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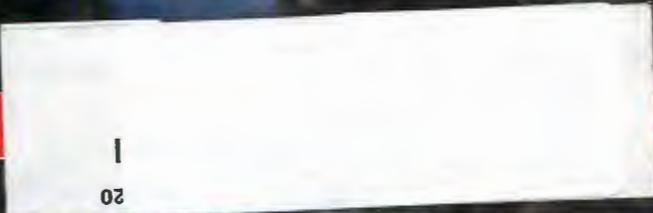
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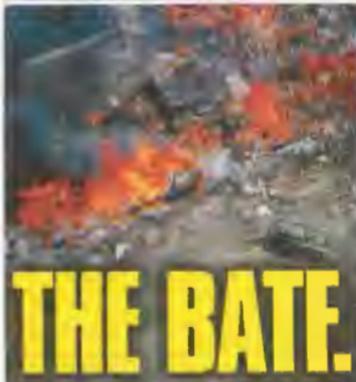
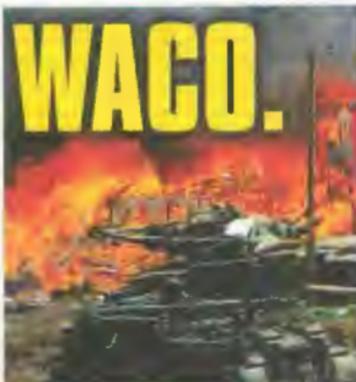
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On the Cover

Women have been integrated in the military for decades. With current draw downs, their roles have become more important. But has their use, or misuse, degraded readiness? See story, page 66.

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SOF braves the wicked Panjsher Valley, where the question is repeatedly posed: "When will you die?"

STEALTH FIGHTERS, Part II by Dale B. Cooper **42**
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FRONT SIGHT ... PRESS by Dick Culver **46**
 Listen-up to a former 'Nam Marine: Pistols have a definite place in combat; peacetime marksmanship is directly translatable to combat situations; and weapons sold to the American public oftentimes are used for their designed purpose.

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GOING THE DISTANCE by Peter G. Kokalis **72**
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Chris Mayer

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Petr Josek/Reuters via PressLink

COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Fred Reed

Advice For Police: Just Stay Politically Correct

The police are in a tough spot. They seem to be constantly under the guns of political correctness.

The papers carry an unending stream of stories claiming discriminatory misconduct. A few of these stories are true. Most aren't.

Usually, though, it doesn't matter. The media show little interest in finding out whether the cops were, in fact, wrong.

Reporters convict by innuendo, instead of evidence, but that's a privilege of being a reporter.

Now, if I were a cop, and reporters actually made an effort to learn their subject and find out whether they were right, I'd be content. A neutral and competent press would be no problem. But reporters aren't neutral or competent.

Neither are politicians. That's the reality.

For example, I recently read of a bunch of cops who were denied promotions on grounds that they had engaged in "racial profiling."

The phrase is a term of art, having little to do with reality. Black cops profile, too. But never mind. The fact is that if cops stop whites who fit a criminal profile, no one will care. But if they stop blacks, it will be racial profiling and they will be punished.

If they shoot anyone, rightly or wrongly, the assumption in the headlines will be that they did it wrongly and, if such a charge is even possible, for racial reasons. What to do?

I know exactly what I would do and what, if I were a police chief, I would quietly tell my men to do. It's a simple solution: Don't ever do anything politically incorrect. Do exactly what the press and racial lobbies want. Easy.

Take profiling. Having spent a lot of time in police cars, I know that, at least in some jurisdictions, blacks just flat hold the franchise for the street trade in drugs. I'll give you addresses of a dozen open-air drug markets if you like and you can go look. Whites use and sell a lot of drugs, run a lot of the bulk trade, but not on the street.

But right and wrong don't matter. Politics matters.

So, if I saw what I knew was very likely to be a drug dealer's car, and the driver was black, I'd ignore it. A cop gets paid whether he stops drug couriers or not. If the driver was white, and again, whites are heavily involved in parts of the drug trade — I'd watch him like a hawk. Sure, I'd know both were probably guilty as sin. But why risk my career?

Open-air drug markets? The cops can detect them at a hundred yards. Just say you didn't see anything. Easy. Why simultaneously fight criminals, racial politicians, judges and the media? Have another doughnut instead.

I'd never shoot anyone except in defense of my own life. And I'd make sure I never had to do it. Thing is, if I killed a guy in an alley who suddenly came at me with an iron bar, no matter his race, I'd be tried in the press as a trigger-happy killer. Papers like *The Washington Post* would ask why I didn't shoot him in a leg — a leg I couldn't see as the bar was descending on my head.

Why bother? I just wouldn't go into alleys. Or I'd make a lot of noise first, yell, "Cops!" or something, to make sure any bad guys hit the road. The same principle fits a lot of police work. If you stop a guy bouncing his car from one curb to another, he'll almost invariably say, "You're just shtopping me cosh I'm brown."

The Alkasensor could register a blood-alcohol content of .40. Doesn't matter. If the arrest stats come out, you will be one racist pig.

So, sez me, arrest white drunks (of whom there are plenty) and let the others go. "Sorry, sir. I can see you're entirely sober. Finish driving over the hydrant and go about your business."

Sure, crime would go up like mad, and drunks would drive through buildings, and the drug business would flourish.

So what? If the community won't tell me what my job is, and back me up when I do it, then, hey, I can find other things to do.

First published in *The Washington Times*. ✕

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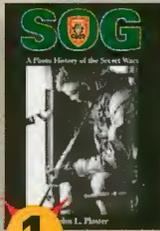
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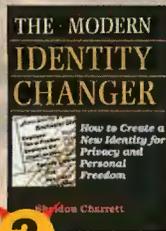
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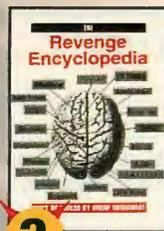
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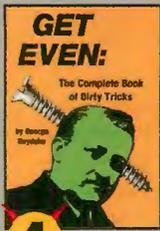
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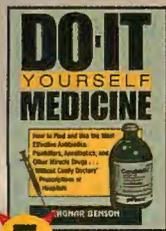
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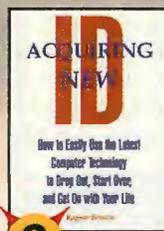
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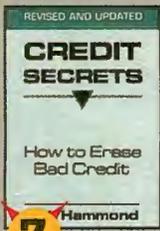
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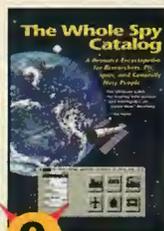
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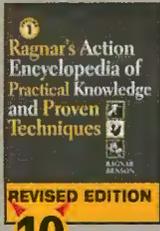
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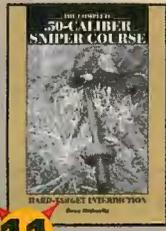
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(Another) Comoros Coup Fails

A coup attempt on the part of a faction headed by former Minister Of Agriculture Mahamood Ahmed Abdallah, and Captain Aberemane Ahmed Abdallah — both sons of Ahmed Abdallah, the Comoros' first president who was assassinated in a 1989 coup — has failed. Colonel Azaly Assoumani, who seized power in the most recent (successful) coup one year ago, was in Saudi Arabia for the annual Muslim hadj (pilgrimage) to Mecca when the coup attempt was launched on 21 April.

The People's National Armed Forces of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros Islands foiled the coup in the absence of Col. Assoumani. There have been some 19 attempts to overthrow various governments since the Comoros gained their independence from France in 1975 — but you just can't have a good coup without Bob Denard.



The Veep (inventor of the Internet, basis for the movie *Love Story*, etc.) works on his invention of the negligent discharge during his brief five-month tour in Vietnam as a Remington Raider attached to the 20th Engineers HQ near Saigon (before he returned home at *his* request).

Marine Mass Grave Found

A mass grave of Marines from the 2nd Marine Raider Battalion, listed as MIA since August 1942, has been found on Butaritari Island, then known as Makin. At least 30 Marines have been listed as MIA from the operation, whose deputy commander was Major James Roosevelt, the President's son. According to Col. David Pagano of the Army central identification lab in Hawaii, 19 have

thus far been identified as Marines. Historical evidence indicates another nine may have been taken to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, where they were beheaded by the Japs.

The Marine attack on Butaritari prompted the Japs to round up all the New Zealand coast watchers on nearby atolls in the Gilberts, then take them to Tarawa and execute them the day before the nine Marines were beheaded at Kwaj. Both Tarawa and Kwaj were under the same joint Jap commander, and both groups were the only Allied prisoners in the area at the time.

'Tis A Mystery

Parties unknown have ripped off one of the very few surviving specimens of the German Enigma mechanical code machine from a British museum. On April Fool's Day, parties unknown (believed to be four people, perhaps masquerading as workmen) removed the machine from its glass display case at the World War II Intelligence Museum at Bletchley Park, in central England, known during WWII as Station X. A gang of professional thieves who steal to order is suspected, as the machine was in a secure area checked every 15 minutes, and all personnel in the area are required to have security passes. There was no reason at the time to believe the machine was stolen for the lucrative Nazi memorabilia market.

The specimen, valued at some \$160,000, was believed to have been the only one of its kind, being an advanced design having belonged to the German Abwehr. Rock star Mick Jagger owns a similar machine.

From 1939 on, up to 10,000 Brits were involved in breaking the Enigma codes, and once broken the Enigma code provided England with crucial intelligence during the battle of the Atlantic. Ironically, Polish Intelligence had accessed, disassembled and detail photographed an early Enigma machine sent to a German diplomat in Poland before the outbreak of WWII. When the Nazis invaded Poland, the information and work done by Polish mathematicians was offered to the British, who were not interested, so it was given to the French — who later took it to England at a time when the Brits were interested.

Why You Must Register And Vote

You have registered to vote, haven't you? And wheedled your buds to do the same (and wheedled them to wheedle their buds in turn)? Unless you register and vote, you are voting for corruption; you are voting for the galloping erosion of your constitutional rights; you are voting for those whose vision of America is a socialist paradise with them as the elite in control. Hyperbole? Hardly. Here are some interesting stats gleaned from the public record by Capitol Hill Blue:

- 29 members of Congress have been accused of spousal abuse.
- 7 have been arrested for fraud.
- 19 have been accused of writing bad checks.
- 3 have been arrested for assault.
- 14 have been arrested on drug-related charges.
- 8 have been arrested for shoplifting.
- in 1998 alone, 84 were stopped for drunk driving and released after they claimed Congressional immunity.
- 21 are current defendants in lawsuits.
- 71 have credit reports so bad they can't qualify for a credit card.

Continued on page 10



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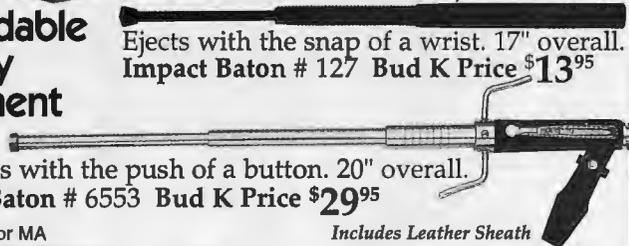


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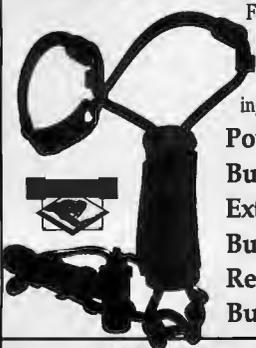
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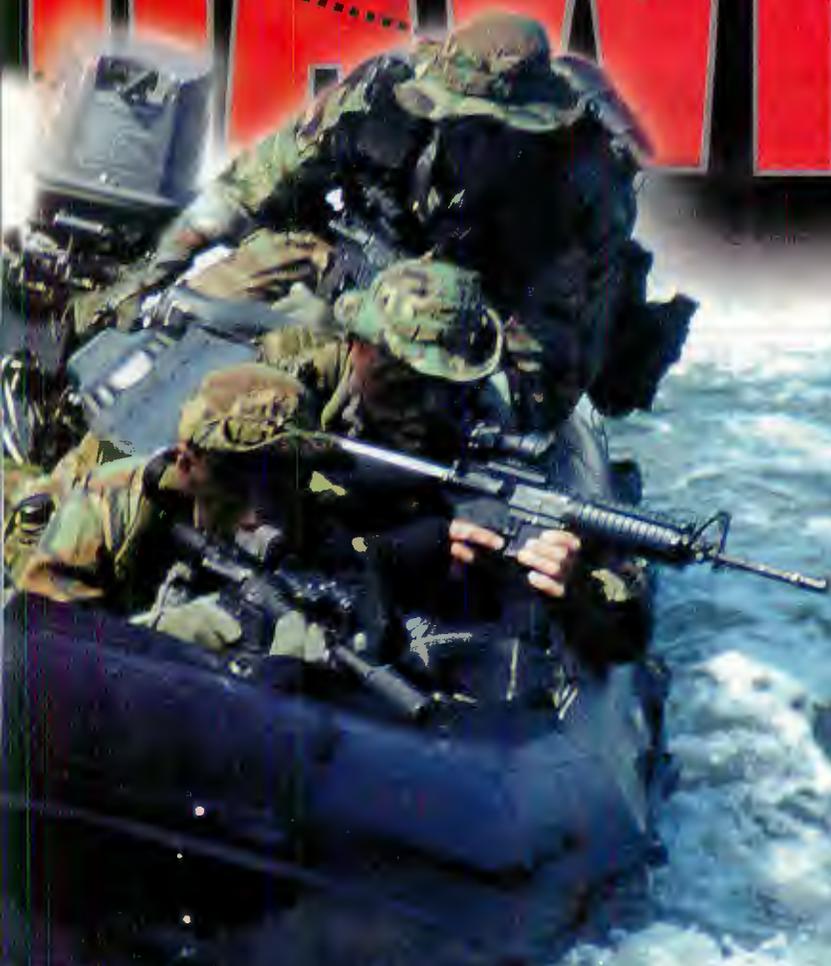
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Want a bellwether issue for deciding on how to vote? Never trust a politician who won't trust you with a gun ...

Y2K Fat Lady Not Yet Sung

After companies and governments worldwide spent an estimated \$500 billion fixing the Y2K Bug problem, and just when the world didn't want to hear one more alarmist Y2K story, comes word that industry and government computer systems may have fallen victim to malicious programming installed during efforts to head off the Y2K problem.

In Canada, alone, thousands of consultants — many of them foreign nationals from China and India — were hired without proper security checks, and may have installed "backdoors" in computer systems so they could steal key information or cripple computers at a later date. A Canadian military intelligence report noted, "individuals with malicious intent have had ample opportunity to insert themselves into infrastructure organizations. This has created opportunity for individuals to steal proprietary information, gain root access to networks, install backdoors and implant malicious codes."

John Thompson, executive director of the Toronto-based MacKenzie Institute, which researches terrorism, said the problem is more likely to affect civilian companies in the areas of theft of proprietary information and fraud, pointing out that there has not yet been a terrorist attack effectively using information warfare. A more realistic threat, in his view, would be that foreign intelligence agencies may have approached former-nationals and coerced them into installing backdoors in the computers on which they were working.

Longest Time In Grade

Evidently the Thai armed forces do not have an "up or out" policy: Yod Sangrungruang, 101, the last remaining survivor of the 1,284-strong Siamese expeditionary force mustered by the King of Siam to serve with the French and allies in World War I, has been promoted to Second Lieutenant. In a ceremony in his hometown near Bangkok, Yod was also made a Knight of the Legion of Honor, marking the 80th anniversary of the Armistice.

Hacker Czar Sought by DoD

According to *Defense News*, top officials are forecasting serious threats to military information systems sooner than previously expected, which is accelerating Defense Department efforts to establish an agency to respond to computer attacks in a timely and effective fashion.

The new computer security czar's office would coordinate action Pentagon-wide against attacks on military networks, and would work with the FBI, CIA or Justice Department to track and find hackers involved. Military officials are in the early stages how such a Joint Task Force would fit within the DoD bureaucracy, but the operation is on a fast track. "We are going to do something quickly and effectively, not just quickly," Army Major General John Maher of the Joint Staff told *Defense News* at an Army Association meeting last April.

Tell It To The Tots

Jerry Lee King, of Williamsville, N.Y., founder and former president of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Foundation has pled guilty to stealing some \$1.8 million from the charity. While serving as foundation president from 1991 to 1993, King secretly funneled foundation funds to his bank account in Hong Kong, according to government prosecutors.

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CONDUCT A PROFESSIONAL SEARCH...ANYTIME...ANYWHERE!



Every newspaper and magazine article and every radio and TV story discussing some new episode involving "Bugging" devices, continues to increase the ever growing demand for electronic Counter-Surveillance "sweeps" and equipment. The very limited supply of competently trained and equipped Counter-Surveillance specialists has created a situation where "sweep" rates exceeding \$250 per hour are now considered reasonable and appropriate.

This is an exciting, immensely interesting and profitable field that you can enter with a minimum investment. Two hours actual practice with the CSD-18 will have you "reading" and "clearing" telephones and rooms with professional ease and competence. The average fee for "debugging" a single telephone is over \$200.00. It requires about 45 minutes to complete the job and once it gets around that YOU can provide this service, you'll quickly have more clients than you can handle. Even if you choose to provide "sweeps" for only a small number of friends and associates, your initial investment will quickly be returned many times over.

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SUBMINIATURE "BODY WIRE" DETECTOR!

If you fear the possibility of being overheard and/or recorded during private conversations and require "silent" notification, we've also included our SBD-5 (regularly \$225) as a FREE GIFT! Only 3" x 2" x 1", this exciting new development in micro-miniaturization will instantly detect hidden body wires at ranges up to 10 ft and alert you via a silent vibration.

BIG MONEY OPPORTUNITIES! Also, complete information describing the fantastic opportunities now open to trained Counter-Surveillance technicians and how a number of individuals are reaping a Bonanza in this booming business! You'll learn exactly how the ever increasing use of Electronic Listening Devices by investigative agencies, government agencies, jealous suitors and unscrupulous business competitors, etc. has created huge demand for this service.

FASCINATING HI-TECH INFOSATINATING PACKAGE!

A detailed analysis of a variety of extremely fascinating hi-tech devices and procedures used for ultra-sophisticated audio and video eavesdropping including micro-wave and laser device monitoring; new methods for listening thru walls; all about scramblers, voice changers and exactly how neighbors eavesdrop. How missing persons are found, confidential data banks are broken into, lie detectors deceived and much more!

A comprehensive information package JAM-PACKED FULL of some of the most exciting and fascinating reading imaginable. Reads like a James Bond novel, with one important exception...IT'S NOT FICTION!

THE ONE "BUG" TO FEAR MOST!

While most individuals are now somewhat guarded in their telephone conversations, they still rather naively feel secure in the "privacy" of their own home or office. However, the most common type of "tap" presently used by eavesdroppers now picks up ALL SOUNDS AND CONVERSATION WITHIN A ROOM... WITH THE TELEPHONE STILL ON THE HOOK!

Due to this devastating capability, this "Infinity" tap (variously referred to as Infinity Transmitter, Hookswitch Bypass, 3rd Wire, Harmonica Bug, etc.) has become the "bug of choice".

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

In response to this ever-growing threat, a uniquely engineered feature of the CSD-18 now also detects Infinity type devices anywhere "down the line".

In other words, if ANYONE ... ANYWHERE ... is utilizing the telephone tip and/or ring wires to monitor your private room conversations while your telephone is on the hook, you'll immediately be made aware of it via a flashing LED!

100% POSITIVE INDICATION

The CSD-18 also flawlessly detects "Series" and "Parallel" telephone transmitters and "Telephone Recording Devices". And, a separate feature silently indicates when extension phones are picked up or being used. The CSD-18 completely eliminates all doubt and guesswork.

EXCLUSIVE "LISTEN-IN" FEATURE!

The CSD-18 will even allow you to "listen-in" to exactly what the eavesdropper is surreptitiously monitoring. And, without the eavesdropper ever becoming aware that he has been detected! We are unaware of ANY other detection equipment having this combined capability AT ANY PRICE!

EXTREME SENSITIVITY!

This is our finest piece of detection equipment! The CSD-18 quickly locates electronic eavesdropping devices in telephones, homes, offices, vehicles, boats, or concealed on the body. It will actually pick up many eavesdropping transmitters at ranges up to 25 ft! Extreme sensitivity is obtained via ultra-efficient amplification circuitry directly following the RF detection stages. Excellent quality dynamic headphones exclude all external sounds to further enhance detector output.

Encompassing an extremely wide-band frequency coverage of under 1 Mhz to over 3 Ghz, the CSD-18 quickly "homes-in" on any eavesdropping transmitter and immediately pinpoints its location. The closer you get to the "bug", the further the needle moves to the right. It's as simple as that.



FULL RANGE DYNAMIC HEADPHONES

"FLASHING" LED Warns You Instantly!



And, for maximum telephone security, the CSD-18 automatically analyzes a pre-programmed series of electronic measurements along the telephone line and converts the analysis into an easy to follow, step by step, test procedure. No technical knowledge is required or necessary. A visual indication (via a flashing LED) immediately reveals the presence of the various types of telephone "taps" and the flashing sequence identifies the actual type of eavesdropping device.

DETECTS THE LATEST "SUPER-BUGS"

Exclusive GSS proprietary circuitry assures the utmost privacy protection possible today. The CSD-18 detects even the very latest ultra-sophisticated eavesdropping devices specifically designed to defeat detection, including sophisticated "Frequency Hoppers" and "Burst Bugs". Also includes multi-line option for testing business phones.

MAXIMUM PROTECTION

The CSD-18 detects and locates ALL major categories of surveillance equipment including:
TELEPHONE RECORDING DEVICES
ALL TYPES OF CONCEALED TRANSMITTERS
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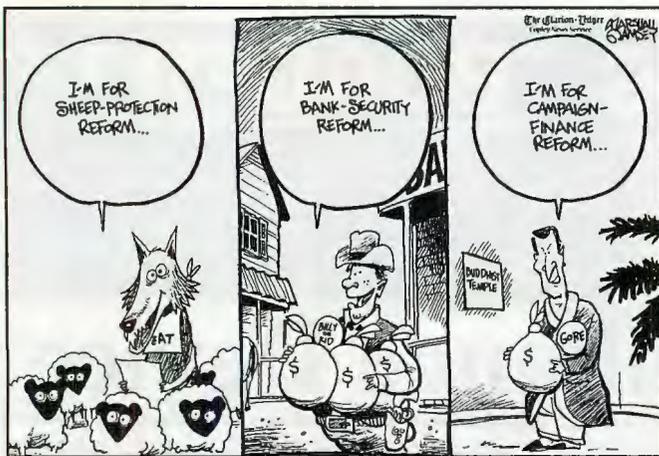
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Dealers Welcome



A Vietnam-era Marine vet, King started the foundation in Buffalo, N.Y. in 1991 to raise money and promote the Toys for Tots program. King resigned as foundation president and chairman when under investigation by federal authorities for wire fraud and false income-tax returns. Sentencing is scheduled for 27 June 2000.

A Rash of "SEALs"

Calhoun County, Texas: Candidate for an open seat on the county commission Richard J. Sanders allowed in his campaign literature that he had been a member of Seal [sic] Team 1 in Vietnam. Oh, and of course, his records had been purged following a number of highly covert black ops. A quick check by gen-u-ine SEALs revealed Sanders as a fraud, but Sander's campaign manager Terry Cox came to his rescue with assurances that he had been a former "overt and covert" USAF intelligence officer — as well as a former "Secret

Service Agent" — with first-hand knowledge of Sander's SEAL exploits. Heh, heh. For details check out the Victoria-Advocate online www.VictoriaAdvocate.com.

Panther Valley, Pennsylvania: Sometimes the phonies get more than exposed. Former Panther Valley School District Superintendent Raymond E. Aucker, who recently moved to Iowa after his machinations came to light, has been charged in federal court with falsifying his military records to show he had received a Vietnam Campaign Medal and Service Ribbon, a Purple Heart and a Navy SEAL medal that doesn't exist. According to U.S. Attorney Malachy Mannion, Aucker faces a \$100,000 fine and a year in the slam if convicted.

Free And Worthwhile

Jefferson noted that information is the currency of democracy, and even if that were not true, we'd want to keep track of what the *gubvermint* is up to these days. One of the best open-source portals to government information on the web is: www.govspot.com. Sponsored by StartSpot Mediaworks, GovSpot provides one-click access to the best and most-requested local, state, federal and foreign government resources available on the web.

GovSpot is like surfing over a waterfall into the ocean: You can go as far as you want, in any direction you want. Check it out.

UOPhX: Looking for a Few Good Retirees

The University of Phoenix has targeted retiring military personnel as idea candidates for positions as enrollment counselors. The university, which offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for working adults, has focused on military retirees because their age generally matches the age of UOPhX students (37), and because of the empathy between retiring GIs and adults who return to college to finish a degree or start a second career.

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*Master Guy Savelli has been tested at Duke University, the Mind Science Foundation, JFK University, The Psychical Research Institute and The Special Forces Laboratory at Fort Bragg.

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The University of Phoenix enrolls more than 70,000 students on campuses in 15 states plus Puerto Rico and British Columbia. Those interested in enrolling or hiring on may get further information by calling 480-557-1066.

Et Tu, Elian?

From exhaustive research by author Armando Lago for his forthcoming book, *The Human Cost of Social Revolutions: The Black Book on Cuba*, comes an interesting flurry of statistics. As of April, with some 5,000 names still to be researched (five letters of the alphabet), the following numbers have appeared thus far regarding what the socialist paradise has cost Cubans in terms of lives:

- 15,000 judicial executions.
- 750 extrajudicial assassinations (usually by police in the street).
- 400 murdered in prison by guards.
- 400 died in prison for lack of medical attention.
- 300 "disappeared."
- 10,500 Cubans killed in "internationalist missions" (mostly in Africa, where 9,600 were killed in Angola alone).
- 72,000 *Balseros* estimated to have perished, per USCG figures. Oh. Make that 72,001, counting Elian's mom.

Fence Repaired

Then-West Germany was largely considered a sieve by other Western intelligence agencies, with some historians estimating the number of East-German DDR Stasi spies in the DBR as some 20,000. Thus far, the reunited Germany has prosecuted only about 250 since reunification 10 years ago.

One of the biggest problems in Germany prosecuting its turncoats has been identifying them — Stasi files were largely purged as the Berlin Wall was being dismantled. In one of the Cold War intelligence coups, however, in 1992 the CIA obtained voluminous files in Moscow, from a KGB officer who formerly worked in East Berlin. There are some 1,000 CD-ROMs involved, and review of them by German authorities could take about 18 months. They were turned over to German authorities after years of lobbying by Berlin, to the point this bone of contention was working friction between the U.S. and Germany.

Due to a 10-year statute of limitations, it is unlikely data on the files will lead to further German prosecution of the former spies in her midst, but, if nothing else the files will be read with interest to see if they shed further light on the Helmut Kohl funds scandal. ✂

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(Dateline -- Visalia, CA) With your permission -- and with *strict regards for your privacy* -- I want to send you the amazing "quick access" **Woo Neck Knife** pictured here... and I want you have it...

Absolutely Free!

I have your knife right here in my office... and let me tell you, it is one beautiful weapon. It's hand-crafted by the world-famous **Newt Livesay** down in Arkansas -- using the *same* secret process that has given Newt's knives such a "bullet-proof" reputation among Special Forces soldiers for being totally reliable in extreme conditions, and *nearly indestructible under maximum abuse*.

The word "Woo" is Chinese, and means "don't mess with this guy" -- it's a "power" word, very respected among Oriental fighters. And that *fits* for this fighting knife. It is crafted from a single laser-cut piece of American-made 1095 High Carbon tool steel (the first-choice metal for top-quality blades for over 150 years) with a mil-sec black parkarized finish.

This is no foreign-made piece of crap copy -- it's the *original* Newt Livesay design, an honest American-crafted weapon of the finest quality you'll *ever* find, *anywhere* in the world.

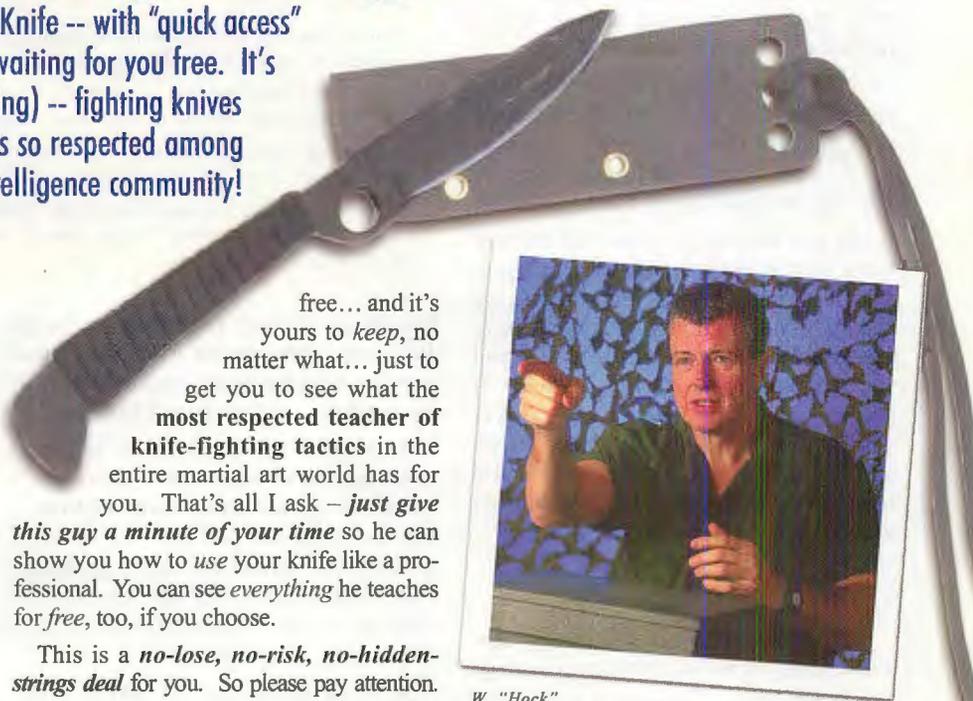
The blade is 3" long, with a one-eighth inch thickness in the single flat-grind "Tanto" blade style. (The style professionals *demand* for concealed neck knives.) Overall length is seven and one-eighth inches, and it comes with a custom-fit "quick release" Kydex neck sheath and cord. It fits comfortably around your neck and under your shirt, yet you can have it *out and ready* in a blink. This is the *same fighting knife* that sells right now to the public for upwards of \$40, but for you (if you call me today)...

It's FREE!

Why am I sending you such an expensive, professional quality knife... for *free*?

Well, I'll be honest with you. It's a *bribe*.

I will send you this amazing knife for



free... and it's yours to *keep*, no matter what... just to get you to see what the **most respected teacher of knife-fighting tactics** in the entire martial art world has for you. That's all I ask -- *just give this guy a minute of your time* so he can show you how to *use* your knife like a professional. You can see *everything* he teaches for *free*, too, if you choose.

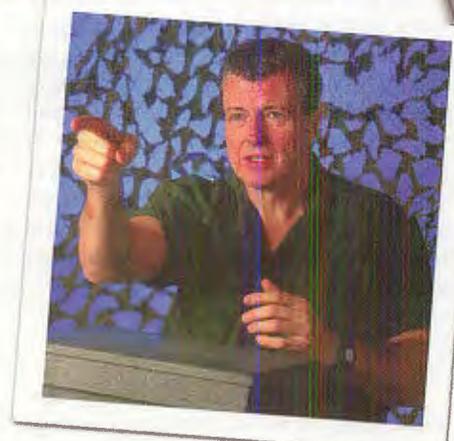
This is a *no-lose, no-risk, no-hidden-strings deal* for you. So please pay attention.

This knife expert's name is **W. Hochheim** -- "Hock" to his friends and students -- and he lives, breathes and dreams knives. He has trained "in the shit" **U.S. Marines**, heavy-action SWAT teams, and elite **Special Forces** all over the world (including Australia and Tasmania), as well as *thousands* of "hands on" martial artists who know that...

No Serious Fighter Is "Combat Ready" Until You Understand How To Win Against A Knife!

Hock earned the *massive respect* he gets from professionals while serving 26 years as a "murder beat" street cop, a "Dirty Harry" style homicide detective (over 1300 felony arrests), a celebrity bodyguard (Cindy Crawford, Tanya Tucker, Naomi Judd, author Tom Clancy, former president Jimmy Carter), a military cop and a private eye. He's in the **World Martial Arts Hall of Fame**, has more black belts than Imelda Marcos had shoes, and is considered one of the world's *most experienced experts* in handling gangs, homicide investigations, mob riots and assault prevention.

