-volt system, it makes use of an electric solenoid. The clutch serves to disengage the feeder/delinker from the gun itself. When the clutch disengages the feeder/delinker from the gun, the feeder/delinker must be stopped at a specific point (actually one of seven exact spots) — just short of the cartridge being laid into the bolt face and fixed extractor (on the bolt face) — or the gun will jam. This very clever design stops the feeder/delinker instantly, in one violent

action. The clutch's principal sequence of action is as follows. When the operator lets off the trigger, the feeder/delinker is immediately declutched. However, through a time delay relay, the gun rotates another one-and-a-half turns, insuring that all live rounds remaining in the gun itself are fired and all of the empty cases are ejected.

GE engineers were the first to incorporate the clutch assembly. Dillon Aero produces clutch assemblies under their own part number. They are fully interchangeable with GE components.

The original system had no clutch but only a solenoid that released the two ejector fingers. As a consequence, six to 12 live rounds would be ejected overboard every time the trigger was released. With the clutch assembly in the system, two- to three-round bursts can be fired without wasting ammunition.

The feeder/delinker represented the Minigun's single greatest problem area. If a belt restriction occurred — a rather com-

Dillon Aero M134 Minigun

S P E C I F I C A T I O N S

Caliber:	7.62x51mm NATO.
Operation:	Electrically operated; locked breech system with six barrels and bolts; rotating-type bolt head with two locking surfaces.
Feed mechanism:	Gear-driven feeder/delinker with two-piece hinged hatch for easier access. Standard M13 disintegrating links.
Cyclic rate:	3,000 rounds per minute.
Weight, empty:	65 pounds (29.5 kg), including the gun itself with drive motor, feeder/delinker, trigger box, flash hider and side-mount pintle.
Length, overall:	37 inches (940 mm), with the flash hider and spade grips installed.
Barrels:	Four-groove rifling and a right-hand twist of one turn in 10 inches (254 mm).
Barrel length:	22 inches (559 mm).
Manufacturer:	Dillon Aero, Inc., Dept. SOF, 8009 East Dillon's Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85260; phone: 480-948-8009; fax: 480-998-2786; e-mail: dillon@dillonprecision.com
Availability:	Currently in production and available to qualified government entities only. Not offered for sale to the public. Spare parts and accessories are available to current M134 certified end users.
T&E summary:	Although more than a quarter-century-old, the Minigun remains a viable and desirable gun system that offers precisely directed, devastating firepower no other small-arms-caliber weapon system can provide.



(above) The use of tracer ammunition permits the M134 gunner to walk rounds onto the target and deletes the requirement for a sight system. (right) Dillon stripper, push rod guide and drive gear (top) mounted on feeder/delinker main shaft, compared to original assembly. Numerous improvements enhanced reliability to a significant extent.

mon event — the belt would slew sideways while entering the delinker and one of the stripper teeth would literally pierce the cartridge case, resulting in a massive stoppage. As the feeder/delinker components were encased in a solid outer housing, only removing the feeder/delinker from the gun and disassembling it, using a pry bar to force the gears around, could clear the stoppage. This was a major project that usually took at least 20 minutes.

To alleviate this situation, Dillon Aero installed a hinged hatch on the feeder/delinker housing for easier access. Since it's a two-piece unit, the hatch also permits placing the belt by hand into the proper position for firing, just like a standard belt-fed machine gun's top cover. In fact, the hinged locking latch on the hatch was taken directly from the .50 caliber Browning machine gun's top cover.

To further improve alignment of the cartridges, Dillon added sprockets at the rear of the feeder/delinker. As preventing stoppages



is obviously far better than clearing them.

Saboted light armor-piercing 7.62x51mm ammunition (referred to as "SLAP" by the U.S. military) could not be fired in the Minigun with the original feeder/delinker in place, as these rounds are shorter than standard ball/tracer. General Electric added a SLAP-round guide bolted to the feeder/delinker's housing that also provides permanent blank-fire capability. Dillon has incorporated this guide as an integral feature of their new end plate casting.

Dillon's feeder/delinker chute casting

has a three-bolt mounting pad on its link exhaust for dedicated link routing to improve the ejection of expended links. This mounting pad on the link exhaust port facilitates the mounting of dedicated chutes to direct the links away from aircraft components, such as tail rotors.

Push rods in the feeder/delinker drive the rounds out of their links. These push rods are operated by a helical cam track at the rear of feeder/delinker. On the original feeder/delinker, the main drive gear was held to the push rod guide by a single roll

pin, which was responsible for driving the entire feeder/delinker. If a stoppage occurred, the pin was all-too-easily bent. Once bent, it had to be replaced. Dillon's push rod guide has seven massive splines that mesh with seven notches on the interior diameter of the main drive gear.

The push rod guide teeth also frequently broke off. Dillon has beefed up the guide teeth and chamfered their corners. Furthermore, the forward guide teeth have been removed from the push rod guide and incorporated into the stripper for greater strength.

All of these changes to the feeder/delinker have reduced the average stoppage clearance time to about 20 seconds. This is a remarkable achievement and incredibly important in a combat environment.

Dillon has made some significant changes in the trigger, control box and drive motor as well. The Naval Surface Warfare Center, at Crane, decided that 3,000 rpm is the ideal cyclic rate for the Minigun. Lower rates are superfluous as you can now shoot short bursts. Rates above 3,000 rpm result in unacceptable strain on the belts and their disintegrating M13 links. The U.S. Navy achieves this "ideal" rate by means of an expensive electronic control box. Dillon has totally eliminated this control box by changing the gear ratio of the drive motor and running the gun with 24-volt batteries (although the system remains 28 volts). By adding a 24-volt battery to the gun mount, it becomes a stand-alone gun system. A slightly larger trigger box now contains all of the electric relays.

The complete M134 7.62x51mm Minigun as manufactured by Dillon Aero, and including the gun itself with drive motor, feeder/delinker, trigger box, flash hider and side-mount pintle, weighs a total of 65 pounds (29.5 kg). With the flash hider and spade grips installed the overall length is 37 inches (940 mm).

Dillon has also cleverly redesigned the ammo box. The old container had three compartments with two dividers that went to the top of the box. Now there are two compartments with a single partial height divider. This makes the box much easier to load and significantly reduces the resistance on belts coming out of the container. Dillon's M134 ammunition boxes also have "cross-overs." The cross-overs have been staggered to reduce the possibility of cross-over jams. The Dillon M134 ammo boxes are made of aluminum and stainless steel and hold 4,000 rounds.

Vietnam-era gun mounts for the M134 Minigun were poorly designed. Dillon has designed and manufactures a series of hard mounts for the Bell Huey models, Boeing



Dillon Aero installed a hinged hatch on the feeder/delinker housing for easier access. Since it's a two-piece unit, the hatch also permits placing the belt by hand into the proper position for firing, just like a standard belt-fed machine gun's top cover. (below) All of Dillon's M134 Miniguns are equipped with the Dillon DAC-2000 clutch. Declutching the feeder/delinker ensures that no live rounds remain in the barrels after each burst. In addition, no live rounds are ejected overboard, and bursts as short as two rounds can be fired without wasting ammunition.



CH-47 Chinook, Sikorsky UH-60A Black Hawk and other helicopters. All of Dillon's mounts are interchangeable with the Vietnam-era types, but provide a much cleaner installation.

Soldier Of Fortune recently participated in a 10,000-round test of the Dillon Aero M134 Minigun, including a substantial number of Dillon-improved feeder/delinkers. The results were phenomenal. There was only one stoppage, which was cleared in a matter of seconds. Developed specifically for use in aircraft and helicopters dur-

ing the Vietnam War, more than a quarter-century later the Minigun still remains a viable and desirable gun system that offers precisely directed, devastating firepower no other small-arms-caliber weapon system can provide.

The Dillon Aero M134 caliber 7.62x51mm NATO Minigun is currently in production and available to qualified government entities only. It is not offered for sale to the public. Spare parts and accessories are available to current M134 certified end users. ✕



STEALTH

As his F-117A Nighthawk banked slightly left onto the IP, the Initial Point of Attack, "G-Man," ran down the attack checklist.

"Laser guided bomb selected. Fuzing set. Laser on. Master Arm Switch on. Ready light illuminated. Weapon is armed and hot."

"G-Man," the tactical call sign of Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Gary Woltering, was hurtling down the center of Serbia toward the capital of Belgrade at more than 600 miles per hour.

