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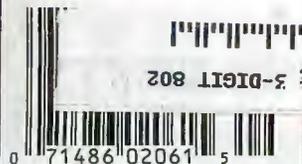
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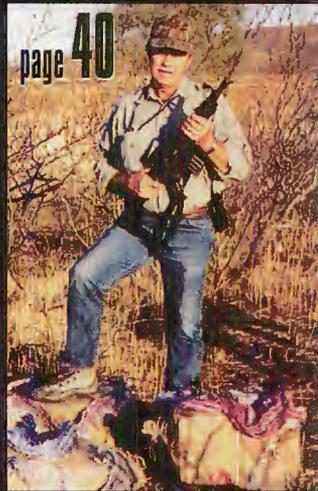


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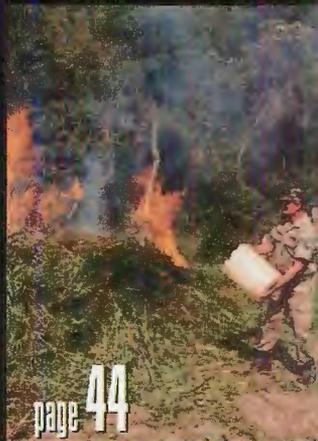
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Colombian soldiers wait to depart on an anti-drug operation from the Barranco base in the southeastern jungle region of Guaviare. See story, page 56.

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courtesy Don Barnett



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Emily K. Nickerson

COMMAND GUIDANCE

by Peter Caroline

Fake IDs Beat Gun Checks — Well, Du-uh!

To quote Forrest Gump, “Stupid is as stupid does.” And you might think that it was stupidity that prompted a study conducted by the General Accounting Office. GAO investigators were issued fake IDs ... driver’s licenses created with off-the-shelf software, a scanner, a color laser printer and a laminator ... and sent out to buy guns in various states.

Based on their buying experiences, the investigators came to a number of conclusions: 1) It is easy to obtain firearms and ammunition, using a false ID; 2) perfectly usable pre-1898 firearms can be purchased without going through a background check; and 3) the National Instant Check System (NICS) is therefore quite easily defeated by a determined lawbreaker.

I assume that you find this revelation as dreadfully shocking as I do. Can you imagine ... criminals would actually resort to breaking the law in order to buy a gun illegally? Why, the next thing you know, people will be using fake IDs to illegally purchase cigarettes and liquor, or even to pretend that they’re U.S. citizens. Don’t these individuals realize that they’re committing a crime?

Now the GAO has just proven, at considerable taxpayer expense, something that most firearms owners, law-abiding and otherwise, have known since Brady was passed into law. And even assuming the usual amount of cranial density inherent in the average Beltway bureaucrat, this study is quite worthy of some sort of award for bone-headedness. But there is, trust me, a method to this particular madness.

Given the physical law of inertia —

the tendency of a body at rest to remain at rest — we can assume that the GAO did not come up with this bit of busy-work on its own. Quite the contrary; this investigation was conducted at the specific request of U.S. Representatives Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.), both very familiar names on the anti-gun extremist circuit. Now, what do you think these folks are trying to prove?

It doesn’t take much imagination to realize that Reps. Waxman and McCarthy want to use these “findings” to justify the implementation of stiffer gun laws ... to “close all those loopholes,” as anti-Second Amendment types are fond of saying. Mr. Waxman, in fact, initially wanted the GAO to “determine how easily firearms can be purchased using the Internet.” After two Internet firearms advertisers refused to conduct a transaction unless it were done face-to-face, Waxman had the GAO drop that line of inquiry. Going to actual gun shops with plausible false ID proved to be more rewarding. After all, a name check simply determines whether or not the person with that name has a criminal record. Say you present the gun shop proprietor with a fake driver’s license bearing the name of Rutherford B. Hayes. If the F.B.I. can find no criminal record for Rutherford B. Hayes, then you have passed your instant check and you can pay your money and take your gun home. Or, let’s make it even simpler. You spot a Smith & Wesson Third Model .38 Double Action in usable but raunchy condition for \$150. The dealer knows

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE (USPS 525-810, ISSN 0145-6784), September 2001, Volume 26, Number 9, is published monthly by SOLDIER OF FORTUNE Inc., 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340. Periodicals Postage is paid at Boulder, CO and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, Subscription Department, POB 348, Mt Morris, IL 61054-0348 or call 1-800-877-5207. U.S. and APO-FPO subscription rate for twelve monthly issues \$29.95. Canada add \$10.00/yr. additional postage (includes GST tax registration business number: 12847 6249 RT). All other countries add \$21.00 U.S. FUNDS ONLY. Single Issue Price — U.S.: \$4.99; United Kingdom: £2.60; Canada: \$5.99. PRINTED IN THE USA.

CONTRIBUTORS: Manuscripts, photographs or drawings are submitted at the contributor’s own risk. Material should be mailed to Articles Editor, SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO 80303-1340, and cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. Any material accepted is subject to such revision as is necessary to meet the editorial requirements of SOF. All manuscripts must be typed double-spaced. All photographs must be credited and be accurately identified. Payment will be made at rates current at time of publication. Editorial office phone number is 303-449-3750.

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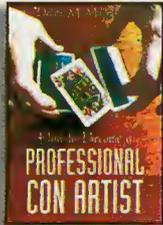
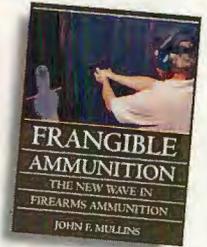
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by John F. Mullins

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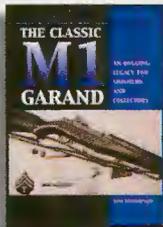


SAFE AT HOME

A Thinking Man's Guide to Home Defense with Louis Awerbuck

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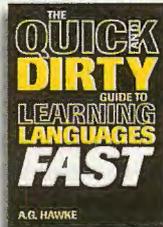
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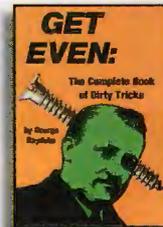
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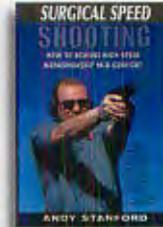
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Bulletin Board

LaPierre : Batten Down The Hatches

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre notes that with the defection of U.S. Senator James Jeffords (I-Vt.) and control of the U.S. Senate now going to the Democrats, the cabal of anti-gun extremists will now hold the key positions that can dictate what legislation will be heard, and when. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), and Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) will now have complete control over the important Senate Judiciary Committee, and Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) will replace pro-Second Amendment Senator Trent Lott (R-Miss.) as Senate Majority Leader. LaPierre warned that gun owners will need to "batten down the hatches" to prepare for Senate debate over a host of ill-advised anti-gun legislation.

courtesy Billy Waugh



Sergeant Major William D. ("Billy") Waugh (Ret.) (center) after a jump with Army Team World Champion Paul Rafferty (left) (13,000+ free falls), and Command Sergeant Major Pete Morakon (right) (5,000+) on the occasion of SOG being awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its work in Vietnam. (Waugh has a "mere" 400+ jumps and one combat insertion). Noted Sgt. Maj. Waugh at the PUC award ceremony at the Bull Simons Plaza at Ft. Bragg, "I for one am so damned lucky and proud to serve with the recon lads of SOG. The mantle has passed and we can rest." SOG vets can contact SGM Waugh at BILLYWCCN@AOL.COM .

Air America Vets Honored

In a June ceremony in Las Vegas at a reunion for CAT and Air America vets, the CIA presented a unit citation recognizing their decades of unacknowledged — as in *secret* — service to the nation. Civil Air Transport was started as a "commercial" airline in China at the end of World War II, and in 1950 the CIA bought the company assets. During the Chinese civil war, CAT transported refugees, personnel and relief supplies. In 1959, the name was changed to Air America, and Air America continued to operate as a CIA pro-

prietary, transporting *soft* and *hard* rice and personnel for anti-communist forces in Southeast Asia, including the secret war in Laos. At the fall of Saigon in 1975, Air America chopper crews evacuated Americans and South Vietnamese.

During the quarter-century of service, some 242 of these quiet warriors died or disappeared on missions.

Smith & Wesson Sold

Scottsdale, Arizona-based Saf-T-Hammer, makers of gun safety equipment, is buying Smith & Wesson from the British holding company Tompkins PLC, for a reported \$15 million. In a news release, company chairman Mitchell Saltz said, "Tompkins' motivation to sell Smith & Wesson as part of its refocused worldwide operation presented an extraordinary opportunity for Saf-T-Hammer." "Smith & Wesson, a brand name for 174 years, would be at the top of any list of immediately identifiable corporate logos recognized worldwide," said Bob Scott of Saf-T-Hammer and former vice-president of S&W. "We are proud to return the storied company to American ownership," adding that "we plan to increase the company's revenue through expanded branding activities and strategic acquisitions that will compliment the company's current product lines."

Let us hope future plans also include a review of the recent stances from the S&W front office that got it so sorely in trouble with American gun owners.

Zimbabwe News Portal

A window on developments in Zimbabwe is only a keystroke away on the internet: <http://www.zwnews.com> will bring you up-to-the-minute and uncensored news, and there is a news archive and links to other related sites. Typical recent headlines include, "Second Mugabe Minister Dies in Car Crash," "Zimbabweans in SA Urged to Go Home for Poll," "Harare Dismisses Offer of Land from Farmers," "Powell Tightens the Ring," "Mahachi's Death Increases Factional Paranoia." In addition to useful news, information and links, the site also has a very good search engine. A calendar of international events relating to Zimbabwe is also listed.

Beltway Rates NRA No. 1 Lobby

This year's Power 25 survey of the movers and shakers in Washington and conducted on behalf of *Fortune* magazine by the Mellman Group (a Democratic polling company) and Public Opinion Strategies (a GOP firm), concludes that the NRA is the most effective lobby in Washington. The NRA

beat out the 34-plus-million member (and generally anti-gun) AARP for the first time in four years. The top five were: NRA, AARP, NFIB, American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the Association of Trial Lawyers.

atop every G.I., the Defense Logistics Agency will ultimately have to piece together a stockpile of some 4.8 million of them, from various sources. Several existing contracts have been canceled by the Army due to shoddy workmanship and missed deadlines.

In case you want to get in on the bidding, the black berets from China are going on the surplus docket. Really a pity that Fidel ruined the image of the Louisville Springer, ain't it?

Pentagon: No Red Black Berets

In its headlong rush make every soldier elite by topping them off with a black beret, the Army had to come up with some 2.6 million berets and have them on the shelf by the Army's birthday, 14 June. Due to the extreme importance of this project, "Buy American" provisions usually in force for such purchases were waived, and bids were sought from all comers — including producers from communist China and those who used components from the PRC. The glomming of our P3 Orion happened to coincide with massive expressions of distress over the program as a whole by veteran's organizations and active-duty personnel — and the general bruhaha caught the attention of Congress, who, after a General Accounting Office review, told the Pentagon to dump the Chinese-made berets.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz issued a statement that, "The Army Chief of Staff has determined that U.S. troops shall not wear berets made in China or with Chinese content. Therefore I direct the Army and the Defense Logistics Agency to take appropriate action to recall previously distributed berets and dispose of the stock."

As we go to press, DoD spokesman Jack Hooper said the Army is still sorting the good berets from the rejects, and the Chinese-made from the others. If the Army forges ahead with General Shinseki's plan to deploy the "Rangers" black beret

Jump Cambodia

Friendship Airborne is putting together another friendship jump trip to Cambodia in November 2001, open to all airborne-qualified paratroopers. For more information or for a video of the spring 2001 operations with the Royal Thai Army, Cambodian Para-Commandos and the Royal Thai Border Patrol Police PARU (SpecOps), contact: Friendship Airborne, 82 Woodfield Court, Racine, WI 53402; phone: 262-639-0780; fax: 262-639-7686; e-mail: HYPERLINK mailto:DocFATsInc@aol.com; DocFATsInc@aol.com ; or check out their website <http://marina.fortunecity.com/cyprus/33/index.html>.

Are You A Turtle?

In deference to the original armored troops, 1,800 Leathernecks and 500 vehicles maneuvering from the Army's Yuma Proving Ground in southern Arizona to the Marine Corps base at Twentynine Palms, California, detailed more than two dozen noncoms —and a bevy of

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federally approved \$85-an-hour civilian tortoise handlers — to ensure that no threatened desert tortoise would fall victim to superior technology. Stationed at Camp Pendleton, the Marines had been on river-crossing operations where the Colorado River runs through the Palo Verde Valley. As spring is when tortoises do their best to scurry around looking for a mate, they were thought to be particularly vulnerable at this time.

Civil Air Patrol's 60th Anniversary

The 60,000 volunteer professionals of the Civil Air Patrol will celebrate the organization's 60th anniversary this year, with a National Board meeting and Annual Conference 15-18 August in Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information contact Charlotte Crowe at 334-953-5320; or via e-mail at crowe@capnhq.gov.

Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum

Private arms collections represent a major asset for preserving the artifacts of war and other facets of military history. Preserving the great war-birds and the history associated with them for future generations, however, usually entails a cooperative effort, not only because few war birds fit on the wall of one's den, but because acquiring, restoring, maintaining and displaying them is financially impossible for most individuals. Fortunate indeed is history to have volunteer non-profits such as the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum, home of the International B-

24 Memorial Museum.

The Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum has more vintage military aircraft on display than any other in Colorado — a remarkable feat in light of the fact they receive no county, state or federal support. Their operating funds come from a modest \$4 admission fee (under 12 free), gift shop profits, grants and some in-house fundraisers. All staff is volunteer. The hours are 1000 to 1600 M-F, 1000 to 1400 Saturday, and 1300-1600 Sunday. They are located at 31001 Magnuson Ave., Pueblo, CO 81001. You will find the museum to be a vibrant and growing entity, and the volunteers dedicated and knowledgeable. The museum is managed by the Pueblo Historical Aircraft Society; phone: 719-948-9219; fax: 719-948-2437.

Fraser Island Dingoes Downsized

Some 28 wild dogs on this Australian sand island have been culled after nine-year-old Clinton Gage was killed, and a number of other tourists bitten, including his seven-year-old brother. An Australian court rejected an application by an Aboriginal elder from Fraser Island to halt the cull. The Ngulungbara people, who call the dingo *wangari*, refer to the wild dogs as brothers in nature and fellow hunters, but the federal court said the state government has a right to protect public safety.

Located about 160 miles north of Brisbane, Fraser Island was home to some 160 endangered dingoes, considered to be the purest strain in Australia. The state government has come under criticism for not implementing a plan for rogue dingoes after a number of tourists were bitten in 1999. Some 300,000 tourists visit the small island annually. ✕

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Flak



SOF Leads The Way



With the execution of Timothy McVeigh, all SOF subscribers should keep their old issues on reserve. We will now see the “mainstream media” do its investigation of what really happened. They will put out their shows and for SOF readers, we’ll see the same things that have been produced in SOF for awhile. They will be asking and answering the same questions, producing the same documents and interviewing some of the same people that have already been covered in SOF. In fact, SOF should do a scorecard of the date that the mainstream media discovers something and the previous edition of SOF that already discussed it. For example, the story in SOF about the planned use of the “Flying Tigers” to bomb Japan by Roosevelt appeared in SOF six months before ABC produced a story on it, including the “never revealed before memos” (copies could be seen in the SOF story).

Keep up the good work.

Bill Barlow
Via e-mail

Why, Oh Why, Buy SOF?

Just curious why, in your July 2001 article “Nothing Left to Lose,” you do not note that Burma is no longer Burma, but is now (since 1948) Myanmar.

Reda Anderson

P.S. by the way, I still get shocked looks from clerks as well as others when, as a 62-year-old, educated grandmother of two, I purchase *Soldier Of Fortune* magazine. The other day, after finding SOF in her living room, my incredulous daughter-in-law asked my

son why, oh why, would he purchase such a magazine? He instantly responded, “That’s my mom’s!”

Well, he could tell her, “Buy SOF because they publish the straight scoop — like the fact that Burma became an independent Commonwealth state in 1948, but did not adopt the name ‘Mynamar’ until 1989, after the coup by Gen. Saw Maung.”

Russian Ammo



I enjoyed your article in the July issue about the Mosin-Nagant very much, but thought I’d give you a heads-up on 7.62x54R ammo. There is a good source for this round, a Russian company called Wolf. Their ammo is distributed by www.CheaperThanDirt.com. Currently they are listing 500-round case lots of 200-gr FMJ at \$102. Their 20-round box price is \$3. This has steel cases, is non-corrosive and non-reloadable. I’ve used their .223 and found it to be great stuff. Check them out. (By the way, I don’t work for them or anything.)

Regards,

Frank Kinney

Readers can also contact *Cheaper Than Dirt* at Dept. SOF, 2520 N.E. Loop 820, Ft. Worth, TX 76106-1809; or via phone at 800-421-8047. They have a full line of discounted outdoor gear, including some real surplus bargains, and some of the best prices on ammo from .25 acp to 12-gauge we seen for a long time.

Rally Around The Flag

I am in the U.S. Army and am currently stationed in the Republic of Korea. I live and work on Camp Castle,

about 12 kms south of the DMZ. I recently took a tour of the Joint Security Area (Pan Mun Jom) and heard a story that SOF at one time offered (or is still offering) a \$1 million reward for the capture of the giant North Korean flag. This sounds like a very intriguing story, however when I asked around for details, no one could help. This is why I’m writing you. Any details on the history of this reward would be great. For instance, when was the offer made (what issue), why, how much for the whole flag, how much feedback have you received for the reward, etc. Any information at all would be a great help. It should go without saying, but to make sure, I’m not considering any covert ops across the 38th Parallel. I’m just very interested in the whole situation. Makes for a great story. Thanks for your help.

Airborne!

Sgt. Russ

Hmmm. If there is a bona fide offer for \$1 million for that flag, we’ll go get it ourselves. A few years back we ran a story that mentioned the humorous machinations involved over each side wanting to have the biggest flag along the DMZ, but other than that it’s never really crossed our radar. We did at one time offer a genuine \$1 million reward for the delivery of an Mi-24 Hind from the Nicaraguans, but the money backing that offer wasn’t ours, if you get what I mean. The real plan was to make the Nicaraguans ground the Mi-24s that were hurting the Sandinistas, for fear their pilots would go on some unauthorized defection/collection missions. And it worked.

And once we offered a lesser amount for the live delivery of Idi Amin to a court with legal jurisdiction for trial on charges of crimes against humanity. We never got to pay that one, either, as Amin is dying of AIDs in Saudi.

You’re right, the flag makes for a great story, but it’s urban legend. However, if you can get one of their minisubs, give us a call and we’ll dicker.



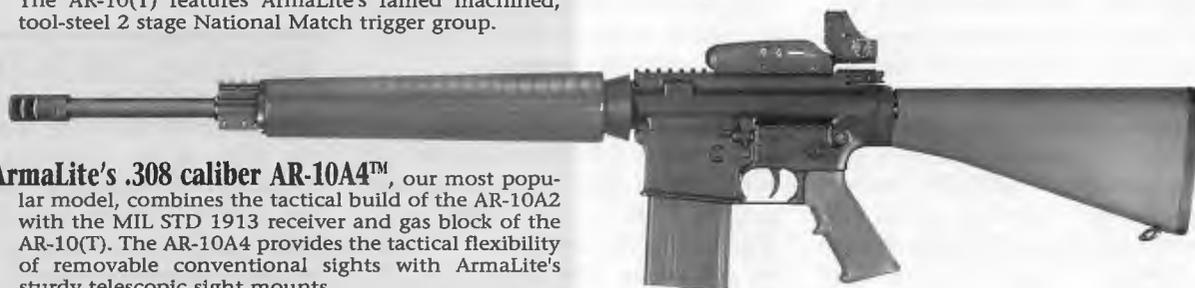
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Canadian Compliance



With regard to "World SitRep" May 2001: you report that 18% (400,000 out of 2,200,000) of Canadian gun owners have decided to disobey the new draconian gun control laws and failed to apply for licenses. According to a recent study by the Canadian Shooting Sports Association over 40% (1,300,000) of Canadian gun owners have refused to register (the CSSA estimates at least 3,300,000 gun owners in Canada — if not 5,000,000 which is the high range of their estimate).

An even more telling statistic is that according to official Canadian government records, only 300,000 guns have been registered (gun owners have until January 2003 to register all firearms, this has been extended from January 2001 because of non-compliance). The Canadian government estimates that there are roughly 15,000,000 firearms in Canada. The Canadian federal government has consistently been revising the number of gun owners (and firearms) downwards, to "improve" the compliance statistics, however these

lowered numbers have not been supported by any independent surveys.

Several provinces (including Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) as well as the three northern territories have not only challenged the constitutionality of the anti-gun laws, but have also vowed not to enforce them. These laws are targeted to harass law-abiding gun owners and do nothing to prevent gun crime. In response, the federal government has formed a (not-so) secret unit called the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team to enforce the new laws.

The key part of the anti-gun law is a national registry of all firearms, which has cost over \$500,000,000 to register the before-mentioned 300,000 firearms. At this rate, it will cost Canada \$25,000,000,000 (\$25 billion!) dollars to register every firearm in the country. At today's exchange rates, that's over \$16,000,000,000 greenbacks.

To get back to the 300,000 firearms registered: only 110,000 were new purchases or transfers to new owners (i.e. sales of used guns between individuals), the remainder were registrations of police firearms and items from museum collections. This level of civil disobedience is unprecedented in Canadian history, and has been carried

out mainly by grass-roots movements. We lack a unifying voice to protect our rights, mainly because our constitution does not afford us the same protections Americans have become accustomed to.

I would like to thank your magazine for bringing to the world's attention the plight of law-abiding gun owning Canadians in their struggle against an unfair, arbitrary and malicious law.

Marius Sherba
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

With our Canadian cousins being whom everybody thinks of next to the Swiss when speaking of the "rule of law," these statistics are staggering! Sounds like you have been watching what happened in Australia? Good luck resolving the issue.

Liked Review, But Not Book

Thank you for printing J.D. Cash's terrific review of Lou Michel and Dan Herbeck's terribly irresponsible book *American Terrorist: Timothy McVeigh and the Oklahoma City Bombing*. In the course of an afternoon at a bookstore I read this book and was "blown away" by the gaping holes and factual inaccuracies.

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For instance, the authors write that McVeigh drove to Area 51 in Roswell, New Mexico to see if UFOs exist.

Any fact-checker should know that Area 51 is hundreds of miles from Roswell — in rural Nevada! Mistakes like that, and many more, only cause readers to be more confused.

Thankfully, diligent and honest investigative reporters like J.D. Cash are getting their facts straight and seeking the truth!

Jesse Boudreaux

Watch Yo' Tongue

In the July issue under "World SitRep" item #11, you describe Croats as "Ultrationalists of HDZ." I wish you would refrain from using such a term to describe Croats, be it in Croatia or Bosnia, before you do a thorough study of both previous history of the Balkans and the recent happenings, especially since "Dayton Accord."

At that point you would understand that "High Representative" Wolfgang Petrisch and associates replaced just about all of the Croat representatives in the Bosnian government. Those reps were elected by an overwhelming,

approximately 90%, majority of Croat voters. He replaced them without any real cause or explanation. His lame excuse was that they did not "behave properly." If we would have used such a criteria in this country during the Clinton administration, who was not elected by 90%, not even close, majority, we would have had a new president long before the 2000 elections.

All that Croatians everywhere, including Bosnia [want is to] be treated fairly, no special rights or treatment. In Bosnia, all that Croats want is the real implementation of the "Dayton Accord" and not a shift toward Muslim and Serb control. I dare you to find out how many Croats were able to return to their homes of before the war? Comparing to Serb primarily and Muslim to certain extent, almost nil! Also, who is complying with the court in "Hague?" Serbs almost nil, Muslim, nil. Croats did not start the war, Milosevic did. Croats committed almost no atrocities, yet they are the majority of the accused in the Hague. Is this what you call justice?

Croats on the Balkan have been getting shafted for a long time, but especially since WWI, 1918, when they were forced into "Kingdom of Croats, Serbs and Slovenes" with Serbs in con-

trol. Later, after Serb King declared "Martial Law" it was renamed Yugoslavia with Serbs back in control.

Why are Croats being treated as second class citizens, is it because many people want our land? Or is it because we are [Roman] Catholics?

I have great respect for your magazine, and subscribed for that reason, so I expect more from you than everyday press and hope that you treat everybody evenly and fairly.

Branko Kirinic
Lincolnwood, Illinois

Ooops!

The Finnish Model 31 sub-machine gun referred to by Sgt. Fred Smith is called a Suomi, not Soumi. I have always respected your magazine's attention to detail, and I would not want to see the name of our country misspelled on your pages in the future. Suomi is, after all, the Finnish name for Finland.

Mikael Halila
Espoo, Finland

You're right, of course, and we knew better, and should have caught that. ✕



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Get Your Gear

BY TOM CHAMBERS

Essential Gear

AS I mentioned in my previous columns, I learned a lot of lessons in the Army the hard way because I either didn't know how to use my equipment properly, didn't maintain it, or didn't have the proper equipment with me when I needed it the most. That's basically what this column is about. I'm going to present some basics about how to select the gear you might need and how to properly maintain and use it, and might even give a specific recommendation on a product that I've successfully used in the past.

When I first entered the Army, like any recruit, I was issued my basic equipment (clothing, boots, raingear, etc). Right from the get-go I felt that my boots were a bit too tight, but was told "they'll loosen up with time." They didn't! I marched in agony for a month before I was able to exchange them. When I thought back to when my boots were issued to me, I realized that the DAC (Department of the Army Civilian) who helped fit me was in some kind of a hurry. Maybe it was past his break-time or he had an important date, maybe even a quota to meet. In any event, the lesson learned here was never shop or purchase essential gear such as boots, etc., when either you or the clerk are in a hurry. Take your time, none of this last-minute-shopping stuff.

Another thing you'll want to do is to try the stuff on when you get home and make any necessary adjustments. Let's say you bought the new backpack of your dreams that fit perfectly at the store. Don't just take it home and load it up with your gear and leave for that weekend outing. Loading it up with your gear is fine, but keep in mind that when you tried it on at the store it was empty. Put 40 pounds of gear in it and it's a whole new deal. Try it on, adjust the straps, take a walk around the block and readjust as necessary. It's a whole lot easier to adjust your gear at home than it is out in the boonies.