But it's his expertise in **knife fighting** that gets the "black bag" and Spec Op communities excited. Just glance at the testimonials I've tacked onto this letter for Hock -- it's a "Who's Who" of world-class fighters, all of them giving Hock



W. "Hock"

Hochheim is the most respected knife-fighting trainer in the world. Soldier, homicide cop, private detective, celebrity bodyguard, Martial Arts Hall of Fame inductee, 10th degree Uan Black Belt, 3rd degree black belt in Filipino "Konbatan", black belts in Aiki-Jitsu, Kempo and Modern Arnis.

his due as *the man* to go to for knife fighting secrets.

I've been after this guy for five years... because *everywhere* I go, I hear about him. And now I've *got* him, revealing all his "field-tested" fighting secrets on videotape. It's the *first time* civilians have ever had complete unrestricted access to these "advanced combat level" knife-fighting secrets, and the release of these tapes is causing a *major* ruckus among the professionals (most of whom would prefer civilians *not* learn this stuff at all). But he's revealed everything partly because some *very influential "insiders"* *urged him to*. He believes it's high time civilians learned the secrets of the knife.

Why is knife-fighting so important? Are you *kidding*? The dirty little secret that **ALL** streetfighters know (and the public doesn't want to *think* about) is that **MOST** fights and assaults now *include a knife*.

You can be the *best* ground-fighter on the planet, with a six-second choke-out move and twenty in-close strikes to take out someone twice your size... but if you don't know how to *fight bare-handed*

against a punk with a *blade*...

You're Going To Die!

You **MUST** know how to fight against (and with) a knife. You're *naked* without this knowledge... and completely vulnerable in the street. In close-quarters combat, a savvy knife-fighter will even beat an opponent armed with a **locked-and-loaded Colt .45!**

Yet, amazingly, learning how to fight against the knife is the **MOST SECRET** skill in the martial arts world! You *cannot find good training* (outside of elite Spec Op and "closed door" SWAT sessions).

Oh, you'll find guys who **THINK** they know knife-fighting. But they're *lying*. The vast majority of guys out there *teaching* knife fighting skills don't have a *clue* what they're talking about – and you're risking a *lot* listening to them! If you go into training with some joker who's *never faced a knife in the street*, and you train with rubber sticks and *think* you got it down, and you happen to get into a situation against a **REAL** blade...

You're Going To Die!

That's why this advanced training now available to you on videotape is so exciting.

Yesterday, you couldn't get Hock's expert training – for *any* amount of money – unless you were in Special Forces, SWAT or a couple of other secret elite martial art "cells".

But today, you can have it *free*, if you choose. And... you get the free **Woo Neck Knife**, too, just for giving Hock a "look-see".

Here's what I've got for you: I nearly had to *kidnap* Hock to get him into the studio – he's a *very* private guy, and shuns publicity – but all the trouble was worth it many times over. We filmed him for hours and hours, and then *condensed* everything down into two of the *best* "fight training" videos you've ever seen in your life.

This is *super-advanced* stuff – the *same* knife-training the Spec Op guys get – and yet it's still **simple and easy to learn**. You'll "get" it *fast*. It's the most *practical* training you'll ever have for "real" street fighting and defense.

Hock knows his stuff from *years* in the street, arresting "perps" with gore-smearred knives, investigating "blood splatter" homicide scenes, and observing how the best *and* the worst knife fighters in the world operate. He was introduced to "**lethal combat**" knife-fighting tactics decades ago by a scarred

Listen To What *Men Who Know* Are Saying About Hock Hochheim!

"Recommend Hock to anyone who needs this type of training." --SEAL Harry Constance, US Navy Ret., author of "Good To Go" (the best book about the SEALs ever written).

"Hock doesn't just train you physically for survival – he trains you mentally as well. His knife-fighting skills are obvious." --SWAT & Police Chief Mike Gillette, Iowa, former 82nd Airborne, US Army.

"I have seen Hock in close-quarter combat. I want police, martial artists, soldiers and citizens to learn this!" --DEA agent Daniel Colon, Texas.

"Hock totally hits the nail on the head with logic and views on real-world combat." --Prof. Leonard Hollfield, Ph.D., former Chief Combatives Instructor for IIS Army (ret.).

"Practicing Hock's material with a committed partner will no doubt give you an advantage over 90% of the thugs on the street." --Steve Dick, Editor, "Tactical Knife Magazine".

"It didn't take the Marines long to get Hock into Quantico to teach at the instructor's course. He is a cut above." --Sgt. John C. (name withheld on request) USMC, CQB Instructor.

Rhodesian military policeman (a tough dude who went against Mau Mau tribal warriors, who are world-class experts with the machete). That opened his eyes.

He realized that all his black belts and all his martial art training was pretty much *worthless* against a **real knife fighter**... because there are just too few teachers around with **actual combat experience**. And *without* combat experience, it's impossible to tell what really works, and what is just total bullshit.

So Hock developed his **OWN** knife-fighting system... and he was able to *test* it in the streets against real opponents. He uses **ONLY** what actually works – combining the *best* of what he saw in military, police and streetfighting styles from all over the world. (Hock is probably the *best-traveled* teacher you'll ever meet – he served in Korea, was a street cop in Texas, and stayed in *constant training* to perfect his skills with "knuckle-dragging" fighters from New York, Chicago, Australia, and Africa.)

The best part is – the best moves that Hock includes in his training are also the *easiest to master!* It's not how *hard* you train...

It's Simply Knowing The Right Secrets!

Professional soldiers and cops don't want to **EVER** get cut in a fight. They will not put up with training that is irrelevant or *wrong*... and that's why they *swamp* Hock with requests for training. You're damn lucky to get this opportunity to learn from him.

Here's a sample of what you'll learn:

- **How to fight bare-handed against a knife!** (A complete "bag of tricks" you'll never find outside this advanced "professional" training!)
- **How to find the perfect knife for you** – with the right grip, accessibility, length

and design! (And why the big-ass Bowie is being replaced by *nasty little folders*.)

- **How to conceal your knife "in hand"** – critical if you are ever attacked by a highly-skilled fighter!
 - Why the "**draw and slash**" techniques are common to all cultures... *and how to defend against them!*
 - Simple (secret) ways to quickly "burn" knife angles and attack styles into your muscle memory... *so you'll never be surprised by an attack!*
 - How to fight against a *left-handed attacker* armed with a knife! (15% of the population is leftie, and many advanced fighters can use both hands, so you *must* know these secrets! Critical stuff **NO** public martial arts school ever teaches!)
 - **What cops know about knife fighting** that can save your life!
 - **How to dominate any attack by "stunning the brain"!** (Turn even the biggest opponent into a wobbling "diminished" fighter in a *single second!*)
 - **Why you only need FOUR take-down moves to have all you need against any knife-attack in the street!** (Forget the years of training most fighters suffer through – here are the "short cut" moves the Spec Op soldiers use to train *fast!*)
- And lots more – too much to list here. These are the *exact skills* used by street cops and front-line Marines and "deep" Spec Op agents... men who *know* that **the most common weapon they'll go up against is the knife!** (All kinds of knives, too – did you know that many homicides involve "novelty" knives with tiny one inch blades? *Anything* sharp can cut you, and anyone with fighting knowledge can *kill* you by making you bleed... unless you know how to *handle* the attack!)

And... there's **MORE**. Hock reveals all his secrets of **ground fighting against a knife!** He shows you how to "cheat" if you get taken down... **how to beat the knife and immobilize your opponent** (regardless of size)... and how to use for yourself his **extensive military combat experience in "ground zero" knife fighting!** (You won't find this kind of ground-fighting-against-a-knife training in *any* grappling course!)

This is truly amazing know-how... something *every* man who wants the **best self-defense skills in the world** would give an *arm* to learn.

And it's yours to see for free, if you want.

Here's the deal: If you will call my office right away (there's a **strict 11-day deadline** on this) at **1-800-899-8153** ask for Dept. HK-21 (or mail the order form below), I will rush you:

1. The **Woo G-45 Neck Knife** I've set aside for you, plus...
2. Your private 2-tape package of Hock's "**Tactical Knife Fighting**" videos.

The Woo knife is yours to keep, free... and with your **Unconditional 6-Month 100% Money-Back Guarantee** on Hock's video package, you can (if you choose) see the *entire training for free*, too. It's your choice. But whatever you choose to do, you get to **KEEP** the Woo knife, as my gift to you just for giving this amazing package a "look-see".

But I don't expect too many guys to return these tapes -- the training is *just too good*, and too *important*. Still, it's up to you to decide. If, after 6 months of watching these tapes, you decide they're not "the real thing", simply return them (in any condition) for a **complete refund, no questions asked**. And we'll still be friends.

Hock's 2-tape package is **just \$99 total** (I'll pay the shipping and handling out of my own pocket, too), and that's an outrageously good deal. *Each* of the two tapes could easily sell alone for \$69 each on the open market -- professionals pay Hock *thousands of dollars* for private training, and students all over the world would lay down hundreds of dollars just to see **ONE** of these tapes. Plus, the Woo knife sells for **over \$40 retail**.

That means... **you save at least \$79 right off the top**, no matter what. And, if you decide later to return the tapes for a complete refund, you still come out with one of the best neck knives in the world, **FREE**. And... you'll have seen the most sought-after **professional knife-fighting training in existence**. For *free*.

That's one hell of a deal. I couldn't pull

it off without the *deep contacts* in the "industry" I have, after years of rubbing shoulders with the most dangerous men in the world. There isn't another place anywhere you could this kind of opportunity, plus a free knife. Nowhere.

But, like I said, **you have to act right now**. I've only contracted with Newt Livesay for a small number of Woo knives (97, to be exact)... and my partners will not allow me to "**expose**" TRS to this kind of financial risk for more than 11 days.

So you must call *now*. You can use your credit card... or, if you prefer to pay by

check or money order, just fill out the **Order Form** below and mail it in to TRS at **606 E. Acequia, Visalia, CA 93292**.

You have a knife and a video package sitting here, right now. But if you don't order right away, or if you order too late, your knife will be given (free) to someone else, and your video package will be put back in the warehouse (to be sold later at **full price**).

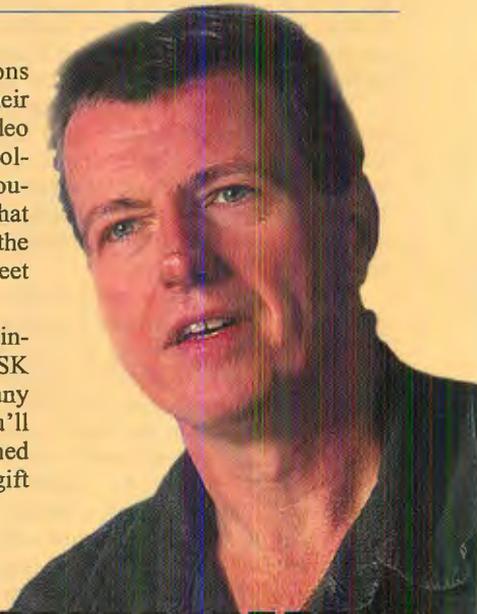
Don't miss out on this. We're waiting for your call.

W. Hoch Hochheim's Personal GUARANTEE

"I've been in hundreds of *deadly* situations where people have literally trusted me with their lives -- I want you to know that I take this video package **just as seriously**. This is not some Hollywood production that is meant to entertain you -- not at all. It is about teaching you *exactly* what you need to do if you're ever confronted with the deadly (and all-to-common) realities of a street knife fight.

Because I am confident you will find this training package so important, I want to make it **RISK FREE** to you. If you're not 100% happy for any reason with send it back back to TRS and you'll receive every penny of your purchase price rushed to you -- but keep the Woo G-45 knife as my gift to you!"

-- W. "Hock" Hochheim



Priority Order Form!
For fastest service use your credit card and Call Toll-FREE
1-800-899-8153 (Dept HK-21)

[] YES! I can't believe you're able to make such a great offer! Please rush me my free Woo Neck Knife -- mine to keep no matter what -- and the amazing "Knife Fighting Tactics" video package by Hock Hochheim. I see how important it is to know these world-class knife fighting secrets (the same stuff the Spec Op soldiers and street SWAT cops learn). Plus, I understand I don't risk anything, since I have an Unconditional 6-Month 100% Money-Back Guarantee... but I get to KEEP the free knife, regardless. That's just too good a deal to pass up. Here's how I want to pay:

[] Enclosed is my Check or Money Order for \$99 (Make payable to TRS)
 [] I prefer to pay with my credit card: [] Visa [] MasterCard [] Discover [] AmEx
 Card# _____ Expires: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Signature _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

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CA & VA residents add appropriate sales tax. Rush shipping available for additional charges of \$10 for "2-day" shipping and \$15 for "Overnight" shipping. Foreign orders may require additional shipping. Call for more information.

I Was There

Jeffrey R. MacDonald, M.D.

Adrift In The American Gulag

"The charges against Captain Jeffrey R. MacDonald are not true."

It was late October 1970, and this finding of the Article 32 hearing, until then the lengthiest in the history of the U.S. Army, proved the claims against me to be false. Fort Bragg officials had charged me with the 17 February 1970 murders of my pregnant wife, Colette, and my two daughters, Kimberly, 5, and Kristen, 2, in our quarters at 544 Castle Drive, Fort Bragg, N.C. At the time I was a medical doctor, a captain, in the U.S. Army Special Forces.

The hearing officer, Colonel Warren V. Rock, after hearing 56 witnesses and reviewing more than 2,000 pages of evidence, saw I was innocent and suggested the focus be turned toward a young local woman, an undercover law enforcement asset named Helena Stoeckley. He *officially* recommended that appropriate civilian authorities investigate her whereabouts and actions on the day of the murders.

The Rock investigation had been far-reaching and efficient. Since he also wanted to hear from others besides defense psychiatrists, he even sent me to Walter Reed Army Hospital for an intensive two-week evaluation by the three top Army psychiatrists. He then went to the crime scene with his legal officer and reenacted some events, determining that the CID's theory of a "staged" crime scene was false. His 90-page report explicitly detailed the reasons why the charges against me were "not true."

With the hearing over, I was released from "restriction to quarters" — having been locked in my BOQ and guarded by five armed MPs for seven months.

The facts as I know them are: I had been sleeping on the couch that night because my younger daughter had wet my side of the bed in the master bedroom. I was awakened by the screams of both my wife and older daughter, and was immediately confronted and attacked by three men accompanied by a female with long blonde hair and a floppy hat. The black male carried what seemed to be a baseball bat; he was wearing E-6 stripes on a field jacket. He used the bat on my head. Two white males in civilian clothes were simultaneously attacking me from the front.

Medical and court records substantiate that I was knocked unconscious, received 17 stab and puncture wounds from knives and an ice pick, and suffered blunt trauma to my head, left shoulder and arm. My right lung collapsed from one of the stab wounds and required two surgical procedures. Yet, the CID claimed, and still claims, that my injuries were self-inflicted.

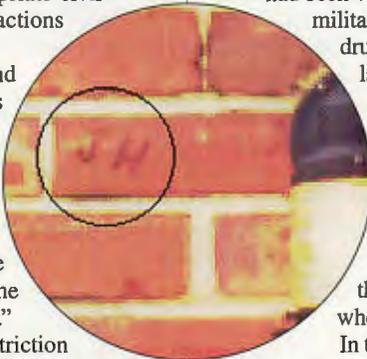
The first arriving MP, Specialist Ken Mica, gave me mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Once revived, I described my assailants. Mica immediately suggested that someone "Check the female in the floppy hat" — an individual he and his partner had spotted a few blocks away, at 0355 on that cold, rainy, murder morning, as they sped to my home in response to my emergency call. However, testimony later revealed that First Lieutenant Joe Paulk never issued an order for someone to investigate the mystery woman. *Instead, Mica was ordered by his superiors not to mention that he had seen her stand-*

ing in the winter rain on the desolate street corner.

18th Airborne Corps commander, Lieutenant General John Tolson, wanted the grisly post crimes resolved. But because the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) had focused immediately and solely on me as responsible, my acquittal suddenly became an embarrassment. Targeting me meant that *at least four* violent murderers were roaming free on post, the streets of Fayetteville, or points beyond.

Colonel Francis B. Kane, my CO in the 6th Special Forces Group (Airborne) and an astute political observer, was certain that the CID would persist in a vendetta against me.

Captain Jim Williams had been at the crime scene early that terrible morning, and he had also testified on my behalf at the hearing. It had been Williams who pointed out to everyone that Fort Bragg military doctors, myself in particular, were viewed by drug-using troops as "snitches." It wasn't until years later that Helena Stoeckley told an ex-FBI agent that



Fred Bost found this photo of the MacDonalds' house taken by the CID on the day of the murders. Near the rear night light are the initials "JM." This was never checked out by the CID, nor was the area cordoned off. Photo courtesy Fred Bost

her group had gone to my house that night "to teach the arrogant captain a lesson about what happens when you're not sympathetic."

In the late spring of 1971, now a civilian and just before I was to start a residency at Yale, I was offered a position in Long Beach, Calif., by former Captain Jerry Hughes, another former Special Forces physician. I accepted his kind offer and began practicing and teaching in the then-new specialty of Emergency Medicine.

Not surprisingly, the exhaustive inquiry by Col. Rock did not deter the CID. After my military discharge, I criticized the lead CID investigators on national television, calling them perjurers, and, along with my ex-father-in-law, I lobbied Congress to investigate the CID's handling of the case.

CID's response was to come after me with a vengeance. I was now a civilian, no longer subject to military jurisdiction. Under the Posse Comitatus Act, it was illegal for the CID to investigate me, but they ignored the law and monitored my every movement, my mail, my phone records, and my bank statements; also, my remaining family, friends, and my civilian attorney, Bernard Segal, of San Francisco.

The CID "reinvestigation" took all of 1971, and part of 1972. Ironically, when the CID conclusions were first presented to the United States Department of Justice by an Army lawyer, Capt. Brian Murtagh, the Department refused to take the case because of the amount of exculpatory evidence that remained in my favor.

In time, however, with evidence being manipulated and withheld, I was indicted by a federal grand jury in 1975, and tried in 1979. I was convicted and am currently serving my 20th year of a triple-life sentence.

The 1979 trial was a travesty. The defense had been prevented

from doing any laboratory testing on evidentiary material or conducting any minute examinations — an unimaginable event in most murder trials. We made 24 motions to allow examinations, and were denied all 24. In contrast, the prosecution won seven of their eight evidentiary motions.

It wasn't until four years after trial that ex-FBI agent Ted Gunderson, found a possible reason behind Judge Dupree's rulings: Dupree was the father-in-law of former Assistant U.S. Attorney Jimmy Proctor, in Fayetteville, a key engineer of the 1971 reinvestigation. Both men later admitted that this case was the most important case "in their respective careers."

Many years later we discovered how the defense, the jury, and the judge were pre-

vented by prosecutors from seeing the extensive evidence of outside assailants collected at the crime scene as revealed in CID laboratory notes. This *critical* material — my entire defense, if you will — remained hidden. As later proven in documents acquired through the Freedom of Information Act, the critical CID lab notes had been carefully collected by prosecutor Murtagh, who left the Army to build his career on my case. He had kept the lab notes in his briefcase in the courtroom throughout my seven-week trial.

Murtagh's fellow prosecutor, James Blackburn, repeatedly told the court, "...Where is the evidence of outside assailants? Where is the evidence that Helena Stoeckley was ever inside 544 Castle Drive?"

Our cross exam of government lab experts about evidence analyzed from the crime scene was hamstrung by the court's refusal to let us see their notes. In essence, the jury was given an edited and false picture of the so-called scientific evidence of hair, fibers, and blood. To make it worse, the powerful psychiatric evaluation — including the three *favorable* exams from the government's own Walter Reed Army Hospital — were ruled inadmissible by Judge Dupree, who also ruled inadmissible Col. Rock's report and the testimony of seven witnesses who were in court to tell of Helena Stoeckley's statements of watching the murders.

Despite Colonel Rock's belief that she might be implicated, Dupree ruled Stoeckley "unreliable," as though reliability was a criterion for committing murder.

In the late 1990s we learned the full, sour truth of the government's deception. There are now upwards of 40 witnesses who placed Stoeckley and her boyfriend, Greg Mitchell (an ex-82nd Airborne trooper and heroin addict), and their accomplices in the vicinity of my home on the murder morning. Some of the assailants were even seen in bloody clothing and boots shortly after the murders in a Bragg Boulevard doughnut shop; and later that morning in a Murchison Road grocery store. Several other persons, including Greg Mitchell's own niece, heard him confess soulfully to taking part in the murders.

Helena Stoeckley (who died in 1983) was the daughter of a retired Army lieutenant colonel, and a drug user, and drug dealer. William Ivory, the lead CID investigator, was closely acquainted with her. (Read *Fatal Justice*, co-authored by Jerry Allen Potter and retired SF Sergeant Major Fred Bost. W.W. Norton, 1995, hardcover; 1997, updated paperback).

Potter located an ex-CID agent who had been a former partner of Bill Ivory at the time of the murders. The ex-agent told Potter of how investigators from the very beginning were talking about Helena Stoeckley possibly being involved; of how he and Ivory sought out Stoeckley and took her to a safehouse for questioning, and how Ivory questioned her alone, just two days after the murders, the results of which have never been disclosed.

Witnesses heard Stoeckley tell of wearing a blonde wig that night, and of being worried the rain would ruin it. Twenty-two-inch and 24-inch synthetic blonde wig fibers were found in a hairbrush at the murder scene, their existence kept hidden. Long-suppressed CID lab notes now confirm the presence of black wool fibers on Colette's mouth, her shoulder, and on a splintered club used as one of the murder weapons. No one in my family was wearing black wool; no matching black wool was found in my quarters.

A hair, dissimilar to my hair, was found clutched in Colette's hand along with a splinter from the club. Even more important, hairs were found under the bloody fin-

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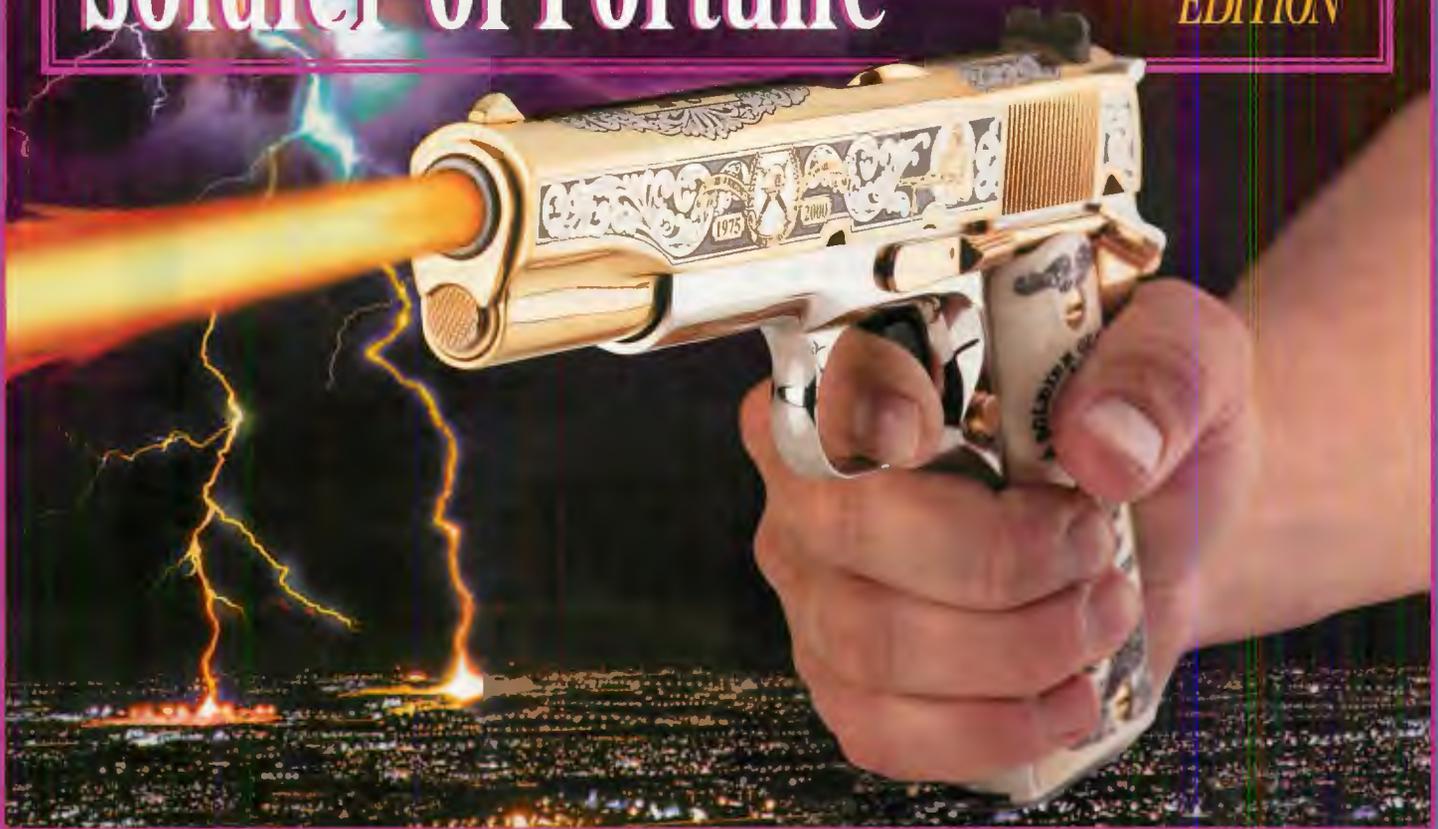
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Continued on page 92

Soldier of Fortune

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Deathstick Framing Hammer

There was a time when American-made tools and machines were respected and sought around the world, because of the early American passion for designing and building things as good as they can get: not "good enough to last for a weekend job" or "good enough to photograph OK for a mail-order catalog," or "good enough to sell and not so bad they'll bring it back" — but as good as it could be made, anticipating a lifetime of service by men who made their living with their tools.

Some tools still are. Some tools are designed by experienced tool-users in league with bright engineers (not ivory-tower engineers designing in league with the accounting department). Some tools are still 100% American made in design, materials and manufacture — for 'Mericans who bust ass on the job like no other culture ever has.

Take, for instance, man's oldest tool not attached to his body, the hammer. (For those



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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 Jistu, 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

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

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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who insist a knife was man's first tool, we submit that the first knife was made by chipping one rock with another, which was a hammer). We just had the opportunity to test the best framing hammer we've ever used, the Deathstick, by Dead On Tools. Air nailers and adhesives are common on today's construction sites and they have their uses in the efficient production of frame houses and the like, but when you need a framing hammer, anything else will just tire you out. The Deathstick with a 21-oz. head is just about right for an old coot like this writer who no longer pounds nails for pay, although they have heavier heads for those who do it for a living and know the benefit of letting the hammer do the work.

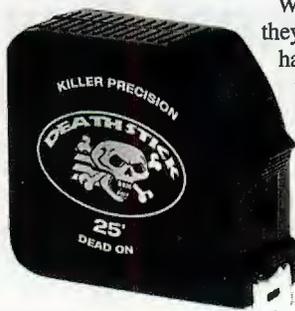
The Deathstick represents the highest evolution thus far of such an implement, and user-input is evident all over the design. Whammers didn't change much during the last century except for some evolutionary tweaks, but the Deathstick incorporates them all and adds some new wrinkles of its own. It has a 16" hardwood handle for reach; optionally, you can get it with a recurved "hatchet"-style handle some like very much.

Its waffled face is nearly an inch and a half across. The claws are beefed up, strong and long so you can reef a 20d out of a pitchy knot in one swipe; the handle itself has an elongated cross-section where it goes into the eye of the head, for extra strength at this weak point. The face is set at an angle slightly more than the handle when the handle is parallel to the work. The head is secured by a flat wood wedge, expanded into place by two ring wedges.

Since the usefulness of its exceptional reach is limited by how far you can stretch with two hands to start a nail, a righteous additional feature is a magnetic nail holder that grips a nail to the head so you can start it at arms length with one hand, while the other hand keeps you from falling off rickety scaffolding, holds the workpiece or scratches what's itching.

Unless some lowlife steals it, you'll never be sorry you bought the best tool, and Dead On's Deathstick is the best we've seen.

Killer Precision Tape Rule



When tape measures first hit the market they were flat, narrow, flexible and had a hand crank. They were usually used for tasks like the Pythagorean layout of a large building, while the quaint folding wood carpenter's rule was used for shorter work. We always thought the folding rule was about as handy as carrying a hammer in your pocket, but some carpenters still use them because they can be used to reach.

As soon as tape measures were made with wider, dished blades that would also reach, most everybody, except the out-of-the-loop sewers of carpenter's overalls who still include pockets for them, switched to the handier "power" (self-rewinding) tape rule. The early ones were not very wide and still would fold if you tried to reach more than a couple feet with them; Ones on the market now are wider and will reach farther. Dead On's 25' Killer Precision tape is an inch wide and must be treated with Viagra, as it will extend 6 feet past your hand in a stiff wind, and 8 feet indoors.

The tape is clear epoxy-polycoated over the printing, and has an easy-to-operate sliding thumb lock. The end hook is secured by three rivets, and the tip itself is reinforced right where others eventually break. The numbers are b-i-g and c-l-e-a-r. Inches, not metric: ISO, EU, NAFTA, SHAFTA and the UN be damned.

The Killer Precision is so accurate you can measure once and cut twice. It is handy, and engineered and built in America, to last.

For the nearest Dead-On tool dealer, contact Dead On Tools, Dept. SOF, 4505 Manhattan Beach Blvd., Lawndale, CA 90260; phone: 310-219-DEAD; check out their website: www.deadontools.com.

Look for the Dead-On booth at the SOF Convention in Las Vegas 11-15 October. ☒

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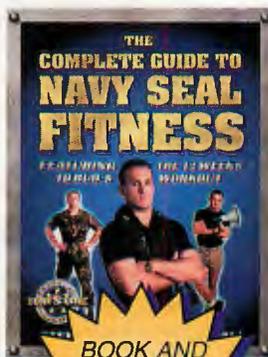
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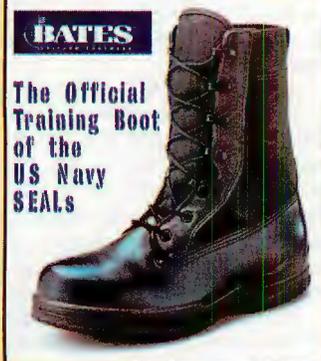
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FREEDOM WATCH

Eco Feel-Good Land Grab

Gun owners know what it's like to be vilified by the mainstream national press, and liberal activist organizations that neither understand nor appreciate the United States Constitution.

Just as important as gun rights, however, are private property rights. The Founding Fathers guaranteed us the right to own and benefit from private property for the same reason they gave use every other freedom spelled out in the Bill of Rights: to limit the powers of government.

Private property rights were granted in order to divide this huge country into millions of little private kingdoms, ruled by private owners. Each would have a small bit of power and autonomy, which ended at the property line, and none would have much power over anyone else.

Those in government naturally hate this. Inevitably, most politicians and bureaucrats devote their careers to growing government and making it more powerful. For one obvious reason: to improve their own comfort levels.

That's why it has become routine to see all levels of government — federal, state, county and local — working hard to erode private property rights. At *Soldier Of Fortune*, we'll use Freedom Watch to keep an eye on this.

One of the greatest tools government has for eroding private property rights is the Endangered Species Act. The law was written to keep developers from needlessly killing endangered species, but it has been bastardized as a tool to keep private property owners from making reasonable use of their land. And it has backfired. Everytime landowners suspect a new species will be added to the endangered list, they start eliminating that species from their property, often killing the endangered animals. Why? Because once a species is added to the list, the property is useless for anything practical.

"It's really tragic, and it's no secret to environmentalists and those in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," says R.J. Smith, a senior researcher at the Reason Foundation and a former Audubon Society chapter president. "But environmentalists continue killing animals with so-called species protection laws because they aren't primarily interested in preserving wildlife. It's about controlling property, and they aren't about to give up that level of control in the interest of saving fish, rodents and birds."

Smith has seemingly endless examples of animals, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker, that have been killed wholesale as an unintended consequence of the Endangered Species Act. And he has many more examples of landowners who didn't choose to eradicate would-be protected species, only to find their land rendered useless for home construction, gardening, farming, ranching, or anything else that would make it of value.

Soccer Mom Land Grab

In a letter to *The Hill* newspaper in Washington, D.C., Eric Schlecht explained another egregious violation of private property rights designed to empower government. Schlecht is director of congressional relations for the National Taxpayers Union. He writes:

"The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), is a textbook example of pork-barrel spending that has gone way out of control. What started out as a conservation and environmental protection trust fund has ballooned into a \$45 billion pile of pork, including everything from road and dock construction in Louisiana (Title 1) to more police officers for Eskimos in Alaska (Title 6)!