He looked outside the cockpit of his "Stealth" fighter, and marveled at how clear the sky was. Not a cloud in sight.

"At least we won't have to worry about weather tonight," thought Woltering as he thumbed the electric switch on his ejection seat, and let it slide to the bottom of the rails.

Unlike some "Stealth Drivers" who like to sit high in the seat so they can see 180 degrees from left to right, Woltering prefers to ride "low in the saddle" with just the top of his helmet sticking above the sides of the canopy.

As commander of the 8th Fighter Squadron, the so-called "Black Sheep," Lt. Col. Woltering led the Stealth strikes of Joint Task Force Operation "Noble Anvil," the U.S. side of the opening night's attack of "Operation Allied Force" against Yugoslavia on 24 March 1999. In addition to 10 F-117s, Woltering's package also consisted of four F-16CJ Harm Shooters to blast any surface to air missile sites that tried to paint the package.

There were also four F-15s in the package to sweep the skies of any enemy MiGs. The rest of the strike package consisted of two EA-6B Prowlers from the Navy to run electronic interference, KC-135 tankers for fuel, and an AWACS for command and control.

But the F-117s represented the tip of the spear that was being thrust into Serbia's side for its unwarranted attacks on civilians in neighboring Kosovo.

Black Jets Over Belgrade

by Dale B. Cooper



FIGHTERS

Rules Of Engagement

The rules of engagement were simple; minimal collateral damage, however, many targets like the first one G-Man took out on the opening night had been designated "No Collateral Damage."

Although the F-117s had some problems with bombs not tracking true to targets due to occasional cloud cover that caused laser beams to break contact with targets, Woltering is confident his aircraft caused a minimal amount of collateral damage in Serbia where 90% of the Stealth missions were flown.

The Stealth community refuses to talk about specific targets its planes struck during the air campaign against Yugoslavia. But the Air Force has talked to reporters at the Pentagon about some of the F117 targets.

Less than a month after the bombing campaign began, Major General Chuck Wald, J-5 for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, pointed to a satellite picture of bomb damage assessment of the Novi Sad refinery, and said, "This kind of tells you one of the kinds of aircraft that may have attacked it. This is the steam plant ... the major facility for that petroleum production facility to operate at all. Direct hit. Lots of collateral. That's been rendered unusable."

"What kind of aircraft was that, sir?" asked a reporter. "F-117."

Wald also discussed the Pancevo refinery that had been struck earlier by Stealth aircraft. "We wanted to make sure the whole building is unusable because it's a major node of that refinery."

Attacking targets in and around Belgrade was not easy. The Serbs had an impressive ring of anti-aircraft defenses consisting of more than 60 Russian-designed surface-to-air missile batteries with a mix of 1,000 SA-2, SA-3, SA-6, SA-7, SA-9, SA-13, SA-24 and SA-16s. But the U.S. did not know the precise location of the mobile SAMs.



Lockheed



Lockheed

(above right) The F-117 cockpit layout is similar to other modern day fighters, with the exception of a large video monitor in the center to display infrared imagery from onboard sensors. The aircraft is currently undergoing modification to provide full color moving-map and instrument displays, along with a 4.D flight control system.

(right) F-117A taxis out to take off from Aviano. F-117A drops two 2,000-pound laser-guided bombs.

(far right) G-man's jet touches down at Aviano after flying non-stop from Holloman Air Force Base.



USAF

Yugoslavia also had almost 2,000 air defense artillery pieces. Although not as effective as the SAMs, the AAA (anti-aircraft artillery) posed a significant threat to NATO warplanes.

In addition to SAMs and AAA, the Serbs also had 140 combat aircraft, including 14 MiG-29s.

NATO Game Plan

In keeping with their "four day game plan," NATO tried to deliver a knockout blow on the first night of the air war, much like the attacks on Baghdad during the opening hours of "Operation Desert Storm." But the United States clearly did not have the force in place to deliver a knockout blow in such a short time frame; a point the Air Force general who ran the 78-day NATO air war in the Balkans made less than four months after the last bomb fell on the city of Urosevac in southern Kosovo, 20 June, at 1050 hours Eastern Standard Time.

Scores of U.S. cruise missiles and a couple of radar-evading B-2 bombers from the states struck Serb air defenses, airfields, arms factories, weapons storage facilities and command and control centers across Serbia.

At least 20 Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired from U.S. warships in the Adriatic Sea. An American submarine and a British submarine also joined in the sea-launched bombardment.

The airstrikes, launched in darkness on Wednesday, 24 March, at about 2000 hours in Yugoslavia (1400 EST) continued in waves throughout the night and into the morning of 25 March.

American B-52s flying from the Royal Air Force Base in Fairford, England were joined by more than 400 NATO aircraft from Great Britain, Germany, Canada, France, Denmark and Turkey.

Lieutenant Colonel Woltering thought this moment would never come. The 8FS had spent 13 months in the Kuwaiti desert from September 1996 through June 1998 waiting for word to drop the hammer on Saddam Hussein. Each time the "Bad Boy of Baghdad" backed down, and the "Black Sheep" returned to Holloman Air Force Base, in New Mexico, like Rottweilers on a chain.

But this time was different. NATO unleashed its "Dogs of War," and the intended victim was Slobodan Milosevic, another two-bit player on the international stage.

Woltering's target was one that war planners in Brussels had deemed highly critical to the success of the air campaign against Yugoslavia.

Hurling toward the heart of the enemy at just under the speed of sound, G-Man began to chant like a Gregorian Monk the litany of attack he had been taught during five years of flying the "Black Jet."

"Big to small, find the offsets first dummy," said Woltering as he thumbed through three satellite photographs he carried in the cockpit.

The first photo was an overall view encompassing perhaps a 1-mile-square portion of ground in which was the very target he was seeking to find and destroy.

As he hit the IP, Woltering noticed very little AAA and very few SAMs being fired.

"Almost surreal," thought Woltering, "It's like we caught them with their pants down. They weren't ready with their air defense network. But their MiG-29s were everywhere."

"90-seconds to bomb release," shouted G-Man into his cockpit video recorder; a reminder that the clock was ticking and he had less than a minute and a half to find the target.

"Come on offsets, I know you're there. Come on," pleaded Woltering as he moved to the second photo; a slight zoom-in from the overall with only a half-square mile of land displayed.

"Relax ... idiot. It's early. I know you will show yourself soon."

Seconds later, Woltering realized he was now looking at the corner of a large structure in the targeting screen. It was "Offset Number One," a large and easy thing to identify which would funnel him into the target itself.

"Okay ... now where are you Mister Target?" mumbled G-Man as he adjusted the level and gain on the screen; trying to make the target discernible by changing the picture radically. But it wasn't working. Woltering couldn't



Dale B. Cooper

"G-Man," aka Lt. Col. Gary Woltering, stands in front of his F-117A at Al Jaber Airbase in the Kuwaiti desert waiting for word to "schwack" Saddam in the spring of 1998, but went home without seeing any action.

find the target.

"Thirty seconds to bomb release," shouted Woltering as the frustration built to a climax in the cockpit.

Fearing he had overlooked a minor detail in the setup for the attack, G-Man returned to the basics; checking and rechecking every switch and every setting, ensuring that he was in fact, on the

correct steer point as the clock ticked down to 25-seconds to bomb release.

"Damn, this thing should be showing up by now!"

"Don't let this happen to me," implored G-Man who for the first time realized that he might not be able to drop his weapon unless the target was positively identified in the next 20-seconds.

Woltering had waited a lifetime for this moment, his first taste of combat, but the moment was rapidly slipping away.

Like a professional golfer under pressure, Lt. Col. Woltering lifted his head out of the sensor display, looked outside the darkened cockpit for a split second to clear his mind, and then with a renewed sense of vigor, buried his face in the display screen for the final few seconds of the bomb run.

"There ... that's Offset Number Two." Another click.

"It has to be there. Only 10 seconds to bomb release," said Woltering as his 20-year career flashed before his eyes faster than a speeding bullet like the silver .30-06 cartridge engraved with his "Bandit Number," his lineage in the long line of Stealth Drivers.

"That's it!" Woltering screamed as the target finally showed itself on the display screen between his legs.

Mentally counting down the seconds to bomb release, G-Man quickly matched the target on the screen with a large blowup of the target on his lap, and confirmed that this indeed was the target.

With less than seven seconds left on the clock, Woltering's eyes swept the instrument panel one more time to ensure that the weapons switches were properly set.