A lot of you have probably been to the SHOT Show (shooting, hunting, outdoor, trade show) that bounces



back and forth between Las Vegas and other cities. A few years ago I attended my first SHOT and came back really impressed with what I saw. In particular, while walking the floor, I came upon the booth of Essential Gear, Inc., who specializes in survival gear. I'm not talking about stored food or water. Instead, Essential has a few basic, but very high-tech survival tools for outdoor use. The one I really like is their Windmill Stormproof Lighters. I guess you could light up a pipe or a stogie with one, but its actual purpose is for outdoor and emergency use so that you can create a fire in adverse weather conditions. My two must-take-with-me items

that I always carry when going outdoors is a Windmill lighter and water.

Stormproof lighters can withstand 70-80 mile per hour winds. Windmill's platinum (white gold) catalyzer coil provides continuous ignition of the gas vapors creating a clean, hot flame nearly invisible in outdoor bright light. Windmill's piezo-electric ignition system eliminates the need for batteries or flints which fail when wet. Piezo is a mechanical system which produces a spark when the lighter ignition button is pressed. Piezo-electric systems are said to be good for over 30,000 ignitions. Another feature I really like as an avid boater is the five rubber O-rings seals



to help keep water out when the lighter cap is closed.

Other features include a ceramic flame window located on the side of the burner unit which glows a bright, white color when the lighter is ignited and is easily refilled in a few seconds with economical, clean burning butane gas. Fuel cans are readily available at most grocery, drug and convenience stores. Burn time is approximately 300 ignitions at 3-5 seconds duration (over 30 minutes). There is also a convenient fuel window that makes it easy to tell at a glance how much fuel remains in the lighter.

Windmill lighters will work in extremely low temperatures (-40 degrees F.) if the lighter is kept above freezing. Simply storing the lighter in an inside pocket will accomplish this. They are also optimized for use up to 9,000 feet, but have been used as high as 15,000 feet by using the simple flame adjuster which regulates gas flow for use at varying elevations to maximize oxygen content.

If you're like me, sometimes you don't want to be seen, but there are other times when you're dying to be seen. A Visual Identification Projector (VIP) LED Signal Light from Essential Gear would have been nice to have had along when I got lost in the desert while quail hunting. I had to wait until it got real dark before I spotted some lights and got some help.

The VIP is highly visible (more than 3 miles) with a wide viewing angle and performs three functions: flashing signal mode, steady on/proximity flashlight mode and S.O.S. visual signal mode and will flash over 200 hours on one battery, or 30 hours continuously. LED (light emitting diodes) are solid-state semiconductor diodes that emit colored light. An epoxy resin is used to encapsulate the semiconductor, while producing a lens to focus the light. LEDs have to filaments or glass to break, they are also very impact resistant. The VIP is also a very rugged and shock resistant with its case made of polyurethane with brass-threaded battery compartment and lenses of impact resistant polycarbonate. The integrated clip that comes with the VIP allows it to easily attach to almost anything.

For more information on the VIP and Windmill Stormproof lighters, contact Essential Gear, Inc., Dept. SOF, 22 Cleveland Street, Greenfield, MA 01301; call (800) 582-3861; e-mail sales@essentialgear.com; or visit their website at www.essentialgear.com.

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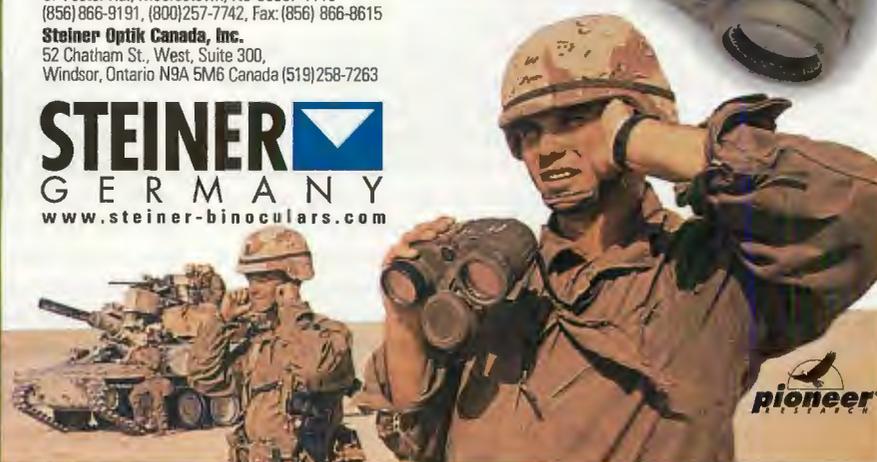
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Battle Blades

BY BILL BAGWELL

Choice Cuts

Practical men tend to seek and develop practical information. The closer we get to a true survival, kill-or-be-killed situation, the more focused our immediate priorities become, and such things as the day's performance of the Dow Industrials suddenly become less significant. Case in point: Early man-the-hunter, armed with a flint knife or spear, understood that the more blood an animal lost, the quicker it expired, and the quicker the clan was fed. Procurement of food was far more important than the number of beads in his wife's necklace, so early man had a real interest in developing and utilizing the knowledge of how to promote maximum blood loss in his prey with a minimum amount of effort and risk to himself.

Man-the-warrior had the same basic understanding. When he began to hunt the most dangerous animal of all — other men — he quickly discovered that promoting incapacitation and rapid blood loss went a long way toward saving his own skin. Using his experience as a hunter as a starting point, the warrior began to devote some serious study to the problem of how to kill with minimal risk to himself. A classic example was the Japanese *samurai* practice of testing the performance of finished swords by using condemned prisoners as the test medium. During this process the Japanese went to the trouble of describing and cataloging the various cuts and rated them according to the varying degrees of difficulty. What's more, they also worked up a set of drawings of the human anatomy and illustrated the various cuts and described their particular application. You had better believe that when a samurai went about the business of taking someone apart with a blade, he knew exactly where he was going and how to get there.

As a society, we are selectively and childishly squeamish. We tolerate blood and gore on our children's video games and



Cuts to the arms can be both incapacitating and fatal. Cuts down the arm (right) are not as generally effective as cuts that run across (left) muscle groups. These cuts are especially suited to the Bowie backcut technique.

on our TV screens in our living rooms, yet the discussion of and instruction in the intricacies of practical techniques for our own preservation and self-defense are topics that are politically incorrect. Effective cutting techniques fall into this category of taboo conversation at the occasional cocktail party. However, like it or not, the harsh realities of life make it necessary for some of us to know and study a few of these cutting techniques. Both our own and our country's best interests are at stake.

When a man dies as a result of a serious cut and massive bleeding, he actually dies of suffocation. When there is no longer enough blood circulating to carry sufficient oxygen throughout the body to sustain life, the victim lapses into unconsciousness and suffocates. Simply put, when your heart pumps air, you fall down and then you die. Primitive man and modern bowhunters have known this since the dawn of time, and they adjust their tactics to allow enough time for the process to occur in their quarry after

the hit. An animal doesn't collapse immediately after being struck by an arrow, and a man will not drop in his tracks after being cut with a knife, except in certain circumstances.

There are actually two ways to kill a man with a knife. One is an attack on his circulatory system and the other is an attack on his central nervous system. The kind or type of knife you use and the circumstances of the moment dictates which is best, so let's look at the parameters involved with each method and the blade of choice versus the blade of the moment.

The usual method of killing with a knife is an attack on the circulatory system. The idea is to cause the enemy to bleed a lot, very quickly, so that he faints and then suffocates before he can retaliate and cut you. A successful stabbing attack to the heart or kidneys or their surrounding arteries will accomplish the massive blood loss we are seek-



(left) Among the most effective cuts are those across the leaders, ligaments and blood vessels on the back of the hand. These are instantly debilitating and quickly result in unconsciousness without immediate and successful stoppage of blood flow. (center) A cut across the

forehead, while not fatal unless the cranial cavity is pierced, will immediately incapacitate the opponent by causing rapid blood flow into the eyes. (right) A jugular vein or carotid artery attack is lethal. The Bowie backcut technique lends itself to this attack.

ing, but this is a high-risk attack, and the odds that the enemy will be able to retaliate are very high. A far safer attack is to target specific blood vessel groups on the extremities that are easy to reach.

While they are generally overlooked as prime offensive targets, the veins and arteries of the hands and arms carry large amounts of blood and are extremely vulnerable. They are also the easiest to hit and reach on an opponent. I can personally vouch for the effectiveness of a hit on the arm with a Bowie knife, for I severed the radial artery in my left arm in a shop accident several years ago with a puncture wound that was 3-1/2 inches deep. Blood flow was instantaneous and massive, and without a tourniquet

and a nearby clinic, I might not have made it to the hospital where I was loaded with IVs and kept on observation. Surgeons declined to attempt to reattach the artery, and I have numbness in my little and ring fingers on my left hand from nerve damage as I write this. Had I been in a fight, I would have been a dead man.

Bad as the aforementioned cut was, it would be insignificant compared to a cut across the back of the hand or wrist where the blood vessels that feed the hand come to the surface and branch out. Here you not only get the blood vessels, you get the leaders and ligaments that make the hand work

Continued on page 66

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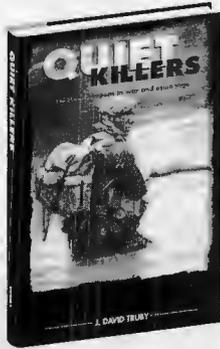


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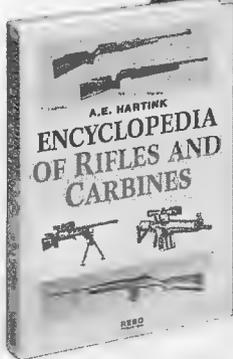


Ammunition For Your Head

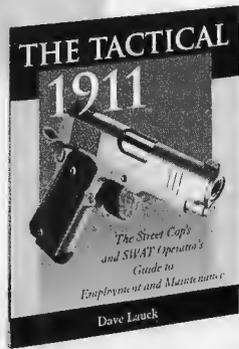
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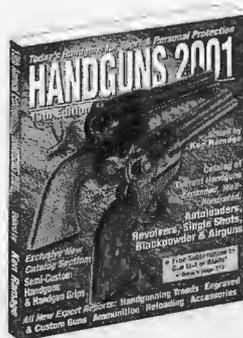
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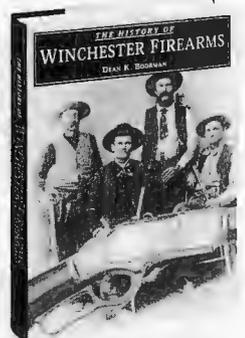
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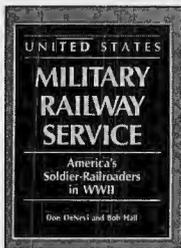
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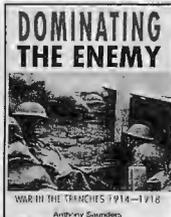
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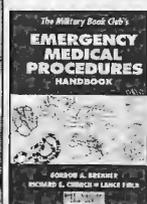
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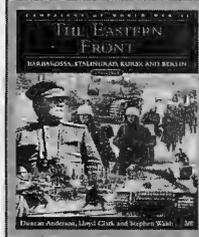
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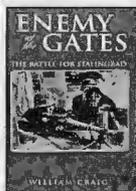
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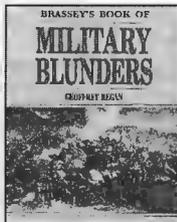
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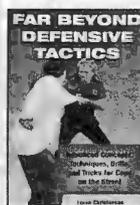
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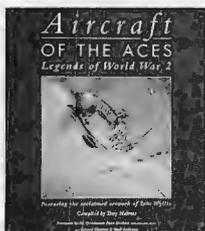
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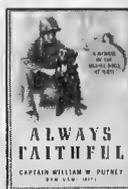
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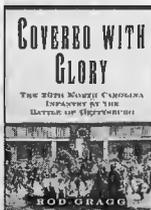
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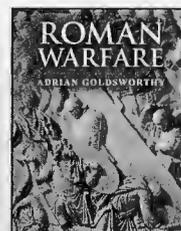
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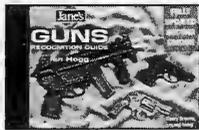
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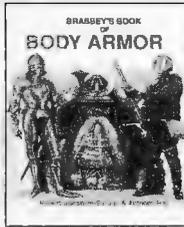
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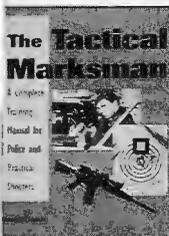
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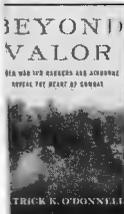
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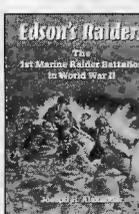
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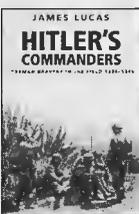
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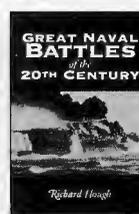
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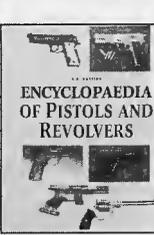
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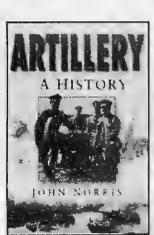
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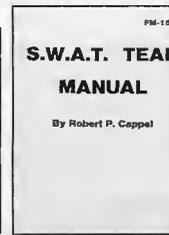
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fighting

Holsters

BY BOB ARGANBRIGHT

The Threepersons Holster

There are many legends about Tom Threepersons, some correct and some wrong. Things are complicated by there being a Canadian Indian with the same name at the same time. But the Threepersons that we are interested in was a full-blooded Cheyenne born sometime in the late 19th century. A talented bronc rider, he broke horses for the U.S. government during World War I when he was kicked in the head — leaving a permanent soft spot on the top of his skull. He habitually wore a 10-gallon Stetson hat to protect his head. Tom Threepersons became a legendary gunfighter while serving with the El Paso, Texas, Police Department following WWI. He later served as a Deputy Sheriff in Silver City, New Mexico.