"The average state benefits \$11 per person, per year under CARA. However, Alaska residents will receive a guaranteed subsidy of \$272 per person annually under CARA's pork-barrel distribution formula. Louisiana, one of the poorest states in the country by any fiscal measure, receives a \$313 annual windfall.

"CARA provides over \$1 billion per year for land acquisition, with most of those funds available for adverse condemnation. That means kicking people off their land against their will, and then paying them what the government says the land is worth.

"The federal government should be properly managing the empire it already controls for the recreational benefit of taxpayers before it grabs for more land and more power.

"This is \$125 million per year, representing 4% of the bill. Congress can accommodate these constituencies without handing over the other \$2.9 billion, or 96 percent of the bill, for pork projects and power hungry, land-grabbing bureaucracies.

"A Republican Congress approving this bill will place a final nail in the coffin of any pretense to fiscal responsibility.

"The budget surplus has already been spent many times over. CARA will also devastate farmers, ranchers, fish and hunt clubs and all private property owners, a core GOP constituency. All in the name of pork."

Ground Central

In the wake of the Columbine High School massacre last year, Colorado has become ground central in the gun control debate. Although Gov. Bill Owens, R-Colo., ran as a pro-gunner, politics surrounding the Columbine shootings have caused him to shift his position and support some of the most radical gun laws ever proposed in a western state.

When President Clinton held a town meeting in Denver in April, a well-known Colorado gun activist uttered the words that may prove prophetic for the Republican party throughout the United States. Forget abortion and taxes. The central issue to conservatives these days is *guns*.

"I think you could make a case that the gun issue is now the litmus test for being a conservative," said Dudley Brown, executive director of Rocky Mountain Gun Owners. "We used to think it was abortion."

Which makes sense. No matter where one stands on the abortion issue, gun rights should take precedence today. For without a Second Amendment, the right of Americans to freely express views about sensitive political issues could be forever lost to a fascist regime.

Attacked by a Peace-nik

NRA President Charlton Heston recently visited Boulder, Colo., the hometown of *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine.

While awaiting his speech, a pro-gun protester and Iranian immigrant named Shariar Ghalam was attacked by a peace protester. The peace protester is the vice president of the local chapter of the Bell Campaign, a well-funded group that advocates strict gun control laws.

The peace protester slugged Ghalam, chased him down, and then struggled with police who were trying to break up the fight. Both men were ticketed for brawling, but University of Colorado police said the Bell Campaigner appeared to have instigated the fight.

Although Ghalam tried to walk away from the fight, and cooperated fully with police, the local sheriff revoked his concealed-carry permit until the case is resolved. Read more about the assault of Shariar Ghalam in an upcoming issue of *SOF*. ❧

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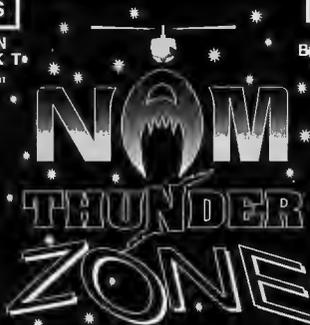


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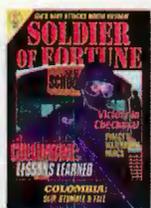
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Golden Hour



I read the recent article on the lessons of Columbine. I am a critical care physician with experience in the management of trauma victims. The SWAT team at Littleton apparently failed to consider that there is a "golden hour" in which medical treatment should be delivered. After this, the body's compensatory mechanisms which preserve the vital organs will fail. About 2-1/2 hours elapsed before the victims were reached. The teacher and probably most of the students who died, simply bled to death. Some, perhaps most, of these deaths would likely have been prevented if treatment had been initiated earlier. The coroner "sealed" the Columbine autopsy reports so one cannot be certain of this. The information might have been an embarrassment. One more lesson learned: You have one hour to get to the victims, after that the mortality will increase significantly.

Name Withheld

Didn't Grab Grandma's

Hey, I love your magazine but I have a question. "Bulletin Board" had a piece called "Grandma 4, Nards 0" about a hero in Melbourne. I thought the gun grabbers stole all the guns in Australia. Am I uninformed?

Doug Davis
Via e-mail

You're not uninformed. The gun grabbers did steal Aussies' guns. But they only got the ones folks turned in. The fact that this delightful grandma had a gun to neuter the two rapists in question would suggest that, gosh, maybe not all the guns got turned in. Do you suppose? Heh, heh, heh.

Devious Mail?

Divide and conquer! The letters from Gary L. Smith and William A. Stansbury reflect the attitude of too many gun owners. These types of opinions will contribute to the eventual loss of our gun-owning rights. (It wouldn't surprise me if you received devious mail from the staff of

H.C.I. or their lapdogs.)

The government cannot be trusted to protect our rights, thus political contributions (money) and organized lobbying activity are the only political weapons we have in our legal arsenal. I'm a vet and have two boys in the military (Army, USMC). I will continue to fight for our rights any way I can regardless of the Smiths & Stansburys of this country. The opinions these people have expressed gives me the impetus to send in a check for NRA life membership for both my boys. Keep on fighting for our Second Amendment rights, SOF staff, because there are many of us with you. Payment for my SOF is on its way.

Michael Henry, NRA Life Member
Tucson, Ariz.

Word From Home



I am a Brit, been reading your publication since the start, have the first 10 years bound. Have laughed, been worried and always been informed about what was going on in the world. Some of your readers are worried about loss of freedoms; try living in the UK, the supposed cradle of democracy! Watch what is happening over here and maybe you will understand where Clinton is getting some of his ideas. Most people do not realize that the one body of people that could stop [an English] government voting itself in for another five years without going to the people was the House of Lords. Tricky Tony has got rid of them ... so if the government wants to stay ... who or what stops them? Like your magazine a lot but being a Brit (ex-Army) sometimes the American slant on everything sticks in my throat. But then, I would say that. By the way some years ago your staffers all played in a film which I hunted down and watched ... Singers you are not ... but I can't remember the title now, could you please remind me what it was?

Keep up the good and important work for the next 25 years even with the American slant.

Mac McKerron
London

Hey, Mate! If you can forgive the growlings of Brown and Donovan in the movie Hostage, surely you can forgive our ethnocentricity. Yep, with enough vitamins and Viagra, we plan to do it another 25 years, and we're glad to have you along.

Wheelguns Vs. Autoloaders?



I would like to comment on the article "Unleash the Fogs of War" by Col. Neatuns. He states that the assassin Gavrilo Pincip used an "11mm Montenegro revolver" in his 1914 assassination of Archduke

Ferdinand of Austro-Hungary and his wife.

As far as I know he used an FN Pistol Model 1900 (7.65mm/.32 ACP).

Despite this error the article (and of course your magazine) is great.

During my eight years with the German Army I got to know your magazine while training together with U.S. Army troops. Unfortunately, it isn't for sale in Germany, so I became a subscriber in 1991.

Right now I am a policeman and still enjoy each new issue which provides me with valuable information.

Please continue your good work!

Jens Griffel
Neumunster, Germany

There are credible (contemporary and historical) accounts of the incident that identify the weapon as a .32 FN autoloader, and as the 11mm Montenegro revolver. Both are plausible, as both were widely available in the area at the time. There were three particulars, however, upon which all accounts agree: the assailant fired twice, the victims bled to death en route to the hospital, and the Archduke was wearing heavy clothing (which is why he was harassing his driver to hurry, which lead to the wrong turn).

The subjective considerations that lead to our opting for the Montenegro version were that sweaty-palmed assassins with an autoloader would tend to empty the magazine; and that people in heavy clothes probably would not quickly bleed out from a single .32 wound. Even historical incidents with many witnesses often evolve into urban legend, and precise particulars are lost to the corrosion of imprecise reports, misre-

ported facts, and the compounding of such errors due to the necrophageous habits of historians. Thanks for your letter.

Argentina Calling

Congratulations, Colonel Brown. Your magazine is the best and you are the greatest warrior against oppression. In Argentina there are millions of shooters and we are fighting for the right to keep and bear arms, too.

Juan Pozzi
Via e-mail

Model Victims



I was recently in a Borders book store here in Auckland, New Zealand, looking through the magazine rack, when your April 2000 cover story on piracy caught my eye as it is something in which I take a bit of interest. I was

flicking through your magazine particularly looking for the story on piracy, past local farm boys dressed like soldiers, when a photo that was taken in April of 1990 leapt out and hit me in the face.

On page 53 was a photo taken two days after the piracy on the deck of the *Flying Lady*, owned by Anne and Peter Englebret. I am the blond boy in the center photo. What a genuine surprise this was to myself and my family; my father is the bearded man with my youngest brother in his arms and my elder stepbrother in the God-awful fluoro green pants. Peter is the man re-enacting how he screwed my left knee. Imagine my surprise to see that photo again after all these years.

Craig Julich-Serventy
New Zealand

Afrikaans Candor

First I would like to say that your mag is great. I have almost every copy with the exception of one or two copies from the early '80s. If I want to know anything with regards to current situations of weapons write-ups I read *SOF*. Your magazine is well known amongst the few die-hards here in S.A.

As a South African vet (ex-member of the S.A.D.F. and S.A.P.) the way you guys support your Vietnam vets is great. They must always be remembered for the sacrifices, not like here in S.A. where nobody wants to speak about our COIN war up north and all the guys we lost. And as you well know the situation in S.A. is not at all rosy. This commie government is trying to push in new gun laws on us. The left wing gun-free South Africa group wants all firearms to be banned. There is no death

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penalty so violent crime is spreading like wildfire. And of course if there are no firearms there can be no uprising when this country goes over the edge.

The judicial system in this country is a joke. Criminals have more rights than law-abiding people.

Name Withheld

Cowboy Cutlass?



In your March 2000 article "Cowboy Shooting with Top Breaks" by Peter G. Kokalis, on page 42 in the top-left photo is a picture of a firearm and a sword. The sword was identified as an original Russian military-issue

Cossacks' sword.

As I have one that looks the same I am very interested in any information I could obtain on them. I would appreciate any help you could give me.

My sword has a serial number engraved on it along with what appears to be two jagged lightning bolts on the blade above the guard. It also has engraving on the handle that appears to be possibly a Teutonic Knight (?). The scabbard also has a serial number on it which matches the sword. I was told by the person who gave it to me that it was liberated from the area of Berlin during WWII. The blade has several nicks in it and is worn, however I am not sure if it is because of mistreatment or because of use.

By the way, your magazine has been an assistance to me in the past, by keeping me aware of the newer weapons, illegal and legal, on the street. As a police officer, that was important. Now that I'm retired, but still working, I read it to keep abreast of the world of weapons and other interesting items that I can't find in my local paper.

Kerry Beecher
Via e-mail

Without the blade at hand, or at least several very good photos, we're shooting from the hip here, but the features you describe would fit an SS-marked German, not Cossack, sword. Bear in mind that the Germans have been cutlers for centuries, and an original-issue Cossack (or other) sword could have been made in Germany, and the same pattern subsequently used on German-issue blades. The marks on the blade and scabbard will probably tell the story, and your best bet might be to take it to a few gun shows — while you still can — and look up some WW II German specialists for their input. Good luck. And tie a string on it, as it may well be something that would stick to a collector's hand. Perhaps some of our eclectic readers may have some educated input. ☒



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RESEARCH

WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Snooping on the public: National Security Agency chief tells House panel in unusual open session that his agency snoops on Americans only under tightly controlled circumstances and never spies abroad on behalf of U.S. companies. Latter allegation has sparked firestorm in Europe. • **War memorabilia may be lost:** Major U.S. museums disclose they lack ownership records from the World War II period for many works of art. Curators argue that detailed provenance archives weren't common during WWII, but promise to increase efforts to identify works possibly stolen by Nazis. • **Cash for nuke workers:** Nuclear workers may be compensated for illnesses caused by radiation exposure, under a Clinton administration plan. Plan would offer workers or survivors lump-sum payments of at least \$100,000, or the right to negotiate for medical bills and lost wages. • **The cold civil war:** Confederate flag would be removed from South Carolina's statehouse and placed at a nearby monument under a bill given initial 36-7 approval by the state senate. • **Horizontal, vertical, and grounded:** Marine Ospreys grounded temporarily in response to Arizona crash that killed 19 Marines who were aboard one of the vertical lift aircraft. Investigators say it crashed while shifting from airplane to helicopter mode.

2

CHINA

Human rights monitoring: Clinton proposes panel to monitor China for compliance with human rights and labor standards. Clinton hopes proposal will sway wavering lawmakers to approve China trade legislation. • China steps up a crackdown to quash academic dissent. • **AWACS plan:** President Jiang arrives in Israel, which rejects U.S. calls to cancel the sale of an AWACS plane to Beijing. • **Labor woes:** Chinese trade policy poses dilemma for labor. Union opposition calls into question claims of solidarity with developing world. • **Embassy bomb:** Government officials reject U.S. explanations for bombing of its embassy in Serbia last year. Beijing demands more thorough investigation.

5

PERU

Election squabble: Fujimori falls short of victory, setting up runoff election and defusing threat of unrest over suspicion that the authoritarian president was trying to steal the election in his bid for unprecedented third term. Many in Peru feel U.S. pressure blocked the attempt.

1

13

6

TAIWAN

Reunification dialogue: Taiwan president rejects pressure for reunification dialogue on China's terms, and is confident of U.S. support. Chen Shui-bian expresses hope that Taiwan can escape choice between concession and conflict.

10

ZIMBABWE

White-owned farms: Mugabe dissolves parliament to prepare for elections, which must be held within four months. Mugabe allies hold 147 of 150 seats. However, dispute over seizures of white-owned farms has rocked his regime. • Police ask nation's high court to lift order to evict black ex-guerrillas from white-owned farms they have seized. Police say they are outnumbered and mass eviction would risk civil war.

9

5

11

BOSNIA

They watched her die: Explosion kills three kids who wandered into minefield near Sarajevo. Witnesses say 11-year-old girl called for help, but died hours later after bystanders were afraid to enter area to rescue her.

13

MEXICO

Think-tank intelligence debunked: Powerful Hank family wins victory when U.S. Attorney General Reno disavows a U.S. government think-tank report linking the family to drug gangs. Reno's disavowal raises concerns about U.S. drug intelligence.

14

KOREA

Jong and Jung in Pyongyang: President Kim Dae Jung will travel to Pyongyang to meet with hereditary communist dictator Kim Jong Il, breakthrough that promises easing of constant military tension on the divided peninsula. Trip will mark first time since the two nations were formed in 1948 that their leaders will meet. Summit represents a triumph for Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine" policies.

3

RUSSIA

Hit-and-run attacks: Chechen rebels continue to stage hit-and-run attacks against Russian troops. Moscow, fearing rebel offensive, fortifies the republic's borders. • **Russian draft dodgers:** Russian military says draft dodging has risen sharply since war flared in 1999. • **Nuke treaty:** Start II treaty passes ratification vote in Russia's Duma. U.S. Senate had already ratified the 1993 deal to cut nuclear missile stocks. • **Shevardnadze:** Georgia's elections criticized for irregularities including ballot stuffing and police intimidation. President Shevardnadze, who won with at least 80% of the vote, defends the process.

4

PHILIPPINES

Too heavy on one side: Ferry capsized shortly after leaving southern Sulu province for Malaysia, killing at least 56 people and leaving more than 100 missing and feared drowned. Nineteen were rescued. Local official said overloading had put vessel off balance.

7

ISRAEL

Lebanese prisoners: High court orders release of Lebanese prisoners held for years to trade for pilot shot down in 1986. Two top Shiite leaders may remain in custody. • **Barak & Clinton:** In visit to U.S., Barak convinces Clinton to back Lebanon pullout. • **Little boxes on the hillside:** Government begins building 200 homes on Golan Heights, saying prospects for peace with Syria have faded.

8

INDONESIA

Suharto gets grounded: Suharto barred from leaving Indonesia for six months by prosecutors who say they fear ousted strongman may try to flee to avoid wide-ranging corruption investigation. Reports give conflicting information on extent of travel ban. One travel ban report says Suharto is confined to Jakarta.

9

COLOMBIA

Drug money: President Pastrana lobbies Capitol Hill for approval of \$1.6 billion in aid, mostly for drug war. Funds are part of larger emergency spending package being delayed by U.S. Senator Trent Lott.

3

11

15

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12

IRAN

Ten ships of oil: Iran naval forces detain 10 ships carrying Iraqi oil in violation of U.N. sanctions. The U.S. has urged Iran to detain more ships suspected of smuggling.

8

15

GREECE

Socialist victory: Socialist government ekes out one-point victory over conservative New Democracy party in Sunday's vote. Prime Minister Simitis may expect to have easier task in advancing reforms as result of election.

16

GAMBIA

Massacred by cops: Police open fire on students rioting in Banjul, and witnesses say at least nine people, including a journalist, were killed. Allegations that a high school student recently was tortured sparked the unrest.

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

Blackwater Training Center

Twenty-five years ago there was only the American Pistol Institute at a place called "Gunsite" in Arizona which offered state-of-the-art defensive handgun and long gun training for the law enforcement and civilian sector. It was a dedicated facility and it was the first of its kind. For many, it became Mecca.

Naturally enough, its success at training both the public and private sectors of our society in the defensive firearms arts sparked interest. Whether it was a case of imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, or just the simple recognition that Gunsite answered a real need, a number of similar schools followed suit over the years since its opening. Clint Smith, a former Gunsite instructor, went on to create Thunder Ranch, a facility that has really set the standard for any firearms training facility, public or private.

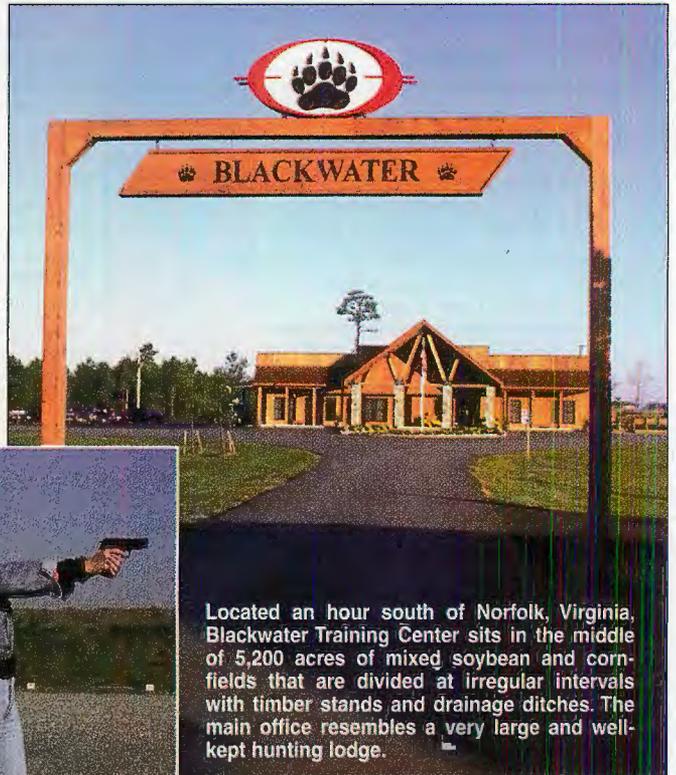
On 16 May 1998, another privately owned firearms training facility opened its doors for business and immediately joined the upper echelon of defensive firearms training schools. *Soldier Of Fortune* recently attended a short three-day handgun school at the Blackwater Training Center (Dept. SOF, 850 Puddin Ridge Road, Moyock, NC 27958; phone: 252-435-2488; fax: 252-435-6388; website: <http://www.blackwaterlodge.com>).

Located approximately an hour south of Norfolk, Virginia, Blackwater Training Center sits in the middle of 5,200 acres of mixed soybean and cornfields that are divided at irregular intervals with timber stands and drainage ditches. The main office resembles a very large and well-kept hunting lodge.

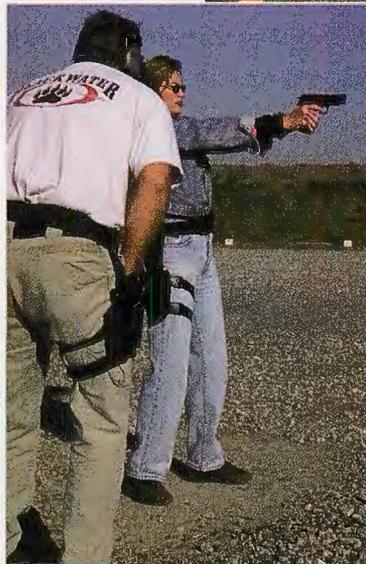
The compound consists of the main office which houses classrooms, the pro shop, and a lunch room. There are two classrooms with a seating capacity of 50 personnel. The Pro Shop stocks name brand material like Sig Arms, Safariland, Black Hawk, Oakley, DC ammunition and assorted cleaning supplies. The Lunch Room serves home cooked meals twice a day (breakfast and lunch only). Lodging for the guests and students is available on site and consists of 19 rooms capable of housing up to 68 guests. The rooms were modern, comfortable and offered all the necessary amenities.

Bill Masciangelo is the President of Blackwater Training Center and he comes to the enterprise after retiring as an officer from the Marine Corps, and a subsequent career in the hotel industry. His background makes him uniquely qualified to run this operation due to the layout and approach Blackwater has taken toward firearms training. The facility is owned privately by an industrialist from the Detroit, Michigan area, who incidentally is also a former Navy SEAL. Clark approached him in the beginning with the idea for this facility because of some negative experiences his SEAL Team endured with outside training contractors. This industrialist put his money where his heart was and Blackwater Training Center was born.

The firearms training program and curriculum is headed by Al



Located an hour south of Norfolk, Virginia, Blackwater Training Center sits in the middle of 5,200 acres of mixed soybean and cornfields that are divided at irregular intervals with timber stands and drainage ditches. The main office resembles a very large and well-kept hunting lodge.



Clark. Clark is a 12-year veteran of the United States Navy, 11 of which were in service with the Navy SEALs. He is a shooter, a good one, and he knows his business. He is also a patient teacher who worked exceedingly well with all the personnel attending my class, as it had shooters with skill levels that ran almost the entire spectrum of shooting ability.

Our instruction started in a formal classroom with a briefing on the background as to why Blackwater was created, followed by the mandatory safety lecture. The classroom lesson proceeded to go through the basics of safety, handling the handgun and proper shooting techniques and stances. One thing I had never seen before was their use of computer generated graphics to explain various aspects of good shooting techniques.

After the video the students were asked to line up against a far wall with their individual pistols. A safety check was performed; slides back, magazines out, and you were required to examine the pistols belonging to the students on your right and your left, as well as having the two neighbors and the instructor check your chamber and magazine well. Clark then proceeded to check each shooter's stance and grip by bumping the muzzle of the pistol after the shooter had assumed their own shooting stance. It was easy to see who had a good stance and who didn't by how hard it was for them to main-

tain position as they felt the mild blow.

We broke for lunch and then assembled on one of the seven ranges. During the next two and a half days I think we worked through every pistol range Blackwater had. Many of the ranges, but not all, have targets that are computer activated and controlled. We shot paper, and all shapes of steel targets. (Steel targets are becoming endangered species in some areas due to the difficulties of splash-back and ricochets, but steel targets properly used, can yield an immediate and positive feed-back to any level student.) One of the nice touches at Blackwater is even the "mover" is made from steel.

We didn't experience all that Blackwater had to offer by any means. During the V.I.P. tour we were able to examine the entire facility. Blackwater has two enclosed shooting simulators that can duplicate every conceivable facet of modern housing one can think of, running from ballroom entrances and staircases to ships ladders. Blackwater even has their own high-school campus which they built specifically to accommodate a national tactical officer's convention one year ago. Appropriately enough, the school's name is "R U Ready



High." For long-range shooters they have a 1,200 yard range complete with military-style target butts.

I believe it is possible to simulate every conceivable training scenario at the Blackwater facility. You could helicopter in and fast rope down on any number of simulated buildings and urban environments for a live fire exercise, or with the water and channeled lakes available you could practice your wet entry skills with either a Zodiac, or helicopter born swimmers.

No question, Blackwater is geared for high-speed performance. The last range we worked before leaving was Rogers' Range. This was the computer controlled range that well known shooter, competitor and former FBI Special Agent Bill Rogers developed. The targets appear in random order through use of a computer controlled activation system. It was my first experience with such a system and the merits of this technology for learning how to draw and fire accurately can not be overstated. If I have a personal complaint, it would be that I wasn't given enough time to refine my draw stroke and lower my reaction times to the degree I would have preferred. Working this range could easily consume a whole day and you would still want to work some more on it.

Blackwater Training Center is available to military, federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and corporations, but individuals, both police and civilian, can sign up for specific courses throughout the year.

The personnel at Blackwater want to emphasize the fact their facility is not an amusement park, nor a recreational facility. The instructors at Blackwater Training Center are grounded in real world tactics, not someone's theory, and they emphasize a tactical solution to any problem as opposed to a 'range' mentality.

The need for these schools and training centers grows daily for everyone who carries a firearm and may go into harm's way; whether they be civilian, law enforcement or military. Blackwater Training Center is a welcome addition to the upper echelon of training professionals and a successful complement to the better schools already in existence. ✕



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TALIBAN:

Afghanistan's Apaches

SOF
Under Fire
in the
Panjsher

Text & Photos by
Rob Krott

I started to get nervous the third time someone asked me when I planned to die. This didn't seem to be all that strange a question for veteran Taliban troops, would-be martyrs, fighting and dying on the Bagram Front about 50 miles north of Kabul. The Taliban were fighting against the Northern Alliance forces of Ahmad Shah Masood, defense minister to President Burhanuddin Rabbani, for control of the Bagram Airfield. Masood, known as "The Lion of the Panjsher," was a hero as an anti-Soviet *mujahideen*. He has also been allied against the Taliban with their other great enemy, the Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum. The Bagram Airfield was key strategic terrain because from there the government forces could supply Masood's forces by air and launch air attacks on nearby Kabul. Doing its best to dislodge Masood from Bagram was the Taliban Army. The fighting for the Panjsher Valley area had been ongoing since 1995.

Bring Your Own Kalashnikov

You won't see any tailored fatigues, spit-shined boots or flashy insignia in this army. It's strictly a volunteer citizen soldier operation — basically a militia force. Wear your civvies (in this case traditional Afghan garb and a black turban) and bring your own Kalashnikov. What you will see are very dedicated, motivated, almost fanatical, fighters armed with aging assault rifles, the bluing all but worn off from years of hard use in the mountains of Afghanistan.

After spending a few days in Kabul, I wrangled permission to travel to the front-line to observe combat operations. Once I

got all the permits required by various functionaries I hired a car, which I had to help push start, and left the International Hotel in Kabul (with its growing collection of shell holes) for the front lines. The fighting for the Bagram Airfield near the Panjsher Valley was only a few hours away, driving slowly over bad roads. With me, to make sure I didn't get myself into too much trouble, was Said Azam, my mandatory escort and interpreter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs press center. We arrived at the "front" shortly before noon and passed a half-dozen D-30 howitzers and at least three truck-mounted MRL-24 multiple rocket launchers. When it comes to weaponry, anything the Soviets made is here and plentiful. Arriving at a checkpoint, complete with a gate blocking the dirt road and a guardhouse, we were told to turn around and find the local commander for authorization to proceed. My travel passes from the Taliban high command in Kabul didn't carry much weight here with the rank and file. In this war the local commanders wield the real power. Looking west from the road across the valley, the opposing hillside was dotted with man-made caves used as bunkers by the Taliban, who hunkered in the crude shelters brewing up their tea. Besides these bunkers, looking like Paleolithic cave dwellings, were several shipping containers dug into the hillside and covered with sandbags. I would get a closer look at one of these later.

At the checkpoint I counted five Taliban-owned Toyota Hilux four-door pickups parked along the road bisecting the hill. Over the top of the hill, and across the

saddle to the next ridgeline, was the front. No vehicles were allowed beyond the checkpoint. The tricked-out Toyotas, heavy with chrome, ferry the fighters to the front from Kabul. Most of the Hilux pickups I saw had sections of PVC pipe in the corners of the bed and the cab as quivers for RPG rounds. Six or seven Taliban were usually packed in the two-seat cab and then as many as could fit piled in the back: a jumble of turbans, and Kalashnikovs.

If You Can't Smoke, Chew This

Turning around we went back down the road about 5 klicks to another position. It was actually an encampment of Taliban centered around a large bunkered bunkerhouse built from shipping containers. Outside their quarters sat about two dozen Taliban arrayed in a large rectangle on plastic mats, blankets, and cushions. They looked as their ancestors did a century or two ago. The only thing to differentiate them from the Afghan warriors who fought the British were their wristwatches and Kalashnikovs. They were a hard looking bunch with deeply sun-burnt faces and serious expressions. If Apaches wore turbans they'd look like these guys.

They were in a serious palaver about something and several were fingering their prayer or "worry" beads. Others stroked their beards. They gave me a quick glance as if to say, "We don't have time for you

(opposite page) Taliban fighter, with RPK stripped of bipod and buttstock, has a laugh. (below) Once opulent and now destroyed Dar-ul-Aman Palace in Kabul.





At the end of the ridge with the artillery observation binoculars



Taliban gunners sight in DShK 12.7mm heavy machine gun.

just yet, but don't worry, we'll get around to you." I was introduced to Commander *Mullah* Abdulhadi Aakhwand, 30, and *Mullah* Ahmadullah Ghamgeen, 21. They were young, but old in experience. They have known nothing but war since they were boys. I sat down as they made a place for me in their rectangle. Sitting across from me were two graying fighters who looked to be in their late 40s. Both had brass and silver snuffboxes in front of them. Ahh, some *Skoal*brothers. I got out my dip and passed it around and made some new friends. Smoking is considered a vice by the hardcore fundamentalist Taliban, but chewing tobacco is somewhat acceptable. Green tea was served, the hallmark of Afghan hospitality. Through Said Azam I learned that the youngest fighter is 21 and the oldest is 55 or 60.

Dressed in *kurta* and *shalwar kameez* (a knee-length cotton shirt over pajama trousers), turbans wrapped around their heads, and feet shod in leather sandals or cheap loafers, most of the Talib had blankets draped over their shoulders. Snuff boxes, pocket knives and watches were

their only other possessions of any import besides their Kalashnikovs and *Koran*. One fighter told me that when he joined the Taliban after having been an anti-Soviet mujahideen for many years he brought a Kalashnikov with him. It was appropriated by the Taliban government and as quick as the serial number could be recorded it was re-issued to him. Because of the chaos and lawlessness in the early days, the Taliban had cracked down on anyone just wandering around with a Kalashnikov. Indeed, such things had prompted the rise of the Taliban. Just because a man wore a black turban and carried a Kalashnikov did not mean he was Taliban, so anyone carrying a weapon could be asked for his weapons card listing the serial number of his rifle.

Nearby sat a well-maintained T-55 while two mechanics worked on a well-used Soviet BMP, so I assumed a few of the local tankers had stopped in for tea. I sipped my green tea and we discussed the current situation and the course of the war.

The Taliban told me that they had several Saudis and Sudanese fighting alongside them. They considered them to be good

fighters, but alas, not as good as the Afghans! There was also mention of a few Syrians running around. The Taliban referred to all their foreign volunteers as "Arabs."

The Punjabis from Pakistan were known to the Talib as "blackfaces." Some have studied in a *madrasah* with one of these Talib—he snuck his buddies into the unit so they could fight. I was told that 12 Iranian mujahideen were recently captured in a counter-attack. Iranians are *Shi'ites* who are theologically opposed to the *Sunni*-based Taliban. The Talib said they easily identified the Iranian POWs as they were all wearing western-style combat fatigues, including pants. Because some of Masood's and Dostum's men wear regular uniforms, I didn't really understand the distinction, but I didn't press the point.

According to the Taliban, the Iranians were all serving in technical positions—manning tanks or MRLs. Because we were

(below) Soviet tank now in service with Taliban, prepares to fire on Masood's forces. Tanks are frequently used as self-propelled artillery.



at the front during an ICRC inspection tour (and non-existent ceasefire) the Red Cross was supposedly interviewing and inspecting Taliban fighters captured by Masood's forces. On the way back they would check on prisoners being held by the Taliban. The Taliban told me that while their prisoners were well cared for, fed, and clothed, the Talib held by Masood's forces were ill-treated and in poor shape with evidence of recent beatings. I was sure that if I crossed over no-man's land I'd hear the same thing in reverse from the other side.

"When Will You Die?"

They tried to convince me to stay with them and become a Taliban fighter, but I wasn't in a volunteering mood. This was when I was asked what day I was going to die; what day I planned to die. It was explained to me that they were all here to die. They all planned to die in battle as religious martyrs and had selected the day of their death in battle. I was asked, "If you didn't come here to die in battle, why are you here?"

Fortunately, I was saved from answering that question when lunch was served: *nan*, potatoes, and meat. After we ate we loaded up our vehicles and drove up to the check-point to proceed to the front line.