Another hurried look at the satellite photo of the target for a final confirmation, and then with more than 20 years of training bottled up side his body, G-Man punched the "pickle button" and dropped a 500-pound laser-guided bomb into the night sky over Belgrade.

"It was then that it fully hit me. Hey, this is real. This is not a fake bomb going down there. There's probably somebody in that target sitting at his duty station, and he's about to get it."

With the weapon on its way, Woltering "safed" the weapons switches, and did another last check of the Desired Mean Point of Impact, pronounced "Dimpy."

Sensing the weapon needed a human touch to reach its intended target, Woltering's left hand steadied on the laser tracking switch.

"Steady now, dude," whispered G-Man as he reminded himself that the Black Jet he was flying had a "jumpy tracker."

"My left index finger almost quivered with nervousness as I tracked the bomb as closely to the spot marked on my photo as I was physically able to discern, and guided the bomb into the front door of the facility."

"Five, four, three!" exclaimed G-Man as he counted down the seconds to impact. "Two, one ... knock, knock, who's there?"

At that moment, Woltering saw a black blur enter the screen from the bottom right hand corner as the LGB tracked straight as an arrow at over



USAF

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UNLEASH THE FOGS OF WAR

Celebrating 25 Years of *Soldier Of Fortune*,
and the Past Millennium of G.I. Bloopers

by Colonel Louis Neatuns,
USGAFF (Ret.)

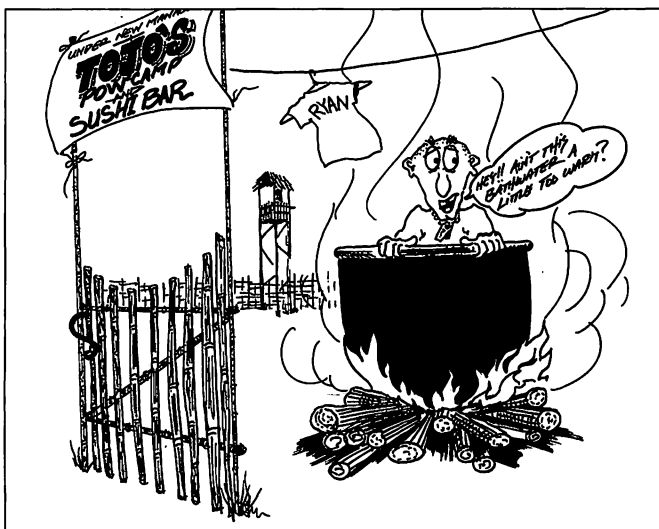
Savoring Private Ryan

When former President George Bush received his wings in WWII, he was the Navy's youngest pilot. A rail-thin but gutsy kid, he flew a TBM Avenger from the U.S.S. *San Jacinto*, and was shot down over Chichi-Jima, where the occupying Japanese had a reputation for butchering, in the traditional sense, captured U.S. airmen. Quipped Bush in later years, "I would have hardly made an hors d'oeuvre."

At war's end, investigations into the Japanese penchant for "GI Rations" were quietly dropped to facilitate the healing and rebuilding process. Kamezawa Kiyoharu, an officer attached to the 2nd Bn., 13th Infantry Regiment in the Solomons and New Guinea, bragged that he had eaten Australian soldiers freshly killed in battle or murdered by the Kempetai near the Jaba River in Bouganville. From captives brought in from the jungle, favored morsels such as the liver and kidneys would be harvested by Japanese army doctors. At the direction of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the investigation into this particular atrocity was canceled, and File 125E closed. Two suspects were released.

Every man is as Heaven made him, and sometimes a great deal worse ... there's no sauce in the world like hunger.

— Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*



Why They Called Him "Sly"

The time between wars is the time for armies to stop, carefully analyze what was done wrong, what equipment failed, and reason out a way to do it better next time. Not so to do is to continually fight the next war with the ideas, tools and tactics from the last war. Every now and then true luminaries come along whose insight and judgment based on exhaustive research are pivotal in studying the last war, to lay the ground work for the next. In a very real sense they are at the leading edge. These strategic movers and shakers are the pivot point upon which the military compass turns to guide the next war.

Such a celebrated luminary was General S.L.A. "Sly" Marshall, whose incredibly detailed studies and uncountable interviews of combat veterans and analyses of weapons performance painstakingly gleaned all the available knowledge from the American combat experience in World War II and Korea, and translated it into new weapons families, new training procedures and even new strategies and tactics predicated upon what his uncountable interviews had determined. S.L.A. Marshall was one of the most prolific — and literate, although wordy — military writers, his studies being accepted and hailed as a triumph for the scientific method.

Among General Marshall's startling discoveries from interviews of combat veterans without number was the fact that in combat, most men never even fired their weapons.

Mercifully, it was after his death that it was discovered that S.L.A. Marshall was a fraud, and his "scientific studies" a hoax. He had not only cooked the numbers, he had made them up wholecloth to fit his foregone — and often erroneous — conclusions on the behavior of men in combat and the performance of various weapons. Commented one grizzled combat veteran, "What the hell did he think we were doing with our rifles in combat? Except for the odd fatigue case quivering in the bottom of his foxhole, everybody fired their rifles until they burned the wood off 'em. It was kill or get killed."

Remember "Sly" Marshall the next time you meet a legend-in-his-own-mind.

A man has honour if he holds himself to a course of conduct because of a conviction that it is in the general interest, even though he is well aware that it may lead to inconvenience, personal loss, humiliation, or grave personal risk.

— Brig. Gen. S.L.A. Marshall, *The Armed Forces Officer*

Profile In Courage

In May 1940, the American Ambassador to London, Joseph Kennedy, urged the 4,000 or so Americans living in Great Britain to hat up and head home. More than 70 Yanks responded to this request by joining the British Home Guard. Called the 1st American Squadron of the Home Guard, it was led by General Wade H. Heyes. Ambassador Kennedy was hostile to the whole idea, fearing that they would all be shot as "francs-tireurs" when the Germans inevitably occupied London.

Two Firsts

The first German soldier to die in Hitler's "fortress Europe" on D-Day was 17-year-old private Helmut Romer, defending the bridge across the Orne Canal at Benouville, he was killed by a burst from the Sten gun of Lt. Den Brotheridge of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry Regiment, British 6th Airborne Division. Brotheridge was leading a platoon in an attack of the bridge. The first Allied soldier to die on D-Day was Brotheridge, shot in the neck by the other German bridge sentry.

Profits and Plunder

After the war ended in Germany, the Allied areas of occupation were simmering hotbeds of corruption. In the British zone, Control Commission officers and staff were the worst offenders — thefts were taking place on such a grand scale that a team of 40 Scotland Yard detectives were sent over to investigate.

And the Brits were the amateurs. Dealing in the black market resulted — in the first five months of occupation — in GIs sending home \$16 million more than they were paid.

When Berlin fell to the Russians on 2 May 1945, Maj. Feodor Novikov of the Red Army ordered the vaults of the Reichsbank opened: They still contained \$1.3 million in gold bullion and \$2.1 million in gold coins, plus \$400 million in negotiable bonds. After a quick inventory, Novikov ordered the vaults locked and demanded the keys. Shortly afterward the gold disappeared and has never been seen since. The bonds, however, still turn up all over the world.

Again, the Russians were pikers compared to GIs. Another six and a half tons of gold was recovered from Ribbentrop's "Schloss Fuschl" castle near Salzburg and turned over to the American Army on 15 June 1945. It disappeared and there is no record of it ever being logged in at the U.S. Foreign Exchange Depository in Frankfurt.

Nothing will disorganize an army more or ruin it more completely than pillage.

— Napoleon, *Maxims of War*

Safe Sabotage

If a good spy is worth an infantry division, a good saboteur is worth at least a few platoons — and in occupied countries they are easier to come by, and often little training or materiel support is necessary. One of the priority missions of guerrillas and saboteurs is to disrupt enemy traffic and transportation, and this can often be done at a low level and small cost. A good case in point was Nazi Germany, whose success at stealing their neighbor's real estate put them at the end of long and vulnerable ground transport net. A great deal of routine maintenance on German vehicles was performed by slave labor, easily recruited by the OSS for contrary purposes.