According to holster maker and authority, John Bianchi, it was in 1932 that Tom Threepersons, in search of a holster that would let him get into action faster, contacted El Paso

(right) These two original S.D. Myres "Threepersons" holsters were the finest available in pre-WWII fighting holsters. (below) This "Alfonso's of Hollywood" holster is a modern version of the Threepersons style, having a thumb-break safety strap added for security.



master saddle- and holster-maker Sam Myres, of the S.D. Myres Saddle Company. They collaborated on the design of what was to become one of the all-time great fighting holsters, the Myres "Threepersons" model strong-side hip holster.

As with most things in life, holster design is a matter of compromises. A hip holster may be very secure or very fast, but it is nearly impossible to produce a holster that is *both* very secure and very fast. The traditional Western holster sacrificed speed for security with a pouch that enclosed all but the gun butt. Threepersons desired a very fast holster that was adequately secure for early 20th Century police work. The new holster also needed to be comfortable for long hours of duty wear.

"Tio Sam" Myres achieved the search for speed by trimming the new holster of all unnecessary leather. It should be noted that Threepersons was using the legendary Colt Single Action Army revolver, which had to be thumb cocked before it would fire. The trimmed holster pouch exposed the entire trigger guard and all of the hammer spur for a maximum speed draw. While an optional safety strap was available, Threepersons' personal Myres holster did not have one. The new holster design was raised high on the hip, and was the first with what became known as the FBI rake, where the gun butt was tipped approximately 30 degrees forward. This made it easier to draw from the holster placed high on the strong-side hip.

Myres, also a professional saddle maker, used the best grade heavy saddle leather and fit it very tight to the desired handgun. This "friction fit" provided adequate security for all but riding bucking broncs.

Constructed from a single piece of heavy top-grade cowhide, the Threepersons holster had a tunnel belt loop that extended most of the way to the toe of the pouch, providing extra strength. A full-length heavy welt ran down the main seam of the closed bottom pouch, further strengthening it and providing a perfect fit. It should be noted that the traditional Mexican loop-style holsters did not have this welt.

The Myres Threepersons holster was very popular with gunslingers on both sides of the law, and pre-WWII photos of Texas Rangers show many of them carrying two sixguns in Threepersons holsters. All major holster makers soon offered their own version of the holster. When the George Lawrence Holster Company, a giant in the industry dating from the days of the Pony Express, asked sixgun authority and first recipient of the Outstanding American Handgunner Award, Elmer Keith, to design a holster for them, the resulting Lawrence Keith model was Threepersons with Keith's design of a safety strap. Keith requested a safety strap which secured with a heavy duty snap fastener with an extended tab so that it could be quickly wiped open with the shooting-hand thumb.

Though available with a belt loop for a wide cartridge belt, an unintended benefit of the high-ride design, when worn on a waist belt, the Threepersons holster concealed relatively well under a jacket, and it was adopted by many

police departments for duty wear by detectives. This general design holster became known as the "FBI holster". This classic fighting holster is still an excellent way to carry a handgun on the strong-side hip and the original pattern is available from El Paso Saddlery.

Alfonso Pineda came to Los Angeles from Central America in the late 1950s. A leather craftsman since his youth, he met Hollywood gun coach Arvo Ojala while working at Universal Studios, and Ojala hired him to work in his Hollywood Fast Draw Holster shop. By 1961, Alfonso had opened his own "Alfonso's of Hollywood" holster shop in North Hollywood. Alfonso designed four western rigs for competition Fast Draw and at the 1961 National Walk and Draw Championship in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Alfonso Number 2 rig was the choice of the winners. Sadly, Alfonso Pineda has gone to his last reward, with his son Omar continuing the business at Alfonso's of Hollywood.

They made me an excellent updated Threepersons-style holster for my favorite double-action revolver, a 4-inch Smith and Wesson Model 19 .357 Magnum. The holster retains the fully exposed trigger guard and closed muzzle end of the Myres original. My sample is fully lined and beautifully hand-carved with an acorn and oak leaf pattern. Most police departments require some type of security holster, and this Alfonso holster includes a thumb-break safety strap to provide the desired security. The thumb-release tab is steel lined to assure a positive thumb release. The top edge of the pouch includes a rear sight guard, which protects jacket linings from sharp-edged rear target sights. Alfonso's of Hollywood is a full-service holster maker, providing every style of holster from maximum-speed competition Fast Draw to maximum concealment holsters. My contemporary Threepersons-style came with a perfectly matching full lined belt and double speed-loader pouch, all full hand carved to match and finished in a beautiful golden brown. Sam Myres would have liked this rig. ☒

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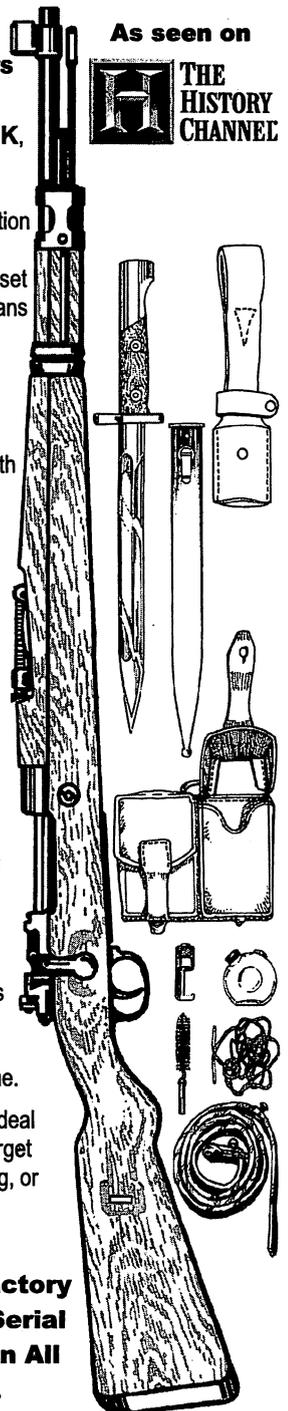
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I Was There

BY ROB KROTT

PHOTOS COURTESY AUTHOR

Little Nancy And The Big Bad Mercenaries

Tomislavgrad (formerly Duvno), Bosnia — Spring 1993. The war was in full-swing. The Croat infantrymen of the HVO (*Hrvatsko Vijeće Odbrane* — Croatian Defence Council), the “army” of the self-proclaimed Croatian enclave of Herceg-Bosna — were holding their own against the Serbs. They’d also been involved in some bloody skirmishes with Muslims of the local B-H Armija. There were 36 foreign “volunteers” then serving in the King Tomislav Brigade. Besides myself, who was thrust into a position of nominal command (especially when somebody needed something from supply), there were three or four Brits (usually drunk), three Frenchmen, a squad of Germans, 17 mixed Scandinavians in the “Viking Platoon,” an Italian, a Spaniard, a Hungarian, two other Americans, and even some Australians. The KTB was led by Colonel Zeljko “Nick” Glasnovic, a Croat-born Canadian from Edmonton, Alberta. Nick had served in both the Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry and the French Foreign Legion. He brooked no nonsense and was an able commander. (Note: Glasnovic is now a Colonel-General serving as an inspector general in the new Bosnian Federation Army.)

Our merry little band of mayhem-makers had fallen into an easy routine that included combat patrols and sniping missions on the front, as well as running a basic training course for Croat infantry platoons. Most of the guys drank their dinners when in town; and besides a couple of hole-in-the-wall bars about the only watering hole of note was the restaurant-lounge of the



Group of mercs in Tomislavgrad. Of the group, one was eventually KIA; one received a dishonorable discharge; one suffered a drug overdose; one now resides in Germany; and one's fate is unknown. Author (right) with Romanian AK, with vertical grip sawed-off, on patrol in Bosnia. Thank God for Gore-Tex.

Tomislav Hotel. Besides sitting around drinking Karlovacko beers, smoking cheap Turkish cigarettes, and playing the occasional card game, the only other diversion in town was attempting to seduce one of the few eligible Croat women. The common joke was, there are only two kinds of women in Bosnia: those with mustaches and teeth, and those with no mustaches and no teeth. And in the European fashion they all



had hairy legs. After a month or two every female in town was soon a familiar face. And after another month or so even hairy-lipped ones with missing teeth began to look good.

Then one day we had a visitor in the Hotel Tomislav. I pegged her as soon as she walked in. Cold, wet, and tired from a patrolling mission, we had just come in from the field and were sitting down around our usual table drinking espresso while waiting for some hot soup. Most of us were already sucking on a Tokat, the vile Turkish cigarettes that were issued with our rations. No one was moving around much up at the front yet, since we'd just been snowed-in for three days. Not all the roads were completely cleared yet. Our patrol was the first one to have gone out in days.

The woman was rather attractive, about 35 with shoulder-length brown hair. I couldn't believe her clothes though. She was wearing a short velvet skirt, silk blouse, nylons and high heels. She flashed a smile and walked over. Female reporter in search of mercenaries acquires target. One or two of the

She said something really inane like, "Well, I'll be okay, won't I? I mean, I'm a journalist. I have a press card."

boys looked at her in a way that foretold possible murder, mayhem, and crimes against nature if they managed to get her somewhere alone. One of the Brits, "Stephen," and a couple of the Germans were ready to boogie. The Germans were wanted men in Germany (something about bombing a Communist bookstore) and Stephen made a habit of calling more attention to himself by acting all nervous about maintaining his anonymity and jumping around than if he'd just shut-up and stayed out of the way. "Pat," an Englishman (who later murdered a Legion vet in a bar argument) and his Hungarian sidekick, Mejor, stayed.

Glasnovic had sent her over. Her name was Nancy Nusser and she wrote for Cox Newspapers' Washington Bureau. She had heard at the press bureau in Split that there were foreign mercenaries serving with the King Tomislav Brigade. So she came west

Continued on page 69

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Keep 'Em Shooting

TEXT & PHOTOS BY STEVE COMUS

Reloading for the 7.65x53mm Mauser Rifles

Introduced more than a hundred years ago, the 65x53mm cartridge is as useful today as it was in the 19th Century.

This round is known by more than one name, such as the 7.65 Belgian Mauser or the 7.65 Argentine, after powers that adopted it early on; following this logic, it also could be called the 7.65 Turkish Mauser since that country also used it early in the game. The cartridge itself, however, was introduced with the 1889 Belgian rifle. Other countries that adopted it over time included Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Typical Military loadings featured an 185-grain bullet at 2,467 feet per second from the longer barrels, and a 211-grain bullet at 2,132 fps. Thus for practical purposes, we can consider this cartridge to be squarely in the same arena as the .308 Winchester.

Bullets for it are .311-inch or .312-inch in diameter, and are available from all of the major manufacturers. Norma offers both loaded ammo and reloadable brass cases for Boxer primers. Over the years, Norma commercial loadings have included a 180-grain bullet at 2,590 fps and a 150-grain bullet at 2,920 fps.

Because this is one of the classic "Mauser" cartridges, it is not necessary to obtain cases specifically made for it. Any of the full-length .30-06-based cases or the 57mm Mauser cases are likely conversion candidates. There is no reason ever to run out of reloadable brass.

Like many military cartridges that spanned the last two centuries, rifles chambered for it range from some of the earlier "weaker" designs, all the way to the extraordinarily strong Model 1898 Mauser variants. The Model 1898/09 Argentine Mauser



The 7.65x53 Mauser round is in the .308 Winchester-class of performers. Here, the 7.65x53 is flanked by the .30-06 (left) and .308 (right). As are the '06 and .308, the 7.65x53 is a versatile round that can be loaded to suit the job — and the rifle — at hand.

rifles, for instance, have long been considered one of the best of their genre.

The 1889 Belgian and contemporary Turkish rifles were little more than updated Model 1888 German Commission rifles sans the barrel jacket. Then came the Model 1891 Argentine rifles, made in Germany, and eventually the Model 98 variants.

For several reasons, it works best to load differently for the pre-98s than for the 98s. Not only does this assuage concerns one might have about the structural integrity of pre-98 designs, it allows the shooter to come up with loads that shoot to the point of aim of the issue military sights.

Although it was not by design, a fortunate occurrence has been that the suggested starting loads in most of the major reloading manuals happen to shoot superbly and to the sights on the pre-98 rifles chambered for the 7.65x53mm, while the full-on maximum loadings tend to shoot to the sights of the 98s.



The 1891 Argentine Mauser (above) exemplifies the gunmaker's art at its zenith as made by Lowe and DWM in Berlin. The Model 1898-09 (below) is a classic Mauser 98, made by DWM and surrogate plants in Argentina, can handle hotter loads.



The author admits to a soft spot for this cartridge for several reasons. First is that the first centerfire rifle he ever acquired was a Model 1898-09 Argentine Mauser in like-new condition. That was in the 1950s, and a better military surplus rifle one could not imagine.

However, in the meantime, my personal favor has shifted to the Model 1891 — especially the carbine configuration of that rifle. There simply is something about the pre-98s that captures the author's imagination. They seem to be purer expressions of the rifle. And all are so incredibly well-fitted and finished as to challenge the best work of today's top custom gunsmiths.