On the way we stopped at a Talib commander's hootch to pick up some Soviet artillery observation binoculars. They were large, high power magnification optics. Mounted on a stand with dual hand grips for aiming, they were obviously meant for pedestal use. They weighed about 40 pounds and took two men to carry but would afford us a good view of the front line. We dismounted at the check point and adding our decrepit Toyota Corolla to the lineup of Hilux pickups, walked about a click along the ridge line and through a depression on the saddle.

The whole area was littered with shrapnel, duds, and unexploded ordnance. We passed a powerline pylon towering about 20 meters into the air. Farther along was another destroyed power pylon. Just one of



(above) View of Bagram through sights of a DShK 12.7mm heavy machine gun. Bunkers were rarely built as fighting positions. (right) DShK 12.7mm heavy machine gun sits out in open behind rock sangar and Taliban leave observation post for some fresh air. Krott was forbidden to photograph Taliban for religious reasons but could photo weapons and equipment.



(left) Taliban fighters (note the camouflage field jackets) peer out bunker entrance at artillery bursting on the hillside.



a long line extending across the ridge and down into the Panjsher Valley it lay crumpled and twisted like a child's discarded aluminum playtoy. Moving further up the trail a few hundred meters we came to the crest of the ridge. At the top on the "military crest" it was flat with about a 20-meter-wide area where the Afghans were "dug in" — if you can call a few positions of rock sangars with discarded rocket shipping tubes for overhead cover "dug in."

I'm wondering why there isn't a trench-line or some fighting positions when I'm reminded, "If you didn't come here to die, then why are you here?" In front of us the incoming enemy artillery fire sent up an occasional plume of fire, smoke, and dust. We could hear the *karumph, karumph, karumph* of incoming artillery rounds detonating every few minutes from our position on the ridge overlooking the mouth of the Panjsher Valley.

There were two recoilless rifles and a Degtyarev 12.7mm heavy machine gun in hasty firing positions. There was no doubt I was on the forward trace of the frontline or forward edge of the battle area (FEBA), what they call the "feeba" at Fort Benning. The anti-tank mines, unexploded ordnance or duds, and piles of expended shell casings from 7.62 rifle up to 106mm littering the ground marked the point of the Taliban's latest advance. If that wasn't enough the rattle of small arms fire and the intermittent artillery bursts tossing clods of dirt in the air just behind the position underscored the obvious.



Take That, Masood

A tank, dug-in and hull down just below us along the ridge line setting in the saddle just off the Kabul-Bagram road, replied. WHAM! After a few minutes the Talib all squatted down. When I realized they were waiting for counter-battery fire I got down as well. At the outpost above—about 50 meters from the position where I was sitting near the Degtyarev 12.7mm heavy machine gun—a mullah began singing the *zwhr*, the afternoon *muezzin* calling the faithful to prayer. When he paused, the T-72 would



(top) Howitzer abandoned by its crew during fighting awaits a transporter. (above) Talib shows me how to fuse an AT mine. (left) Unexploded ordnance. Note Krott's size 9-1/2 shoe for comparison. (below) An ex-Soviet infantry fighting vehicle which didn't make it down the Bagram-Kabul road. Taliban tank round blew turret off. Inside was "crispy."





Taliban fighter with his Kalashnikov takes cover on 'ridge line' trail

send another blessed missile toward the enemy lines. Kind of a "Take that, Masood."

While the Mullah was praying and the T-72 was blasting away I chatted with one of the Taliban who spoke a little English. That was good since my Dari is limited to stuff like *ze ne pohigam* (I don't understand) and *tash-akar* (thank you). We talked about his RPK, *sans* stock and bipod (which he was using as a heavy barreled assault rifle). As I checked out the 7.62 bullet hose, another Talib walked up holding a cannon shell. He unscrewed the impact fuse and pantomimed striking it on a rock. He laughed. I did, too, nervously.

These guys had been in the line too long ... way too long. I tried to get the Talib, who

was in serious danger of seeing Allah very soon, to put away his new toy before he splattered me with bone fragments and blood. Later I would look over to see him sitting on a rock holding a crocus flower in his hand and sniffing it. From duds to buds.

Crawling up to the edge of the ridge line (we were all staying low) I looked through the Soviet artillery observer's binoculars. As I looked north off the face of the ridge, and towards Bagram, I could see the airfield 5 kilometers away with at least one disabled transport sitting on the tarmac. Just as I crawled back from the binoculars a group of six or eight Taliban moved off back across the ridge, past the undestroyed pylon (which makes an excellent target reference

point for the other guys) and back to the positions on the reverse slope. Which is where I was thinking I wanted to be, rather than neatly silhouetted up there on the bare hardscrabble of the military crest.

Masood's Tajiks were only 800 to 1,000 meters away and I was wondering what a sniper would think of my obviously un-Afghan appearance through his sights. It was possible that there was a sniper closer than that. I cursed myself for not wearing Afghan clothes. Never stand out in the crowd in a combat zone. After a few more minutes we rejoined the squad, which had left its position on the ridge.

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STEALTH FIGHTERS

Black Jets In Battle **II** by Dale B. Cooper



Lockheed

Only three minutes had elapsed since G-Man — aka Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Gary Woltering — swung onto the initial IP and struck the first target.

As he pulled himself out of the sensor display, “safed up” the weapons bays and ran his seat up a little bit higher to get a better view of what was going on outside the cockpit, Woltering realized he had “tuned out” all of the air-to-air fighting that was going on over Belgrade, and all of the talk about the MiGs being airborne.

“I could tell from the radio chatter that one MiG-29 had already been downed by an F-15. It exploded about a mile in front of Colonel Kevin Smith, the Operations

Group Commander, who was number three in the strike package about 50 miles away on the opposite side of the country.

Fighter pilots are always worried about their blind spot at six o’clock. Unlike other combat aircraft, the F-117A Nighthawk has limited visibility aft. There’s really no way for a “Stealth Driver” to “check his six.” They hope their limited radar signature enables them to strike a target and slip out of enemy territory undetected.

“As I’m running out of the country, trying to get out of Dodge, I’m hearing a call from AWACS that a MiG-29 is not far from me, and while he’s at a widely different altitude, he is essentially running the same direction I’m running and he’s gaining on me.”

Bombs Over Belgrade

Did the MiG pilot know G-Man was there? Was it pure luck he was going in the same direction?

“I don’t know,” said Woltering, “But clearly bombs exploding in the Belgrade area had to tip them off that F-117s were in the area.”

Woltering remembers a Captain Steve Kennel whose tactical call sign was “Dawg” leading a package of four F-16CJ Harm Shooters.

“He was the closest guy to me, and he picked up the MiG-29 and began to ask for ‘Bogey Dope’ as he chased him down, and locked him up on radar.”

"AWACs had our mission plans and knew where we were pretty much by time and space. So AWACs had to know that I was very close to that MiG-29. But AWACs didn't know if 'Dawg' had me in his sights or the MiG-29 locked up, so he wouldn't let Dawg shoot."

As the three aircraft race north, Dawg is demanding that AWACs declare the Bogey "hostile," and let him shoot, but the AWACs controller keeps saying, "No! Weapons Tight."

"Dawg is livid," said Woltering who in retrospect believes that Kennel didn't have him locked up on radar, but did have the MiG-29 locked up and was ready to shoot.

Dawg kept saying, "Declare. Northbound. Bullseye 30 miles," but Awacs kept responding, "No, we have friendlies in the area." And they would not release Dawg to shoot.

"So Kennel just stroked the afterburners and chased this guy down," said Woltering, who believes it was Dawg's intention to get a visual on this guy and then request permission to shoot him down with his 20mm Vulcan cannon.

"I don't recall whether Dawg ever got close enough to visually identify the MiG-29, but he did get close enough that the MiG-29 felt threatened, and turned back towards Dawg in a defensive maneuver.

A few minutes later, as he was high-tailing it across Serbia, the MiG-29 pilot made a fatal mistake. He crossed in front of an F-15 equipped with the electronic capability to identify bad guys, and was blown away. "Thanks to Dawg, I was able to run away at the speed of snot, exit the country, and get back to Aviano safely," laughed G-Man.

Later that night Lt. Col. Woltering called Capt. Kennel in his quarters and thanked him for getting the MiG off his tail, but Dawg said he had no idea Woltering was there.

Apparently the Stealth stuff worked that night.

A Stealthy Shoot-down

Three nights later on 27 March, some-

thing happened over Serbia that sent a shock wave through the Stealth community, causing some to wonder if the Stealth stuff still works.

A pilot from the 8FS was forced to eject from his crippled Nighthawk over enemy territory just north of Belgrade.

Word of the downing of the F-117A traveled at the speed of light back to Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, where the Nighthawks are based.

"They have apparently found a way to kill us," said Capt. Thad Darger, who was home on emergency leave.

"Yes ... we were shocked and bewildered," said Woltering. "But we were also convinced that the Serbs didn't have a secret weapon."

Although shaken, Stealth aircraft were ordered back into the battle on night five of the air campaign, but were turned around because of bad weather over the target area.

Because the Serbs were never able to duplicate their feat in the next two months that F-117s flew over Serbia, Lt. Col. Woltering thinks what happened to one of his aircraft was a "fluke."

The Air Force knows what happened to the F-117, and it apparently wasn't an act of God, or mechanical failure. But the Pentagon won't acknowledge publicly whether the aircraft was shot down by an SA-3 surface-to-air missile as Serbia claims.

Responding to a Freedom of Information Act request in November 1999 from the *El Paso Times*, the Pentagon acknowledged for the first time publicly that the Stealth had been "shot down." Something *SOF* knew much earlier.

But no one at the Pentagon, including Major General Bruce Carlson — who became the Air Force's highest-ranking Stealth pilot when he pinned on his third star in January — would reveal what brought the F-117 down.

In the Silver Star Citation *SOF* obtained for the Air Force Pave Low pilot who led

the search and rescue team that snatched the downed pilot within 30-feet of Serb forces, the word "shot down" was first used in early September 1999.

"Captain James L. Cardoso distinguished himself by gallantry in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United States near Batajnica, Serbia on 27 March 1999. Captain Cardoso, an MH-53M flight lead, commanded and flew the successful combat search and rescue of an American F-117A pilot shot down with 25 miles of Belgrade."

Delayed Pickup

Although the pilot in question refuses to grant any interviews, he is talking to various search and rescue components of the Air Force; giving them the benefit of his experience so that in the future, should another "Stealth Driver" fall into enemy territory, he won't have to wait six hours to be rescued.

SOF has learned that there were two basic reasons for the delayed pickup. First of all, and probably most important, the Stealth Driver's survival radio was outdated. It was a PRC-112, standard-issue survival radio for most pilots. Not a Hook-112, a GPS radio, that an F-16 pilot was carrying when he ejected from his crippled Fighting Falcon more than a month later.

The F-16 driver was picked up in 90 minutes because the rescue choppers had a precise fix on his coordinates.

In the case of the Stealth pilot, three rescue helicopters flew all over the Balkans. Each wasted precious time while being fed inaccurate coordinates by command and control. They didn't have the proper radio frequencies, a fact that almost drove the rescue crews nuts as they waited along the Bosnian border to receive good coordinates for the downed pilot.

As a result of the confusion, the Serbs came within a heartbeat of capturing the "Mother of all POWs," but had to settle for a pile of badly burned wreckage, some of



Major Chip Rice (above) on the ladder of his F-117A at Aviano. Rice prefers a revolver as a sidearm, instead of a 9mm Beretta. (left) The Air Force knows what happened to the F-117, and it apparently wasn't an act of God, or mechanical failure.

author

USAF

which may have since been sold to the highest bidder — probably Russia or China.

The downing of the Nighthawk was the first loss of a Stealth aircraft in combat, and shattered the general public's perception that Stealth aircraft are invisible.

The Air Force has long worried about stealth technology falling into enemy hands, but a senior aide to Air Force Chief of Staff Michael Ryan says there has been no "wringing of hands" over the F-117A wreckage, because it represents an older generation of technology that current radar-evading technology surpassed years ago.

The Pentagon came under criticism from some for deciding not to bomb the F-117A wreckage to prevent it from falling into anyone's hands.

Woltering wanted to return to Belgrade and blow the Nighthawk into the next millennium, but "folks higher up the food chain" decided against such an attack.

SOF has learned that there were four F-117s loaded with 2,000-pound laser guided bombs on the alert ramp at Aviano, waiting for word to attack the downed aircraft. But the word never came.

"It would have been inhumane, I think to go in and bomb the airplane at that point," said Gen. Ryan, "There were a lot of civilians around it."

There apparently was also a feeling that the Air Force had better not press its luck too far. After all, pararescuemen had just pulled off a spectacular rescue right under the noses of the Serbs, and gotten away

safely. So why risk losing another pilot to bomb a pile of smoking junk.

"Welcome Home, Dude"

That's what G-Man said as he and his downed pilot were reunited on the flightline at Aviano.

"I cried," said Woltering, "As we shook hands and hugged each other." There were other tears shed as the Stealth pilot stepped out of a C-130 that had brought him from the rescue team's forward staging base in Bosnia.

During his more than six hours on the ground, behind enemy lines, the F-117 pilot waited for his rescuers with a small American flag an airman had given him before he took off from Aviano.

"A moment like this is a prayer in object form," said the pilot whose identity is still being protected for operational reasons.

"For me it was representative of all the people who I knew were praying," said the pilot. "It was a piece of everyone and very comforting. It helped me not let go of hope. Hope gives you strength ... it gives you endurance."

Punctuated by repeated statements of gratitude to his rescuers, the pilot detailed his ejection, evasion and eventual rescue to First Lieutenant Matthew Borg of the 31st Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs at Aviano, the only interview the Stealth pilot has given to date.

"I knew I was fairly deep into Serbian territory," he said. "I had guessed my position was within 20 miles of Belgrade. Not a

happy thought, considering the risk involved in a combat search and rescue that deep into Serbian territory."

While he doesn't know exactly what the negative G-forces were prior to his ejection, the pilot described them as "enormous," possibly as high as five times the force of gravity.

"I remember having to fight to get my hands to go down toward the (ejection seat) handgrips," explained the pilot, "I always strap in very tightly, but because of the intense G-forces, I was hanging in the straps and had to stretch to reach the handles."

While he recalls the intense strain involved in getting his fingertips to the ejection handles, he doesn't remember making the conscious decision to eject from his crippled aircraft.

"The one fragment of this whole event I can't remember is pulling the handles. God



(right) Night vision shot of Stealth fighter refueling before going into Yugoslavia on the night of 17 March, 1999 — the night another F-117A was shot down near Belgrade.

(below) SOF has learned that there were four F-117s loaded with 2,000-pound laser guided bombs on the alert ramp at Aviano, waiting for word to attack the downed aircraft.



took my hands and pulled."

Once on the ground, the downed pilot buried his parachute, helmet, and survival gear he didn't need.

For the next six hours, he hid in a shallow ditch in a plowed field near an intersection of a road.

"Thank God no one actually saw me come down." While he can't confirm that cars, trucks and people he heard were looking for him, he did hear search dogs. At one point, a dog came within 30 feet of where he was huddled.

That's where the American flag he carried next to his chest, under his flight suit, gave him the endurance he desperately needed.

Among the first to greet the rescued pilot at Aviano was the airman who gave him the flag.

"People have asked me if I was thinking about the flag I had given him. I wasn't thinking about it at all. I just wanted him back. When we heard he was down, it was as if we had lost a member of our family. These guys aren't just pilots to us. We know their families and they know ours."

Looking back on the homecoming at Aviano, Lt. Col. Woltering says it was a sight he shall remember for the rest of his life — a perfect storybook ending to what

had been a terrifying night.

Now What?

When the air campaign against Yugoslavia kicked off on 24 March, only 12 F-117As from the 8FS were based at Aviano. The brass apparently felt the only other operational Stealth squadron wasn't needed.

But when Slobodan Milosevic didn't roll over and holler "Uncle" after four days of aerial bombardment, the call went out for the 9th FB to deploy to Aviano.

B-1 bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota were also given their marching orders. Clearly, NATO needed more firepower.

The Air Force General who ran the NATO air campaign says he would have "turned out the lights the first night" in Belgrade with a massive air assault if he'd had his way, rather than the incremental approach chosen by NATO.

In a stinging rebuke to NATO allies, Lieutenant General Michael Short, whose son's A-10 Warthog was hit by groundfire over Kosovo, says the war plan that gave NATO political leaders input over specific targets endangered the lives of U.S. pilots and extended the conflict.

Short, who is retiring from the Air Force in July, told the Armed Services Committee he would have gone for the head of the snake on the opening night.

"I'd have dropped the bridges across the Danube," he said. "I'd have hit five or six political and military headquarters in downtown Belgrade. Milosevic and his cronies would have waked up the next morning asking what in the hell was going on?"

Short, the highest ranking Stealth pilot in the Air Force during the air war against Yugoslavia, had an advantage other senior officers lacked. He had met Slobodan Milosevic and dealt with him one-on-one in Belgrade six months before the bombing began.

On the third day of negotiations, U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke invited Short to make it a threesome.

"We had reached the point in negotiations where we had agreed that we would fly airplanes in Kosovo to take pictures of his operation and he would have to move his SA-6s and SA-3s out of Kosovo in order to allow my airplanes to fly without fear of being shot down."

Sand Up His Ass

The Serb leader leaned over a small coffee table, and told Short, "General, you cannot make me move my SA-6s. They have been in place for many years. A logistical nightmare. It would be very difficult for me. I cannot — do not ask me to do that. I will just turn them off and it will be all right."

At this point, Short — an old fighter pilot who flew 276 combat missions in Southeast Asia — was very tired. He'd been up for about 32 hours.

Short leaned forward, and said, "Mr. President, you're pounding sand up my ass."

Milosevic, looking a bit puzzled leaned forward, and said, "What means 'pound

sand up my ass'?"

Short explained to him that he thought he was pulling his chain since he had been watching his SA-6s for the last six weeks; he was moving them every day; and Short knew very well he could move them if he wanted to.

"Now get them out of Kosovo," said Short.

"You are right. I will move the missiles," replied Milosevic.

The lesson Gen. Short took from that encounter was if you hit the Serb hard, slap him up side the head, he pays attention. And that's what Short would have done had he been given the green light to slap Slobodan Milosevic silly the first night of the air campaign.

A few months after the 78-day bombing campaign ended, Admiral James Ellis, second in command to NATO Supreme Commander General Wesley Clark, was quoted as saying, "We called this one absolutely wrong."

According to Ellis' summary in a NATO slide presentation, the faulty prediction that "Slobo" would fold his tent after four days



Major Dave Sullivan in his F-117 at Aviano Air Base in Italy. Note: 23 "Schwacks" painted on the jet. The "Schwack" was created by a frustrated artist in the 8FS. It consists of a 2,000-pound laser-guided bomb set in a horseshoe.

of intensive bombing caused a "lack of coherent campaign planning" and a "failure to prepare for surprises."

During a post-mortem on the air campaign before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Defense Secretary William F. Cohen and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Henry H. Shelton said the Serb army's ability to maintain its air defenses in the face of heavy NATO bombing shows that the United States must improve its electronic combat power for future wars.

In an "action-action review" of "Operation Allied Force," Cohen and Shelton said Air Force RC-135 electronic eavesdropping planes and Navy and Marine Corps EA-6B electronic attack aircraft were stretched thin against a formidable Serb air defense.

The Serbs successfully husbanded most of their best air defense weapons, prompting NATO commanders to keep allied planes at higher altitudes, thus reducing their effectiveness against ground targets.

In a joint written statement summarizing the findings of an ongoing Pentagon study of the Kosovo conflict, Cohen and Shelton say, "We need to find innovative and affordable ways to exploit our technological skills in electronic combat to bring greater pressure to bear on a future enemy's air defense system."

One of the major areas of improvement is in planning. For example, the Pentagon leaders said the military needs to plan more comprehensively for the early introduction of reservists with certain specialty skills such as language translation and intelligence analysis.

Also, the allies in Europe need to develop more precision-guided munitions like the JDAMs, the Joint Direct Attack Munitions, the B-2 bombers used effectively in Kosovo.

Cohen and Shelton also said some operations were compromised because the allies lacked secure communications systems that are compatible with those of the United States. This disparity forced allied pilots to use non-secure methods of communication that allowed the Serbs to listen in and be ready for attacks on certain targets.

No Apologies

"These disparities are going to seriously affect our ability to operate as an effective alliance over the long term unless they are addressed," said Cohen.

But neither Cohen nor Shelton made any apologies for the shortcomings of the air campaign against Yugoslavia. They said it accomplished what it set out to; force Slobodan Milosevic to withdraw his forces from Kosovo and allow the return of ethnic Albanians to the province.

As for claims by unnamed NATO and Pentagon officials that only 26 of 900 military targets were destroyed, and therefore the air campaign was a "failure," Stealth drivers who watched the targets explode on their sensor screens don't believe it.

"I think we accomplished exactly what our National Command Authority set out for us," said Major Dave Sullivan, who is now the executive officer of the 49th Fighter Wing at Holloman — home to the 8FS and 9FS, the only two operational Stealth squadrons in the Air Force.

"It may have taken longer than anyone thought it would, but I don't get into target counting. That's someone else's job. I know our tapes prove that we actually hit what we were aiming at, and I think our sorties were successful."

Gary Woltering, a Colonel-select attending the National War College in Washington, D.C., dropped almost two dozen pieces of high-explosive, laser-guided munitions on Serb targets during the war.

When asked about reports that only 26 of 900 targets were destroyed, G-Man took a long swig of his diet Mountain Dew, and said, "Hell, I probably destroyed that many myself."

Dale B. Cooper is a long-time contributor to SOF. ✕

Front Sight ... Press

An Order Meant To Be ... Bent

by Dick Culver

I was listening to a discussion of the necessity of carrying belt guns in combat. The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that a handgun was an anachronism in modern combat, and more suited to the days of cavalry charges. No one seemed to care that our military had sold out to the NATO agreement to go to 9mm as a SOP to our European Allies ... After all, who cares? Nobody ever uses the damn things anyway!

I smiled to myself and thought back to a few years prior when I was mighty glad to be carrying a belt gun, in fact without it, I wouldn't have been listening to the conversation between the young pups sitting at the bar.

The month of July 1967 was damnably hot in the area southwest of Quang Tri, and Hotel Company had just been landed to conduct a sweep of a minor village that had supposedly already been swept the afternoon before. Sounded like a cakewalk compared to our usual assignments, until one of the young troopers detected movement in a tree line 300 yards distant. Since we were short of dry ground, we were putting in defensive positions in a graveyard adjacent to the small vill to act as a patrol base. The only thing that set my hair on end was the presence of the inhabitants of the settlement in the graveyard, and they weren't talking. Something was definitely amiss. The vill was long and narrow, with hardly enough room to maneuver a platoon, let alone a company sized unit. The 3rd Platoon was dispatched to enter the village along the long axis to drive any NVA into our fields of fire. In combat, however, I had long since learned that nothing is ever as it seems. With our 3rd platoon approaching their objective, we began to take fire from the tree line. The fight was on.

After a few minutes, communication was lost in the ensuing mêlée in the woods. No communications, platoon within the tree line! I was frustrated — I do not do vicarious firefights well. I decided to investigate.

Taking my radio operator, I left my executive officer in charge of the perimeter and headed for the battle. There was a hedgerow on the left of our perimeter that might at least offer some concealment from direct observation by the NVA, now heavily engaged in the wood. My plan was to get down there and extract the 3rd Platoon so I could call artillery in on the tree line. Obviously, I didn't want to call for artillery while my folks were in there, and they weren't answering the radio.

Now, I have been a pistol aficionado all my life, and I had hauled my own pistol to WesPac in direct violation of Marine Corps orders. It was an M1911, a veteran of WWI that I had obtained for the munificent sum of \$20.00 through the Director of Civilian Marksmanship. Most of those obtained from the DCM had been essentially new, but alas mine was a real old timer ... It was devoid of any meaningful finish and rattled like a box of bolts, but I set about making a personal sidearm out of my "worse for wear" veteran. I had a High Standard .22 Pistol front sight milled into the front of the slide, and attached a Bo-Mar sight to the back end. While I was no gunsmith, I was fairly

clever with a stippling tool and had done what I considered to be a very workmanlike stippling job on the front strap to limit my grip from slipping when my hands were sweaty.

While shooting for the Marine Corps Pistol Team in the summer of 1965, one of the armorers added a match barrel, an aluminum trigger, did a trigger job and tightened the slide. The damned thing would finally shoot and shoot well. Keeping 'em in the 10 ring of a Standard American Pistol Target was no sweat at 25 yards, and head shots at 50 were a breeze. An E-Silhouette set out at 100 became easy to hit consistently. Some home brewed handloads and I would be ready to go to war. Heavy Keith flat nosed cast bullets over a healthy dollup of Unique Powder, sealed primers and bullets waterproofed with a mixture of road tar and kerosene painted inside the case with a matchstick completed my preparations.

Illegal Isn't A Sick Bird

Yes, I know all the legends about the illegality of lead bullets, and cautions from supposed firearms experts about handloaded ammunition in combat, but since it was my fanny, I essentially ignored the arm-chair warriors and took 'em anyway. This was the pistol and ammunition I had in hand that miserably hot afternoon just south of the DMZ ... As it turns out, I was well armed.

Running down across the field in the shadow of the hedgerow, I had my hand cannon cocked and locked, firmly grasped in my right hand pointed out and away from my leg to prevent acquiring a self-inflicted gun-shot wound. Encountering the bad guys before I reached the tree line hadn't crossed my mind — I was much more concerned with getting my platoon out of the vill so I could call in some heavy artillery and get this thing over with a minimum loss of life on our part.

Suddenly, and without warning, a distinctly Oriental face appeared from behind the hedgerow, hardy 10 feet away. He had an evil look on his face and was holding onto his AK-47 while looking at me in total disbelief. I don't think he had expected any hostile company. My AK-wielder had obviously been preparing to lay some flanking fire onto our CP in an effort to distract our efforts aimed at greasing his comrades. Surprise, surprise! And trust me, *no one* was any more surprised than I.

In pure panic, I half turned and snapped off a shot at my unwelcome visitor underhanded almost like pitching a softball! Mercifully my first and wildly thrown shot hit the gent right between the eyes. By now the situation had my total attention. As I stood there in total disbelief, the first guy's buddy stood up next to where his friend had met his maker. He too was clutching an AK, but he was intent on looking down at his friend's ruined face. This was a tremendous mistake, because by now I was ready! I swung the .45 around and center punched number two with a 237-grain Keith in the breast bone. Number two went one way and his AK went the other.

My mind was racing. I figured that I was probably facing a squad sized unit behind the hedgerow. If I ran, I was sure to get hosed in

the back with automatic weapons fire. If I had to go down, I always promised myself that I'd be looking at the guy who did for me. I couldn't see over the damned row, so I took the only other alternative, I dove over it. My radio operator was yelling "No, Skipper, no!" but was right behind me, attempting to get his rifle unlimbered.

The hedgerow was only about 4 feet high, and when I landed I found myself totally alone except for my faithful radio operator who had followed me in my personal assault. Looking around to assess the situation, something suddenly occurred to me ... "I wonder how those Keith Handloads performed?" Pulling out my K-Bar, I prepared for field surgery. My disbelieving companion looked on in total horror.

"Skipper, what in the hell are you DOING?"

"Quiet kid, I'm checking something out!"

"You can't do that, it's barbaric!"

"Nope, the scientific curiosity of an old-time handloader!"

"SKIPPER! NO!"

"Shut up kid and help me get his jacket off!"

"SKIPPER! ..."

A burst of automatic weapons fire brought me back to reality ... What the hell WAS I doing? Hell, had a platoon to extract. And now the assholes know where we are! I re-sheathed my K-Bar, threw a fresh magazine in the belt gun, and headed for the vill, with a still disbelieving, but obviously relieved radio operator hot on my heels.

As a personal "after-incident report," we were successful in extracting the platoon and returning to the CP. The situation in the vill was getting hot. We had plenty of rifle ammunition as the M16s weren't firing reliably, but we were down to about one belt per M60 and about five rounds per mortar tube as we had been firing more or less constantly all afternoon. A fire mission on the tree line would be wasted if we didn't have the company ordnance to take advantage of the artillery. We had to be ready to assault the entrenched NVA as the artillery lifted. The extreme heat meant that water would be as important as the ammo, and our water supply was getting low.

Two CH-46s came in with our requested water and ammo, but two RPGs from the tree line got a couple of solid hits on the birds in our landing zone. The landing zone was uncomfortably close to the trees, but wet rice paddies on three sides limited our options. Resultant shrapnel from our wounded birds resulted in 17 casualties among the troops trying to unload the choppers. The birds departed

with most of our supplies. Although they were leaking hydraulic fluid, the injured birds managed to crash land in the Battalion CP. A second try by some aviators with more balls than sense got our gear to us by lowering the tail ramp and tilting the choppers nose up and literally dumping our water and ammo onto the LZ like a dog fertilizing the front lawn. I could have kissed those birdmen. Now that I had the wherewithal to conduct the assault, I HAD to get some artillery on the NVA in the tree line. Unfortunately, there was a large fly in the ointment.

Since we were freshly ashore from our floating base camp, the U.S.S. *Tripoli*, our own artillery battery was not yet ashore. I had expected them to be set up by now. All was not lost, however, as my Artillery FO, Lieutenant Mike Madsen, reminded me that the ARVNs had a 155mm battery stationed at Quang Tri. Mike also pointed out that the ARVNs had a reputation of being totally incompetent artillerymen, but he would call in a fire mission if I insisted. What the hell, I thought, let's give it a try!

"Mike, call in the registration 1,000 meters over and walk it back, that ought to give us a little cushion!"

"OK, Skipper, but we're playing with fire here!"

"Ya think 1,000 is too close?"

"Naw, that oughta do it!"

"OK, get with it!"

Mike was soon chattering on the PRC-25, and we sat back to wait. We were not to have to wait long, as the sound of a sizeable artillery round announced that Quang Tri was on the job. As luck would have it, the first round hit dead in the center of the NVA in the tree line.

"Holy catfish, Mike! What in the hell is going on? I'm sure as hell glad we didn't call that stuff in with the *real* coordinates!"

"I told ya, Skipper, those guys are hamburgers!"

"Damn! Oh well, call in a 'fire for effect' before they forget what they just did!"

"Roger, Skipper, I'll have 'em on the way in a couple!"

Continued on page 90

"I had hauled my own pistol to WesPac in direct violation of Marine Corps orders. It was an M1911, a veteran of WWI that I had obtained for the munificent sum of \$20.00 through the Director of Civilian Marksmanship."



PRESIDENT GORE = NO SECOND AMENDMENT

A Democratic Win Means A Second Amendment/Supreme Court Nightmare

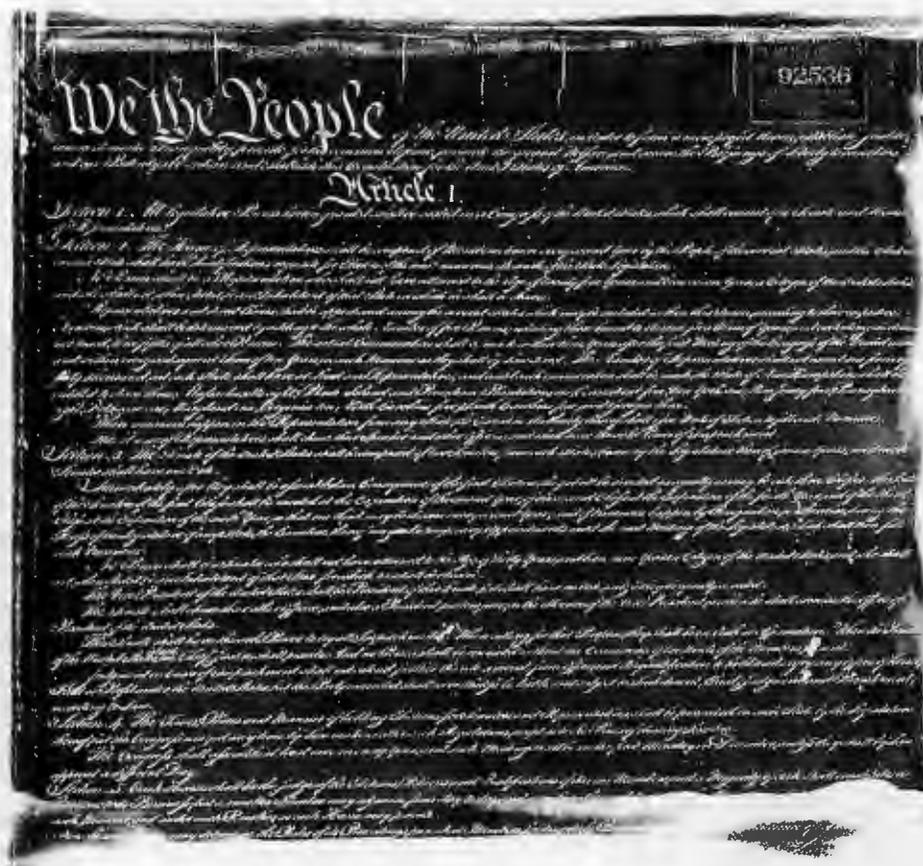
by Junius

The presidential election of the year 2000 will be the most important in your lifetime. I say this without respect to the policies the candidates claim they will follow. I say this without respect to the issues raised during the campaign. I say this because the next president will make appointments to the United States Supreme Court that could completely change our constitutional system.