One of the most successful low-level devices they issued was the "turtle egg," simply a generic latex condom filled with a carefully formulated abrasive mixture designed to put a quick

100,000 miles on an internal-combustion engine. Some 35,000 were issued for insertion into the gas tanks or lube systems of enemy rolling stock, and they alone accounted for the destruction of thousands of German vehicles. Easily palmed by maintenance personnel, the turtle egg's latex sheath quickly dissolved in the fuel or hot oil, and the contents were specifically designed to pass through existing fuel and oil filters. Soft and easily hidden in the saboteur's shorts, if discovered during a pat-down they provoked no more than a begrudging note of admiration.

Funnier Than a Train Wreck

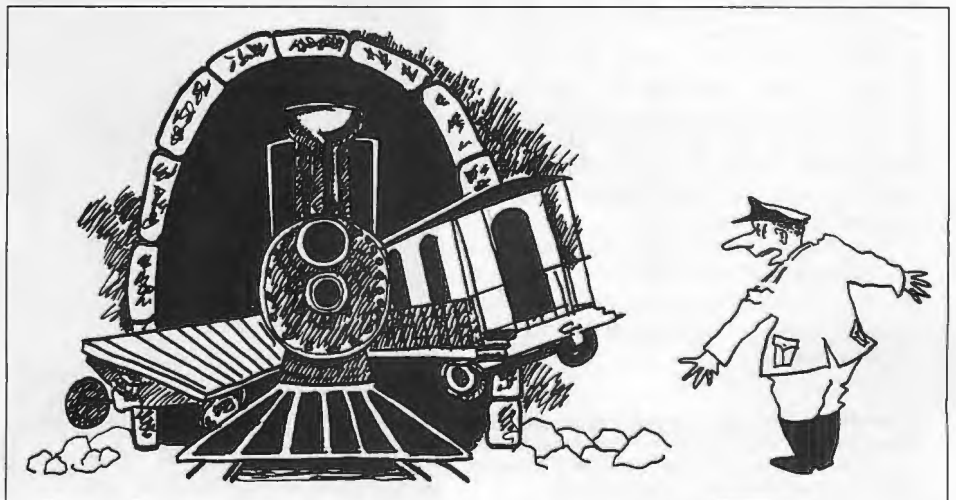
Few things are as heart-warming to a saboteur as a good, old-fashioned train wreck. Especially in the European WW II theater, the rail net was the backbone of the transport system, and at the same time the most vulnerable. In particular, choke points such as rail yards, bridges and tunnels were targeted. The U.S. Office of Scientific Research and Development had an entire research project code-named "Casey Jones" to devise more and better ways to make a shambles of the German (or German controlled) rail net.

Many devices were developed and successfully fielded that would blow rail lines. Blowing a rail line or bridge with a train on it was a bonus, so a great deal of effort was dedicated to developing pressure- or command-detonated devices that would not be discovered before the train crossed over it. Perhaps the premium device was the "Mole" series of contraptions, which were installed directly on the train or engine. These devices bore the decal, "This is a Car Movement Control Device. Removal or tampering is strictly forbidden under heaviest penalties by the Third Reich Railroad Consortium. Heil Hitler," and were attached to the axle, inboard of a wheel, in plain sight. They were designed to go off shortly after when they were suddenly deprived of daylight — as when, heh, heh, a train was half-way through a tunnel.

Tunnels were particular fun because blocking a tunnel created a mess that had to be removed piece by piece before the rail could be used again — they could not simply tip damaged cars over to the side and repair the line and continue traffic. And, while the trains on either side of the tunnel were held up, they were sitting ducks for allied bombers.

Here's the zinger: Particular emphasis was put on placing these devices on all German wrecking and maintenance trains, so when they came to the aid of the first train blown up in the middle of a tunnel, well, you get the picture.

Another favorite, and much more low-tech, device was the explosive coal issued in considerable quantity by the OSS. Samples of the different types of coal likely to be found in various theaters were obtained and closely copied. Operators simply pitched them in coal piles all over any given locale and waited for the inevitable to happen. In a time when virtually all steam locomotives and the greater part of the industrial base were fueled by coal, this proved a very effective way to mess with Jerry's infrastructure — especially locomotives, of which there were much fewer numbers. ✕



BATTLE SCARS

Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary System

Text & Photos by Robin Postell

It could happen. I could be thrust into a life or death situation. While out riding my mountain bike through these south Georgia woods, some dope-smoking, moonshined redneck could throw me into the cab of his pickup and head for the swamp. Or maybe on assignment I might get shoved up against the back wall of a seedy bar in Kiev. Or held at gunpoint by a band of roving banditos in Mexico. Maybe molested by a lascivious antique merchant while partaking of his personal stash of hashish in the back of his Marrakech shop.

My editor at *SOF* figured this would be right up my alley. He sends me to Phoenix to meet a man who swears he'll eliminate fear from my mindset. I'm game.

This is a three-day guinea piggin' for women in Jerry Peterson's allegedly foolproof SCARS (Special Combat Aggressive Reactionary System) "control" system. Touted as the most expensive self-defense course in the world, it makes big claims to justify the hefty price tag. A handful of civilian men paid \$5,000 for a four-day course, and were so pleased with the outcome that they asked Peterson if he could formulate a similar course for their wives and girlfriends. He obliged, charging only \$300 a head. Considering they have to pay for travel and lodging, it's still a small, but noticeable, investment.

They bring in former Green Bay linebacker Jim Duffner from Hollywood to act as my partner. He's six feet or more and weighs in at an ample 250 pounds. Peterson and Duffner work together frequently.

A woman's advantages are that she is underestimated, for one. Also, because of her smaller size, and because of simple rules of physics, a smaller point of impact can develop lethal force.



I was told he was recruited into an agency, which he is intentionally vague about, to play superhero in covert operations following his NFL tenure. He's negotiating the development of a television series based on the SCARS system.

Peterson's video tapes hit the market in 1993, grossing \$1 million in their first nine months on a very limited market of only four small-circulation publications. It was from this jumping-off point that Peterson began to tap into the civilian market. For a man who claims he has to make \$50,000 a day, he'd better keep tapping.

The SCARS Institute, composed of offices, a large, well-stocked weightroom, a 3,000-square foot training room filled with Olympic-quality mats, and a 10,000-square foot area referred to as the "environment room," is an impressive sprawl. The environment room is often turned into a SpecOps shindig, depending on what particular contract Peterson is fulfilling. During one training period, when a tactical law-enforcement unit needed rappelling techniques along with a water hazard, not only did Peterson oblige, he threw in a white sandy beach.

Generally, Peterson trains only people associated with law enforcement or the armed forces. Civilian courses are rare. He doesn't want to call them "watered down," but they are elementary levels of what he teaches professionals. "You wouldn't put a six-year-old in



high school," he explains.

He regularly trains the Army, Navy, and Air Force (or their units that make up SpecOps in United States) along with others like the FBI, BATF and European NATO forces. He has been contracted by the Department of Energy's transport personnel, various Drug Enforcement Agency counter-narcotics units, as well as the Department of Treasury's Secret Service members. He gets big bucks to train security personnel for large corporations, and has been offered hundreds of thousands of dollars to teach people who he simply refuses to teach (mainly South American billionaires who belong to the drug cartel). He has allegedly been asked to completely revamp a small Eastern European country's military. Along with his small, tight-knit team, which includes former Navy SpecOps Intelligence Officer Tim Larkin, and his son, Blake, these guys have their hands in a lot of cookie jars.

The Players

The women gathered for this SCARS course look somewhat reluctant. I get a chance to mingle with the group of seven couples before the class begins. The women have brought their male counterparts, most of whom are not new to the system. They've watched videos and taken Peterson's courses.

We are a mixed bag of nuts, from all walks of life and income brackets. I meet Ed and Andrea Purvis first. Both thirtyish, they are pharmacists from Nashville, Tenn. Ed has spent more than \$10,000 on Peterson's system and swears by it. Ed's been robbed before and so has Andrea's father. Ed is planning on coming back for yet another Level II course in a few weeks.



No matter how much bra-burning is going on, estrogen and culture are a powerful mix. Most women would rather watch chick flicks than a video on how to take out the enemy. (left) Plenty of women have been raped because they were too disgusted by the thought of popping out an attacker's eye. It works. Try it. See if he doesn't stop.

Phil and Sheila Anderson, married 18 years, are from Medford, Ore. He's a concrete contractor. She's a housewife. Darren Clark and Barb Armstrong are from Ellsworth, Kan. She stands half-a-foot taller than Darren and works with prisoners' families. Darren is a youth service worker at a boys' home. He's spent \$10,000 over a four-year period on SCARS. They are prime examples that it's not just the rich and idle who buy this course.