STARTING LOADS (150 gr. bullet)	
Powder	Muzzle Velocity
40.5 grains of Accurate Arms 2230	2,400 fps.
40.5 grains of Accurate Arms 2460	2,375 fps.
42.8 grains of Accurate Arms 2495BR	2,425 fps.
45.0 grains of Hodgdon H4350	2,350 fps.
45.0 grains of Hodgdon H414	2,500 fps.
39.5 grains of Hodgdon BL-C(2)	2,375 fps.
39.0 grains of Hodgdon H335	2,350 fps.
37.5 grains of IMR 3031	2,500 fps.
40.5 grains of IMR 4064	2,500 fps.
MAXIMUM LOADS (150 gr. bullet)	
45.0 grains of Accurate Arms 2230	2,740 fps.
45.0 grains of Accurate Arms 2460	2,700 fps.
47.5 grains of Accurate Arms 2495BR	2,750 fps.
49.0 grains of Hodgdon H4350	2,600 fps.
49.0 grains of Hodgdon H414	2,650 fps.
43.0 grains of Hodgdon BL-C(2)	2,650 fps.
43.0 grains of Hodgdon H335	2,630 fps.
41.0 grains of IMR 3031	2,700 fps.
44.0 grains of IMR 4064	2,700 fps.
STARTING LOADS (174/180 gr. bullet)	
38.5 grains of Accurate Arms 2230	2,200 fps.
38.5 grains of Accurate Arms 2460	2,200 fps.
41.5 grains of Accurate Arms 2495BR	2,200 fps.
43.0 grains of Hodgdon H4350	2,250 fps.
43.0 grains of Hodgdon H414	2,300 fps.
37.0 grains of Hodgdon BL-C(2)	2,100 fps.
37.0 grains of Hodgdon H335	2,100 fps.
38.0 grains of IMR 3031	2,400 fps.
40.0 grains of IMR 4064	2,400 fps.
MAXIMUM LOADS (174/180 gr. bullet)	
42.5 grains of Accurate Arms 2230	2,500 fps.
43.0 grains of Accurate Arms 2460	2,500 fps.
46.0 grains of Accurate Arms 2495BR	2,550 fps.
47.0 grains of Hodgdon H4350	2,450 fps.
47.0 grains of Hodgdon H414	2,450 fps.
40.0 grains of Hodgdon BL-C(2)	2,370 fps.
40.0 grains of Hodgdon H335	2,370 fps.
41.5 grains of IMR 3031	2,600 fps.
43.5 grains of IMR 4064	2,600 fps.

These rifles were manufactured for Argentina by Lowe and DWM in Berlin, and came in the full-rifle configuration with 29 3/8-inch barrel, or the carbine configuration with 22 1/2-inch barrel. Other than barrel length, the 91s were the same.

Both featured twin locking lugs at the front of the bolt, and a non-rotating claw extractor in the recessed bolt face. Due to the position and configuration of the lips of the five-round in-line-feed magazine and the milling of the recessed bolt face, this model actually had a form of controlled-round feeding, although that is quite different from the method used in later Mausers that featured the non-rotating claw extractor mechanism.

The 91s featured the classic Mauser wing safety on the bolt shroud (two-position, with the rifle in the fire mode when the wing is to the left, and on Safe when it is to the right), and like other pre-98s, the 91s also cocked on closing. This system is especially effective, since the striker travel tends to be long, which means the firing pin hits with uncommon authority.

Trigger pulls and let-offs tend to be both smooth and positive on the 91.

Rounds can be loaded into the chamber singly, or they can be charged into the magazine singly, or via a five-round stripper clip. As is typical for Mauser designs, the 91 features a bolt-release lever on the left rear side of the action: Move the lever outward from the rifle, and the bolt can be easily withdrawn to the rear. This is all the farther this rifle needs to be disassembled for normal cleaning.

Sights on both the rifle and carbine are calibrated to an optimistic 2,000 meters. The author has found that predictable hits on watermelon-size targets is difficult beyond 400 meters. However, to that distance, these rifles are superb performers.

The Model 98-09 Argentine rifle and carbine have similar barrel lengths — just over 29 inches for the rifle and in the 22-inch class for the carbine. These rigs, however, were manufactured in both Germany and at a German “clone” operation in Argentina. In Germany, they were made at the *Deutsche Waffen und Munitionsfabriken (DWM)* plant in Berlin.

These are classic 98 Mausers all the way, complete with the non-rotating claw extractor, dual font locking lugs plus added “safety” lug, and a five-round staggered box magazine. The wing safety lever on the bolt shroud is the classic three-position style, with the

Continued on page 67

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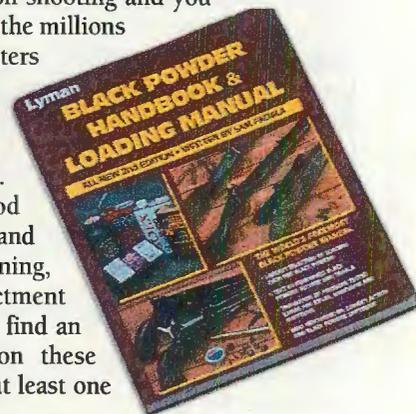
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Lyman Black Powder Handbook & Loading Manual

Like banjos, black powder's popularity waxes and wanes, but thanks in large measure to Val Forgett at Navy Arms and Turner Kirkland at Dixie Gun Works over the past several decades in supplying quality replica arms at affordable prices, interest in muzzle-loading and/or black powder shooting is at an all-time high. So high in fact that the last decade has seen the phenomena of muzzle-loaders that transcend traditional form, and utilize the latest in materials technology and design engineering. Add to that the more recent mushrooming of interest in Cowboy Action shooting and you have a sub-industry serving the millions of new "mainstream" shooters in an arena where a generation ago one would find mostly picturesque folks in period costumes. Eccentric dress and period pageantry are still alive and well among the buckskinning, cowboy-action and reenactment folks, but it's uncommon to find an ordinary shooting collection these days that does not include at least one muzzle-loader of some sort.



Although somewhat more complex than cartridge-shooting, muzzle-loading can be as safe as any shooting sport as long as the shooter doesn't do anything stupid or ignorant. Stupid is an unfortunate condition about which little can be done, but ignorant is an easy fix thanks to writing/editing teams such as Sam Fadala and Tom Griffin. Fadala has written some 25 books and more magazine articles than one can count, and is also Field Editor for *Blackpowder Hunting Magazine*, and is probably the our most prolific writer on the topic of black powder. And like others who write from a base of extensive knowledge and experience his writing is clear, logically presented and reasonable — important factors when one is instructing in arcane arts that can be dangerous if misunderstood.

Fadala's cohort in the new *Lyman Black Powder Handbook & Loading Manual* is Technical Editor Tom Griffin, who is the manager of Lyman's Ballistics Lab, and editor of most of Lyman's current reloading manuals. Attention to detail is the only way to survive such jobs, and this new Lyman manual is one of the cleanest edits this reviewer has ever seen. The result of this teamwork is not the *only* book on muzzle-loading and

Continued on page 71

Bye Bye Las Vegas - Hello Raton, New Mexico!



YES, IT'S TRUE.

The SOF Three Gun Match and Convention has been renamed the "SOF/Whittington Center World Championship Three Gun Tactical Response Benefit Match, Shoot Fest and Gun Show." All profits will be donated to the NRA Whittington Center. Entry fees for the Match will be \$200. Shooters will be limited to 200. Shooters will be required to assist as range officers. Match will be held 6-9 September 2001.

Registration begins at 1600 hours, 5 September.

The Awards Barbeque will be held Sunday, 9 September.

In addition to shooting in the Match, shooters will receive the same items and access as the Shoot Fest participants. Shoot Fest participants' registration fee is \$100, for which you will receive the following:

- One year subscription to Soldier of Fortune Magazine.
- Shoot Fest T-Shirt.
- Access to the match.
- Outdoor Awards Barbeque.
- Participation in the "hands-on" manufacturers' demonstrations. Free ammo.
- Access to the gun show.
- Access to seminars sponsored by exhibitors.
- Access to a range where you can fire your personal weapons or weapons provided by SOF.
- The \$15 informal daily range fee is included.
- Sporting clays, trap and skeet shooting available for an additional fee.
- Socializing in the evenings at the headquarters hotel, the Holiday Classic, in Raton, NM, which has a large domed area and pool. Live country & western music will liven up the festivities.

EXHIBITORS

Commercial vendors. Each 10x10 space will cost \$200. If vendor has a mobile, wheeled exhibit, the Center has space to accommodate it.

Gun Show vendors. Each "table" will cost \$60.

Set up on 5 September, tear down 9 September.

LOGISTICS

Headquarters Hotel is the Holiday Classic in Raton. It has 59 rooms and the courtyard rooms face a domed area 135x80 feet, which includes a pool for socializing, getting hammered, or whatever. Phone: 1-800-255-8879. Cost: King or double, \$45.95 per room plus tax. Only 59 rooms — first come, first served!

The Whittington Center has 125 RV campsites as well as competitor housing, log cabins, housekeeping cabins and backcountry cabins. For rates, check the Whittington Center website at www.nrawc.org or call 505-445-3615.

Travel: If you do not drive, you will have to fly into Albuquerque, NM or Colorado Springs, CO. SOF recommends you use our travel agency, Pathways Travel, for booking your flight schedules. Phone: 1-800-336-7588. Ask for Lavina Vohlken or Gaynelle Tuck, or e-mail: Lavinav@uswest.net. We will have a recommendation for car rental by the time you read this.

For further information and application blanks, write: Match/Shoot Fest/Gun Show, c/o SOF, 5735 Arapahoe Ave., Suite A-5, Boulder, CO, 80303, or go to the SOF website, www.sofmag.com, or call Steve Schreiner at 303-449-3750 ext. 306.

Join us at one of the finest shooting facilities in the world, located in the wide open spaces of the Old West. Shoot and party. Mail your application today!

Looking forward to a great Match, Shoot Fest and Gun Show.

— Robert K. Brown
Editor/Publisher

WORLD SITREP



1

UNITED STATES

Kiss And Make-Up? U.S. may join Iran and Russia in pressuring Afghanistan to give the boot to Usama bin Laden. • **McVeigh Exits:** Tim McVeigh dies at 0714 CDT on Monday, 11 June. We wonder if, like McVeigh's Mercury, his hearse was pulled over for not displaying a license tag. • **Never Say Die:** Judicial Watch client and former Clinton fundraiser, Peter Paul (now residing in Brazil), says he has proof that more than \$2 million of his contributions were never reported by Bill/Hillary to FEC. • **Profits In Prisons:** Incarceration industry in U.S. now generates \$30 billion per year. • **Sino-Cuban Shipments:** *The Washington Times* reports China is shipping arms to Cuban port of Mariel aboard vessels belonging to COSCO (China Ocean Shipping Company). Since Cuba is on State's list of nine nations guilty of state-sponsored terrorism, it's debated if economic sanctions will be implemented against China. • **"Russians Knew About Lewinsky Before Public."** Richard Sale, UPI Terrorism Correspondent, reports that former Russian President Boris Yeltsin admitted to a *London Times* reporter that "I knew" [about Lewinsky]. The possible scenario: Russian intelligence service (SVR) operatives bugged the Oval Office or Lewinsky's apartment, perhaps both, and obtained intercepts from Air Force One. Speculative focus tabbed either Russia or Israel as culprits. Accused FBI spy Robert Hanssen may have played role in passing information to Russians.

4

COLOMBIA

Image And Reality: While army generally supports President Andres Pastrana, whispers abound that refer to him as weak and contemptible. With recent arrest of Brazilian cocaine king, Luiz Fernando da Costa (aka "Fernandinho"), FARC's drug connections are indisputable. Fernandinho admitted to shelling-out \$10M per month to purchase coke that FARC supplied. Pastrana long denied that FARC was involved in the cocaine trade. • **Fish-Out-Of-Water Rumbings:** It's heard that some gringo civilian advisors sent south to bolster Colombian chances of winning its guerrilla and drug war were unsuitable (e.g. few spoke fluent Spanish or had any knowledge of the country or its culture). Plus, combat-hardened Colombian officers and NCOs resented having to placate retired north-of-the-border generals, who hadn't heard an angry shot in years. Other aggravations include high costs of U.S. contractors when Colombian companies could perhaps obtain similar results for 60% of the expense.

5

ECUADOR

Colombian Spillover: Security forces clash with Colombian *ELN* rebels in northern highlands, in Carchi Province.

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VENEZUELA

Into The Act? President Hugo Chavez is ardent Castro admirer. Colombia's military claims its captured weapons with Venezuelan Army brand. Venezuelan military about to select new 5.56mm assault rifle to replace FAL 7.62s. Therefore, more displaced rifles will likely find their way into *FARC* and *ELN* hands.

13

PHILIPPINES

Distant Replay: Abu Saayaf stalwarts again kidnap foreigners, including several Americans. Manila administration promises all-out war against rebels.

14

AFGHANISTAN

"Just Say No!" Since *Taliban* leaders have decreed that opium-growing is against the will of God, the Bush Administration ponies-up some \$43M in aid. War against drugs apparently trumps all other considerations.

2

RUSSIA

Rootin' Putin: Russian President lowers boom on political parties that don't toe his totalitarian line. Earlier, press caved to his covert ops against Fourth Estate democracy.