Several years ago, I sat with a group of Second Amendment scholars and listened as they discussed the possibility of approaching the right to keep and bear arms through the "privileges and immunities" clause of Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment, which reads as follows: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States ...". This would have been a compelling argument. If successful, it could, for example, extend to the citizens of 19 states that restrict the right to carry concealed weapons the same privilege as citizens of the other 31. It might even extend to citizens of 49 states the immunity which is enjoyed in Vermont, where there is not restriction on concealed carry, and no license is required. It would, almost certainly, eliminate registration as practiced in some states. However, it is unlikely that this argument, as compelling as it may sound, would carry any weight. To understand why, it is necessary to understand a little about legal history.

Our system of laws derives from our mother country, Great Britain. The British Common Law is based upon the legal theory of *stare decisis*, which means that once a legal question has

been decided by the courts, that opinion creates a precedent which future courts will have to follow unless the legislature changes the law, or future developments show that the earlier precedent was clearly a wrong decision. It is extremely rare for a court to reverse itself, and requires the most compelling circumstances. The doctrine of *stare decisis* is important here because in 1873 the United States Supreme Court decided, in the Slaughterhouse Cases, 83 U.S. 36 (1873), that the "privileges and immunities" clause has little, if any, application. The decision was a five to four



This is the Constitution as you used to know it. Justices of the Supreme Court are appointed for life. Thus, each Justice can be expected to serve on the bench for many years after the president who appoints him has left office. What will this document look like then?



decision, with the swing vote being cast by a Justice appointed 16 years earlier by last Democrat, James Buchanan.

Justices of the Supreme Court are appointed for life. Thus, each Justice can be expected to serve on the bench for many years after the president who appoints him has left office. Currently, there is one justice who is 80 (Justice John Paul Stevens), one who is 76 (Chief Justice William Rehnquist), one who is 70 (Justice Sandra Day O'Connor) and one who is 67 and in ill health (Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg). Of the nine justices, only Justice Clarence Thomas is under the age of 60. This means that the next president, if he serves a full eight years of two terms, is almost certain to appoint at least three Justices, with fair odds to appoint four, or even five. In two recent decisions, of importance to gun owners, *U.S. v. Lopez*, 115 S.Ct. 1624 (1995), declaring the "Gun Free School Zone Act" unconstitutional, and *Printz v. U.S.*, 117 S.Ct. 2365 (1997), declaring the Brady Act requirement that local officers conduct background checks unconstitutional, were both five to four decisions. The difference of one vote could have changed the outcome.

With a slim five to four majority supporting us, we cannot take any chances on this election. A change in the philosophy of the Court could drastically threaten our constitutional system. Democrat Candidate Al Gore has promised as much. He has promised that he will only appoint Justices who believe in a "living Constitution," rather than being bound by what the founders

The next president will likely appoint at least three Supreme Court justices, which could spell a constitutional nightmare. Imagine what would happen to your gun rights if Justices Charlie Schumer and Bill and Hillary Clinton were appointed by Al Gore? Schumer could be counted on for a "thumbs-up" for gun control, while Bill Clinton would wave goodbye to the Second Amendment.

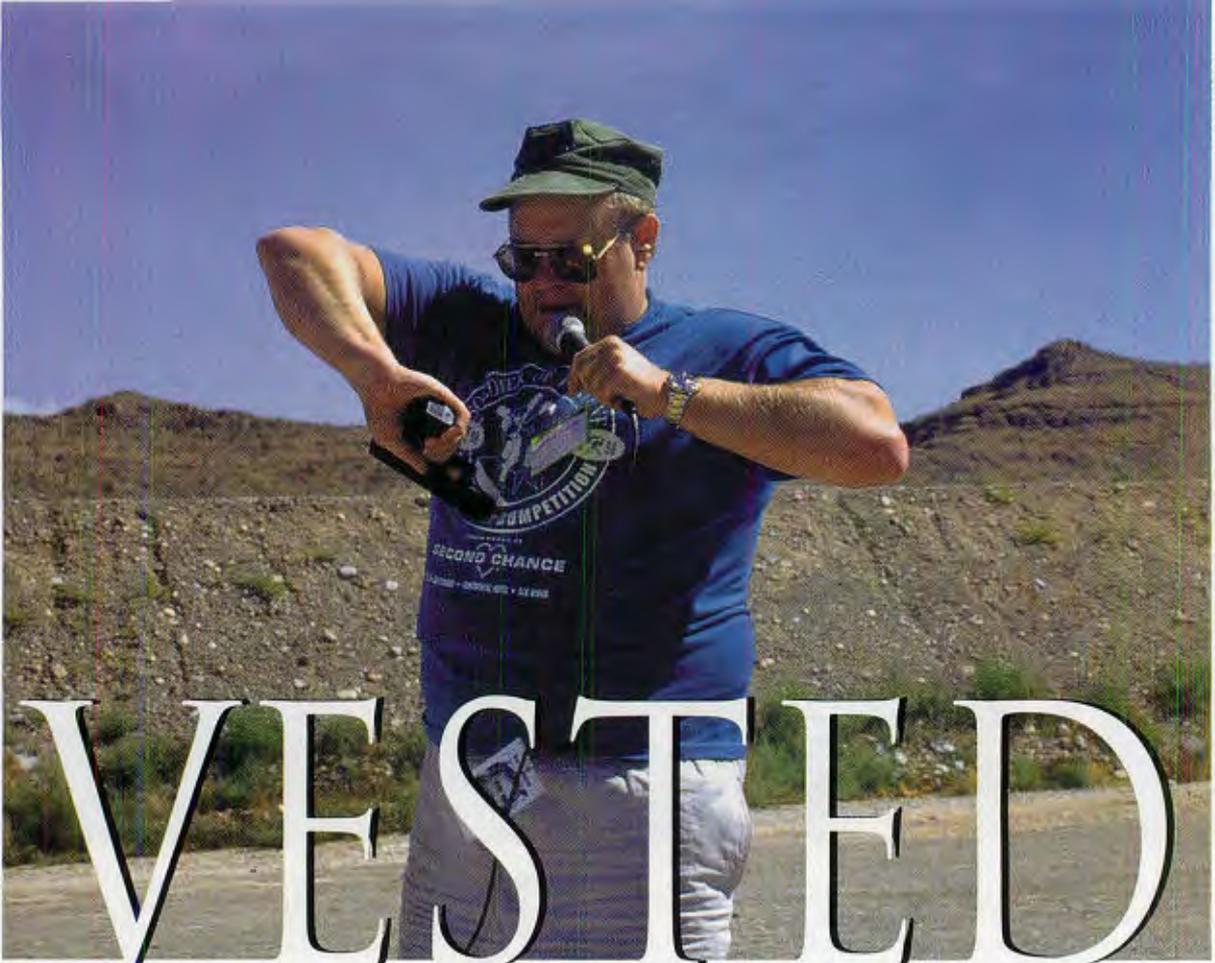
intended. This means that a left wing Court could change the meaning of the Constitution without changing a single word. The founders made the amendment process difficult to prevent a momentary emotion from sweeping changes into the Constitution. Proponents of the "living Constitution" have found a way around the amendment process. That is, the next president could appoint a Supreme Court which interprets the Constitution to mean what left wing extremists want it to mean. Think about it — if Al Gore is elected, what rights do you think you will have after eight years? Remember that a left wing Court could continue the Al Gore/Bill Clinton regime for the next 40 years. Do you want that?

You cannot take this election for granted. Everything you believe in is at stake. Each of you must register to vote, and vote against Al Gore. Each of you must work against the election of Al Gore. You must talk to your relatives, to your friends, to the people you work with. For the preservation of freedom, defeat Al Gore. ✕



With a slim five to four majority supporting the Second Amendment, we cannot take any chances on this election. A change in the philosophy of the Court could drastically threaten our constitutional system. Democrat Candidate Al Gore has promised as much. He has promised that he will only appoint Justices who believe in a "living Constitution," rather than being bound by what the founders intended.





VESTED INTERESTS

Second Chance Body Armor

by Al J. Venter

Richard Davis, inventor and owner of the company that manufactures the Second Chance vest, has cracked the weight barrier that has long eluded manufacturers of body armor. His company in Central Lake, Michigan is now producing a Threat Level 11A protective vest that is just slightly thicker than a tenth of an inch (.13 in.). At half-a-pound per square foot (or half the weight of any conventional bulletproof vest) and called the Ultima, it has been labeled by Davis as “eighth generation.”

In a demonstration specially organized for *Soldier Of Fortune*, the vest stopped a 127-grain 9mm +P+ bullet traveling at 1,250 fps. Similarly, a jacketed hollow-point bullet fired from a .357 SiG at 1,350 fps did not penetrate. In a previous test, the manufacturer showed the vest stopping a 250-grain .44 Mag Black Talon bullet. The Black Talon round has been banned in the United States because of its remarkable penetration and the fact that it disintegrates on entering the body, making it difficult for surgeons to recover the pieces afterwards.

The new Ultima is 35% lighter, and thinner than any fourth-generation body armor as used by most American police departments. It is so pliable and thin that an entire vest can be wadded up in two hands.

Zyloflex ballistic panels come in a waterproof Gore-Tex fabric sheath, which allows the body to “breathe” — essential in hot environments or confined spaces such as patrol cars. The life-saving ballistic vest that is not worn for lack of comfort cannot save lives. Typically, last summer a female police officer in London was stabbed to death while investigating a crime. She wasn’t wearing the protective vest that had been issued to her because “it was too hot and uncomfortable,” it was stated at the inquest.

Davis’ latest development follows the invention of a fiber called Pro Fiber Zylon in Japan. The material consists of rigid rod chain molecules of poly (p-phenylene-2.6 bezobisoxazole) or PBO for short. Its tensile strength is 10 times greater than steel and twice that of regular carbon or p-Aramid fibers. Also, the impact-energy absorption of Zylon is more than twice that of any p-Aramid composite.

No “let Mikey try it” here: Second Chance inventor/purveyor Richard Davis shoots himself in the gut with a service pistol — one more time — to illustrate the stopping ability of his product. Over the objections of his physician (blunt trauma, don’tcha know), Davis has done this nearly 200 times, usually to a stream of comic banter, as in this demonstration at the SOF Convention in Las Vegas.

Most important, Zylon does not burn. Its thermal stability is more than double that of other fibers used in body armor. The melting temperature is 650 degrees C.

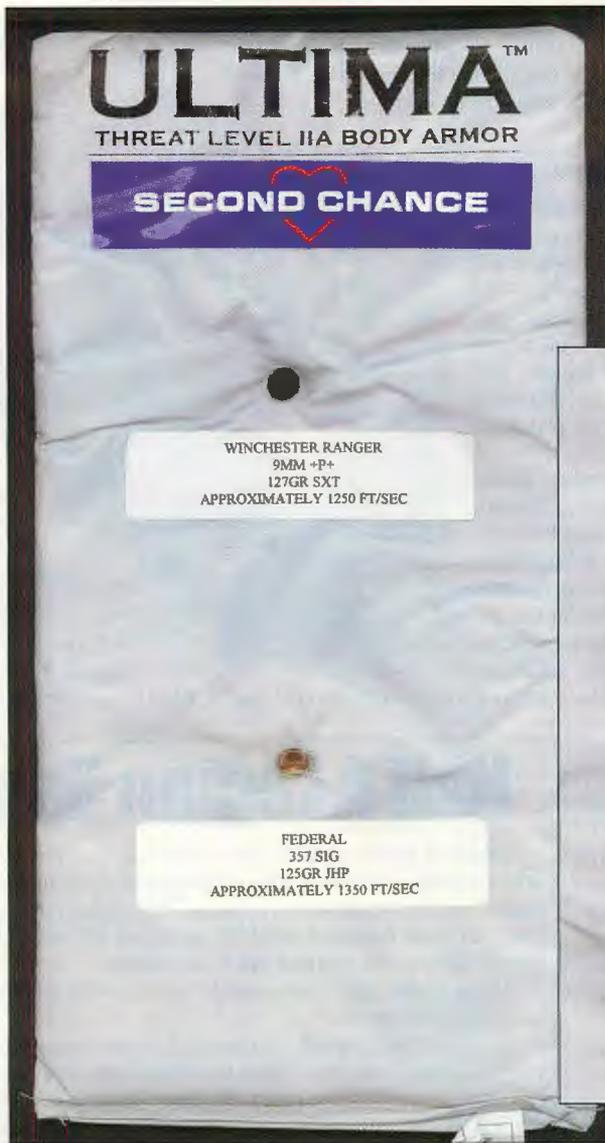
Zylon is manufactured by the Toyobo Company of Osaka, Japan, which at this stage can produce only limited amounts of Zylon fiber a month. Second Chance has contracted to take it all.

Born Of Necessity

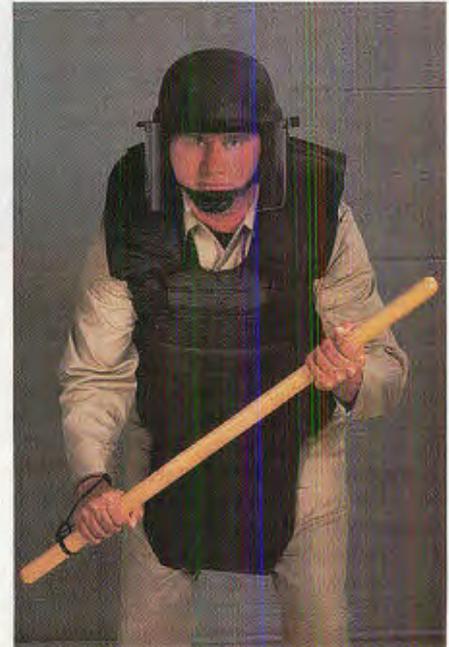
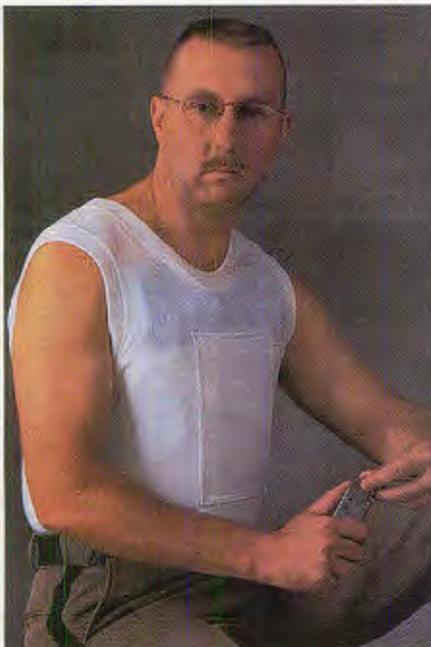
Davis says that the concept of soft body armor is nothing new: Man has been protecting himself since his very first primitive armed confrontations. Davis first invented concealable body armor 25 years ago after being shot twice in a 1969 Detroit mugging. Although one of his attackers did not survive, Davis did, and went on to design his first vest.

Apart from regular police use, there are government departments everywhere — secret service, airport security, the FBI, British Special Branch, drug agencies, security departments and others that regard the bullet-proof vest as important for field work as a badge and, where conditions prevail, a gun. One of Davis' early saves was three 9mm hits around the heart. All three hit one of his vests issued for the first time only an hour before a patrolman went out on the mean streets of Los Angeles. Davis, like most body armor manufacturers, provides a five-year warranty for all his products.

The early Second Chance vests were made of what was then termed "ballistic" nylon and cost less than \$100. They could stop a .357 Mag bullet but not 9x19mm or .44 Mag. Davis delivered a batch to the Detroit Police Department that was then losing six or seven officers a year from gunshot wounds. The first firearm save followed within weeks; novice Ron Jagielski's



Davis happily fired up a test swatch for *SOF*, and the Ultima Threat Level IIA stopped a Winchester Ranger 9mm +P+ 127-grain SXT traveling some 1,250 fps, and a Federal .357 SiG 125-grain JHP tooling along at about 1,350 fps. (inset) Note back view: Although the material's Gore-Tex cover was torn, neither round came even close to penetrating the vest itself.



Concealable body armor is best: Conventional Wisdom is "if they see the vest, they shoot for the head." Vests such as these (left) can be enhanced with the addition of ballistic panels from steel, titanium, ceramic. (center) When circumstances up the ante, so does Second

Chance, with increased ballistic protection available for almost any mission scenario. (right) Even rifle-caliber projectiles can be stopped by Hard Core combinations of ballistic fabric and hard panels. Photos courtesy of Second Chance.

vest stopped a .38 Special bullet next to his heart. Prior to that, the vests had prevented injury in two knifings. Since then, body armor has brought the number of fatalities in the Detroit Police Department down by half, which is the average across America.

The Legion Of The Saved

A recent Second Chance save — number 700 — was Ohio State police officer Angela Watson who had pulled over to talk to a pedestrian on the expressway. That person reacted by shooting the pint-size Lawson (5' 2", 110 pounds) with a .44 Magnum, knocking her to the ground. She retaliated from where she lay, pumping five rounds from her .40 service pistol into the suspect and killing him.

Shortly before, 145-pound Brian Power, attached to a Texas police department, had been hit at close range by a 12-gauge shotgun slug fired by a deranged husband who was upset with his wife. Power suffered blunt trauma from the hit but he still managed to return fire, striking the attacker twice with his .357 Magnum. His assailant, by now wounded and clearly not stable, doused himself with gasoline and set himself on fire.

From the first primitive vests that came off an improvised production line in the Great Lakes area, the body armor business has burgeoned. There are now several dozen companies worldwide offering such products. Over the years, hundreds of others — many sensing easy money — have tried to compete, but failed.

Central Michigan University Business School

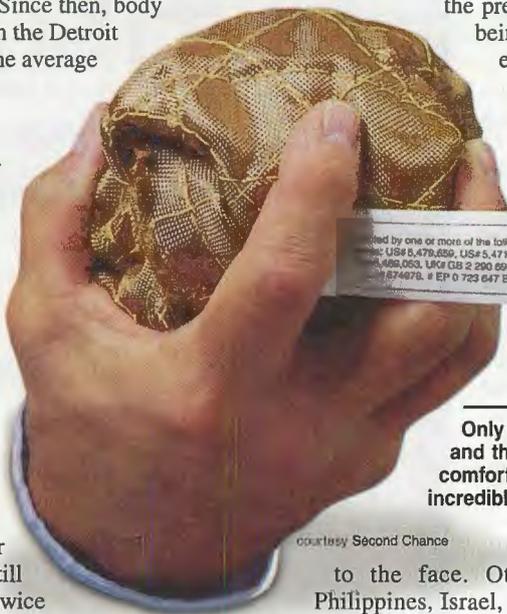
recently did a survey of some of the companies that produce body armor. There have been those who observe the industry from the outside, the report states, and think that it looks like easy money involv-



courtesy Second Chance

ing largely sewing machines and cloth. They were wrong. Davis says that dozens of companies have come and gone because they did not take into consideration the huge overhead. All large body armor companies place heavy emphasis on R&D. Also, the work is highly personalized with practical demonstrations making up part of the marketing strategy. In order to succeed, says Davis, body armor companies need to be able to show results, which, essentially, means the number of lives saved.

Richard Davis has been



courtesy Second Chance

shot while wearing his vest 182 times, most recently in the presence of HRH The Sultan of Dubai who, being better paid than any policeman, presented him with a gold Rolex for his efforts.

Strong Market For Strong Vests

What is clear is that body armor sells in huge quantities. The Los Angeles Police Department took 15,000 vests, Chicago 14,000. Davis also sold 6,000 of his Hard Core 2D vests with high-strength steel inserts to the Saudis. All included groin pads and were covered with Kevlar to prevent ricochets

Only comfortable body armor is likely to be worn, and the new Zyloflex Ultima is state-of-the art for comfort and concealability — a good handful of incredible protection.

to the face. Other foreign sales have gone to the Philippines, Israel, South Africa and Britain.

Just before Operation Desert Storm, he was approached by the U.S. Government to provide 300 specialized vests. It was an

urgent order, he was told. They never said what they were for or which unit ordered them, although he learned afterwards that there had been six hits and two lives saved.

The single common denominator throughout the industry is that almost all manufacturers use a similar raw product; artificial fibers produced in the United States, Japan and Holland. Much of it is Kevlar.

From vests with only limited stopping power 25 years ago, many versions of body armor have evolved. Some are now able to stop 7.62x51 NATO ball, as well as the Russian 7.63x39 round. Though many permutations have been tried, there is still no answer for armor-piercing rounds in the sort of light-weight vests that are the most popular in day-to-day policing. All manufacturers agree that the secret is having a product that is so comfortable that officers don't mind wearing it over an eight- or 10-hour shift.

Most quality vests are covered with a Gore-Tex layer to prevent fiber degrade from perspiration.

Davis's vests have even cracked a few police cases. Not long ago he was contacted by Germany's *Bundeskriminalal*. The regional headquarters of a Red Army faction had been raided and several Second Chance vests were discovered on the premises. Could he help? Since each of Davis's vests is

Half A Legion Saved

Saginaw, Mich., Police Officer Mike Jarabeck was shot five times while attempting to arrest a felon. He was hit twice in the chest, twice in the back and again, in the right arm. Though he ended up in the hospital, Jarabeck managed to kill his assailant: He owes his life to the Second Chance body armor that was wearing.

What makes the event notable is that Mike Jarabeck was the company's 500th save.

Jarabeck had responded to a call of a man brandishing a firearm and threatening residents. When he arrived at the Saginaw address, he was confronted by Benjamin Argumedo, a repeat offender with a drug and alcohol abuse prison record, out on parole.

His own gun drawn, Jarabeck ordered Argumedo to stand next to the patrol car; instead the suspect wheeled and fired six quick shots with a .22 handgun. After being hit twice, Jarabeck took cover behind his car but Argumedo followed him around and fired an additional four times. Any of the body hits could have been fatal, had Jarabeck not been wearing body armor.

It was only then that Jarabeck returned fire, hitting the suspect in the leg and in the side of the body. Argumedo died shortly afterwards. Jarabeck survived to be awarded a Michigan State Police medal for valor.

The Saginaw incident coincided with introduction of the new Second Chance "Police Pouch," designed with three important street lessons in mind:

- Wearing body armor greatly improves chances of survival in a firefight
- An increasing percentage of shootings now take place when officers are in civilian clothing and off duty
- The most common legal tactic used by defendants that shoot police officers is "self-defense," based on the premise they did not know he was a police officer.

"Police Pouch" is a compact and concealable product worn like a front waist pack, which holsters a sidearm and ammo plus ID. When threatened, the officer pulls up the .44-magnum-proof ballistic panel, which is clearly marked "police."

The Department of Justice recently released figures indicating that an officer's chances of being killed in a firefight are 14 times greater, if he is not wearing some sort of armor protection.

— A.J.V.

coded, he did. After explaining the procedure — and having established serial numbers — the Germans were able to track the source to a supplier of body armor in Switzerland. A week later several related arrests were made.

For this and other obvious reasons, most major body armor manufacturers tend to supply only to recognized law enforcement agencies and to governments. Less than 1% of Davis' production goes to private individuals, most of them in security work.

Some interesting observations about the efficacy of vests have emerged. In a recent survey of 60 police killings in the United States, 45 took shots in the chest and back, the majority from handguns and shotguns. While ballistic vests cover what is termed much of the "kill zone" on the torso, little can be done about protecting the head and neck or, in most instances, the groin where large blood vessels merge.

Keeping One Step Ahead

Patterns of criminality, too, have changed, particularly in the United States. Since the enactment of the 1968 Gun Control Act

(which purported to restrict the production of cheap, low-powered handguns) the trend has been for lawless elements to arm themselves with better quality, more powerful handguns. Prior to 1968, most of the illegal guns on the streets were cheap .38 Specials and smaller, including a preponderance of .22 calibers.

The late '70s reversed this situation, with notable exceptions such as the use of improvised weapons. Most of the guns now used by criminals are .38 Special and larger, with the .357 and 9x19mm predominating. Effectively, the 1968 legislation created a situation where felons have become better armed than before. This initially created serious problems for the makers of body armor, but as creative inventors such as Davis continued to apply leap-frogging technology to the problem, the up-gunned criminals again were checkmated.

Second Chance is heading toward its 800th save. As inventor Richard Davis proudly points out, "That's 751 fathers, mothers, sons, daughters and lovers, all of whom have been given a second chance."

Al J. Venter is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

The Material Aspect Of Saving Lives

Modern materials technology has played a pivotal role, enabling such pioneers as Richard Davis to save thousands of lives over the past two decades. Here is an overview of the products that make modern bullet-proof vests possible:

A typical security vest worn by law enforcement officers can consist of anything from 16 to 30 layers of cloth made from artificial fibers. The thickness varies, depending on the weave and the thickness of the thread. For comparison, a typical domestic sewing thread has a denier of between 100 and 200. The Kevlar thread used by Second Chance is 840 denier and is woven to a standard 24 strands (of 200 denier) to the inch.

Special vests made for prison staff — and guaranteed resistant to knife attacks — have a much tighter weave of 70 strands to the inch. It is noteworthy that these vests are not as *bullet* resistant, ounce-for-ounce, as the looser weave of body armor vests which incorporate the thicker threads, but behind prison walls this is usually not an issue.

While many different types of cloth are used in body armor, there is still some demand for outdated "ballistic" nylon, which is cheap and drapes well, but can burn. Du Pont makes it only on special order. The manufacturers of soft concealable vests concentrate principally on four products: Kevlar and Spectra, which are American products, the Dutch Twaron from AKZO and Zylon (also known as PBO), which is Japanese.

KEVLAR (American): Used by manufacturers of body armor everywhere and imported from Du Pont in the United States, Kevlar has a huge advantage over others because it is light, accessible, very bullet resistant and fire resistant. There is restricted access to this product to prevent it falling into the wrong hands. When Kevlar replaced "ballistic" nylon in the seventies, it cut weight and thickness in half and doubled the stopping power. Another advantage of Kevlar is that it "breathes" well.

It is interesting that Kevlar was discovered almost by accident. In the early '70s, U.S. tire manufacturers were searching for a product a third stronger than nylon that would allow vehicle tires to withstand the heat and pressures of a car travelling for eight or 10 hours at 125mph. A scientist at Du Pont, Ms. Stephanie Kowaljak, discovered what was later called Kevlar 29 and which provided a 400% improvement. (Later improvements were called Kevlar 49; today's version is Kevlar 129.)

The 1973 Arab/Israeli war put a stop to such high-speed travel plans, and Du Pont was suddenly left with a product without a market, at least until Richard Davis came along.

TWARON (Dutch): Virtually the same as Kevlar, but from the Dutch AKZO company. Twaron makes an excellent soft body armor but it is more expensive than the American product. It also "breathes" well. Many European manufactures have turned to this "home grown" product.

SPECTRA (American): Ounce-for-ounce, as strong as Kevlar, this product from Allied Chemical has a waterproof application. It is usually covered by a plastic cloth that makes it very hot and stiff compared to the softer options. Its most glaring disadvantage is that it can ignite.

ZYLON (Japanese): Often called "Super-Kevlar," it is lighter and 30-to-50% stronger than Kevlar. The single disadvantage is that it costs three times as much. Zylon is not in mass production at this stage. High manufacturing costs prevent it from expanding its potential into widespread use.

STEEL INSERTS: Super-hard alloy steel inserts are intended to counter large-caliber rifle bullets; 3/16th of an inch thick and weighing 9 pounds per square foot, these inserts come in plates measuring 10x13 inches. Second Chance combines these with a Kevlar/nylon laminate next to the body. Advantages are that it is cheap and rugged, but obviously, it is heavy. This combination can stop 7.62x39 rounds and the SS109 5.56x45 rounds, but not 7.62x51 AP.

CERAMIC INSERTS: The "Rabitex" K47 CL (Ceramic Light) at 6 pounds per square foot is appreciably lighter than steel inserts. They do have a similar stopping power to steel but won't withstand repeated hits around the edges. The inserts are basically composed of a succession of linked, two-inch squares. Their advantage is that they are not as cumbersome as the steel product. Conversely, ceramic is more expensive and not as rugged as metal.

TITANIUM: Very light inserts that are only .06 inches (1.5mm) thick. The advantages are lightness, comfort and concealability. A well-molded titanium plate is difficult to detect under a jacket. Expense is the main problem here; they cost twice as much as ceramic inserts and are 10 times the price of steel. There is a 50% weight saving over steel. The standard titanium insert doesn't go so well with the tungsten-steel-core hardened bullet; for that there is the A10, also titanium, which is twice as thick.

ALUMINUM: There are still some manufacturers who produce aluminum inserts; while reasonably priced and lightweight, they do not stop rifle bullets unless they are of unusual thickness, which defeats the purpose of concealable armor.

— A.J.V.



They Were Expendable

Task Force Smith And The 21st Infantry Regiments' First Battles In Korea

by Carl F. Bernard

Photos: U.S. Army, courtesy Presidio Press from *War In Korea*

Of the 406 men in Task Force Smith, only 221 survived the war.

... Before the North Korean infantry attack began, I heard our bazookas firing, but saw their tanks coming through anyway. Assuming our young gunners were missing their targets, I went with my bazooka gunner into a ditch leading to the road that NK tanks were using to split our company positions. Another platoon leader, 2/Lt. Jansen Cox, was there already with his bazooka team, and we fought from the relatively safe haven of the ditch. (The T-34's co-axial machine guns were the only danger we faced from the culvert, so we were safe as soon as a tank's big tube passed us by.) The eight hits I made myself on the sides of the

passing T-34s had no discernible effect, but corrected my impression that our gunners were firing wide and taught me a valuable lesson for "Love" Company's fight the following week.

My intent in this vignette is to draw upon my experiences to help soldiers and Marines better understand and prepare for the world they will confront in combat. Fighters must lead their fellows through danger — for some, through the last minutes of their lives. "Leader" is a formal designation, but its affirmation is always in the hands of those who are led. In battle, fighter-leaders are themselves vulnerable, and often short-lived.

What We Were

In 1950, when North Korea's invasion of South Korea provoked our "Police Action," all units of our occupation forces in Japan were under-strength, our arms obsolete and in disrepair. Many weapons had been condemned as "unfit for combat" by our division ordnance inspectors. For example, a sergeant and I had taught a class on flame-

(above) Captured by communist forces on the night of 9 July 1950, this GI from the 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division, and three of his comrades were tied up and shot in the head.

throwers the month before we debarked for Korea, but we had to cannibalize all eight weapons in the Regiment to get two that worked. All had been used hard by the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment on Corregidor five years earlier.

The NK attack on the South caught us by surprise. But we assumed the NK troops would turn around and run back home as soon as American troops appeared on the field. We would just throw together a task force, drop them into the action, and they would be home by Christmas — then we realized *we didn't have a single battle-ready regiment in all of Japan*. So we stripped essential men and equipment from other already skeletonized units to form Task Force Smith.

Lieutenant Colonel Brad Smith was being sent to quell a force that was better armed and certainly better trained for their campaign than his occupation troops. Our first fight in Korea was with 406 men who had to move up, locate, and prepare a defensive position in less than five days. We were roundly defeated.

Compare this preparation and result with the more than 400,000 troops and five months preparation for the Persian Gulf conflict. Only five years after World War II, the victorious American Army had become shamefully unready for combat. Our national tradition held that we didn't need a standing army once the enemy at hand was beaten. Hiroshima and Nagasaki persuaded us that ground forces were no longer relevant. We wanted to enjoy the peace we had earned, so we slashed our defense budget and the size of our forces. Our intelligence services soon filled with incompetents, and we blindly chose to assign our least qualified personnel to units that would be first in combat. As a final grave error, we constantly shuffled the occupation troops in Japan. A capable fighting unit is far more than a set of well-trained and competent individuals. Combat units survive when personnel know and trust each other. Unit cohesion — the most beautiful word in the lexicon of soldiers, was non-existent.