Brian Dore and Jessica Galloway are both architecture students at Arizona State University. Jessica works at SCARS and this is Brian's first introduction to the course. Also a novice is Louie LaChusa, along for the ride with his wife, Debbie, who works in the SCARS marketing department. They both live in San Diego and Louie works for a gas company.

Stacie DeVault is a pretty dentist and her boyfriend, Shaun Holt, is an orthopedic surgeon. He looks like an action figure and has a rich background in martial arts. From Akron, Ohio, they are madly in love and recently engaged. Cate Brockbank, whose father took the course and passed the female bonus round onto her, is an office manager back in Boston, and has brought along Kelly Cook, a software salesman, also new to the course.

Vietnam-Prepped

The night prior I met with Peterson and his sister, Suzan, who is vice president of marketing at the SCARS Institute. He bounded into the bar of the Hilton wearing red Abercrombie & Fitch parachute pants and a Hawaiian print shirt.

He began to tell me about the system that he's been developing since he survived some of the worst violence in Vietnam while in the Army. During his two tours as a member of the renowned 173rd Airborne, which participated in a large portion of the fighting during the 1968 Tet Offensive, Peterson tells me he began to wonder why he was making it and others around him were not.

It became a preoccupation with him, especially when he returned home from the war and began to think more about why some had reacted correctly, consistently, and then suddenly made one wrong, fatal move, costing their lives.

That seminal curiosity led him through years of mismatched college courses, ranging from a year of law school and a smattering of

mathematics and sciences that he chose on his own accord to help him optimize his innate desire to understand the fear mindset of a human being in a life or death situation.

Peterson begins to articulate theories about arcs and movements and angles and rotations and geometry and physics and mathematics and human anatomy.

"This is a science of human movement," he says. "This is not a martial art."

This wasn't expected. He's a Terminator/Albert Einstein hybrid.

Basically the system, according to Peterson, is infallible because it is based on human movement and a secret mathematical formula which Peterson, like Colonel Sanders' special KFC recipe, will not divulge. I tell him about halfway into our first interview, "You're either the biggest bullshitter in the world or you're onto something." He laughs.

I go in skeptical, ready to debunk. Having worked in the martial arts field for several years, I'd seen every discipline, and all claim to be the best. But Peterson was quick to point out that his system had absolutely nothing to do with martial arts. No blocks. Just finishing moves. That martial arts, though he reserves a quiet respect for all of them, is basically just fancy foot work leading nowhere. No dancing here. No moves to remember.

There are plenty of life-long martial artists who would wail like banshees over this kind of talk. Peterson only shrugs. His confidence has a Tony Robbins feel to it. It's infectious. Which is why he's making the big bucks.

"This course is designed to completely eradicate fear from your mind," he boldly claims. In theory, fantastic. Who wouldn't relish extinguishing fear for the sublime indifference of total control? But could he make lethal weapons out of a bunch of little housewives? These women were tame. There wasn't even one in the bunch who looked potentially lethal.

Surprise, surprise.

Lethal Little Housewives

The first day began with the signing of a stack of waivers saying we wouldn't sue Peterson and SCARS if we were hurt, or use what we learned in any nefarious ways. A diatribe from Peterson followed as his 24-year-old son, Blake, watched on. He talked about the differences between men and women, explaining that women don't respond in the same way men do. Old story, new spin.

"There are psychological and physical differences between women and men that are factual," he added. "Women in general simply do not see things the same way men do. However, it does not matter, male or female, when you are in a life or death situation. The problem is women are not taught to recognize quickly and correctly enough the violent situation that is occurring in front of them because men learn and see things differently."

Women, he elaborated, are emotional/physical and men are physical/emotional. When a woman feels threatened, she uses words. She can go for the visceral emotional attack. Dirty looks. Nagging.

Men get mad and defensive. It's the you-punch-me-I'll-punch-you-back method that most men cut their teeth on — the difference between estrogen and testosterone, but also culturally instilled in sexes socially.

"I believe there is a huge market for women. Women want to be independent, the same way men want to be," Peterson said. "They want to know they can walk anywhere and survive a criminal attack. Women, however, are not given the right elements to start off with. They are not told what their advantages are and how to use those advantages."

Men's advantages are expected. They are physically stronger. They have quicker reactions and have a cold logic motive, able to emotionally disconnect easier than women. With a higher resistance and a greater muscle mass, they're usually the champ.

Peterson explains that women have to determine what their advantages are and learn to use them. It's not about thinking like a man. A woman's advantages are that she is underestimated, for one. Also, because of her smaller size, and because of simple rules of physics, a smaller point of impact can develop lethal force — they require less physical strength to cause the same damage. Women can also handle physical pain better than men. Because they are less threatening, they have open access to targets. Also, women are flexible. Peterson pointed out that when men get hit, they want to fight. When a woman gets hurt, she relaxes. And relaxation is key to Peterson's

system. Relaxation equals control.

"You won't learn how to punch like a man. You won't have the strength of a man. Your muscle fiber doesn't have the same quick-twitch fiber," Peterson says. "But it doesn't mean anything, other than if you're trying to learn a system based on

that and you don't have it, you're losing already."

That's a premise of Peterson's system: All other systems are wrong. Forget everything you've learned and start over, he says.

That's a hard pill to swallow for some, but Peterson offers plenty of water to wash it down.

Humans in general possess disadvantages that make them susceptible to failure. They are easily led into fear, therefore predisposed to failure. They are defensive/offensive in action and emotionally reactive rather than proactive. In other words, we follow patterns. We also tend to see what is imagined rather than what is factual. However, one quality in the

human animal, Peterson says, that has no equal in the biological world is that we as a species have the ability to change.

"If you are confronted with someone with a gun, you think *I'm gonna die*," he says, "not *I'm gonna live*. A negative imagination creates a lack of self-control. Fear is a learned process."

As we continue learning various techniques, we are amazed at how logical the reactions are. You move into the attack, not away, using a constant cognizance of the central nervous system target points that Peterson keeps emphasizing as a guide. You don't memorize the steps, only the target points, which makes Peterson's system one of the only self-defense courses that teaches lethal moves.

Confidence is key. Without confidence, no matter how infallible the system is, it will not work. A gun is only as effective as you are at taking aim and pulling the trigger.

No matter how much bra-burning is going on, estrogen and culture are a powerful mix. Most women would rather watch chick flicks than a video on how to take out the enemy.

Peterson says that though women must be trained differently, they respond better than men when being criticized and are able to follow



The system is infallible, because it is based on human movement and a secret mathematical formula the founder will not divulge. If you are confronted with someone with a gun, you think "I'm gonna die." Not "I'm gonna live." A negative imagination creates a lack of self-control. A woman trained in this manner can be the most dangerous student of all — not easy to "turn off."



directions more precisely. He pointed out that a woman trained in this manner can be the most dangerous student of all — not easy to “turn off.”

On the first day we tried out several moves, all of which stunned us with their simplicity. And I agree. If applied, they are infallible. I try every one of them on Duffner and they work. He’s twice my size, and strong.

“Don’t stay in the kill zone and be Bruce Lee,” Peterson tells us. “You’ll lose every time.”

Get the job done and get out of there. No dancing in the battlefield allowed. This is the SCARS mantra.

Peterson recounts a story of one Navy SEAL team member he was instructing who was also a martial arts expert. He didn’t believe Peterson could put him down. Peterson kept saying that he could. This continued. Finally, Peterson made a deal with him. If he succeeded, then the SEAL had to leave the course and forfeit his fee, “when you wake up,” as Peterson told him. When he woke up, he left.

The idea is to strike your targets and take out your attacker whether you’re vertical or horizontal. As Peterson puts it, “You fight like you train. If you train with rules, you fight with rules, regardless of whether your attacker plays by the same rules. This is a serious disadvantage in a life-threatening situation.”

Peterson equates our lack of reaction to the way computers have taken away our thinking processes. “Humans aren’t calculating like they used to,” he says. “All they have to know is how to work the program. The computer age has changed things. We have a lot of spare time, but we have to retrain how to be instinctive.”

Programmed To Kill

After practicing the methods Peterson has shown us, we break for lunch and commiserate. He recalls his days in Vietnam. At 18, his training consisted of 11 weeks. He was thrown into the jungle and told to find a way out. The training amounted to following, but didn’t teach how to think for yourself. “You were taught patterns. If a young man survived the first 60 days,” said Peterson, “He had the ability to adapt.”