3

ISRAEL

Peace? American-brokered peace agreement seems to be at hand. Will it hold? Palestinian complaints are seemingly well-founded (e.g. Israeli assassinations from seemingly random hit list on West Bank and Gaza; destruction of Palestinian property.) Richard Falk reports that "The bulldozers typically arrive between midnight and 2:00 a.m., soldiers give inhabitants seven minutes to vacate their home, and then they [the Israelis] proceed to destroy it ..."

6

ENGLAND

More Yanks Coming: Hundreds of NSA-types to relocate to Yorkshire from Germany. Yorkshire radar base to become one of world's elite spy centers.

7

CHINA

Silverado, Part 2? First brother Neil Bush now involved in development of \$120-million golf resort near Beijing. • **Boeing's Big Move:** While downsizing long-time Seattle home base, Boeing now dealing with China's Taikoo Aircraft Engineering Company, Ltd., as well as outfits in Shanghai and Xian for remodeling of its cargo planes, and manufacture of Boeing 737 stabilizers and trailing-edge ribs for 747s. • **ChinaOnLine:** AOL nails down \$200M venture with Chinese computer giant, Legend Holdings.

8

JAPAN

Sleepers: Nearly 100 members of 40,000-member *Aum Shinrikyo* ("Supreme Truth"), quasi-Buddhist paramilitary group responsible for 1995 sarin gas attack on Tokyo subway, are said to be members of Japan's self-defense forces.

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BOSNIA

Adios? Sec. Of Defense Rumsfeld anxious to reduce 3,350-G.I. U.S. presence in favor of civilian police. Reports of misconduct have been investigated but incidents involve only a few Americans.

11

IRAQ

U.S. Neutered: Since UN sanctions haven't worked, U.S. taking long look at broader regional presence which will reduce American military presence but increase U.S. influence and access to oil.

12

INDONESIA

The Big Fall: It's suspected that besieged government of President Abdurrahman Wahid is on the ropes and will tumble sometime this summer. Military, however, is weak so expect far-flung provinces to break loose without serious opposition.

15

SOUTH AFRICA

Anarchy (Almost) Reigns: Nearly self-sufficient foodwise some 10 years ago with approximately 60,000 farmers, only 40,000 now remain due to widespread violence. Many whites and blacks have been tortured. Many of those raped are now HIV-positive.

16

THAILAND

Back To Southeast Asia: U.S. Army Special Forces to send 20 crack advisors to train newly formed Task Force 399 in drug-interdiction ops of supplies coming in from Burma.

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

Company Boy

The Connection Between The FBI, Secret Service, White Supremacists And McVeigh

BY J.D. CASH AND ROGER CHARLES

PHOTOS COURTESY PREMIER BROADCASTING & PUBLISHING COMPANY, LTD.

It was a memorable moment when "Commander Pedro" Langan made his debut in the Columbus, Ohio, courtroom. Sporting shoulder-length dyed red hair — tied in a ponytail — the leader of the Aryan Republican Army (ARA) was escorted before the bench by six Deputy U.S. Marshals. The heavy security was clear evidence that the wiry figure had not been an easy "collar." The Commander's bandaged and swollen face reflected minor wounds he received in the previous day's "one-sided" gunfight with a FBI SWAT team.

Handcuffed and shackled in leg-irons, the prisoner's black piercing eyes darted around the magistrate's court. Spotting members of the media — including veteran crime reporter, Bob Ruth of the *Columbus Dispatch*, the Commander announced, "I'm just another innocent person caught up in the tyrannical legal system ... Power to the people; up with the revolution."

U.S. Magistrate Terence P. Kemp tried to ignore the display and nodded; "You have listed your occupation: 'Revolutionary,' Mr. Langan?"

Declaring his wish to be referred to as Commander Pedro the prisoner admitted he was, "... (T)he founder of the Aryan Republican Army — an army whose goal is the overthrow the government, ... to set free the oppressed people of North America."

Some in attendance may have figured the guy was nuts, but word was leaking out there was a deadly serious side to this prisoner. Mr. Langan was suspected of having put together a string of nearly two-dozen bank robberies across the Midwest. Even the legendary record of Jesse James was in jeopardy. Certainly the firepower displayed the previous morning was proof the government wanted him badly, and not necessarily alive.



Real life versus flaming rhetoric. Peter Langan following the one-sided fire-fight. Some 40 rounds of officers' lead perforated his vehicle, accounting for his somewhat shell-shocked gaze.

Shootout

After the smoke cleared in the sleepy lower middle-class Columbus neighborhood 18 January 1996, Langan's arrest team must have been shocked to discover he had survived the 47 rounds of rifle, pistol and shotgun ammunition — fired from point-blank range as he sat in his van, warming up the engine. Langan later commented that he escaped death that morning by diving into a specially fitted box in the back of the van. "It sounded like I was in a popcorn popper."

Drug from the van and tossed on the snow-covered ground, medics arriving at the scene cut off Langan's clothing and searched for wounds. As they worked on the prisoner, Langan warned, "You guys better move us outa here. That van has nitro-methane and some other stuff that doesn't mix well." Agents took the hint and loaded the naked figure into a car and called in the ATF to examine the van and house. The results were telling.

Langan was not kidding about the racing fuel. The feds found a gallon of it. Fortunately for all concerned, the container had not been ruptured during the melee. Langan's luck could not be overstated. Stashed near the nitro-methane, the ATF located several pipe bombs including one large IED (improvised explosive device). A fellow gang member admitted Langan built the complex device that he dubbed the "Commander Pedro Mark IV," anticipating he might later need to light the fuse and toss it at police. And there was much more. Along with the bombs, the agents seized a police scanner, an AR15, a pair of semi-automatic pistols, several one-hundred dollar bills, seven pre-paid calling cards and numerous fake IDs, including a Deputy U.S. Marshal's badge and photo ID. And this was just from Langan's van.

Employing a robot in their search of the Columbus "safehouse" where Langan spent the previous night, the ATF located bomb components including grenades in various stages of readiness. And there was more intriguing evidence. Along with a respectable stockpile of firearms, the search turned up the highest quality body armor, several masks, wigs, disguises, books on the Aryan Nations and Irish Republican Army. Equally impressive, a host of false ID documents, KKK business cards, handcuffs, police IDs and badges. But most important to the case, investigators discovered several copies of a videotape gang members made a year earlier.

Stuffed in envelopes and ready to mail, the tapes were addressed to some of the leading members of the White Power movement. Two names stood out — former Texas Klansman Louis Beam and Aryan Nations guru, Pastor Richard Butler.

Investigators discovered that the homemade two-hour film was the complete outline of the ARA's bank robbery scheme and plans for a racial holy war. A gang member the feds rolled, described the movie, *The Aryan Republican Army Presents: The Armed Struggle Underground*, as a "recruiting tool."

Langan's arrest also led to a storage locker in the Kansas City area. Here the feds would locate an incredible array of false ID materials, weapons and ammo, disguises, more bomb making paraphernalia, and phrase books in foreign languages — including Arabic. Also located among the hundreds of pieces of telltale evidence of the gang's activities, a list of every FBI field office in the nation.

What the media did not, yet, know; the FBI also suspected Langan's bank-robbery gang had ties to Timothy McVeigh and the Oklahoma City Bombing. And there was another dark secret.

Only months before the gang's bank robbery binge began with the 25 January 1994 robbery of a bank in Ames, Iowa — Commander Pedro was pulled out of jail and put to work as an informant for the United States Secret Service. The embarrassed agency would later have to admit that their CI (confidential informant) had pulled-off bank jobs in seven states.



In this video, "Commander Pedro" Pete Langan explains his grandiose scheme for reshaping American society, and (right) demonstrates one of his explosive "toys" he'd hoped to use in his taking back of America from the evil clutches of the blacks, Jews, fellow travelers, et al.

At least 22 banks were looted and over \$250,000.00 was taken during the spree. None of that money would ever be recovered. Court documents established that some of the funds were funneled to the Aryan Nations' organization.

Modeled after the paramilitary operations of the IRA, the rest of the gang's money was put back for weaponry and other "company expenses" related to their overall plan to commit acts of terrorism. The obvious question for many investigators who worked the ARA case: Was the OKC Bombing financed by these bank jobs?

Although in custody, Pete Langan continued his war against the government. He dangled more hints in front of the media, "I didn't fire a shot today." Adding, "The shootout by federal authorities was an attempt to assassinate [me] because I know too much about CIA secrets."

Prosecutors that first day seemed in a hurry to move matters along. All they asked the magistrate to do was hold Langan on an outstanding warrant they had for jumping bail on a small time robbery case in Georgia, three years earlier.

Suspicious of what he had witnessed, it was *Columbus Dispatch* reporter, Bob Ruth, who first discovered the stunning evidence that, indeed, Langan's Georgia robbery case had been put on-hold by, of all people, agents for the Secret Service. Ruth learned that in August of 1993, Secret Service agents traveled to Georgia and met with Lindsay Tise, the District Attorney for the Northern Judicial Circuit. It had taken some heavy-duty persuading by the agents but they eventually convinced the prosecutor to help arrange Langan's release. Ruth and others began to wonder, why?

A Spook From The East?

Born in 1958, in Saipan, Peter Kevin McGregor Langan came into the world the pampered son of a CIA agent whose cover was that of a "safety official" attached to the International Cooperation Administration. After moving his family to Saigon, Eugene F. Langan, a retired Marine Corps major, advised local police on intelligence matters and assists with their training. His wife, Mary Ann, worked during this assignment at the American Embassy in Saigon.

In Vietnam, Peter is taken care of by housekeepers, a nanny, and enjoys a private education. Bright and inquisitive, he quickly picks up French and Vietnamese. But the allure of the Far East eventually gives way to the harsh reality of street violence. In the aftermath of the CIA-engineered Diem assassination, Saigon is radically transformed.

Eugene Langan sends his family back to Wheaton, Maryland. Not long afterward, he will unexpectedly limp back to the states, as well. At age 50, the father of six is suffering from asthma and emphysema. Then, only months after arriving home, the patriarch suffers a mas-



Weapons seized by FBI during CSA raid of 19 April 1985.

sive heart attack and dies.

As the youngest of those six children, Peter was suddenly a boy adrift. Turning to drugs, he ran away from home. Barely 16, Langan gets into his first gunfight. The shootout occurs on the East Coast of Florida.

In Daytona Beach, Langan robs a man and drives off with the victim's van. When the police catch up, an officer's bullet passes down Langan's arm — blowing out the end of a finger. And there would be more scars.

Prison would forever harden the streetwise teenager. Tried as an adult, Langan is tossed into the adult section of a Florida prison. Recalling this first incarceration, "We called it 'Gladiator School.'" Langan added, "We were young, dumb and full of cum. All we did was fight. Hardly a day went by that someone didn't get shanked. I got into my share of scrapes. I won some and lost some."

The desperate need to survive pushed Langan into the Aryan Brotherhood for protection against Black and Hispanic gangs that roamed the prison yard. In 1978, after four years of hell, Langan is released.

Initially, Pete Langan tries marriage and working straight jobs. Soon he has a son. Then more trouble comes his way. After 10 years of bouncing around the country, Langan finds that decent jobs for ex-cons are scarce and low-paying. Falling on hard times, he and an old friend from Wheaton begin working some small time scams on department stores. Eventually, the scams turn into an armed robbery.

In 1992, Langan and partner, Richard Guthrie, rob a fast-food diner in Georgia. For reasons that remain unclear, the Secret Service gets involved. During a subsequent raid at Langan's Cincinnati residence they find guns. In no time the former felon is rotting in a Georgia jail, awaiting another trial.

Looking down the barrel of a 20-year sentence, Langan decides he had endured enough. He will build an army capable of extracting revenge on this government. Langan fantasizes that if he can get out of this fix, he will recruit inside the Aryan Nations movement.

In August 1993, Langan's fantasy turns to reality. Once again the Secret Service show up, but this time they had a deal to offer. Agents want the inmate to help them locate his former "business associate," Richard Guthrie. The word in the Aryan Nations movement is that Guthrie might be planning to assassinate President Bush.

Langan plays his hand well. He agrees Guthrie is a madman and brags he is probably the only guy Guthrie would come out of the shadows and talk to. The ruse works. In no time agents had Langan on a bus back to Ohio.

Once Langan hooks up with his old friend, but instead of "ratting him out" to the Secret Service, Guthrie is made a full partner in the "company." Guthrie will become "Commander Pavell." A revolution is born. And two years later, no one will be laughing.

Like his pal, Guthrie had grown up in the

Wheaton area, just outside of Washington, D.C. And like Langan, "Will Bill" experienced some of the same hard knocks. A thief by predisposition, "Wild Bill" had given the Navy a try. The outcome was a disaster. Although he was able to complete his EOD training at Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, Alabama, and graduate from Indian Head, Maryland's prestigious "nuke school," the hothead was unable to cut it in the coveted SEAL program. Bumped from the program because, in Langan's words, "They figured out Guthrie was a psycho," his Navy career spiraled downward until the misfit was busted for painting a swastika on a ship, threatening an officer and going AWOL.

After doing some brig time, Guthrie accepted a general discharge and hit the streets. Embittered and well-trained in explosives, "Wild Bill" turns to the Aryan Nations to get even with the "system" that rejected him. At Klan and AN meetings around the country, he will proudly introduce himself as a "revolutionist."

Drops From Radar Screen

The Aryan Republican Army's cause was a heady one: the overthrow of the federal establishment and the extermination and/or deportation of all non-whites and non-Christians in North America. The National Socialist plot was all spelled out in the "recruiting film" the feds seized. Here Langan and Guthrie predict the rebirth of The Order and describe a war on the system that includes a threat to bomb federal installations. Langan predicts, "We have endeavored to keep collateral damage to a minimum. But as in all wars, some innocents shall suffer. So be it."