What We Did

OSAN: As one of only two lieutenants in the regiment trained as parachutists, I was sent to the airfield at Kokura, Japan to load out Task Force Smith. I was not formally assigned to the unit; Colonel Smith simply said, "Stay on the plane. I've got work for you." This was my fourth platoon in eight months, assuring me about the same close personal contacts as a hired gun. In our first battle at Osan, my platoon in TFS was positioned to delay the attacking NK forces. Working all night, we had barely dug in when 33 Soviet-built T-34 tanks hit us. Our only "anti-tank" weapons, the 2.36-inch bazookas, were utterly useless. The official history says we failed to get orders to withdraw and didn't know the rest of the outfit had left. True, and this error left us serving as rear guard rather than close-in combat outpost line (COPL) originally required by



In 1948, Korea, recently liberated from the Japanese and a hotbed of communist activity, was slated for its first free elections ever. (above), demonstrations by communists and opposing factions in Seoul ended in riot; communist guerrilla activity and terrorism was answered by citizen groups armed with bamboo spears (center), as Koreans were not allowed to own guns; on election Day — 10 May 1948 — U.S. Army units (bottom), stood guard along the 38th Parallel: The surprise invasion would come two years later.



our location. Because we stayed too long in a losing fight our platoon was destroyed.

We could not bring one badly wounded sergeant with us. We left him to a Korean farmer with a wheelbarrow, my rosé gold Longines wristwatch, and a note asking the first American unit he met to give the farmer \$100 cash for delivering the sergeant. They arrived in Pusan on the 8th, making it to the coast and down on a fishing boat! The remnants of my platoon and other stragglers we gathered reached our retreating forces after three days of prudent walking around NK units.

We had gone sharply east from Osan, in hilly country, then west to regain the main road. We had broken into a schoolhouse near Ansong and torn a large map from a geography book that showed two roads branching south to Chonan. I met the 34th Infantry Regimental Commander later there. On my schoolbook map I located all NK tank units we had seen (we could not have evaded infantry) and explained their locations to the Colonel. I described the fight at Osan with particular emphasis on the invulnerable tanks. I was adamant about the impossibility of our little 2.36-inch bazookas killing tanks, even from the flank where I had been shooting. He asked if I had pulled the rocket's safety clips before loading and firing, and speculated that the fuses were possibly too old or had been badly stored, or damaged in Japan.

The fragments I had in my face and hands helped convince him that most were exploding just fine. I did believe some of our bazooka rounds had not exploded, and attributed this to the warhead not having time to arm at short range. I showed him how we were relatively safe firing from our culvert after the tank's big tubes with coaxial-mounted MGs had passed. In General Gavin's book, *On To Berlin*, he details bury-

ing parachutists in Sicily with chunks of bazookas ground up in their bodies. Officers who knew the bazooka didn't work and failed to alert our soldiers to its inability to kill tanks neglected a vital duty — especially while they kept the larger, much more effective 3.5-inch rocket launcher back in the States. (I am far angrier over this even today than this moderate statement reveals.)

The Colonel had someone with him who knew the tanks were T-34s, the Russians most deadly armor at the end of World War II. Artillery would have made a difference when the NK infantry dismounted and moved in those long lines around us, but their tanks had torn out our phone wire and rain took out our obsolete radios, stopping all communications. My platoon's light machine gun and BARs were not effective once the North Koreans got off their trucks. The .50 might have reached them (firing from a knob several hundred yards behind me) but the Koreans were never in range of my platoon's light weapons until dispersing just before their assault. This is almost the same story as later at Chochiwon, particularly where long NK columns walked around us. We fired; They kept on their course.

Believing I was merely "on loan" to B Company, I went back to "Love" after Doc Duerk finished patching me up. Captain Cox had given away my platoon, but said one would be available shortly. Very true. Platoon leaders are vulnerable.

CHONUI: A and D Companies of the 21st Infantry Regiment's First Battalion, not committed at Osan and still usable, were in a blocking position at Chonui. They were attacked early on 10 July by a force they could not contain. Their forced withdrawal left a number of their men behind in uncoordinated fragments. The Regiment's Third Battalion counterattacked, recovering the position about noon on 10 July. The NK

offered considerable resistance, but could not mount a coherent defense of the positions. The largest group of men we rescued from A Company was about 10. We found four men on the 81mm mortar position with hands tied behind them with telephone wire, each shot in the head.

CHOCHIWON: Despite dislocations caused by large numbers of wounded, killed, and evacuated during the counterattack, our night withdrawal to our original positions north of Chochiwon was tightly controlled. K Company's positions had been partially occupied by NK soldiers who flanked us while we were focused on Chonui. They fought much of the night, forcing K Company into somewhat different placements from their earlier prepared defenses. At first light, The NK came through our just-evacuated positions at Chonui to attack our new location through heavy fog. One of their echelons moved close against our front and kept us under sporadic fire. As the fog cleared we could see trotting formations scurrying eastward, parallel to our positions.

This had happened before at Osan on the 5th. Here also, my light machine guns and those of the third platoon could not stop their flanking movements, and the company mortars were shooting for first platoon. Our artillery, unknown to us, had already been taken out by what proved to be a problematic ally: the USAF. They had also taken out our battalion's forward air controller earlier with MG fire.

"Love" Company was given an idiotic "hold at all costs" order to stay put.

Task Force Smith, the ad hoc reaction force hurriedly pieced together from soft occupational troops in Japan, debarks from a train in South Korea, 2 July 1950. Only half these ill-trained, ill-equipped and poorly supported troops would survive the war.



It was retracted at 1100 hours, and we were authorized to pull back at 1130. Captain Cox gave me the artillery FO and instructions to stay in position until then. The official history would later say: "This attack on the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry was one of the most perfectly coordinated assaults ever launched by North Koreans against American troops." Our defense would be described as "... the most impressive performance yet of American troops in Korea." Small comfort to the men who paid its costs.

We didn't know the NK forces had already flanked our positions and had machine guns on the ridge behind us before launching their "pinning" attack. Our ammunition had been severely depleted by the previous day's fight, and NK roadblocks to the company's rear kept us from being resupplied. Most survivors of this fight went due south in small groups into the NK force behind us. Thirty-seven of these men found they had no option but to surrender. Many of these did not survive their stay in "Tiger's Camp." ("Johnny's list," kept in a toothpaste tube by one of them, tells when, how, and where these POWs died. See *Reader's Digest*, January 1998.)

The official history describes our retreat: "One officer of L Company (me) who came out with some men said that after he and others had removed an enemy machine gun blocking their escape route, many uninjured men by the side of the road simply refused to try to go on. One noncom said, 'Lieutenant, you will have to go on, I'm too beat up. They'll just have to take me.'" He was not from L Company, so I never learned if he survived prison camp, but his odds were grim. Two months later I helped identify the bodies of those who had been KIA or wounded early in the fight. All the wounded had been killed, as had many who surrendered. Graves Registration led me, sobbing badly, through our abandoned positions and the battalion aid station to name the ones I could.

Almost all the captured Love Company men were taken after we stayed much too long above Chochiwon because of the "hold at all costs" order that kept us in place. We delayed the North Koreans for two days, but with tragic losses. The lucky handful with me covering the final withdrawal went west across the road where the BN CP had been, crossed the railroad track and river, and survived to fight again.

The lessons: First, be lucky; then keep a clip of ammunition for the pullout you may have to make; and never willingly take the desperate gamble of life as a POW.

"What We Learned"

Official data regarding rifle companies shows almost 90% of World War II casualties (killed, captured, and wounded) were in the Army. Of these, about 90% were in the infantry's rifle platoons. I suspect 90% of the other casualties were Marine infantrymen. Essentially, the numbers say that being

Continued on page 57



South Korean soldiers, carrying WWII Japanese rifles with no bolts, march to the battle zone to attempt the repel the invasion from the North in early July 1950.



Yanks from the Korean Military Advisory Group evacuated Seoul on 27 June 1950, crossed the Han river on small boats, and here march 16 miles to Suwon Airbase. This was to be the first of many routs before Allied forces were marshalled to fight. (below) By the end of July 1950, ROK and American forces had sustained heavy losses, but were beginning to stem the tide. Many more years of losses would be taken before the North Korean communists were driven back to the 38th Parallel.



1999



SOLDIER OF FORTUNE CONVENTION / EXPO

The Millennium's Ultimate Rendezvous

Once again, "people like us" met in Las Vegas, Nevada, for the 20th annual Soldier Of Fortune Convention and EXPO. We came from different parts of the United States and the world to this one place. We came to renew old friendships, to speak of our experiences from the previous year, and to share time with those who think like us.

With the Cold War in full swing and a good portion of the Third World ablaze, *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine was founded in the summer of 1975, when Colonel Robert K. Brown published the first issue with subscription money he had collected in a shoebox. First as a quarterly magazine, then a bi-monthly, and for the past 19 years as a monthly magazine, *Soldier Of Fortune* is now in its two hundred and seventy-third issue. Regardless of adversity and political climate, *SOF* has survived through combat, fascist governmental assaults, and the attempts of copycats to sink this journalistic ship as it has

"...I have my doubts as to how much longer we and people like us will be permitted by law to meet in this venue and under these free circumstances ..."

*— Col. Robert K. Brown,
Editor/Publisher,
Soldier Of Fortune magazine*

**Text & Photos by
Chris Mayer**

plied the waters of a violent world for nearly a quarter century.

SOF correspondents have traveled to every war torn corner of the world in search of the truth and to fight for right. Vietnam, Rhodesia, Angola, Southwest Africa, South Africa, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Beirut, Bosnia, Chechnya, The Gulf, and Albania are but a few of the fights that *SOF* has adopted as their own. The names of old friends like George Bacon, Lance Motley, and Robert MacKenzie top the *Soldier Of Fortune* killed-in-action list from these and other

Wars fought against communism and the tyrants of the world.

The first Convention was held in Joplin, Missouri, in 1980, the second in Scottsdale, Arizona, the third in Charlotte, North Carolina. Las Vegas became the AO in 1983. Although civilized by most standards, craziness sometimes prevailed. Rappelling from the tops of tall buildings, smoke grenades in the pool, sub-surface pistol test firing, damaged poolside cabana bars, shark



(above, left to right) SOF's Robert K. Brown with seminar speaker Jeff Cooper. Poolside activities included disaster survival skills with Learn to Return Training Systems. Armalite, Inc. previews their new 50 BMG rifle.



(left to right) Classic Lewis Gun is fired to the delight of all. Military collectors exhibited trucks, motorcycles, and cannons. Convention headquarters: Palace Station Hotel.

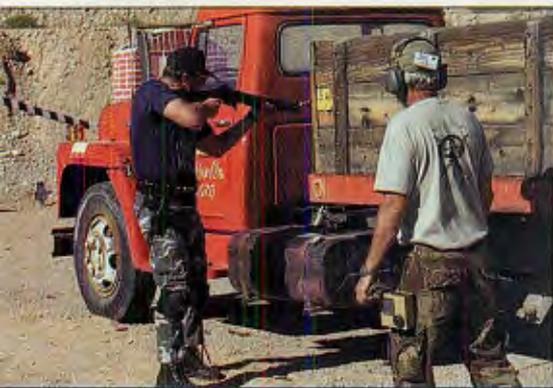


(left and above) Firepower Demonstration again draws standing-room-only crowd.



(above) New poolside knife-fighting contest was a hit with participants and observers. (right) SOF EXPO was a huge success in its first year at the Cashman Center.





Participant engages target during shotgun portion of 3-Gun Match.



Ben Rossen and auctioneer Robert Deiro offer Barry Sadler's guitar.



Robbie Barkman shows off his .50 BMG rifle, the RC 50.



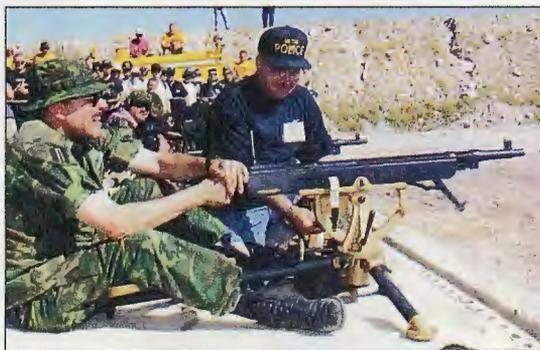
SOF's Robert K. Brown (left), is presented with his traditional Bill Bagwell knife, serial #007.



All contestants in the nightly knife-fighting contest lived to tell about it.



(far left) The Bushmaster Firearms display at the SOF Expo. (left) A 1915 Marlin "Potato Digger" is put through its paces at the Firepower Demo. (above) Vector Arms New Model HR4332 UZI submachine gun fired flawlessly.



repellant and ducks in the pool, beer-drinking from an artificial leg, and who could possibly forget the chopper insertion of porn-queen Marilyn Chambers at the range. These are "said" to have occurred during the convention, but this is only rumor!

For the 1999 Convention, the 1,028-room Palace Station Hotel was the HQ, providing upgraded rooms and facilities. Having four bars, eight restaurants, an extensive casino area, and the requisite swimming pools, conventioners and EXPO goers had a sufficiently large AO to drink, swap lies, and be civilized.

Seminars

Always an important part of the affair, the 1999 Convention offered 21 top-quality seminars presented by celebrated experts, military operatives, authors, and conservative Second Amendment Rights advocates. The threat to the United States from the outside and within, politics, real world operations, heroism, history, and weapons topics were all featured in this year's seminars.

Politics and the threat to America were discussed during the seminars "Toboggan

Ride to Tyranny," with *Send in the Waco Killers* author, Vin Supynowicz, and "Murder in High Places," with the author of *The Strange Death of Vince Foster*, Christopher Ruddy. Investigative journalist, and the producer of the Waco video documentaries, Mike McNulty, revealed even more evidence of brutal government fascism during his seminar, "Waco: What's New?" A very small glimmer of hope was even fostered in Grover Norquist's presentation of "Election 2000: The Winner Will Be?"

The threats from beyond our borders were outlined during "The Chi-Com Military Threat to the United States," by William Gertz, and Major Andy Messing's seminar "Colombia: Latin America's Vietnam." Daniel New, the father of U.S. Army Specialist, blue beret protester, and court-martial victim, Michael New, discussed some of the implications of One World Government for the United States military in "Should American Soldiers Become U.N. Mercenaries?"

Although we have all survived, thus far anyway, Ragnar Benson, author of more than 40 how-to and survival books,

addressed "Y2K ... Surviving the Crisis." Survival authority Brian Horner proposed that "Life and Death Emergencies" could be successfully dealt with given the proper preparation and training.

Air operations during the ill-fated 1961 invasion of Cuba were outlined by U.S. Air Force (Ret.) Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Shannon during his talk "Bombs Over the Bay of Pigs," while "CIA Cold War Ops-Tibet" were shown the light of day by retired USAF Brigadier General Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt. United States Marine Corps Vietnam-era sniper Sergeant Chuck Macwhinney, with 103 confirmed kills to his credit, and Maj. Dick Culver (Ret.) covered the historical aspects of "Marine Snipers in Vietnam."

A special seminar presentation, "Columbine: Lessons Learned," was hosted by SOF Contributing Editor Rick Sherrow and featured this year's SOF Humanitarian Award winner, Pearl Mississippi High School Principal, Joel Myrick.

As always, firearms were the topic of SOF Technical Editor, Peter G. Kokalis, when he presented his always-attentive

3-Gun Match Winners

3-Gun Match Winners
3-Gun Match Winners

Robert K. Brown and Soldier Of Fortune wish to congratulate not only the winners, but all participants:

TOP TEN INDIVIDUAL WINNERS:

1. Bennie Cooley, Jr.
2. Michael Voigt
3. Jim Clark, Jr.
4. Todd Salmon
5. Jerry Miculek
6. Eric Miller
7. Tony Holmes
8. Darren Davenport
9. Kurt Miller
10. Blane West

TOP INDIVIDUALS BY CATEGORY:

Top Full-Time Law Enforcement

Bennie Cooley, Jr.

Top Reserve Law Enforcement

Chris Van Etten

Top Senior

John Cook

Top Tyro Individual

Patrick Kelley

Top Military

Michael Lyman

Top Woman

Sonya Seaman

TOP TEAMS:

Open Sponsor Team Marksman Division

"Keal Custom Guns"

Bill Dyer
Brian Lenz
Tony Cimadevilla
Tom Naelon

Open Sponsor Team Expert Division

"Armalite/Bushnell"

Bennie Cooley, Jr.
Mike Voigt
John Cook
Jim Clark, Jr.

Law Enforcement Street Team Division

"Border Bandits"

David Bridgman
Russ Bristol
Wayne Doeden
Jeff Gross

Law Enforcement Trainer Team Division

"L.A. Precision"

Tony Huerstal
Chris Christensen
Bill Parmelee
Dave Wheeler



Jim Clark Jr. receives the first SOF Three-Gun Match Combat Master award.



#1 Woman shooter, Sonya Seaman, receives her award from Three-Gun Match Director Michael Horne.



#1 Male shooter Bennie Cooley Jr. receives his prizes.

audience with a discussion on "The Search for the Magic Bullet." What was his conclusion? The effort to find a magic bullet to provide a ballistic solution to every problem is not possible at this point in firearms projectile design. This is no more likely than the Clinton cronies desire to have a practical child-protecting smart gun produced as outlined by the Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Alliance of America, Jim Fotis, in the seminar "Smart Guns Technology."

Gun guru Jeff Cooper provided his case for the operational combat use of the Scout Rifle during his presentation of "The Scout: A Rifle for Irregular Warfare," and lastly, Bob Glass, the outspoken Second Amendment Rights advocate and publisher of *The Partisan*,

3-Gun Match Sponsors

3-Gun Match Sponsors
3-Gun Match Sponsors

Robert K. Brown and the staff of Soldier Of Fortune wish to thank the 1999 3-Gun Match Sponsors for their steadfast and generous support:

- ADCO Sales, Inc.
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- Autauga Arms
- Armalite
- B-Square
- Bagwell Knives
- Baird Co.
- Christine Balboni
- Benchmade Knife Co.
- Beretta U.S.A.
- Blackhawk Industries
- Black Hills Ammunition
- Blade Tec
- Body Armor
- Buckles By Mike
- Bushmaster Firearms
- Bushnell/Holosight
- Caspian Arms
- Cold Steel
- Custom Knife
- DPMS
- Dillion Precision Products
- GG&G
- Gerber Knives
- Glock
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- Ka-Bar Knives
- Kel-Tec
- Michaels of Oregon
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- Milt Sparks Holsters
- Navy Arms
- Olympic Arms
- Richard Cowell Co.
- Rocky Mountain Arms
- Second Chance Body Armor
- Smith & Wesson
- S.P.I.K.E./Woodmans
- Springfield Armory
- Spyderco
- Sturm, Ruger & Co.
- Storm Mountain Training Center
- Taurus Firearms
- Thunder Ranch
- U.S. Cavalry

1999 SOF Humanitarian Award

The Winner of the 1999 *SOF* Humanitarian Award is Joel Myrick from Corinth, Mississippi, for a display of courage and selflessness above and beyond the call of duty.

Myrick was the vice principal of Pearl High School on 1 October 1997, when Luke Woodham, a 16-year-old, opened fire on his fellow students with a .30-.30 rifle, killing two and injuring seven. Woodham, who had killed his mother before his shooting rampage, was leaving the campus when Myrick single-handedly apprehended the murderous teenager. It is believed that Woodham was going to Pearl Junior High School to continue his killing when Myrick stopped him.

Myrick, commander of the 631st Field Artillery Brigade of the Mississippi Army National Guard and now the principal of Corinth High School, risked his own life to protect others when he acted "above and beyond the call of duty."



Manufacturers Demos

New for 1999 were "hands on" manufacturer demos. Accuracy International, Armalite, D.S. Arms, GSI/Steyr, L.A.R., Robar, SIG, Taurus, Vektor USA, and ZDF Import/Export, among many others, gave all who were interested an opportunity to test fire their offerings. Hornady Manufacturing provided the ammunition for this premier event.

Firepower Demo

The Arizona Emma Gees again presented the highlight of the convention for many with the world-famous *SOF* Firepower Demo. With eighteen machine guns on the line, *SOF*'s Technical Editor Peter G. Kokalis presented the overflow crowd with his always-caustic humor and historical information on some of the most exotic and rare machine guns.

Examples of nearly every Soviet machine gun, the British Vickers, the Potato Digger, German MG-34 and MG-42, a Swedish Maxim, and the venerable Ma Deuce clattered away at exploding targets and a "terrorist" van downrange. The Convention's most popular event, the Firepower Demo did not fail to bring cheers from the spectators.

EXPO

The Consumer/Trade Exposition provided more exhibitors, both large and small, than any previous year, furnishing an even larger crowd of attendees an opportunity to examine and purchase a variety of the newest and most sophisticated weapons and accessories available on today's market. Firearms, ammunition, gun parts and upgrade items, optics, military equipment, knives, books, collectibles, and Y2K items crowded the nearly 500 booths and tables.

Accuracy International's booth exhibited their line of fine precision rifles, including information on the .50-caliber AW50F and AW50FT (titanium). The AW50F/T are the virtual Rolls Royce of these big bore weapons. With a folding stock, the same ergonomic stock configuration as utilized in their other offerings, and the well-respected precision potential that is synonymous with the Accuracy International name, this big .50 is worthy of consideration.

Armalite Inc. unveiled their new .50 BMG single-shot bolt-action precision rifle, the AR-50. Featuring a 31-inch chrome-molly steel barrel, a bolt with three heavy duty forward locking lugs, an aluminum stock, and an impressive muzzle brake, it is an interesting addition to currently available rifles in this powerful cartridge. The Armalite AR-10 and M15 series of rifles were also displayed for examination.

The Barrett Firearms booth displayed their reliable and battle tested M82A1 semi-auto .50 as utilized by the U.S. Military.

explored "The Future of Gun Rights."

Three-Gun Tactical Match

This year's Three-Gun Tactical Match brought 240 competitors from throughout the United States and several foreign countries. They put their skill-at-arms to the test during three days of shooting that was a challenge to all.

Once more, with Match Director Michael Horne at the helm, the scenarios were mind-numbing exercises for each individual. Complicated tasks of tactics, weapons handling, precision shooting, and the competitor's endurance were tested beyond normal limits. After negotiating eight stages of fire and a team competition, they had exhibited their skill-at-arms for all around them. All won in one form or the other, some valuable prizes and trophies, and others pride in their performance or a determination to further improve their skills for the next time.



(above) M-96 Expedition Rifle is fired during the Manufacturer's Demonstration. (far right) Eighteen machine guns opened fire on command at the Firepower Demo. *SOF*'s Technical Editor, Peter G. Kokalis (right), introduced each weapon and shared poignant facts with the audience.



Debbie Meyer

Barrett's soft mount with a standard small pintal allows for attachment of the M82A1 to M3 and M122 tripods. Their M95 bullpup bolt action with a five-shot detachable magazine weighs in at 22 pounds with a 29-inch barrel and 45-inch overall length. The new M99 "Big Shot", single shot bolt action, provides a 33-inch barrel resulting in an overall length of 50.4 inches with a weight of 25 pounds.

Robbie Barkman, ROBAR head honcho, was present to show off his .50 BMG RC-50 bolt action rifle in the several available configurations along with his other offerings in the precision rifle arena. The RC-50 is available magazine fed or single shot, with a standard or folding stock. Barkman also offers his Roguard and NP3 refinishing services.

L.A.R. Manufacturing displayed their single-shot bolt-action bullpup design, the Grizzly 50 Big Boar Competitor Rifle. The Big Boar weighs in at 30.4 pounds offering a 36-inch barrel with an overall length of only 45.5 inches.

If the big .50 were not your forte, then visits to GG&G would have revealed their line-of-sight mounts, custom rifles, and refinishing services. Buchmaster/Quality Parts, D.P.M.S., and Olympic Arms could provide either a complete rifle or any AR-15/M-16 part you might need. H-S Precision displayed the Pro-Series 2000 rifle and their precision stocks. D.S. Arms, Inc. presented their SA58 FN/FAL-styled rifle and receiver line. Ruger, H&K, Glock, and SIG pistols were available for examination, as were the collectable firearms from Navy Arms and the Gibbs Rifle Company.

Holsters by Andrews Custom Leather and Blade-Tech, all manners of nylon gear from Eagle Industries and Shooting Systems, ammunition from Hornady or Cor-Bon, and if your personal appearance was important to you, Billy Bob Teeth and an SOF T-shirt could be had.

And finally, for the student of firearms and military history, books, magazines, and videotapes were available from Lancer Militaria, Phillips Publications, *Small Arms Review*, and *Shotgun News*.

Participatory Events

The participatory events are one of the things that set the SOF Convention apart. Whether you wanted to learn "Underwater Escape Techniques" by riding a crash simulator into the pool under the guidance of Alaska-based Learn to Return Training Systems, or fire in a "Full-Auto Assault Rifle/Submachine Gun Match" sponsored by the Las Vegas institution The Gun Store, it was available to you. If, however, your interest lay in a more close and personal direction, you could try "Combat Martial Arts and Weapon Retention," with Bill Vives, "Ka-Bar Knife Fighting," taught by Kevin Martin, of Military Weapons Specialties, or "Street Knife Basics," with TOPS Knives' Mike Fuller and Rick Adrian. For an even closer experience, one could opt

Continued on page 88

1999 Keynote Speaker

Termed an "ideological gangster" by the Soviet press, "the real Indiana Jones" by the *Wall Street Journal*, and the "creator of the Reagan Doctrine" by the *Washington Post*, the 1999 banquet goers were honored to have Dr. Jack Wheeler as their keynote speaker.

Dr. Wheeler, holding a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Southern California, has enjoyed two parallel careers as an adventurer and a conservative political activist.

As an adventurer, he climbed the Swiss Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont in Greece and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, and hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17. He has led numerous expeditions worldwide, including 18 to the North Pole, and has made "first contact" with three native tribes who had never been touched by the outside world.

As an advocate of political freedom and the founder of The Freedom Research Foundation, Dr. Wheeler made extensive visits to anti-Soviet guerrilla insurgents in Nicaragua, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Laos, and Afghanistan. Making additional contacts with the democracy movements in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, he became an unofficial liaison between those groups and the Reagan White House. His contribution to the "Reagan Doctrine" and the eventual demise of the Evil Empire was crucial.

Via The Freedom Research Foundation, Dr. Wheeler continues to provide vital information to Congressional Offices on issues of political and economic freedom throughout the world.

He told the gathering that in order to understand where America is today, that is run by amoral crooks, one must understand their policy of incrementalism. America is being boiled in the very same way you would boil a frog, by turning the heat up a little at a time.

Dr. Wheeler spoke of the liberal pathology that is infecting America today. Political correctness, animal rights, anti-male sexist prejudice, anti-white racism, anti-heterosexuality, and the hatred of Western Civilization were but a few of the examples that he posed.

Stating that liberalism is not a political philosophy and not a set of coherent beliefs, but in reality, it is an envy deflection device, Dr. Wheeler built his case that the liberals' strategy is to apologize for his success in order to avoid the envy of others. Yet the left, the Democratic Party and their cronies, use envy to divide the American populace into even smaller and smaller groups for the sole purpose of control.

Manufactured crisis is used to gain support for a "solution" for the current crisis so that vast, even more draconian governmental programs and plans can be formulated and pushed on the American people. Solutions for the "problem" are not the purpose or goal of this game, it is to gain even more control over the American populace.

He suggested that the belief of many of today's conservatives that our government has turned socialist is not correct. Dr. Wheeler stated that, in fact, it has turned fascist. Socialists want government ownership of business outright, and on the other hand, the fascists want control of everything by the use of bureaucratic regulation and the exercise of naked governmental police power. By using such causes as "protecting the environment" and the "war on drugs," to name just two, petty governmental agents run roughshod over the Constitutional rights of American citizens. He asked how the American people can morally support a government and white trash administration that slaughtered dozens of their own citizens in Waco?

Dr. Wheeler maintains that "Democratic Fascism" is the most accurate description of what the American political system has become.

Is there hope? Dr. Wheeler seems to believe there is. Firstly, he has faith in the children who have come since "Generation X," those born since 1982. He asserts that they are more patriotic, less cynical, filled with optimism, community spirit, and possess a rational outlook toward the world.

Secondly, he feels that information technology is about to do to the Washington Empire what it did to the Soviet Empire. With the technology of the 1980s, the Soviets were unable to maintain a monopoly on information, to hide the truth from their populace. The technology of 1990s is about to do the same with the Washington Empire. Through the Internet and with the use of encryption software, information and competing forms of currency, a cyber-space economy will result in Washington losing control of and the monopoly on money. This invisible currency will result in the death of the IRS, making any form of income tax or national sales tax impossible.

The greatest threat to America comes from a government that will not obey its own laws, an outlaw government. Our government must be made to obey the law of the Constitution or Democratic Fascism will live on.

— C.M.



omega PROVING ground

Aid For Aging Eyes

Whoever referred to the aging process as the “golden years” was either pre-pubescent or brain fried from cheap street drugs. Growing old is hell. There’s just no other way to describe it. Believe me, I know from personal experience.

Failing eyesight invariably affects the clear sight picture so essential to precision shooting. And like it or not, your eyesight will begin to degrade by age forty. With increasing age, the lens in the eyeball, as well as the muscles that flex the lens, harden and the ability to focus at closer distances diminishes. Called presbyopia, this impaired elasticity of the crystalline lens causes the near point of distinct vision to be removed farther from the eye.

B. Jones Sighting Systems (Dept. SOF, 5115 East Edgemont, Phoenix, AZ 85008; phone: 602-840-2176; website www.bjonesights.com) has developed some rear sight assemblies for the M16/AR-15 and M14/M1A rifles that go a long way toward re-opening competitive NRA high power shooting to older shooters. In my opinion, they also have legitimate applications in the tactical arena.

These rear sight assemblies contain lenses made of Metrametacolat (PMNA) a hard contact lens plastic, that is a very durable synthetic if handled with some care. The lenses are *not*

designed to replace your present corrective eyeglasses, but to enhance only the sight picture. The lenses increase in 1/8-diopter increments of power from -1-diopter to +1½-diopters.

I installed these sights on a TRW M14 rifle and an M16A1 Carbine of the type I carried frequently during the war in El Salvador. If you encounter only a slight blurring of the front sight, then a +¼-diopter lens should be sufficient. If you have to squint and concentrate hard to see the front sight clearly, then you will probably require a +½-diopter lens. If you cannot see a clear front sight post even after squinting and concentrating then a +¾-diopter, or more, correction is usually necessary. Those who always see a clear front sight, but seldom or never see the target or target number clearly, will need a negative power lens. With the proper power lens, a shooter will immediately perceive more rapid acquisition of the sight picture. This is an important attribute for both high power competition and tactical scenarios.

Seven different lens colors are available. Clear is by far the most popular choice among the largest number of shooters. Yellow is used on hazy days and provides greater contrast between the white paper and black bulls eye. Rose helps some to see well on hazy days and others on bright sunny days (could this be an effect of the proverbial “rose-colored glasses?”). Amber works much like “photo-sensitive” eyeglasses and seems to yield depth to the target number, target and impact area (especially beige target paper against a sandy brown



Both the M16/AR-15 series and the M14/M1A rifles can be shot with greater precision and faster target acquisition times by shooters with aging eyes after installation of B. Jones rear sight systems, which include the installation of PMNA lenses, ranging in power from -1-diopter to +1½-diopters in 1/8-diopter increments, that provide a crystal clear and sharply defined image of the front sight. Shown (right) installed on an M16A1 Carbine (left) and an M14.