Peterson said he began to like the environment of war. Eighteen and fearless. As his tour began to end, with only 30 days remaining, he started worrying about dying and began to have fear. “That’s when you get into trouble,” he added.

Peterson claims that his 15 months in the jungle with no time off made him a lot of



You move into the attack, not away, using a constant cognizance of the central nervous system target points.

money because it gave him a unique pattern of understanding fear. SCARS was born.

“In war, men can come back and not want to kill anymore,” Peterson says to the group. “Men can kill someone because of the rightness of it all and then go have some lunch. Women have to be trained, programmed, to kill.”

Almost everyone back for the second day sported bruises and sore muscles. It would be even more physically demanding, as the ice was broken. We would be practicing throws and direct attacks.

Peterson cuts to the chase, setting up a multiple-attacker collision course for the women, who, surprisingly react to the targets naturally, rather than hesitating to recall combinations. We then went on to a kicking scenario, with Peterson showing us how to judge distances between limbs, walls, and the attacker.

Peterson discussed the fact that there is no gender in fighting, no sex in taking people apart. “It’s all about staying in control in an out of control situation,” he remarked. “Every nerve in your body ends in your eye. You don’t think it’s worth your life or your dignity to take one eye? Dirty fighting doesn’t come naturally.”

There have been plenty of women raped because they were too disgusted by the thought of popping out an attacker’s eye. It works. Try it. See if he doesn’t stop. But humans aren’t conditioned to fight dirty, even when their lives are on the line.

As a group our coordination is improved and the women began to actually enjoy the permissive battles. The hits, hard. The throws, solid. The more everyone relaxed, the more coordination developed.

“I have stabbed people, I have gouged out a man’s eye, I have snapped a man’s neck. I have done things to people that would make you sick,” Peterson said, pacing the room. “I didn’t fall in love with that. Never underestimate a person’s ability to be cruel and vicious.”

Bodies crashed onto the mats, feet smashed into sternums. The women visibly changed.

Every spat the couples had ever had reared its ugly head. The men were breathless and surprised at the amount of impact the women were unleashing.

Stacy DeVault, the pretty dentist, and Sheila Anderson, the Oregon housewife, gained a glint in the eye. The more tired they

became, the less inhibited they were. Comfortable with their partners, they knew how far they could go so partners swapped out from time to time.

“I wish I could do it for real,” said Jennifer Galloway, who appears cuddly as a bunny. “I really like the way it feels to knee him in the face. I want to hear bones crush.” Brian Dore, her boyfriend, looked at her in silent wonder.

A lost animal was awakened in us all while we threw and kicked, then came the rubber knives and ways to dodge their points. Chokes were suddenly easy to escape. Fake clubs were brought in. It all worked. Made sense. We believed. We were empowered.

What recipe of destruction could create, in a mother of four, the drive to kill men with her bare hands? It is not a traditional perception of a woman. Watching these women, you wonder.

On our last day everyone was sore. No one was used to being thrown around like this, no matter how many aerobics classes or runs through the park.

“It’s better to be judged by 12 than carried

Continued on page 71

beyond even 200 meters highly problematic.

The Chauchat magazine was a bad design. Cut away on the right side, presumably so that the operator could easily identify the number of rounds remaining, these openings provided ingress for the mud and debris of the battlefield. Worse, the magazines were made of insubstantial sheet metal and all too easily damaged.

The Chauchat was prone to overheating from its very inception. Should you be so lucky to get off more than 200 rounds in a sustained-fire, full-auto sequence, the weapon will seize up with the barrel and sleeve locked together with the action open.

The conversion to caliber .30-06, eventually deployed by "Black Jack" Pershing's American Expeditionary Force (AEF), was, if anything, even worse. Conversion to the "Caliber .30 Chauchat Automatic Rifle, Model of 1918," included a new barrel, 16-round, slightly curved magazine, moving the vertical foregrip closer to the bipod, and recalibration of the sights.

The U.S. .30-06 round was considerably more powerful than the 8x50Rmm Lebel and consequently generated a far too violent increase in the recoil impulse. This model was plagued with constant stoppages and when it did fire, it self-destructed in short

order. It was, in a short, a complete fiasco. Recent research indicates the barrels had defective barrels. Only 18,000 were manufactured and most ended up on the scrap heap. Unfortunately for the AEF, which was forced to turn in its Lewis Guns in the interest of cooperation with the French, the BAR never came on line in time and they were forced to use Chauchats in both calibers throughout World War I.

A total of 227,000 CSRG Machine Rifles were manufactured by Gladiator and another 20,000, marked "SIDARME" on the left side of the receiver, were manufactured by *Forges et Acieries de la Marine a Homecourt* in St. Chamond. These latter were significantly superior in both quality and reliability to those made by Gladiator. A number of other armies were unfortunate enough to field the dreadful Chauchat, both during and after World War I. The Belgians adopted a model converted to caliber 7.65x54mm Mauser. Greece, Poland (converted to caliber 7.92x57mm), Romania, Russia, and Serbia all fielded modest numbers of the CSRG.

How could an automatic weapon as awful as this be worth \$1,800? As a consequence of legislation passed by congress and signed into law by the president (The Firearms Owners Protection Act, Public Law 99-308), subsequent to 19 May 1986 no further machine guns could be registered on the BATF's NFA (National Firearms Act) logbooks as "non-restricted transfer" Title II

firearms. Any machine guns entered on the logbooks after that date were "Post-May" dealers samples which could be transferred to Class 3 dealers only and cannot be retained if the individual drops his license. That means that the number of machine guns potentially available for sale to individuals (who live in states where ownership of machine guns is permitted) is frozen, and most likely forever. The total number of "non-restricted transfer" machine guns on the NFA logbooks is approximately 177,000.

For about a decade, the value of these machine guns appreciated in a gradual linear manner only. About four or five years ago several Class 3 dealers decided to list their machine gun inventory on the Internet. Because of this, tens of thousands of people became aware that they could legally own a machine gun. The law of supply and demand took over. And, ever since, prices have risen asymptotically. Browning M1919A4/A6 machine guns that sold for \$2,400 five years ago, now routinely fetch six to seven thousand dollars. There appears to be no end in sight (unless the stock market crashes) and if you, incredibly enough, want a Chauchat for whatever reason, you had better buy it, or any other machine gun you want, now, as the price will probably never be lower. You can thank the anti-gun liberal politicians for this one. They slipped in the "machine gun ban" at the last moment on a completely phony voice vote. ✘

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Breakout: A Book Review

Continued from page 47

And some of the soldiers agreed with them. Army Pfc. Thomas F. Marker, a mortar man in the 31st Infantry Regiment, said, "The Marine officers did not hide in trucks or under bridges like ours did."

And Army Lt. Col. William J. McCaffrey conceded that it was a good idea "When the stuff hits the fan, by all means get in the middle of a Marine outfit, because they will hold together." Not every Marine was a hero. Russ cites the case of a rifleman, a big, rawboned, tough-looking Texan who at one point early on in the campaign simply laid down in the snow and declared that he couldn't go any farther. Comrades carried him to an aid station where Navy Corpsmen examined him, found no visible wound and were astonished when he died, quite literally of fright.

AP/Wide World



Marines lie along a road in the snow with rifles ready near Yudam, in the Chosin Reservoir area NW of Hungnam, as 1st and 7th Marine Regiments withdraw under heavy pressure from three enemy divisions.

The Fewer, The Cowards

And there was the second lieutenant who "was sent down the hill for ammunition [but] never did return." Such military cowards are in a peculiar way immortalized along with the heroes; they are often mentioned in discussions, the veterans still shaking their heads over a former comrade's moment of weakness on the field of battle. His privacy is always protected; the name is never mentioned in the presence of outsiders. Contempt or disgust are hardly ever expressed toward him.