In the fall of 1993, Langan disappears from the radar screen of his Secret Service handlers. He and Guthrie head to Arkansas. They are looking for men with military backgrounds and who share a penchant for "ethnic cleansing." As



High-quality fake IDs forged by Richard Guthrie.



Richard Guthrie, wearing Reagan mask, on-camera for Aryan Nations recruitment gig prior to being arrested on federal bank robbery charges. The question remains whether Tim McVeigh was part of his band of thieves.

an integral part of that plan, bank robberies will be the fundraising mechanism for their race-based revolution.

The pair borrowed heavily from the *Turner Diaries* and various books about the IRA. Small cells of operatives are to be recruited to strike at the heart of the enemy — an enemy they simply called ZOG (or Zionist Occupied Government). In the recruiting video, Langan explains that banks are targeted, because, "Heimie has been ripping you and your father off, forever. Now you go take it back."

During the same time period that Langan and Guthrie

were putting their plan together, Terry Nichols and Timothy McVeigh turn up in Arkansas. Dead broke, Nichols tells his family he is going to Arkansas to look at real estate. On 11 October, alone, Nichols checks into a motel room in Fayetteville. The next morning, Timothy McVeigh will receive a traffic citation on a backwoods two-lane highway, only minutes away from a Christian Identity stronghold called Elohim City — the ARA's future training camp.

A few weeks later, McVeigh will write a letter to his sister telling her that robbing banks is virtuous because banks are run by the Jews. Jennifer McVeigh told the FBI that the letter represented, "Tim's Robin Hood philosophy." She will also later admit that she laundered money from a bank robbery her brother had been involved with.

Also arriving at Elohim City during this period, is



Jennifer McVeigh, sister of Tim, signed a federal affidavit that she laundered bank robbery funds for her brother.

Pennsylvania-based Aryan Nations leader, Mark Thomas. Three years after this crucial trip, Thomas will be indicted and subsequently plead guilty to a substantial role in the ARA conspiracy.

Records seized after the OKC Bombing show that days after the '93 trip to Arkansas, McVeigh and Nichols order a prepaid phone card from the *Spotlight* newspaper. This card will establish an important trail for authorities.

Weeks after obtaining the card, one of the nation's longest string of bank robberies begins. Records reflect that days before an ARA robbery takes place, McVeigh disappears. A few days following these robberies, McVeigh will suddenly reappear — hundreds of miles away. The pattern is surprisingly consistent until McVeigh's grandfather becomes ill in July of 1994 and McVeigh flies to New York to be with him. Afterwards, the patterns resume. The statistical relationship is astounding.

The most important trace of the phone records establish that someone using the card made a call to Elohim City on 5 April 1995 — just two weeks before the Oklahoma City Bombing. The story at Elohim City was that the caller wanted to speak with Andreas Carl Strassmeir, the mysterious German national whom government intelligence alleged was responsible for terrorist training at the camp. The caller's message was, "Tell Andy, I'm on the way."

A court-appointed investigator for Timothy McVeigh, later confirmed that at the time the call was placed, Strassmeir, AKA "Andy the German" and "Mr. Red," had three young men living with him. All three of those men were members of the ARA gang and would later be arrested for roles in several bank heists.

The 5 April call was from a motel room in Kingman, Arizona, that was rented to McVeigh. Langan, Guthrie and at least two other members of the ARA had just departed Arizona. These same phone records also revealed that a few seconds before the call was made, someone using the name of Tim McVeigh called a Ryder truck rental in Lake Havasu City, Arizona, to check payload capacities of various truck models.

That there was evidence of plans to bomb a federal building by persons at Elohim City, was not at all surprising to the feds. They had informants working the compound. One was the ATF's most notorious confidential informant — the beautiful, blonde, terrorist-in-training, Carol Howe.

Howe skillfully used her womanly guile to burrow her way into the compound and had been supplying reports about the camp since September 1994. Initially, these reports got to her handler, Angela Finley, in the Tulsa office. Soon they were getting attention from intelligence officials in Washington, D.C. Something big was clearly on the horizon.

As investigators would later learn, McVeigh had driven halfway across the country and checked into a motel room near the compound on 12 September 1994. The federal grand jury investigating the OKC Bombing wrote that on 13 September 1994 the plot to bomb the federal building began. On the 14th, McVeigh will turn up in central Kansas. According to the phone card records, McVeigh is searching for bomb components.

Howe's reports also note that the patriarch of Elohim City giving ominous sermons. According to those official ATF reports, Pastor Robert Millar was preaching a holy war.

The reports record an incident around 1 January 1995 where Millar called Strassmeir and some of his troops together and told them that they must strike first before the feds wiped them out. Waco would be their rallying cry. A Branch Davidian flag was displayed at the compound.

In follow-up interviews with the FBI, Howe reported that



Carol, barely undercover.



Co-author J.D. Cash (left) with Elohim City patriarch Reverend Robert Millar (now deceased).

she told her ATF handlers that three targets in Oklahoma had been chosen for attack. One of those targets was Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

In retrospect, the doomed Murrah Building was the obvious choice. Millar and other members of his flock were close friends with an inmate in Arkansas that was scheduled to die on 19 April 1995. In fact, some members of the inmate's family were residents of Elohim City. That inmate's name was Richard Wayne Snell.

In the early '80s, Snell was in trouble with the IRS in Oklahoma City. He and pal, James Ellison, the leader of a group in north Arkansas that called itself the Covenant, The Sword and The Arm of the Lord (CSA), decided to get even with the government by bombing the Oklahoma City Federal Building.

Testimony in a subsequent federal trial established that



The pre-McVeigh era: Wayne Snell earlier plotted bloody mayhem for the Murrah Building in OKC but his plans were short-circuited. He was executed the same day as McVeigh's victims — 19 April 1995 — and is buried at Elohim City.

Snell and another member of the CSA gang cased the OKC Federal Building in 1983. Ellison testified that he authorized Snell to conduct a rocket attack on the building. But while the plan was being implemented, the man responsible for building the rockets suffered a serious accident. Ellison took the event as a sign from God and put the attack on hold.

Not long afterward, the feds surrounded the CSA camp and arrested several of the residents for conspiracy to overthrow the government and weapons violations. The date of that siege was, incredibly, 19 April 1985.

Thus, by the spring of 1995, the ATF realizes that Snell is to be executed on the 19th — and, that James Ellison is due to be released from prison the same month and would be heading for Elohim City to marry one of Millar's granddaughters. Hotheads at Elohim City, Howe reported, were talking about plans to rebuild the CSA and go to war with the government. One of the targets of the ATF's investigation, Dennis Mahon, had even moved his travel trailer to

the compound. The radical leader told Howe that war with the government would be in full-swing by the summer of 1995. The intelligence product was overwhelming.

The Tulsa ATF went into overdrive. They needed to make a case against some of the players at Elohim City before any of the threats they were hearing could be carried out.

Dennis Mahon was an international figure in the KKK and known in the neo-Nazi movement for making outrageous threats. While many considered him just talk, Carol Howe romanced the 45-year-old into helping her make some hand grenades.

At Elohim City, she reports that Mahon tested the devices. Dutifully, Ms. Howe returns with shrapnel from the tests. Thus, with only weeks before the 19 April anniversary of Waco, the ATF has a case against Mahon. And there was yet another major figure the ATF wanted to arrest.

The mysterious Strassmeir character had been listed an "overstay" by the INS. Photographed at Elohim City carrying a firearm, the German was an easy target for the ATF. They would take him down on a 922g — possession of a firearm by an illegal alien. Once in federal custody, they could work up a case for conspiracy to bomb federal buildings and other weapons and explosive violations if the evidence warranted. Finley and her superiors begin plans to arrest Strassmeir in a raid on Elohim City.

While all this is going on, Langan and Guthrie are keeping their distance from the compound — choosing to operate from a safehouse in Pittsburg, Kansas. Employing a multitude of disguises, fake bombs, police scanners and drop cars, the gang has already looted over a dozen banks and are growing bolder and more violent by the day.

As an example of the gang's reckless nature, Richard Guthrie has taken to mailing postcards to the FBI, bragging about the ARA's exploits. Another favorite stunt: employing fake IDs to purchase "drop cars" in the names of retired FBI agents. After hitting a bank, these cars will be abandoned a few blocks away with a grenade tucked in the front seat or glove compartment.

Even after the bombing and his January 1996 arrest, Guthrie hinted during plea negotiations with the FBI that he had a getaway driver by the name of Tim, or "Speedie" as he referred to him. Guthrie, though, denied this "Tim" character was Tim McVeigh. But he did reveal that the ARA had another cell. It is this cell that is believed to have been formed in August 1994, strictly to provide expertise and

Continued on page 68



Dennis Mahon in a grip 'n' grin with Aryan Nations honcho Louis Beam, at Beam's Idaho enclave. (right) Dennis Mahon poses alongside yet another Ryder truck.



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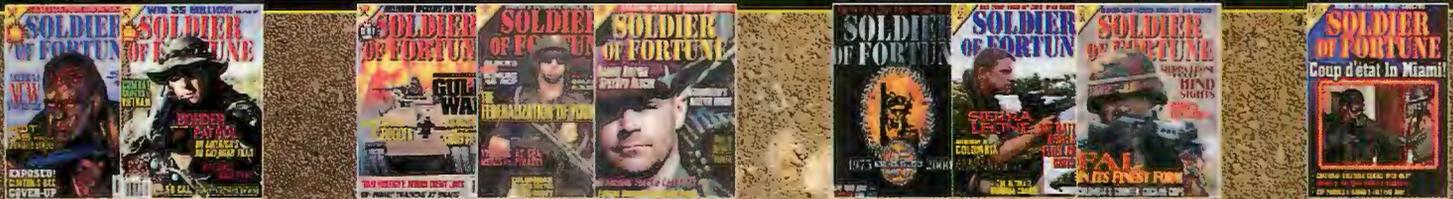
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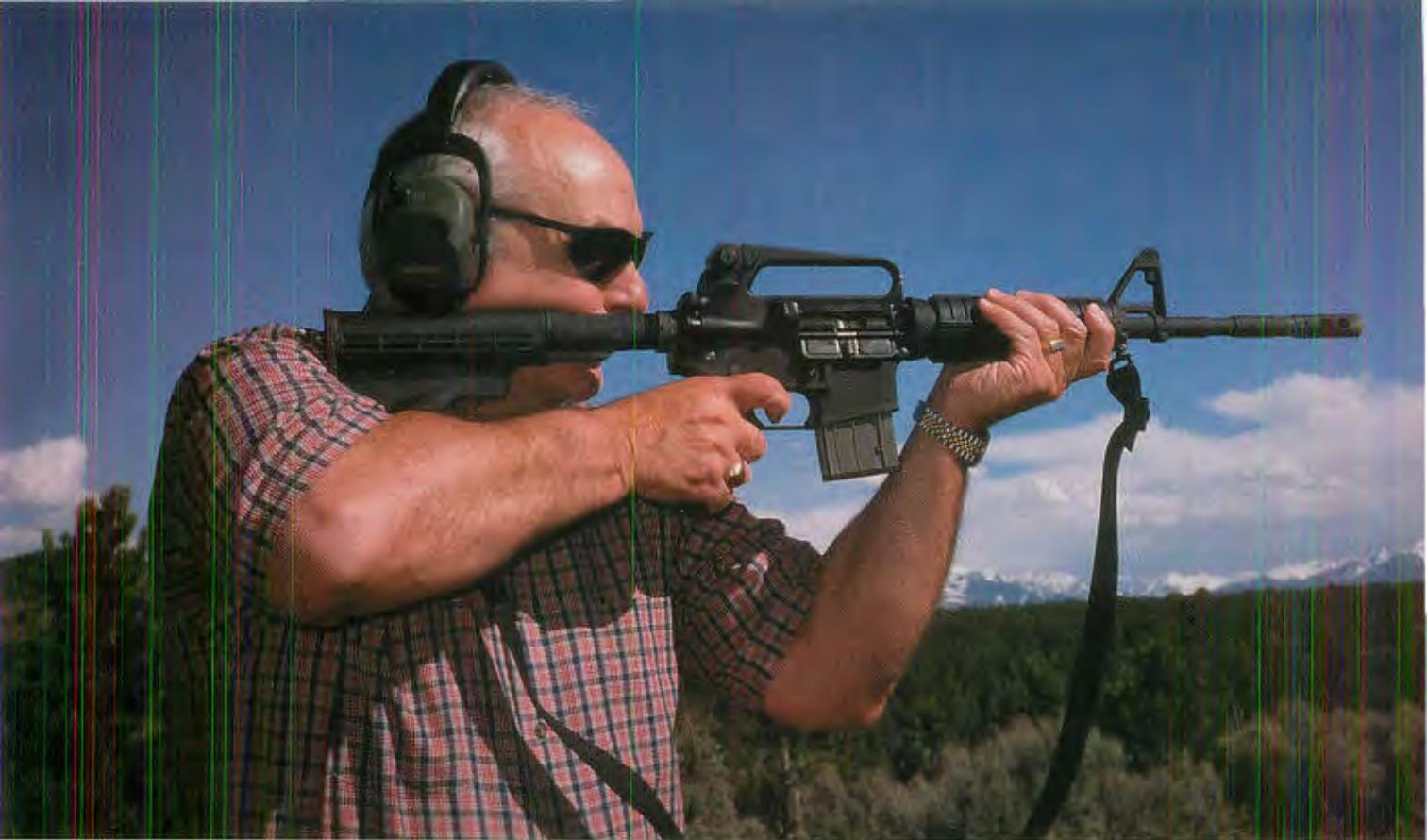
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BUSHMASTER'S NEW XM15 M4 TYPE CARBINE

As Close To G.I. As You Can Get

BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

When the AR-15's inventor, Eugene Stoner, and its designer, James Sullivan, created this superb rifle, neither could have foreseen that it would have lasted four decades, much less be going stronger than ever after that length of time. Having been manufactured by at least a dozen entities, AR-15 clones have been and are prolific around the world for the past two decades.