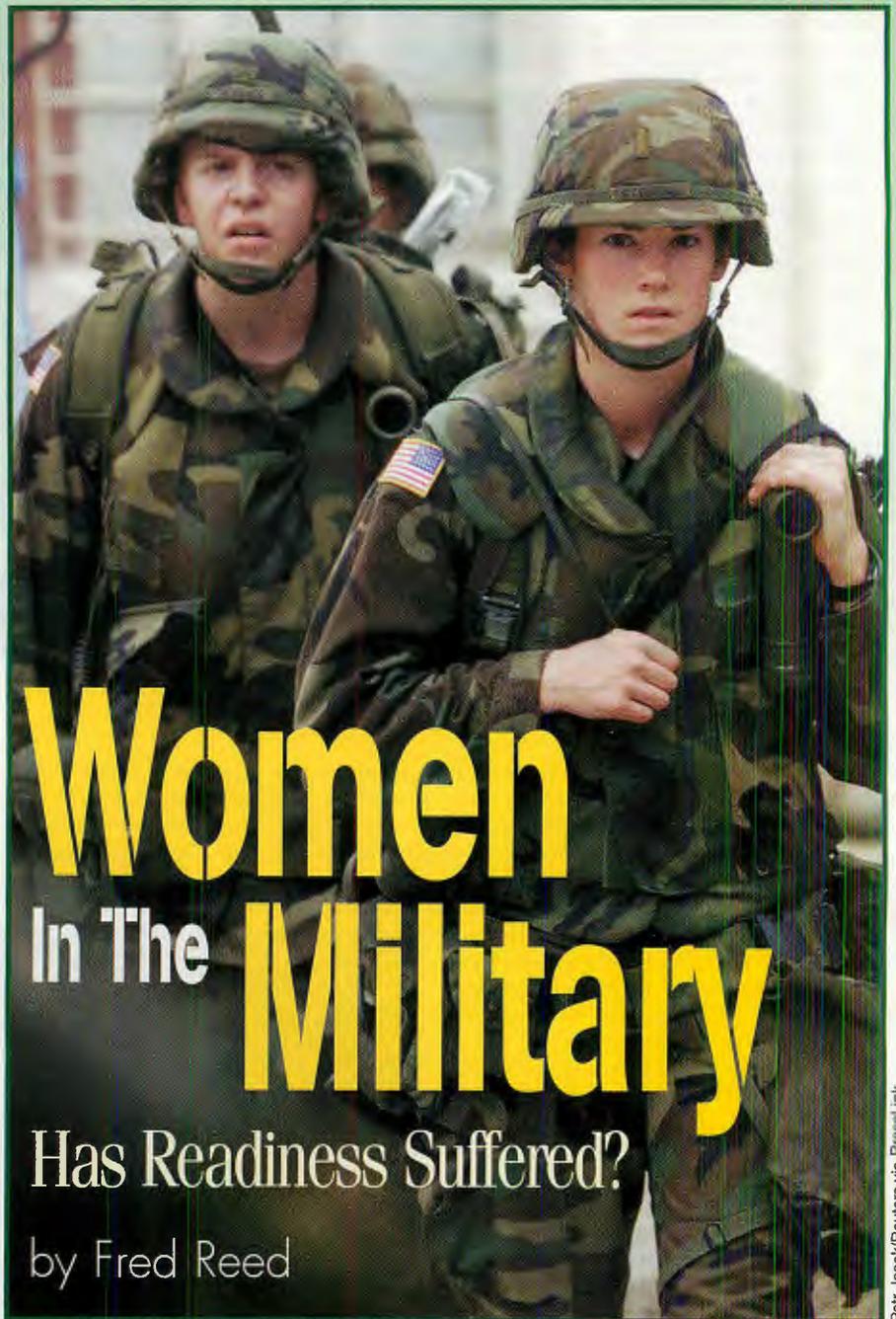


The United States military is going to hell in a handbasket, and the reason is that we insist on putting women in positions they can't handle. The problem is not that women can do nothing of use in the armed services. They do fine in many fields, from administration to intelligence to medicine. We are putting them for political reasons in jobs they can't do, and we are for political reasons recruiting women of low quality. The consequences are catastrophic, a fact hidden by the media. This is not just my opinion, but that of the troops.

The following are letters I have received by email from men in the field. By way of explanation, I wrote for years a syndicated military column that appeared, among other places, in Army Times, Navy Times, and Air Force Times. Eventually I got the boot for political incorrectness, specifically disagreeing with affirmative action for women and minorities. When I briefly wrote a column for www.ArmedForcesNews.com, before getting booted for the same reason, many troops remembered me and wrote. Their letters follow.

My last tour was during Desert Storm, [which was] basically the first real test of females in a combat zone and, in my opinion, failed miserably. For example, an effort was made to reunite the females in our outfit with their husbands who were serving in different units to celebrate Thanksgiving together. The result was that three females evacuated due to pregnancy following these "conjugal visits." Furthermore, one of the girl Sgts decided to cash in on her gender and amassed quite a sum of money in her off hours.

During convoy "rest stops," any males found to be on the curb side of the vehicles were punished under Art. 15, UCMJ, for "spying on the ladies" while the "ladies" were relieving themselves. Now a vehicle must be checked during stops: oil, tire air pressure, trailer hitches, etc. How can one do it when



Petr Josek/Reuters via PressLink

Women In The Military Has Readiness Suffered?

by Fred Reed

Reuters via PressLink



they are limited to the road-side only?

Upon arriving at our Saudi Arabia/Iraq border containment area tents were erected. Of course you know who was detailed to erect the female tents! Right, the males!

Then there was the issue of latrines; you've seen them with the cut off 55 gal. barrels to catch the dung. Guess who was not detailed to the s- -t burning detail? Right again, seems the decision was made to keep the girls away from such a common task.

Can you imagine being in a Hummer on a cross country ride in the middle of the desert and it comes time for a potty break? There are no bushes, trees, rocks, just miles and miles of sand. The female has to go #2 and refuses to go behind a sand dune because there might be somebody watching from a distant dune.

When suggested that she lean up against

a tire on the passenger side, she refuses because she might get her clothes dirty leaning against the wheel. When given a shovel to dig a "cat hole," she gets offended. The bottom line is this, for each task the "girls" could not or would not do, a male was diverted to accomplish the mission, a Captain dug her a hole and instructed her how to use it, pathetic.

MSG,
U.S. Army (Retired)

As one of a long string of Captains who have recently departed the United States Army, I can assure you that this is not about money. As far back as I can remember, all I ever wanted was to be a soldier. I realized that goal as an attack helicopter pilot.

[In training] I was told that falling out of a run at the Warrant Officer Entry Course was grounds to be set back. I saw men set back. I saw women fall out constantly, but they were kept.

During a briefing from PERSCOM, the Lieutenant Colonel told us that any woman in that room could raise their hand and he would put them in AH-64 [Apache: a sophisticated anti-tank helicopter] training. He told the men in the room that there was not enough money to train them.

Later I served with a woman who had raised her hand. She was now pregnant and wanted nothing more to do with the Army. A slot had been wasted on a quota.

The same quota system also placed women in my unit supply room who couldn't lift a tent. So, while we were already undermanned, now I had to pull soldiers off of the perimeter, to help out the women. These were also the same women without the upper body strength to pull back the charging handle on an M60.

No, it is not about the money. It is about the destruction of an institution that we once held dear.

Name withheld

Speaking of our political correctness, I will tell you something that I only know anecdotally—that is to say, I have no survey figures to pass on, but am relating what I see and what appears to be true to me. Do not use my name if you ever relate this in any way.

I have been in [several] Reserve Army units during my Army career. I have been involved in many others through annual training sessions and TDY assignments. It appears that a significant number of the women in the Reserve units are minority single mothers. In some units, they seem to be a majority of the women in those units, but that may be merely my overreacting to what I was seeing.

Each is supposed to have a "child care" plan provided as part of their mobility record. However, upon questioning, those few I talked to revealed that they had no such plan. Call-ups frequently result in the minority (and some white single mothers) women suddenly "discovering" their mobility child care plan won't work for some reason (in fact, it never existed and I even suspect some of planning it that way). We find out that we lose 10-15% of each unit being called up. In war, a 15% combat loss is considered devastating.

Standards have all been removed for women to allow them to meet quotas where otherwise few or no women would be present.

There are a few men who cannot meet physical requirements and they are eliminated. Many women cannot even reach the triggers of the service pistol or M-16 rifle. Many cannot shoot on the ranges, and say that if action occurred, they would cower in their Hummvees or foxholes because they



KRT Photos via PressLink

These were also the same women without the upper body strength to pull back the charging handle on an M60.



Paul Harris/Alamy Corps Times

could not fight and kill.

These should not be allowed in the military at all, but they are kept in for political correctness reasons.

Again, this is anecdotal, but it is a serious problem in this politically correct military whose general officers are committed to telling the politicians what they want to hear: that women in the military are working out. They aren't.

You know the story . . .

Name withheld

A point worth noting is the fear men have of speaking out. Political correctness in the military today is relentless and powerful. Opening one's mouth is a guaranteed career-ender, especially for officers. — Fred

I was perhaps one of the first commanders to have women in a combat command (the 3d Bde, 2nd Armored Div, called "Brigade 75") in Grafenwoehr, FRG, between April 1975-February 1977. In the Order of Battle Section of the MI Detachment which I commanded, the three enlisted female intelligence analysts were unquestionably competent in technical skills and surpassingly adept in camp administrative tasks. They gave convincing briefings and, in a brigade which had no women dependents because of its six-month rotation of maneuver battalions (from Fort Hood and back), I never had any problems in getting men to pay attention to them.

However, in field settings, they invariably wore out after 24-36 hours of steady maneuver operations. Small in frame and of typically delicate musculature, I could not assign them to clamber up the 577 tracked vehicle, to string the razor wire around the tactical ops center perimeter, nor to engage in the rapid physical actions required to set up and tear down the gear during our frequent shifts of position. They had to sleep longer hours, to be worked around, and sheltered from harm during times of frenetic activity.

I'm sure that you know the end of the

story. The brigade chain of command turned a deaf ear to my professional judgment that women had no place in combat support units. These officers were all veterans of Viet Nam, as I was. It was therefore a paradox to me that men whose professions had caused them to risk themselves in warfare, and who might one day might be called upon to sacrifice themselves and the lives of those they led for the good of the Nation, would demonstrate such cowardice in the face of their senior leadership.

Name withheld

The following was posted to an Internet list dealing in military matters. Note that the author is a woman who went through Army Basic. She is also a friend of mine.

To buttress Mr. Reed's observations, there is an excellent video out by PBS of all places called *Politics and Warriors: Women in the Military*. The footage of the trainees would put to rest any notion of "gender equity" — the film shows men flying over logs, leaping over walls, ripping through obstacle courses and women pathetically floundering. Small, weak women demurely approach a dummy and say in a high-pitched, sweet voice, "Kill," while lightly tapping its "head" with the butt of a rifle; men aggressively tear at the thing and charge on to the next target.

While a feminist General says in a voice-over that women can carry men, albeit maybe two to four women are needed but that women can get the job done, incredibly damning footage reveals the contrary. On the one hand, men with great ease jump on top of a horizontal pole and

carry a heavy rubber casualty on a stretcher over it, while a group of women flounder pathetically at the same task (albeit a lower pole if one is observant). The stretcher is pushed against the pole at an angle, since they cannot push it over, and the casualty slides off of the thing. As the women discuss what they should be doing, one of them says over and over, "We're losing the casualty, we're losing the casualty." Seeing is believing! And this video is well worth it.

Your article "The Realities of Women in Combat" really struck a chord with my experience in the Air Force. I was a shop chief with the [deleted] Avionics Maintenance Squadron in the 1980s. There were two women assigned to my shop. One was really sharp at her job, but she couldn't change an RT-274/APN-81 without male assistance. The other couldn't even carry her own tool box to the flight line!

Supposedly, we supervisors were assured by the brass, these women were screened before being allowed into avionics maintenance by having to pass weightlifting standards. Yeah, right. They had to be able to lift 50 pounds. An RT-274 weighed in at 125



AFP via PressLink

One was really sharp at her job, but she couldn't change an RT-274/APN-81 without male assistance. The other couldn't even carry her own tool box to the flight line!

courtesy, Marine Corps Times



pounds plus. I don't know what the problem was with the woman who couldn't carry her own tool box. But I couldn't get rid of her due to pressure from the brass. So, I put her in a weight training program at the base gym. Until her honorable discharge and a pat on the back for a job well done, she never carried her own tools. She, therefore, was never able to pull weekend duty alone; there had to be a male assigned as well to carry her end of the job as well as his own.

Name withheld

Germany, about ten years ago. We were on an FTX with some female GIs and had to put up the TOC tent. It was summer and hot. The girls were in t-shirts, some with no bras. You can imagine how that was. The guys ended up putting up the tents while the females stood around and gave encouragement.

That's normal. Every guy in the unit thinks, damn, if I'm nice to them maybe I'll get some R-and-R in the bush tonight.

Mike

Continued on page 71

SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

SURVEY - JULY 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:

Soldier of Fortune Magazine
 Attn: Survey Department
 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Ste. A-5
 Boulder, CO 80303



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.

We aim to provide you and our subscribers with the very finest in topical action-journalism. I enlist your help to develop constantly improving, accurate, hard-edged, in-your-face reporting. These stories are filed by men and women who risk their lives to provide you with newsworthy articles brimming with the adventure and, at times, irreverent humor that have been Soldier of Fortune's unique journalistic contribution for more than a quarter century. Your response to this questionnaire will serve in part as their mission statement.

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 July 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
Taliban: Afghanistan's Apaches	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Stealth Fighters II	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Front Sight ... Press	<input type="checkbox"/>				
President Gore = No Second Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Vested Interests	<input type="checkbox"/>				
They Were Expendable	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The 1999 Soldier of Fortune Convention	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Omega Proving Ground	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Women in the Military	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Going the Distance	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Columns:

	Very	Fairly	Slightly	None	Did Not Read
Command Guidance	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Bulletin Board	<input type="checkbox"/>				
I Was There	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Adventure Quartermaster	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Freedom Watch	<input type="checkbox"/>				
FLAK	<input type="checkbox"/>				
World Sitrep	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Combat Weaponcraft	<input type="checkbox"/>				

2) Have you ever subscribed to Soldier of Fortune Magazine? Yes No
Are you currently a subscriber? Yes No (if no, skip to question 4)

3) If yes, 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
 2 to 3 years 6 to 7 years 10 to 14 years

4) At what type of store did you buy this magazine? (Please check only one.)
 Chain Supermarket Chain Drugstore Chain Convenience Store Chain Bookstore (Barnes & Noble, etc.)
 Mom & Pop Grocery/Convenience Store Traditional Newsstand Military Base Other

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
 Rent house Rent apartment Other

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.)
 Some high school or less Attended college 1-3 years Postgraduate degree
 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!



Here is a “no-shit” story from a career Army NCO who recently completed his instructor’s course at an Army training center ... quick, get the PC Gender Police ... “In the instructors training course, we were taught that the proper way to erase a chalk board is with vertical strokes, not horizontal strokes.

“Horizontal strokes may cause a woman’s breasts to jiggle.”

Roger Charles

I’ve been a marine for about eight years now. There are women marines who impress the hell out of me ... They carry their own weight, and are a definite asset to their unit, the corps, and their country. But the majority, I think, are women who thought they were getting into something and found out it was something more than they bargained for ... (Let it be known that this opinion is not only my own but of countless marines, male and female, whom I have encountered during my tour.)

I see a lot of the problems with the women getting pregnant while unmarried or even without a mate to share the responsibilities ... They are just buying their time to get out. Also with all the sexual harassment stuff going on it’s impossible to relax and just be a warrior in the work place. Most of us feel like

we’re walking on egg shells.

Many of the females say, “Oh, it’s OK if you guys talk about whatever ... I don’t want to be treated any different from the guys,” but then when something happens that isn’t to their liking, I’m not talking about sexual harassment or sexual advances, just plain regular old normal every day talk, they jump up and throw up the bullshit flag It’s a convenient form of revenge ... The majority of the time the female gets her way ... because everybody’s so goddamn concerned because of all this p.c. crap What happened to the warrior culture?

Name withheld

In 1980, I participated in the Army’s Expert Infantryman Test. I was at the time stationed with the 3rd U.S. Infantry in Washington, D.C. We had a female detachment in order to remain politically correct and the detachment insisted on participating even though they were not eligible to win the Expert Infantry Badge. Only one was still in the competition when it came time for the 12-mile forced march. The standard was 12 miles with combat load in three hours.

To her credit, she tried and gave it all she had. She finished in about four-and-a-half hours. The hardest part of the road march

was at the end. You had four minutes to disassemble and assemble your rifle. This was always difficult because of the state you were in and that damn extractor pin on the M16. Hard to keep your hands steady. The poor gal couldn’t even lift the rifle, let alone take it apart. Hate to rely on her to clear the jam on the .50 cal. when we need it.

Keep up the good work.

Name withheld

I have read your columns for some time now and just had to write and put my two cents in.

I retired from the Army two years ago because of the changes the Army has made. I also grew tired of baby-sitting. As a Senior Non-Commissioned Officer most of my time was consumed with the new welfare system called the U.S. Army.

Name withheld



Aboard my ship, women are not expected to perform as competently as men. Often when told to do their jobs, they simply refuse and when put on report the Commanding Officers are afraid to punish them because it will bring the DACOWITS gals down on them or an Inspector General Group snooping around looking for inequality issues. I have often felt it is going to take a motherloving, gutbusting Navy war, or ground war for that matter, to show the bureaucrats in Washington and all the feminists that gender neutrality isn’t going

Continued on page 80



GOING THE

by Peter G. Kokalis

Photos by Vector and Peter G. Kokalis

Like artillery, machine guns and automatic grenade launchers, mortars are “area target” weapons. This is in juxtaposition to small arms such as handguns, submachine guns and rifles, which are clearly “point target” weapon systems.

Conventional mortars usually consist of a smoothbore tube resting on a baseplate. Most often they are supported by a bipod, which contains elevation and traversing mechanisms to adjust their high trajectory fire. Muzzle loaded, they fire fin-stabilized subsonic bombs. Zones of fire are established by varying the propellant charge weight. The recoil impulse of their bombs is passed directly to the ground through the baseplate.

Whenever possible, mortars are best deployed from a defilade position. A mortar is in defilade when the tube and its crew are hidden from enemy ground observation by a landmass such as the crest of a prominent hill. Positioned on the reverse side of the hill, the mortars should be placed as close to the hill’s vertical slope as practical. This effectively protects them from counter-battery fire, which will then almost always overshoot their position.

Traditionally, mortars have been divided into three categories: light, medium and heavy. Light mortars include tubes up to 60mm (2.36 inches) in caliber. These types usually never weigh more than about 40 pounds. Their bombs weigh 1.0 to 3.9 pounds. Maximum ranges vary from 500 to 2,000 yards.

Medium mortars include calibers from more than 60mm to 100mm. They can weigh from 75 up to 150 pounds. Their bombs weigh in the range from 7 to 15 pounds. Maximum ranges go from 2,000 to 6,000 yards.

Heavy mortars include all those with calibers in excess of 100mm. They usually weigh more than 200 pounds. Their bomb

South African M4 Mk1, a lightweight 60mm patrol mortar with a clamp-on sight that serves as a convenient carrying handle.

DISTANCE



South African Long Range Mortars

weight is above 15 pounds. They have a maximum range up to 10,000 yards.

A mortar's firing mechanism is at the base of the tube, either in the form of a firing pin on which the bomb is dropped by gravity, or more uncommonly it may be a spring-loaded striker. Many mortars permit retraction of the firing pin for safety reasons. This is a desirable feature when applying a misfire drill that involves dropping the bomb out the muzzle into the hands of a crewmember, as it could slide back onto the striker with disastrous results.

The larger the baseplate the better it absorbs the force of the recoil impulse, but the more difficult it becomes to transport by hand. Circular baseplates are popular today because they permit 360 degrees of traverse. Almost all baseplates are ribbed in some manner to provide additional strength. Carrying handles are useful on light mortars.

Mortars have several significant favorable

characteristics when compared to artillery. They are: simplicity of design and cost effectiveness, high trajectory that permits plunging fire on enemy targets protected by terrain, mobility permitting rapid changes of position, high rate of fire, low chamber pressure and thus negligible barrel wear, low equipment-to-bomb ratio, and ease of concealment.

However, least you conclude that I am advocating the obsolescence of artillery, be advised that cannons are more accurate, more consistent with bomb placement, have far greater range, can produce predicted fire (because their ammunition is not fin-stabilized and thus not as dependent upon changing atmospheric conditions, such as wind) and can be deployed against armor, troops under cover and fast moving vehicular targets, such as APC's.

Traditionally, mortars have a reputation for dispersing their fire over a wide area. Although this is no longer as true as it was,

the reasons for this should still be explained. As a mortar is muzzle-loaded, there must be some small amount of clearance between the bomb and the tube to permit escape of air compressed as the bomb falls. This difference in diameter is usually called "windage." This clearance results in the escape of some propellant gases, reducing the muzzle velocity. As the guide bands on the bomb will each differ slightly, the effect on velocity varies from bomb to bomb. Furthermore, the clearance between the tube and bomb causes the bomb to wobble and leave the muzzle with some degree of random yaw. As the bomb leaves the barrel, emerging gases deflect the fins and exaggerate this yaw even further. Modern mortar designs have largely eliminated these effects with significant tightening of fire dispersion patterns.

South African mortars, manufactured by Vektor, a Division of Denel (Pty) Ltd.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MORTARS

The first documented use of a mortar was by Mohammed during the siege of Constantinople in 1451 A.D. These early types were deployed as siege weapons against cities and fortresses and also purportedly against ships close to shore. Mortars at this stage of their development consisted of very little more than a metal pot attached to a wooden baseplate. Referred to as a "bombard," it was not well received by the troops, as all too often the device would explode upon discharge, killing the crew. As artillery continued to evolve, the bombard fell from favor and all but disappeared from service.

During the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, mechanisms were employed to project grenades to distances farther than they could be pitched by hand. By 1908 the Germans had developed a mortar that fired only at angles less than 45 degrees. In 1912, Krupp introduced a trench howitzer that featured an explosive head attached to a rod. It became known by the troops as the "Toffee Apple Mortar." However, it took the advent of trench warfare during World War I to force advanced development of true mortars.

The term "bomb" for mortar projectiles was derived from the mortars of the 17th century, which fired hollow projectiles containing an explosive filler called "bombs." Historically, mortar bombs have been of two general configurations: teardrop-shaped and tapering at the rear to a tail boom with stabilizing fins, and cylindrical with a parallel-walled section in front of the tapering rear end. Cylindrical bombs carry more payload, but are heavier and of shorter range.

The mortar's form today remains essentially that of the weapon designed by Wilfred Stokes at the early part of World War I in 1915. It had a 3-inch diameter steel tube (76mm) resting on a steel baseplate with a traversing and elevation mechanism. It fired a cylindrical bomb without stabilizing fins and with a 12-gauge shotshell at the rear filled with Ballistite. First made in 1837, Ballistite consisted of 40% nitroglycerine and 60% nitrocellulose. Also known as Nobel powder, it was the first of the modern smokeless powders and quite similar to British Cordite in performance. The fusing assembly on the Stokes bomb resembled that of the famous British hand grenade, the Mills Bomb. A 4-inch (102mm) version of the Stokes mortar was adopted by the United States upon its entry into the war in 1917.

During the 1920s, a French ordnance engineer, Edgar Brandt, began to make significant improvements in the Stokes design. Brandt's company was eventually absorbed by Hotchkiss and became known as Hotchkiss-Brandt. By the 1930s he had perfected his modifications and the United States adopted both the 60mm and 81mm Brandt mortars. The German 80mm *Granatwerfer 34* was basically a Stokes/Brandt type. Thus, by World War II the belligerents on both sides of the line were using mortars of basically the same pattern. It has remained that way until the introduction of the sophisticated South African mortar series.

— P.G.K.



PATROLLING WITH A MORTAR

My first exposure to the M4 Mk1 patrol mortar was about 12 years ago near the border between South West Africa (now Namibia) and Angola. I was on patrol with a team of 101 Battalion's Special Service Companies. Each team consisted of four Caspir armored fighting vehicles and one Kwevoel 50 logistic vehicle.

The firepower capability of these teams was outstanding. Each team was equipped with two Hispano-Suiza HS 820 20mm automatic cannons, four window-mounted caliber 7.62x51mm NATO MG4 Browning machine guns, two twin-mounted MG4s or .50-caliber M2 HB Browning heavy machine guns, and MG4s or Ma Deuces for coaxial mounting with the HS 820s, four FN MAG 58 GPMGs, four 40mm MGLs, two RPG-7Vs, and two 60mm M4 Mk1 patrol mortars, in addition to individual weaponry (the R4 rifle and 9mm Parabellum pistols for vehicle commanders).

Manufactured by Vektor, a Division of Denel (Pty) Ltd. (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 5445, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa; phone: 011-27-12-620-2554; fax: 011-27-12-620-2557; e-mail: karriesk@liw.denel.co.za.), the 60mm M4 Mk1 patrol mortar weighs only 14.2 pounds (6.45 kg). With a range of 100 to 2,050 meters, it will fire any NATO-standard 60mm ammunition. Its rate of fire is 30 rounds per minute.

South African 60mm mortar bombs are available in high explosive, smoke or practice types. The high explosive bomb has a forged steel or cast body filled with RDX/TNT 40/60 and exploder pellet RDX/WAX/93/7. The fuses on all of the mortar bomb types are either the V9 direct acting or the new generation direct acting PD M8807. The propellant is an LZM1/2 primary cartridge filled with Ballistite B150 with four augmenting charges plus one super charge filled with Ballistite B150. The eight extruded tail fins accommodate the primary cartridge and augmenting charges. The bombs weigh 3.9 pounds (1.77 kg) each.

There are three different mortars in the M4 series. The M4 Mk1 model has a fixed firing pin only. The M4 variant's breechpiece is equipped with a trigger mechanism that is pulled by a lanyard. After

the lanyard is pulled the mechanism recocks, drawing the firing pin away from the breech face. This permits foot patrols to safely walk with a bomb in the tube and thus be ready for immediate contact. The M4L3 model was simplified even further by the addition of a simple web carrying strap with riveted brass range tabs. The operator merely steps down on the tab with the required range marking and drops the bomb down the tube. This model has a fixed firing pin that can be easily replaced by the operator with a special combo tool. It weighs 16.5 pounds (7.5 kg).

The M4L3 has a small, fixed circular baseplate and a web hand-guard. The M4 and M4 Mk1 have dome-shaped baseplates permitting elevation adjustments in one plane only, but with great accuracy in azimuth determination. The baseplate's shape also provides high soil compaction, permitting higher propellants charges and resulting in greater stability of the weapon. The clamp-on sight assembly for the latter two models also serves as a convenient carrying handle. The distance in meters, elevation in degrees or mils, as well as the propellant charge to be used is engraved on the carrying handle's curved faceplate. The faceplate also contains a curved bubble for elevation and a smaller bubble for placing the tube at horizontal. The handgrip is used to elevate or depress the tube until the bubble corresponds with the required range on the faceplate. The operator then reads the propellant charge and elevation off the faceplate. The sight is fitted with self-luminous tritium lights for use at night. Optional accessories include cleaning equipment, bomb carrying harnesses, aiming post and bag for indirect fire, and an aiming post light.

So-called "Commando" mortars of 60mm caliber are not uncommon. In addition to South Africa, they are manufactured in Austria, Chile, France, Iran, Portugal, and Singapore. Some are lighter and some may be cheaper, but none provide the quality of manufacture, the durability or number of innovative features found on Vektor's combat-proven M4 series patrol mortars.

— P.G.K.

(opposite) South African 60mm patrol mortars. On the left is the M4L3 variant, which has been simplified with a small, fixed circular baseplate, a web handguard and a simple web carrying strap with riveted brass range tabs. The operator merely steps down on the tab with the required range marking and drops the bomb down the tube. On the right is the M4 Mk1 — its dome-shaped baseplate permits elevation adjustments in one plane only, but with great accuracy in azimuth determination. The baseplate's shape also provides high soil compaction, permitting higher propellants charges and resulting in greater stability of the weapon. (below) Vektor's incredible 60mm M6 long-range mortar. Its range has been increased from a minimum of 100 meters to a maximum of 6,180 meters. This performance matches that of mortars in the medium-size class. (below, inset) The new Vektor 81mm M8 long-range mortar system offers performance comparable to heavy 120mm mortars and yet remains man-portable. Its tube length remains that of the standard M3 81mm mortar, but it has substantially greater wall thickness to safely accommodate the greater number of augmenting charges required for longer ranges. The maximum range has been extended to 7,600 meters.

(Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 5445, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa; phone: 011-27-12-620-2554; fax: 011-27-12-620-2557; e-mail: karriesk@liw.denel.co.za.), are all based upon the Hotchkiss-Brandt design. After expiration of the license, they were substantially improved, both to facilitate manufacture and enhance performance.

The Vektor 60mm M1 mortar has a

H-019 MORTAR SIGHT

So-called "dial-type" lensatic or optical sights have been placed on mortars and machine guns ever since World War I. The concept has remained the same over the intervening years, but the mechanisms and optics are considerably more sophisticated. The South African H-019 mortar sight is of two types: a lensatic version for installation on the M1/M3 60mm and M3/M8 81mm mortars and the now obsolete caliber 7.62x51mm NATO Vickers water-cooled medium machine gun, and an optical telescope variant for the 120mm artillery mortar.

Mechanically this sight includes the following features. There is a quick-release dovetail interface for rapid installation and removal from the weapon. There are elevation and azimuth scales graduated in 1 mil intervals with decoupling for rapid adjustment of the azimuth scales. The elevation range for mortar applications is between +400 and +1,600 mils. There are double bubbles for leveling in each plane. The main and secondary azimuth scales are equipped with a 6,400-mil range. All the scales and bubbles are equipped with self-luminous tritium illumination that can be covered when not in use. The optical sighting device can be adjusted in the vertical plane and is also provided with a betalight. Interior worm gears with a built-in self-eliminating play system insure minimum maintenance and maximum accuracy (to within 3 mils). The H019 mortar sight weighs 3.3 pounds (1.5 kg).



The lensatic version of the South African H-019 mortar sight includes a number of important features. There is a quick-release dovetail interface for rapid installation and removal from the weapon. There are double bubbles for leveling in each plane. All the scales and bubbles are equipped with self-luminous tritium illumination that can be covered when not in use. The optical sighting device can be adjusted in the vertical plane and is also provided with a betalight.

The optical version of the South African H-019 mortar sight includes a number of important features. There is a quick-release dovetail interface for rapid installation and removal from the weapon. There are double bubbles for leveling in each plane. All the scales and bubbles are equipped with self-luminous tritium illumination that can be covered when not in use. The optical sighting device can be adjusted in the vertical plane and is also provided with a betalight. Interior worm gears with a built-in self-eliminating play system insure minimum maintenance and maximum accuracy (to within 3 mils). The H019 mortar sight weighs 3.3 pounds (1.5 kg).

— P.G.K.



25.6-inch (650mm) tube and a total weight of 39.2 pounds (17.8 kg), including the tube, baseplate, bipod and H-019 sight. It has a range of 100 to 2,000 meters. The rate of fire in rounds per minute is 30 (as it is with almost all of mortars of this type in the light and medium categories). While this is more or less standard performance for a light-weight 60mm mortar, its long-range counterpart, the M6, offers an amazing increase in range when the new family of long-range ammunition is dropped down its tube.

The incredible Vektor 60mm M6 long-range mortar has a 55-inch (1,455mm) tube and a total weight of 67 pounds (30.4 kg), including the extended tube, baseplate, enlarged bipod and H-019 sight. The bipod was re-designed with 46 fewer components than the old bipod assembly. By removing an insert this bipod can be used on a 81mm mortar. The M6's range has been increased from a minimum of 100 meters to a maximum of 6,180 meters. This performance matches that of mortars in the medium-size class. The rate of fire remains 30 rounds per minute. The 81mm baseplate can be substituted if the soil is loose or sandy.

The new long-range mortar bombs weigh 5.3 pounds (2.4 kg) each; about 1.3 pounds heavier than standard 60mm mortar bombs. They provide significantly enhanced aerodynamics, as they are more "spear-shaped" with consequently less yaw in flight. The propellant charge is greater, but standard 60mm NATO ammunition can be fired in the M6. The casualty radius of the new long-range 60mm bomb is superior to that of the standard 81mm bomb.

The M6 long-range mortar originated as a 60mm long-tube conversion kit for the South African 81mm M3 mortar. While still available in that form, it's now marketed as a complete mortar system. When



The Multi Fire Control System (MFCS) developed by Mechem Consultants brings mortar fire up to a level of accuracy never before possible. The MCFS is an impressively successful example of the concept of "High-tech/Low-tech," the objective of which is to bring the advantages of high technology to a user level at which no special training is required.

placed in a vehicle, the M6 mortar system permits more ammunition storage than a standard 81mm mortar.

In comparison to the M6, the standard 81mm M3 mortar has a 56.9-inch (1,445mm) barrel and a total weight of 95 pounds (43 kg), including the tube, baseplate, bipod and H-019 sight. It has a range of 100 to 5,000 meters.

However, the new Vektor 81mm M8 long-range mortar system offers performance comparable to heavy 120mm mortars and yet remains man-portable. Its tube length remains that of the standard M3 81mm mortar, but it has substantially greater wall thickness to safely accommodate the greater number of augmenting charges required for longer ranges. This increases its weight to 99 pounds (44.9 kg). The maximum range has been extended to 7,600 meters.

Vektor's new long-range mortar systems represent a significant engineering feat. They are clearly the wave of the future in this arena. This is precisely what I would expect from a company with Vektor's track record. They manufacture some of the finest small arms in the world, to include the Z88, SP1/2, and CP1/2 pistols; R4 and CR21 rifles; Browning MG4, Mini SS SAW, and SS-77 GPMG machine guns; 20mm automatic cannon, and a bevy of other related military, law enforcement and commercial products. The quality, innovation and reliability of their product line remain impeccable. ✕

UPPING THE ACCURACY ANTE: LASER MORTAR CONTROL SYSTEM

The Multi Fire Control System (MFCS) developed by Mechem Consultants, a Division of Denel (Pty) Ltd. (Dept. SOF, 329B Mundt Street, Waltdoo, 0184; P.O. Box 912454, Silverton, 0127, South Africa; phone: 011-12-803-7290/1/2/3/4/5/6/7; fax: 011-12-803-7189), brings mortar fire up to a level of accuracy never before possible. The MFCS is a totally integrated sighting and gun-laying system for mortars. It provides greater speed in gun laying with the principle focus on improved first target hit probability. The MFCS obtains substantially higher accuracy than any traditional method (subject, of course, to the use of accurate GPS information and the inherent accuracy potential of both the mortar and its bomb).