"If any emotion is manifest, it is likely to be pity, for everyone understands that the coward has to live with his shame for the rest of his life. In the case of this particular officer, his transgression was major: he could not bring himself to return at a moment when his unit desperately needed

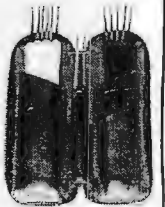
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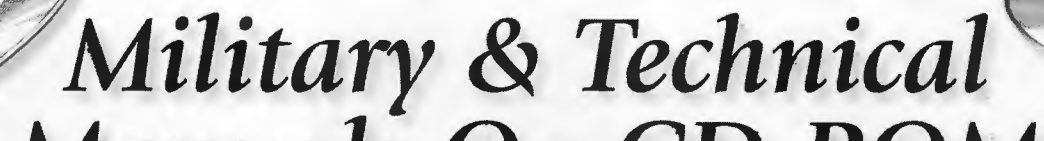
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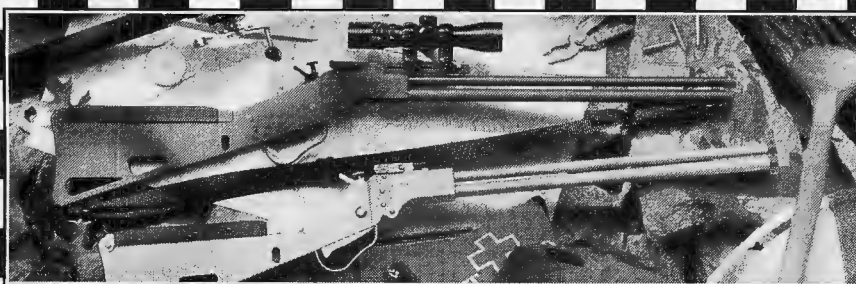
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the ammunition and reinforcements he had been sent for."

But these two were aberrations, notable because they were so rare.

The basic attitude of the First Marine Division was explained to Russ by Maj. Henry Woessner: "The troops felt badly about pulling out. The general attitude was that we should stay where we were and inflict more death and destruction on the enemy. Word got around that after we reached Hungnam on the coast, we were going to regroup and come back — and then really give the Chinese a shellacking. That was entirely different from the Army attitude, believe me. The Marines resented having to give up an inch."



Chaplain B. L. Hickey, left, and Sgt. E. E. Buhman of 5th Marine Regiment examine a knocked-out North Korean T-34 tank in late November 1950, during early fighting at Chosin Reservoir sector, North Korea.

It is perhaps unfair that the Marines, many of them to this day, held such a low opinion of the Army. But all they had to go by was what they saw and experienced. It was a feeling shared largely by this reviewer until one war later when he saw many units of an altogether different U.S. Army win every battle they fought (as did once again their colleagues in the Marines) only to see it all frittered away by Lyndon Johnson, Robert McNamara, Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger and a cowardly U.S. Congress.

Russ, as the reader of this is probably beginning to suspect, has in the reviewer's estimation, written the finest account yet of what was one of the U.S. Marines' finest hours.

In so doing, he has adopted a somewhat unusual format. Russ will produce what is itself a narrative account, then identify a man by name, rank and unit followed by a personal description of his impressions of the incident. This device would not work with every writer but Russ makes it serve him well.

Russ' first book, *The Last Parallel*, an account of personal experiences as a Marine rifleman in the Korean War's last year, written when he was barely out of his teens, ranks among the best of personal combat memoirs the reviewer has ever read. It seems that when better books are written about U.S. Marines in combat, Russ is likely to write them.

A former Managing Editor of *Soldier Of Fortune*, Bob Poos was a Marine rifleman in the Korean War, and an AP correspondent during Vietnam.

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I Was There

Continued from page 21

this before, the bad guys did the only honorable things: threw down their weapons and ran like hell. Lieutenant Gunning stood in the former NVA position reloading his .45, no doubt thinking that this stuff really does work. The platoon sergeant was still shaking his head in amazement, and the troops began to look at the meek, mild, brown bar with an entirely new perspective. Here was a real fighting man. The kids couldn't wait to get back to the base camp to make their brags and tell stories of their midget John Wayne platoon leader!

As luck would have it, within the coming week the scenario was repeated, only this time with Gunning's platoon coming under fire from an NVA company. Since it had worked so well before, young Gunning again gave the order to fix bayonets. The troops and the platoon sergeant, now getting into the spirit of the thing, fixed bayonets without question and waited for the order to charge — and charge they did, giving another appropriate Rebel Yell, running hell-bent for leather, rather obviously intent on reaping destruction on the enemy. It has often been said that success breeds success, and certainly if Gunning was any example, the old saying was proven in spades. The NVA again threw down their weapons and fled the field. Needless to say, it was a somewhat "swaggering" platoon that came back into the lines that evening.

It didn't take long for Lieutenant Gunning to become the toast of the battalion, often in a kindly fashion referred to as "Cold Steel Gunning!" Gunning had become something of a legend in his own time.

Gunning finished out his time in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines and went home sporting a chest full of medals and an untarnished reputation. None of us who had known "Cold Steel" ever again made the mistake of judging a book by its cover.

I only saw young Gunning one more time. He had elected to make a career out of the Corps and was a Captain stationed on Okinawa in early 1973. He had apparently become enamored of a young lady and was mentally planning his future with the intended Mrs. Gunning. He took a couple of weeks leave and met his intended in Hawaii. Upon returning to the Rock, he was posted as the Battalion Officer of the Day one weekend — and was found dead by his own hand in the OD's office the next morning. The details were murky, but scuttlebutt said that his young lady had dumped him for another and had broken his heart. Gunning didn't know how to be anything but sincere and dedicated to the task at hand.

Obviously, he (like so many other warriors) could not fathom the mind or intentions of a woman.

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

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Battle SCARS

Continued from page 63

by six," comments Ed Purvis as we gather. We were discussing how Americans in particular fear physical confrontation because of the threat of legal action.

Several people, including myself, reported having dreamed of SCARS for the last two nights, something Peterson said was common. A little pro-active brainwashing at work.

We began the day with a choke lying down against a wall, then used a bar against our throats. But it was the last exercise, working with real guns using foam bullets, that got everyone nervous. We'd been practicing with rubber guns for the last hour and

No one leaves disappointed. Everyone was flushed with excitement at having completed the course.

it was time to see if we could put into action what we'd learned without getting shot.

Amazingly, not one of the women was shot. Louie LaChusa, the gas man from San Diego, got a foam bullet in the back.

No one leaves disappointed. Everyone was flushed with excitement at having completed the course. But how many could maintain the knowledge, back in the real world?

The Real World

Two-and-a-half months later, Andrea Purvis still has the shadow of an angry bruise she got when her husband rolled over her shoulder. "It turned black, then green, and got worse over a three-week period after I left," she told me. "I thought I was going to have to go to the doctor about blood clots. I'm still a little sore now and then from certain things we did."

Her husband, Ed, went back and took the Level II course, was knocked unconscious and broke his toe.

Jessica Galloway, the bunny-like Arizona State student, said she learned a great deal and that her partner, Brian, still didn't have complete use of his arm.

Peterson intends on moving the civilian training courses to Las Vegas. By April 2000, however, he intends to up the price from \$5,000 to between \$8,000 and 10,000.

Robin Postell is a longtime SOF contributor. To get more information on SCARS, visit the web site at www.scars.com.

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Stealth Fighters

Continued from page 57

1,000 miles per hour, slammed into the point of his laser beam, and exploded in a blinding flash of light.

G-Man couldn't see if the building was gone, because there was no time to savor the kill, as the Black Jet banked hard left. But later in a frame by frame analysis of his attack, he saw the roof of the building he hit melt in the flames and cave in.

The explosion was still in the sensor display when the F-117A "track changed," where it sequences to the next point of the attack and the sensors come back to neutral.

As the jet turned north to lineup on the second target, Woltering reconfigured all of the switches for the second bomb.

One minute and 12 seconds later, Lt. Col. Woltering unleashed a 2,000-pound LGB into another high-dollar target.

Woltering had trained his squadron on "short-look targets" over and over again. In some cases, his pilots had only 20 seconds to reconfigure their weapons system between bomb releases in back-to-back target scenarios.

"At the high training level we were at, and the adrenaline flowing as strongly as it was, that minute and 12 seconds I had before bomb release on the second target seemed like an eternity to me."

Unlike the problems he had on the first target, G-Man had 48-seconds to spare on

the second target.

His sensors acquired the target, he was able to visually identify it, and drop the second weapon on the target.

Although Stealth Drivers are prohibited by the Air Force from identifying the target by name, this one was widely seen on CNN that first night of the air campaign.

It was a large complex, one that also struck by two other F-117s. But their DMPIs had been so carefully "weaponcered," collateral damage was minimal.

G-Man regrets his 2,000-lb. laser-guided munition buried itself so deeply in the complex that several military aircraft parked nearby were not scratched.

But the fires the explosion ignited lit up the sky and were still visible when the second wave of Nighthawks arrived in the area a few hours later.