The system consists of dedicated high-power microprocessors, special sensors, GPS and a laser rangefinder. Operator requirements are extremely simple and require no greater technical knowledge than needed for traditional gun laying methods. The main system components are the target location equipment and the Mortar Fire Controller (MFC).

The target location equipment consists of a laser rangefinder with a maximum range of 20 km integrated with a target acquisition system. The target location equipment has all the required sensors built-in, to give the forward controller a small, lightweight, hand-portable unit that displays target coordinates with the press of a button. The laser rangefinder's accuracy is plus/minus 5 meters. The

compass (a product of Eloptra) accuracy is typically to 0.5 degree.

The MFC is an add-on system that replaces the conventional mortar bubble sight. Up to 250 target positions can be stored and selected in the MFC. Up to five hundred rounds fired can be recorded. Once the target has been selected, the MFC calculates and displays all relevant information: elevation of the mortar, direction of fire, type of ammunition, propellant charge required, flight time, the mortar's GPS position, etc. All ballistic calculations are performed automatically for the operator. The modular MFC is constructed from commercially available military components, thus substantially reducing the usual commitment to logistic support and spare parts. Standard military radios may be used for communication links. Another unique feature is the ability to interchange system software and thus use the MFC for 60mm, 60mm long-range, 81mm and 81mm long-range mortars. The program menu stays the same regardless of caliber and this further simplifies training.

This is essentially a vehicle-based system for "shoot-and-scoot" applications. The MCFS is an impressively successful example of the concept of "High-tech/Low-tech," the objective of which is to bring the advantages of high technology to a user level at which no special training is required. Like it or not, this notion represents the wave of the future in armies throughout the world. — P.G.K.

Omega Proving Ground

Continued from page 65

of American history, but the grip, despite all the accolades written about it pointing well over the past one hundred years, is still too short for most people. Clint Smith, the genius behind Thunder Ranch, has an engraved matched pair of Colt SAA's and each sports ivory grips. The difference with his guns is a pinkie groove at the base and in the middle of each ivory grip panel. Smith, like many, wraps the pinkie finger of the shooting hand around the bottom of the grip panel and frame when shooting his Colt revolvers.

The pinkie finger grip isn't necessary, however, with the Freedom Arms Model 97, unless you maybe have hands the size of a canned ham. The Model 97 grip is sufficiently long for most all hand sizes and the result is well appreciated when shooting stout loads.

The most noticeable feature of any Freedom Arms revolver is the overall fit and finish of the gun. The cylinder indexes and locks into position like a bank vault and the overall fit is every bit the equal of a fine Swiss watch.

The .41 Magnum cartridge first made its appearance in 1964 and was widely touted as the next great law enforcement round. It wasn't. In that regard it proved a dismal

failure, but many have found it a more acceptable deer handgun hunting cartridge than any smaller competitor.

For hunting applications, the biggest shortcoming with the .41 Magnum round has always been the shortage of heavy bullets. A few years ago this was corrected to some extent when Federal and Cor-Bon both introduced heavy cast bullets in .41 Magnum hunting loads. No sooner did these new rounds materialize and another deficiency with the .41 Magnum was soon discovered. The barrel twist rates in most .41 Magnum revolvers, regardless of who made the gun, are not fast enough to stabilize the 260-grain-plus weight of these heavy bullets loads.

Freedom Arms corrected this when they chambered their large frame revolvers in .41 Magnum by giving their barrels a twist rate of one turn in 24 inches. After working last year with one of those guns, it is easy to testify the accuracy with these heavy loads was almost beyond belief. The new Model 97 has the twist rate and should theoretically at least shoot these heavy bullet loads as well.

But, there is one small problem. The Freedom Arms Model 97 in .41 Magnum sports a cylinder that is 1.620" in length, and Cor-Bon's 265-grain hard cast .41 Magnum load is 1.710" long. It doesn't fit. A call to Terry Murbach at Cor-Bon found they have rectified this difficulty by introducing a new 250-grain hard cast .41 Magnum load that will fit in this shorter cylinder of the

Freedom Arms Model 97.

In any event, shooting the Model 97 with factory Remington ammunition revealed a revolver with some of the highest velocities for the standard weight .41 Magnum load ever experienced. The 210-grain JSP load from Remington averaged 1,392 fps and their 170-grain JHP load averaged 1,634 fps. The tightest group was achieved with the 175-grain Winchester Silvertip load which averaged 1,417 fps and felt like the proverbial wadcutter target load when it put five rounds into a group measuring 2.25 inches at 25 yards.

Even with the long 7.5-inch barrel, some of the ammunition produced a bright ball of fire upon ignition and that did nothing toward keeping the groups tight even if the felt recoil was more than manageable. On the positive side, the trigger pull on the test revolver measured a consistent 3.25 pounds on each of the five chambers. The iron sights are some of the most distinct found on a modern revolver and the whole package spells quality.

Obviously, the Freedom Arms Model 97 is not the single action revolver for everyone, but if you have need for a reasonable size, high quality sidearm for trips across the back country, this gun is worth examination. If large mammals are a concern, I would secure a sufficient quantity of the heavy bullet cast bullet loads that will fit in the cylinder for that extra bit of insurance.

— Frank James

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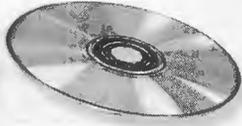
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Women In The Military

Continued from page 71

to work in a combat situation. Hell, it isn't working now.

A recent article in *Reader's Digest* quoted several women in combat infantry commands saying that they just couldn't keep up with the guys on a 12-mile forced march. I also want to say that 12 miles is a result of catering to the women. My dad used to do 20 milers. If the women out there in the ranks admit they aren't up to the task, why do the women behind the desk insist that they are?

Name withheld

I just finished your editorial on women in the military and couldn't agree more. I retired from the AF in June, having spent the last six years in the 5 Combat Comm Group at Robins AFB, GA. The unit I was in had a very high ops tempo supporting missions all over the world. As a [deleted] I had to deal with personnel issues on a daily basis and saw the corrosive effects political correctness had on unit morale. Once a female became pregnant she could not deploy or work on electronics equipment, and was prohibited from doing any heavy lifting. The others had to pick up the slack.



KFT Photos via PressLink

Many of these women were unwed but once the child was born she was moved out of the dorms and allowed to live downtown or in some cases given military family housing. Of course we all know the burden having children brings on, so there were the problems of doctors appointments, childcare, and the sick kids who stay up all night preventing the service member from getting any sleep. I don't know how many times I had to give short notice leave or time off to accommodate these people, often at the expense of the more productive troops.

It doesn't take a genius to figure out how this played with the dedicated troops who decided it was not worth the sacrifice to cater to these people. Retention suffered greatly. Not all women in the Air Force were a problem and I know many who despised the preferential treatment given to the social cases. Those who did cause problems, though, were not worth the hassle, and if I had my way the moment they became pregnant I would have bounced them out. Too many of them looked at the military as a social welfare program designed to provide them with employment and benefits.

Name withheld

Fred Reed is a frequent contributor and SOF's Scuba Editor. ✕

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Hillary Just Can't Stop Laughing...

Why is Hillary Clinton laughing at you?

The darling of the liberal media, Hillary Clinton is the architect of the most dangerous big government socialist policies to come out of Washington, D.C. in 50 years.

Among her initiatives was a plan to nationalize America's health care system. Hillary's takeover of your health care would have given the

government literal life and death power over you and your family. Now Hillary, with the backing of the establishment media, wants to be a U.S. Senator. Her close friends say she really wants to be president.

Because the media won't tell you the truth about Hillary, she's getting the last laugh – at your expense! The press won't report her radical agenda – from public funding of obscene art, such as the dung covered Madonna – to her support for radical Puerto Rican terrorists.

When was the last time the major media asked Hillary about her "record"?:

- The famous cattle futures deal in which she made a cool \$100,000 in one year — a deal that New York Times Columnist William Safire called an out and out bribe.
- Hillary's work as the attorney for Madison Guaranty — an S&L federal regulators say defrauded taxpayers like you for \$60 million.
- Her Whitewater land scam where she and her husband put practically no money down but took massive losses on their taxes.
- Filegate: the illegal procurement of over 1,000 FBI files of her political opponents.
- The raid by Hillary's Chief of Staff into Vince Foster's office on the night of his suspicious death.
- Hillary's role in the Travelgate matter, when career civil servants were fired on trumped up charges and Billy Dale, the head of the office was prosecuted (and later acquitted) in one of the worst examples of judicial police state tactics ever.
- Her active role in the Chinagate scandal — campaign cash for nuclear secrets.

The liberal establishment media won't tell you the truth about Hillary, but NewsMax.com will.

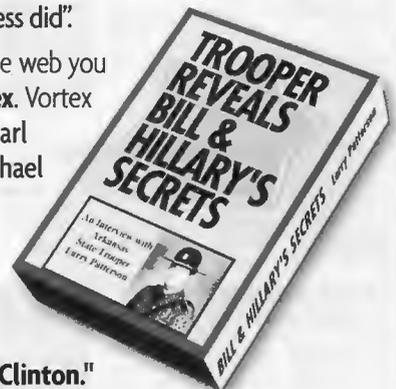
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BACK ISSUES



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WEAPONS: return of the BAR; **AIRCRAFT:** T&E of Longbow Apache; **BATF:** rogues' gallery of lying supervisors and agents; **VIETNAM WAR:** declassified secrets of SOG's legendary Mad Dog; **IRAQ:** Saddam's war against Kurds; **BURMA:** training Karen snipers.

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ANALYSIS: hostage rescue disaster in Iran; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** exclusive report on Gulf War Syndrome; how firearms dealers can survive Gun Gestapo bullying; **SOUTHEAST ASIA:** H'mong fight genocide in Laos; **TRAINING:** Thunder Ranch — boot camp for precision shooters.



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SOLO OUT! #235 MAY 97

#236 JUNE 97 **SOLO OUT!**

#237 JULY 97

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#243 JANUARY 98

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EXPANDED ISSUE!

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RUSSIA: inside renaissance militias; **PHILIPPINES:** Mindanao meltdown; **TERRORISM:** weapons of mass destruction for tiny tyrants; **DOMESTIC AFFAIRS:** USG eco-terrors vs. conservationist in Hawaii; **MEDIA:** blasting CNN/Time's Tailwind story



#252 OCTOBER 98

TERRORISM: Iran's terror exports; **KNIVES:** Gurkha kukri; **AFRICA:** guerillas in the generation of night-vision; **DEFENDER:** debut of expanded product review section; **CHINA:** has next Cold War started?



#253 NOVEMBER 98

VIETNAM: true story of Operation Tailwind; **RUSSIA:** SOF goes on bust with tax cops; **ALBANIA:** smuggling small arms into Kosovo — SOF's eyewitness report; **VETERANS AFFAIRS:** one man exposes more than 1,000 phony vets



#254 DECEMBER 98

COLOMBIA: profile of director general of Colombian National Police; **TERRORISM:** targeting Sudan and bin Laden; **MERCENARIES:** freelancers in Angola and the Congo; **MEDIA:** technical blunders in *Saving Private Ryan*



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Continued from page 41

From the valley below came the insistent crack-crack-crack of a 12.7mm dashika sending some gifts of lead our way. It was ranging in on us as shrapnel and spalling from the rocky slope in front of us started smacking into the air. I'd picked the right time to move. This was shortly followed by three or four more artillery rounds leaving the tubes.

It made me wonder if the enemy HMG crew was spotting for the artillery. Rounds had been striking about 500 meters to the east for most of the afternoon. Looking past the outpost and down across the saddle the artillery fire was destroying the hell out of a hillside occupied by absolutely nothing. After a few more minutes we started down the slope when one of the Taliban decided that enough was enough and started in with the 12.7mm heavy. Things were just starting to get interesting, and I had to leave.

From the fighting positions on the ridge-line we walked back down the path past the power pylons. The Talib, with the crocus and the dud cannon shell, now stopped to demonstrate how to fuse an anti-tank mine. A bunch of them were pre-positioned behind a sangar in anticipation of being carried down the hillside and emplaced along the road to deter attacking armor.

We stopped at one of the shipping containers, serving as a bunker/sleeping quarters, and entered. The inside was comfortably furnished with blankets, mats, and carpets. At the front near the door was a wood-burning stove leaking smoke. Tea was brewing and we sat inside for a cup. We listened to the incoming artillery strike the hillside above as the Talib started cleaning their weapons. Tea was passed around. I sipped a cup while disassembling a Kalashnikov. The slightly bent Talib — who wanted to set off a dud and then demonstrated fusing an AT mine — presented me with one of the white crocus buds. The spring flowers were in bloom all along the hillside. An incongruous sight amid the debris of war.

Finally I bid goodbye to my hosts. We barely had time to make Kabul before dark and we still had to stop at the rocket positions down the road. First, we went back to where I had lunch to return Mullah Ghameen to his unit and drop off the observation binoculars. At the 122mm BM-21 multiple rocket launcher position the Taliban were going to fire off some rockets in support.

As I walked down from the ammunition storage point I saw two Talib whacking away at the back of a rocket with a rock. This while it was braced against two other rockets and only a foot away from a stack of a hundred or so rounds. After beating on the rocket for a few minutes they removed the casing end cap and exposed the propellant charge. They then picked it up and walked across the road with it. I wondered: Was it a defective round that they were

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about to discard, or EOD?

When I asked what was going on they replied that they were going to fire it. But instead of using the truck-mounted launcher they were going to use a field-expedient method. They laid the rocket in a scooped out trench lined with rocks and piled more rocks alongside to hold the rocket in position. Then they lit a homemade fuse with a match and ran like hell. Decidedly low-tech.

I took a photograph of the fuse burning and just as the motor ignited Said Azam yelled something at me, forgetting I don't speak Dari (which is why he was along to begin with), distracting me so I missed the shot. But I did catch some debris as the rocket whooshed into the sky and toward Bagram. I was hit in the throat — a stinging blow — and for a split second I thought, "Aw hell, what a stupid way to buy the farm." But it was just a rock, that, while it bruised me, wasn't traveling at enough velocity to cause much harm. The whole scene was captured on video, showing me very close to the blast. *Tres dramatique*. It later found its way onto *The Travel Channel*.

More Rockets, Anyone?

I asked if they were going to fire some more rockets and got the usual Afghan reply of "As you like" and "Why not?" As they prepped another rocket for firing, we heard the unmistakable wobble of an incoming round. The other side's counter-battery fire exploded harmlessly on the other side of a rocky outcrop several hundred meters away.

The next outgoing rocket was set off at approximately the same elevation but slightly different windage. Though given the rudimentary method of aiming (someone stands behind the aimer saying, "a little more to the right, Mohammed") odds were against even putting the rockets in the same grid square. This time debris blew by just as before with two or three burning pieces flying over my head and landing behind me. So I was glad I wasn't hit by any of that. Just some shrapnel smacking against my legs.

With the sun starting to recede behind the nearby mountains and Kabul still a long drive over badly rutted dirt roads, it was time to say thanks to the rocketeers for their fireworks display and head south. I was back in Kabul in time to pick up a Baluchi carpet and have dinner in the decrepit dining room of my hotel. Unfortunately, the four giggling French-speaking Swiss babes, the only other guests in the Intercontinental Hotel, wouldn't give me the time of day and the kitchen was all out of the veal schnitzel. Again. Like the night before, Masood's rockets and artillery were already beginning to hit Kabul. I should have stayed on the frontlines.

Such is the life of an *SOF* war correspondent.

Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott has reported from war zones in Angola, Bosnia, Burma, Cambodia, Uganda, and Sudan. ✕

HK RECALL NOTICE • HK USC AND UMP

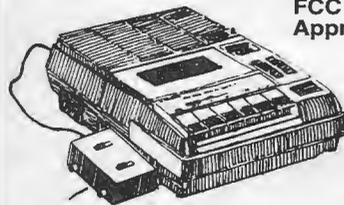
Heckler and Koch, Inc. is voluntarily recalling USC (.45 ACP) carbines and UMP (.45 ACP) submachine guns due to reported breakage of the cocking lever. All of the recalled firearms will be fitted with a newly designed cocking lever (operating handle) by HK's technical department at no charge.

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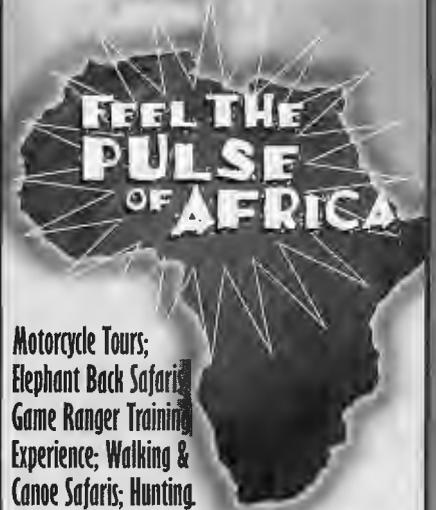
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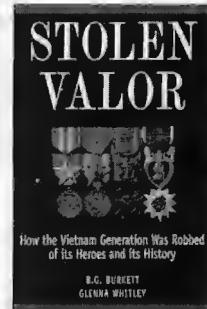
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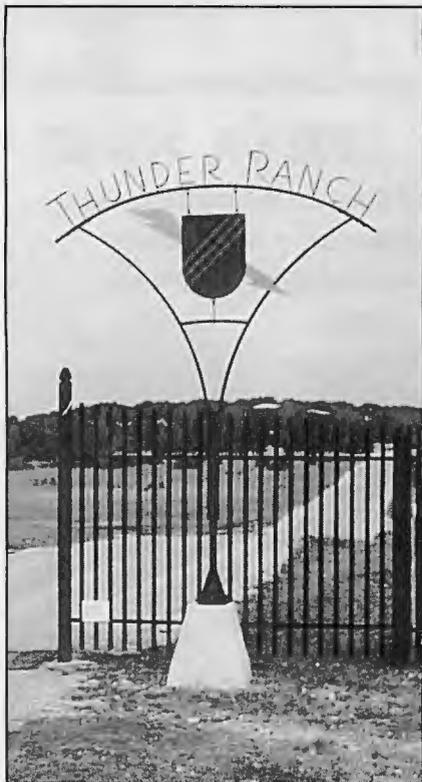
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SOF Convention/Expo

Continued from page 63

for Stan Pruiett and the Urban Survivors' presentation of "Hand to Hand Combat."

All of these classes would have helped you prevail during the "Knife Fighting Challenge" each night at poolside where the brave competed for thousands of dollars worth of prizes and others looked on.

Meanwhile, at the Desert Sportsman's Range, manufacturers allowed Conventioneers to T&E their product with hands-on live-fire evaluation. Whether it was handguns, rifles, shotguns, the big .50 BMG rifles, exotic ammunition, or training simulations, they were all there with ammunition courtesy of Hornady Manufacturing.

Awards Banquet

As always, *SOF's* favorite master of ceremonies, John Donovan, opened the Awards Banquet with his humor and witticisms, the presentation of the colors, and Pledge of Allegiance. The benediction by Colonel Alex McColl (Ret.) followed for those who have fought for freedom and those who continue the fight today.

The banquet is an opportunity to honor those who have distinguished themselves in many different ways. The *SOF* 1999 Humanitarian Award was presented to high school principal Joel Myrick for his act of heroism and the Three-Gun Tactical Match winners received their recognition.

Keynote speaker Dr. Jack Wheeler, a true patriot with a vision toward the future of America, delivered a thought-provoking address. Speaking of where America is now and what he believes the future may hold, he received numerous ovations, not the least of which was when he referred to Clinton as the "white trash president."

Back by popular demand, the *SOF* auction returned with some exciting offerings: The guitar owned by the late Special Forces Staff Sergeant, Barry Sadler, author of *The Ballad of the Green Berets*, and *SOF* contributing editor, was sold with proceeds going to the Special Forces Museum at Fort Bragg. Al Mar Knives donated three engraved knives commemorating the 20th Anniversary *SOF* Convention and EXPO. A unique selection of war booty "acquired" by *SOF* staff and correspondents from around the world was also on the block with the proceeds to benefit Refugee Relief International, Inc.

Conclusion

With an always-exciting variety of participatory events, seminars, and merchandise offered at the EXPO, the Firepower Demo, hands-on testing of advanced weaponry, and the return of the *SOF* Auction, a more exhilarating week could not be spent in Las Vegas — even without Marilyn Chambers.

Chris Mayer, a 20-year police veteran, resides in southern California. ✕

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Front Sight ... Press

Continued from page 47

The "fire for effect" landed with satisfying results. We continued to call for additional rounds until Quang Tri claimed they had expended their ready ammo supply ... The vill was a shambles, but night was rapidly falling. Damn! A night attack in that mess would be an invitation to disaster! I resolved to dump some more 155 at dawn and follow it into the vill.

We pulled in the perimeter and put out LPs, although we were almost within effective bayonet range. We spent a sleepless night, but we had the advantage of pre-registered 155s ... I love accurate pre-registered fire!

First light found us filling in our fighting holes to deny their use to any future NVA who might be intent on using the graveyard as a fighting position. We gathered ourselves for the assault and Mike called in the same fire mission that had been so effective the evening before. The first round came roaring in — right in the center of *our* position!

"Mike, what the hell's going on?"

"Christ, Skipper, I don't know! I told ya these guys were incompetent!"

"Either get these tools to ceasefire, or shift it onto the zips!"

"Roger, will do!"

We finally got the fire moved sufficiently to tear up the tree line, and mercifully without any Marine casualties. The entire company moved smartly into the tree line with a will. Anything was preferable to getting shot at by friendly artillery, most especially 155s!

The assault was a total anticlimax. The NVA had gotten their bellies full of 155s the evening before. Aside from numerous blood trails, and a couple of overlooked AK-47s, the village was bare but stomped flat! Our quarry was long gone.

I took a personal trip behind the hedgerow I had followed the afternoon before. I still hadn't satisfied my curiosity about big, flat-pointed Keith bullets! Alas, the NVA had hauled off their dead. The discovery left me with mixed emotions as I find something of a kinship with warriors who take care of their own. I was beginning to feel the worse for my intellectual curiosity about the effectiveness of my handloads. I was glad they got him back in one piece.

I managed to get my personal sidearm back to the States following my tour and today it hangs in a place of honor on my wall. I find it hard to regret my decision to bend the rules all those years ago.

Now there are times when I sit by the fire sipping a glass of Claret while reading the various gun rags that insist that the belt gun is an anachronism in modern combat. I fondle my sidearm of long ago and smile. I suppose it's all in how you look at it.

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

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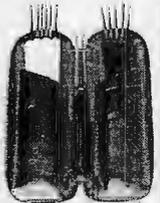
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They Were Expendable

Continued from page 57

in an infantry rifle platoon in combat means you are going to be wounded or killed; not *if*, but *when*, and *how bad* you will be hit.

The most effective leader of fighters I've known was a sergeant who deserted 24th Infantry Division headquarters to come forward to our rifle company. Watching everything he did, learning why, and imitating him is likely why I'm alive today. He was even younger than I, but his previous experience with Merrill's Marauders was of far more value than my non-fighting role in the 7th Marines. You may never encounter such an exemplar of military virtue when you need him most, but borrow the right things from each of the best that you do come across.

The sergeant poked a loaded carbine's muzzle through the pistol port they had opened to shoot us off the back of their tank, and ricochets inside took out the crew. He burned the tank an hour later. I asked him why he was burning it, as the crew was already dead. His answer: "I want them others to know where this one is, what happened to it, and for them to be discouraged about the idea of coming where we are."

The only flaw in his theory was the noxious, brown trail of smoke that helped U.S. Air Force pilots see it. They strafed the dead tank in the middle of our position for the next two hours! We were dug in so well by then that none of us were hit. Double Lesson: Dig yourself in if *anyone's* aircraft are in the area, as they do not discriminate well. And don't count on your own planes to solve your own problem with dug-in enemy infantry. This only happens in Hollywood. Much of the advantage we think our airplanes should provide disappears fast: The enemy also learns to dig in.

The backbone of any Army is its rifle squads and platoons. Their leadership is absolutely crucial. The words: "Your team has to function after you get hit," means you must prepare all of them to lead when you are gone. Men fight for comrades, those with them in the battle, seldom thinking of larger and more glorious goals. The "fighting" I speak of is an intimate horror to which only walking infantry are exposed and must endure. My word picture of fighting is simply: "Crawl on your belly like a serpent close enough to throw grenades at the hostile wretch with the noisy machine gun." This narrow view requires one to

throw the grenade and another to stand up and shoot the gunner as he swings the tube around to kill the grenade pitcher. Machine gunners come with support crews who stay alive by knowing and countering your form of attack. Being outfought comes at high cost, with no appeals.

Such roles are ultimate, unnatural acts that neither you nor the grenade guy may survive. But there are no other solutions. Do not expect Rambo to come by and do it for you. You and your team are the only sure resource you have for staying alive. Fighting means moving with the rest of your rifle squad into a lonesome void that you all feel seethes with menace. The sound of a machine gun, including the screams of the men it hits, makes your grasp of confidence transient at best. The role and responsibility of the leader is to earn, acquire, and share critical confidence with all of his men. Earn it again the key word.



Before long the war had escalated and the Allies were taking the war to the North. In this 1950 photo, an F-80 of the 5th USAF completes a strafing run on a T-34 tank (bottom), vehicle and buildings.

Everyone in a body of fighting men, everyone, is responsible for all the others. Survival is mutually dependent. Your role is taking care of yourself and each of your men as you sort out how to accomplish your mission. Trust is crucial. It must be mutual, and it must be earned. Being terrorized by circumstances of battle is natural and wholly concentrates the mind. It must not numb it. Knowing this is your best protection against it.

Note that my focus has been on tanks. This is not coincidental. The most terrifying sound you will ever hear is the crunching sound of tank tracks getting closer. They are looking for your body to grind under their treads. This is the most effective psychological warfare they can practice on those infantrymen who survive. And a tanker's immediate target may already be dead. A man is a large sack of blood whether he is alive or not, and the tanker's intention is to lower the morale of those of you who observe the carnage.

Yes, it works.

Knowing you are about to be killed can paralyze you, making it easier for the enemy to do. It also makes it easy for you to throw down your empty rifle and plead for your life. But that makes it even easier for your enemy to kill you. Such psychic shocks can be overcome with forethought.

Forethought is another word for training.

Carl F. Bernard was an enlisted Marine in WWII and after the war served in China; he re-enlisted in the Army and received an OCS commission. He was stationed in Japan when he was "Shanghaied" from Love Company for Task Force Smith. ✕

I Was There

Continued from page 20

gemails of my daughters. The CID tried to match these hairs to me; when that failed, they promptly hid the hairs' existence.

Today, I work daily on my case while in federal prison in Sheridan, Ore., awaiting DNA tests which the courts finally ruled were my right under law. (We had asked to test all the biological exhibits — perhaps 50 — but the court saw fit to limit us to 15.)

So far, Mr. Murtagh has delayed and obstructed these tests — tests which were ordered by the court *two-and-a-half years ago*.

Readers with information are encouraged to contact Tom Reisinger at Soldier Of Fortune Magazine, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303; phone: 303-449-3750, ext. 309; Email: tomr@sofmag.com. Confidentiality is assured.

Jeff's website is: www.TheMacDonaldDefense.org. ✕

PARTIAL LIST OF SUPPRESSED EVIDENCE

- Blond wig hairs, 22" and 24" long — Found in a hairbrush near the phone Stoeckley says she answered during the murders. Stoeckley was known to have worn a blond wig that night.
- Black wool fibers found on murder club, on Colette's mouth, on her shoulder — Unattached to anything in the house; kept off of government laboratory reports.
- Short brown "mystery" hair found clutched in Colette's left hand — Secretly tested against MacDonald's hair and found *not* to be his.
- Human Hairs, Unidentified — Hairs found under the nails of each child, kept off government charts. Handwritten government lab technician notes released posttrial say: "... will not be reported by me [the lab tech]."
- Blood of Greg Mitchell's type found on hand of Colette MacDonald — Stoeckley said she saw Mitchell struggling with Colette. Mitchell told several friends and others he was involved in the killings.
- Fresh wax drippings found in three places — These samples, from three different candles, *weren't* matched to candles in the MacDonald home. A neighbor saw robbed figures carrying candles and walking toward the MacDonald residence about midnight.
- A piece of skin found on Colette's fingernail & lost by the CID — The loss was covered up for months. Then — when the presence of the skin was affirmed — a CID agent said he'd seen a long fingernail scratch mark on MacDonald's chest. But the Army emergency physician who treated MacDonald said later, "There were no fingernail scratches on Jeffrey MacDonald."
— courtesy Harvey A. Silverglate, Esq.



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by Col. David H. Hackworth (Ret.)

G.I. Janes Only Hack It On The Silver Screen

Over the past decade, I've gotten calluses on my lips trying to convince folks across this great land that women won't make it as grunts in ground combat. The minute I start my spiel, I see some people turn off. They're probably thinking, "Why doesn't this old male dinosaur tune into the 21st century and get with reality or crawl back into his retirement cave and shut up. Future wars will be about missiles, satellites and high-technology gadgets. And Jane can push buttons a lot better than Tarzan."

Now help is on the way! A woman, no less, agrees with my old grunt point of view, derived from more than 50 years of trudging around battlefields as a sailor, soldier and reporter.

One thing this rough journey underscored is that missiles and high-tech contraptions don't win wars; only well-trained, highly disciplined and granite-hard men do. Somalia and Kosovo have only reinforced that truth.

In *The Kinder, Gentler Military* (Scribner; \$25), Stephanie Gutmann, after spending several years in the trenches doing research and interviewing scores of male and female members of our military, has concluded that the push to increase the number of females in the military has seriously weakened our armed forces.

Amen.

Gutmann's reporting is mainly anecdotal, backed by hard research, a lot of shoe leather and sweat. The book is "You Are There" — listening to scores of fine men and women on the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Stennis*, at the Army training fields of Fort Jackson, S.C., and at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, in Illinois. These patriots shout that the experiment by the social engineers and the PCers has failed. A woman Marine, Sergeant Charlotte Crouch, says, "Truth be known, that's one of the reasons that I'm getting out. It's all too PC. I came in to be in an organization with a clear mission policy and a focus on individual and unit efficiency. Now, the focus is what you say, how you say it and to whom do you say it. Whatever happened to simply training Marines? And how in the hell did we ever get stuck in this mire?"

Ex-Army Captain John Fellen says, "It's becoming like Mao's Cultural Revolution. Everybody knows it's a system built on a thousand little lies, but everybody's waiting for someone that's high-ranking, who's not a complete moral cow-



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

ard to come and say so."

Navy Lieutenant John Gadzinski says, "This is a boat (*U.S.S. Eisenhower*) where our job is to put bombs on target, missiles on target." But in reality, the maiden cruise of the giant carrier with a crew that was 10 percent female was all about snowing the public on how well sexual integration worked in the Navy.

Gadzinski told Gutmann the cruise was a con job from beginning to end. He said, for example, that female sailors who worked in data processing were put in the flight deck and the control tower "to make a pretty picture for the VIPs on their walk-throughs."

The high-rankers are still hiding the truth from Congress, and Ms. Gutmann takes a shot at their dereliction of duty and five-star hypocrisy like no one has before.

I hear from scores of Army drill sergeants, all sounding off about how training's been weakened and standards lowered because of mixing male and female trainees together. Gutmann captures their despair when she describes Fort Jackson as a kind of a *Sesame Street* with a lot of teenage sex.

Gutmann found that many women trainees couldn't toss a grenade the required 115 feet. So the bar was lowered; women only had to "pick up a live grenade and essentially dump it over the

wall of a deep concrete enclosure, where it could burst to its little heart's content."

She quotes one drill sergeant, "You're not being a soldier, you're being a mama." The same sergeant says "Abuse is one thing, being tough and demanding is another."

Gutmann's book must be read by all caring Americans and its cogent message must be urgently transmitted to our lawmakers — who go along to get along to get re-elected — and in the process put political correctness over the security of our nation and the lives of our frontline fighters.

<http://www.hackworth.com> is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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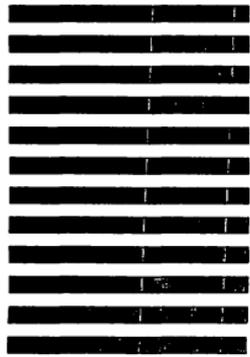
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