Second Wave

Only three members of the 8th Fighter Squadron who flew first-night strikes over Yugoslavia had combat experience, all in Operation Desert Storm, including only one who had flown the F-117 over Iraq. Like so many of his squadron mates, Major Dave Sullivan, call sign "Diesel," got his first taste of combat on the opening night of Operation Allied Force.

The former air-to-air F-15 pilot remembers putting his game face on before flying in the second wave of attacks.

"We watched as word of the first wave was flashed on CNN International," said

Sullivan who was glued to his billeting room television set until about 2100 hours the first night. Sullivan and the others in the second wave were preserving their Air Force regulation-directed pilot rest.

"As we gathered in front of the billeting office, you could see in our eyes and faces that we were really excited and nervous," said Sullivan as he and the other second wave pilots waited for the pilot rental van to take them to the flightline in time to start the second go mass briefings.

Diesel and company already knew the targets they were going to strike. "But we were a little fearful of the Serbian IADS, the Integrated Air Defense System, especially since the element of surprise had disappeared with the first F-117 strike. We knew they would be looking for follow on strikes, and they weren't going to be happy."

The Serbs were very good at moving their SAM equipment around like a shell game, "so for the F-117 to really be effective, we like to know where the SAMs are and we plan around the SAM sites and their AAA so we can take advantage of the F-117 capability," said Sullivan.

Stealth Drivers try not to tempt fate and fly through a SAM engagement zone, but if the target is deemed by the National Command Authority to be a high value target, then they will fly through the danger zone.

It was pitch dark when Diesel stepped to his aircraft around midnight and took off. The

Continued on page 76

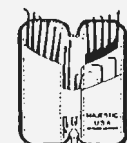
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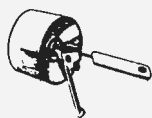
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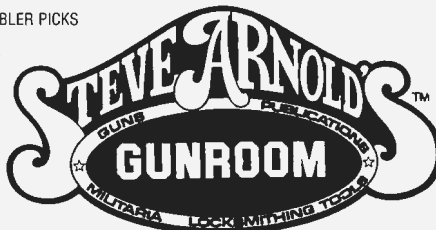
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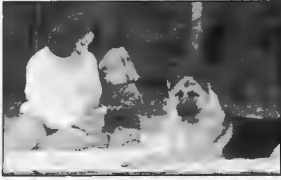
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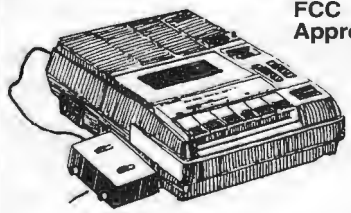
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Stealth Fighters

Continued from page 72

media were parked outside the gates at Aviano; shining their spotlights in the faces of pilots taking off. Not great for night vision. And a bit distracting for Sullivan who says the F-117 is not the easiest plane to take off when fully loaded with fuel and ordnance.

"We were worried that if our jet experienced a catastrophic emergency on takeoff roll, we might injure some of the media alongside the main highway at the end of the runway if we had to jettison our payload."

Once Sullivan and the second wave of Stealth fighters topped off their tanks during inflight refueling, they marshaled in safe air space, waiting to push into enemy territory.

"We all took a deep breath as we looked downrange deep into Serbia," said Diesel who noticed an orange glow on the horizon from strikes G-Man and the first wave had made. But there was very little anti-aircraft fire and very little radio chatter about enemy MiGs.

The late hour may have had something to do with that. But Sullivan thinks the Serbs may have thought the show was over for the first night, only to get clobbered again.

"I could see cement and metal flying through the air after my first bomb hit. A gigantic flash of light. But I didn't see as much of a blast from the second bomb."

The rest of the sortie was eerily quiet for Sullivan who knew that the enemy was

searching the skies for any glimpse of him and his fellow Stealth pilots, but he just lowered his ejection seat, and asked the jet to go as fast as it would until he was back in friendly airspace.

"After I landed back at Aviano after my first combat sorties, I reviewed my cockpit video of the strike with squadron intel, and then went outside and lit up a big cigar, and enjoyed the sunrise."

Chair Flying

Before a Nighthawk pilot climbs into the cockpit of his F-117, he does what Major Chip Rice calls a lot of "chair flying," rehearsing the mission in his mind, everything from air refueling to memorizing roads leading into the target so there's no question in his mind as to what the target looks like on a dark night.

"I didn't want to screw this up. I didn't want to mess up a switch, or miss the target," said Rice who was G-Man's deputy on the first night's mission.

Acquiring his first target was easy. It had been hit earlier by another F-117 pilot. The second target was also a snap.

The first night of the air campaign was a walk in the park for Stealth Drivers, but later in the campaign, the Serbs threw everything but the kitchen sink at them.

G-Man, Diesel, and even "Chipster" had to dodge more than their share of SAMs. But Rice didn't find out about his close call until he returned to Aviano.

On the way out of another target later in

the campaign, Rice was supposed to change his heading, but when he attempted to do that, the Black Jet balked at his command.

"When I couldn't turn away from the threat, I thought I might have screwed something up, so I pushed another button, and the jet still didn't move. So I started hand flying it out of the threat envelope."

Now that he was going in the direction he wanted to head, Rice tried to re-engage the system, only to have the jet "honk me right back at the threat."

Hand flying the "Black Jet," as pilots call the F-117, can be risky because you don't know if you're highlighting yourself to enemy threats.

"I was so busy trying to get back into my safe area route that I didn't and couldn't check my six o'clock," said Rice. That's when another Stealth pilot saw anti-aircraft-artillery fire coming up toward Rice. Fortunately, it was all "trapped in lag," exploding behind him, and didn't catch up to his jet.

"The maneuvering I was doing trying to correct my flight path also probably helped me to avoid being hit," said Rice.

When Rice landed at Aviano, his wingman asked him if he had seen all of that stuff around him.

"What stuff?" replied Rice.

Dale B. Cooper is a longtime SOF contributor. Read more about the air war over Belgrade in an upcoming issue of SOF, including dramatic details about the downing of an American F-117A Stealth. ✕

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

SURVEY – JUNE 2000

Dear SOF Reader,

I have always valued your interest and support over the past 25 years of Soldier Of Fortune magazine's existence. During that span, your tips, comments and suggestions – both positive and negative – have been thoroughly considered.

To that end, I ask you to critically read this issue, complete the following survey and mail it to:

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Your participation is required to ensure that the SOF staff and I can continue to produce exactly the publication you want and deserve. You have my personal assurance of complete anonymity.

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Many thanks,

Lt.Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)
Editor & Publisher
Soldier Of Fortune magazine

1) Please indicate your opinion for each of the articles/features which appear in the June 2000 issue of Soldier Of Fortune. Did you feel the article/feature was very interesting, fairly interesting, slightly interesting, or you did not read it?

Features:

	Your Level Of Interest:				
	Very	Fairly	Slightly	None	Did Not Read
Omega Proving Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The New Arms Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Columbine: What Really Happened	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Breakout	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fast Guns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stealth Fighters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unleash The Fogs Of War	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Battle SCARS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Columns:

Command Guidance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2) How many years have you been a subscriber to Soldier Of Fortune?

- 1 year or less 4 to 5 years 8 to 9 years 15 or more years
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3) Have you ever subscribed to Soldier of Fortune Magazine? Yes No

Are you currently a subscriber? Yes No

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5) Do you - or have you - served in the military? Yes No

- Army Navy Air Force Coast Guard Marines

6) Are you a vet of the following conflicts? World War II Korea Vietnam Desert Storm Other

7) What type of home is your main residence? (Please check only one.)

- Own house Apartment Condo Co-op Mobile home
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8) What is your age?

- Under 18 18-24 25-29 30-34 35-39
 40-44 45-49 50-54 55-59 60-64 65 or older

9) What is your present occupation?

- Law enforcement Professional/Managerial Technical/Clerical/Salesperson
 Operative/Laborer Military (active-duty) Retired
 Other: _____

10) What is the highest level of education you have attained? (Please check only one.)

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 High school graduate Graduated from 4-year college
 Attended college less than 1 year Some postgraduate study

11) What is the total combined yearly income of all members of your household before taxes? _____

12) What type of stories do you want to see more of in *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*?

13) Do you have any other comments/suggestions?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!

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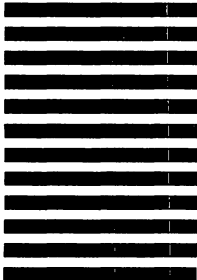
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