Quite revolutionary when it was originally designed, the AR-15 uses a relatively unorthodox system of operation. Best described as a long-stroke piston and cylinder via direct gas, the original AR-15 combined a number of proven mechanical and ergonomic designs with the most modern lightweight materials to create a rifle that would last well into the 21st Century.

Totally omitting the separate operating rod, the AR-15 uses a stainless

steel tube to funnel expanding gases from a port in the barrel directly to the operating parts in the bolt carrier. This would be roughly the equivalent of a vehicle's exhaust pipe directing its gases to perform a mechanical function of movement. Hence, the aspect of "via direct gas" in the description of the AR-15's operation.

Bushmaster's Version

Although not all AR-15 copies available today are of equal quality, a few of them are made to exacting MilSpec standards. Bushmaster Firearms/ Quality Parts Co., of Windham, Maine,

makes one of these clones. Being a longtime manufacturer of the XM15 (the basic designation of Bushmaster's AR-15 clone), this company uses the same steel for the barrel, bolt, bolt carrier and other parts as does Colt for the U.S. Military's M16A2 rifle and M4 Carbine, and Bushmaster builds these parts to print. This means that Bushmaster's non-selective fire parts will interchange with those of all other MilSpec rifles.

As with the steel counterparts, Bushmaster's upper and lower receivers and other lightweight components are made of forgings using super-strong

7075-T6 aircraft alloy, the best in the business — just like the military. These parts, too, are interchangeable.

Having tested a number of Bushmaster firearms over the years, I have always been impressed with their performance. Offering a wide range of XM15 variations, Bushmaster makes both semi-automatic law-enforcement only (pre-ban type) rifles and carbines, as well as post-ban versions available to law-abiding citizens in most states. Now Bushmaster has added a new one. Called the XM15 M4 Type 16" Postban Carbine (M4-16 Carbine), this model comes meets all post-ban requirements, but looks like a pre-ban gun.

Made in a carbine configuration, the M4-16 Carbine comes with a 14.5-inch barrel onto which a Mini Y Comp muzzle brake is permanently attached. Not a flash suppressor by any means, this device merely softens recoil and gives the barrel a total overall length of 16

inches. Otherwise identical to the Military M4 barrel, this one even has the accessory cut. Devoid of the "deadly" and (worse) politically incorrect bayonet lug, the M4-16 Carbine does come with the equally evil 4-position-type retractable buttstock. However, in full compliance with federal regulations, this formerly 4-position buttstock is permanently fixed in the fully extended position. My sympathies to those of smaller stature or Americans who have a disability preventing them from using a full-length stock. At any rate, Bushmaster's post-ban (formerly) retractable buttstock looks great.

While we're on our soapbox, one more thing. Although the Bushmaster M4-16 Carbine will accept any pre-ban AR-15 magazine, it comes with an excellent post-ban magazine that will accept no more than 10 rounds. Fine for competition, Bushmaster's 10-shot magazine will also suffice in difficult

social situations. However, while I do not normally prefer unusually long 30-shot magazines for such occasions, I do favor the standard 20-shot version that provides extra ammunition while not getting in the way of down low-prone positions. Well, so much for some of my initial druthers.

Having recently received a sample of Bushmaster's semi-automatic-only M4-16 Carbine in Bushmaster's new hard case, I was favorably impressed with it from the start. Rugged, strong and MilSpec, the M4-16 looks about as G.I. as it can get. Built in the pattern of the Military M4 Carbine, my sample came with an integral carrying handle/rear sight, but it is also available with the M4A3 flattop upper receiver with its M1913 Picatinny rail and removable carrying handle.

A Law-Enforcement Only Version

As it happened, I already had on hand a Bushmaster law-enforcement only XM15 M4A3 Type Carbine to compare with the new post-ban M4-16 Carbine. A semi-automatic only close copy of the Military's M4A3 Carbine, this sample not only has Bushmaster's lightweight synthetic 4-position retractable buttstock, but also a 100% MilSpec M4-type barrel. As with any MilSpec carbine of this type, the Bushmaster accepts SureFire's M500A Millennium Tactical Weapon Light System that replaces the standard handguards. Most important of all, this gun has a removable carrying handle leaving its upper receiver with a MilSpec M1913 Picatinny rail.

Why Picatinny? Invented by Mr. Richard Swan, of A.R.M.S., Inc., the Picatinny rail was designed for the U.S. military as a replacement system for the then-current NATO STANAG (Standardization Agreement) optical sight mounts. A variation of the Weaver rail, Swan's rail provides optimum rigid-



(above, left) Although Johnston's sample M4 Type Carbine (below) came with an integral carrying handle, it is also available with a removable handle and an A3 Picatinny rail flattop as seen above on Bushmaster's law-enforcement model.

(above, right) The removable carrying handle give one the capability of mounting optics such as the EOTech Model 551-A65 red dot sight.

(right) For carbines with fixed carrying handles, the A.R.M.S. #39A2 mount allows a variety of mounting choices including long eye relief seen here using the Aimpoint Comp ML red dot sight.

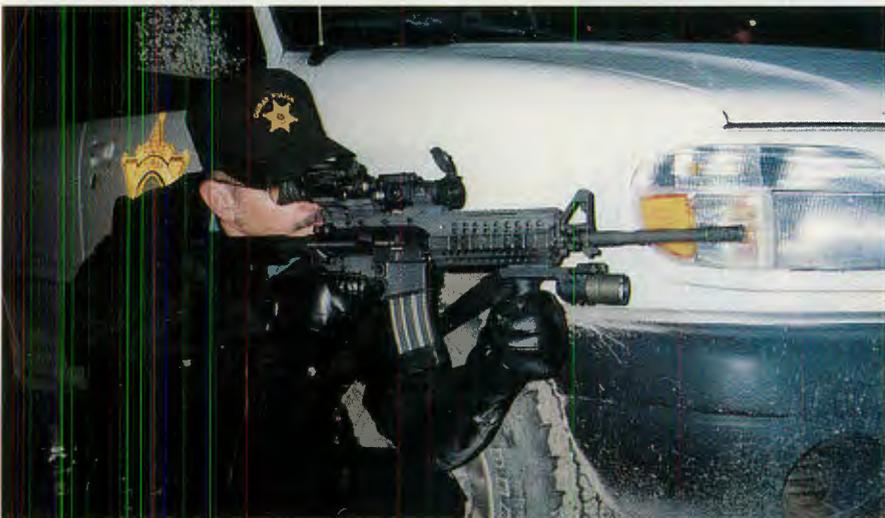




Like Bushmaster's law enforcement carbine (bottom) the M4 Type Postban comes with the company's retractable stock, except that in order to comply with current law, it is not retractable and is fixed in the extended position.



Fieldstripping just like the Military M4 Carbine, the Bushmaster comes apart and goes back together in minutes without the need for tools. (below) Bushmaster carbines with removable carrying handles will accept the new Selective Integrated Rail (S.I.R.) System now being tested by the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM). A commercial version of the S.I.R. System will soon be available.



ity and return to zero with any of the new STANAG mounts. When this rail was approved and adopted by the U.S. Army's Picatinny Arsenal it was type classed as the M1913 Picatinny rail, and is now standard throughout NATO as well as much of the rest of the world.

Being Picatinny compatible guarantees that a rifle will be able to instantly accept any of the many optical sights used by NATO countries. What's more, this system is so superior that it has crossed over to many law-enforcement and sporting applications. With a rifle threatened by many potential weak links, the Picatinny mounting system will never be one of them, but back to our sample M4-16.

For those who, for some reason, prefer an integral carrying handle, the Bushmaster that is so equipped is no longer limited to mounting optics on top of it. Marketed by Bushmaster is the A.R.M.S. #39A2 Bi-Level Rail. Mounting on the carrying handle of the rifle, the #39A2 locks in two locations to provide the most rigid optical sight base of its kind. On it one can either mount a conventional scope above the handle, or a long eye relief optic down low and forward of the handle, all with no loss of zero. It was this system I chose to test the M4-16 with optical sights.

Red Dot Optics

Out front on the #39A2 lower platform of the system, I mounted first an Aimpoint Comp ML red dot sight, and later the new EOTech illuminated red reticle sight. With an adjustable bright red dot, the Aimpoint is among the fastest red dot optical sight in the world, and has been issued by the military for several years. With this sight I have surprised myself by being able to make fast follow-up hits on silhouette targets out to 300 yards offhand.

Equally impressive is the new EOTech Model 551-A65 sight with its adjustable red reticle. User friendly and waterproof, this new sight can also be had in a night vision compatible version. Extremely rugged, the M551-A65 projects a circle/cross red reticle that provides extremely fast target acquisition. Complete with a low-battery warning system, the M551-A65 automatically shuts off after 20 minutes of non-use.

Shots Fired

Shooting the new Bushmaster M4-16 brought almost no surprises. As with any of Bushmaster's MilSpec XM15 family, operation was smooth and sure just like a new G.I. carbine,

and reliability was 100%, even with some reloaded ammunition fired. In the accuracy department, this Bushmaster performed just like all the other rifles and carbines from this company I have tested. At 100 yards the sample carbine averaged 3-shot groups of from about 1.5 to 2.5 inches from the bench using either of the two red dot sights mentioned above. It doesn't get much better than this with any grade of ammunition in a G.I.-spec. carbine. As with all Bushmaster XM15 rifles, this one comes with a 6 groove 1-in-9-inch right-hand twist to accommodate virtually any .223 bullet.

If you're wondering about the "almost" concerning surprises above, I was somewhat surprised in the lack of recoil over and above that normally associated with a .223 caliber carbine. This was due to Bushmaster's Mini Y-Comp Muzzle Brake. Because of directing exhaust gases out and up, this brake not only pulls the gun forward, but also lowers the muzzle slightly in the process.

Druthers

The one thing I would insist on my Bushmaster XM15 type carbine would be a removable carrying handle in order to allow mounting special optics

BUSHMASTER M4 TYPE 16 INCH POSTBAN CARBINE

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	.223 Remington
Velocity:	2,800 fps.
System of Operation:	Long-stroke piston & cylinder via direct gas
Type of Fire:	Semi-automatic only
Barrel Length:	16"
Overall Length:	38.25"
Rate of Twist:	6 groove, 1-in-9 inch RHT
Weight: (gun alone)	6.59 lbs.
Safety:	Thumb safety
Feed Device:	Comes with 10-shot box magazine (can use any M16-type magazine)
Sights: (front)	Protected post adjustable for elevation
	(rear) Protected peep aperture adjustable for windage and elevation
	(optics) Fixed carrying handle and A3 flattop version will accept optical bases
Stock Furniture:	Matte black synthetic
Finish:	MilSpec. matte black



directly on the Picatinny rail. This rail also provides a mounting platform for what is without a doubt the most exciting accessories for this carbine ever, the new Selective Integrated Rail (S.I.R.) System from A.R.M.S. Designed to compete for adoption as a major component of the USSOCOM SOPMOD Enhanced Carbine project, the S.I.R. is being tested by SOCOM as this is writ-

ten. A commercial version of the S.I.R. will also be available. Look for my exclusive report on the S.I.R. System with a new element of the Enhanced Carbine project soon in SOF.

Whether you're a working law-enforcement officer or a private citizen who wants the real thing, if you're looking for a MilSpec .223 carbine of the highest quality, check out what's available from Bushmaster. In the meantime, remember, guns cause crime like spoons cause Rosie O'Donnell to be fat! To keep your Bushmaster and the rest of your guns, join the NRA and vote! ☒

Accuracy Chart

.223 Cartridge	Velocity	Small Group	Large Group	Average
Black Hills 68 gr. Match	2,661 fps	0.96"	1.52"	1.31"
Federal 55 gr. JHP	3,047 fps	1.24"	1.77"	1.56"
Hornady 75 gr. Match	2,558 fps	1.18"	1.54"	1.42"
IMI 55 gr. FMJ	3,052 fps	1.79"	2.03"	1.88"
Wolf 55 gr. FMJ	3,049 fps	1.66"	1.97"	1.84"
Reloaded 55 gr. FMJ	3,011 fps	2.38"	2.71"	2.59"
Average Accuracy				1.77"

Five 3-Shot 100-Yard Bench Rest Groups Using ProCrono LE. Elev: 7000', Temp: 72°, Humid: 38%



As opposed to a standard flash hider, the Bushmaster M4 Type Carbine comes with a Mini Y Muzzle Brake that is an integral part of the barrel.

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Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 741-8868

SureFire, Inc.
Dept. SOF
18300 Mt. Baldy Cir.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
(800) 828-8809

A Run For The Border

America, The Doormat

"When the Clinton Administration took office, almost immediately we started seeing more and more people and it went on for about 4 to 5 years like that. Then 2 1/2 years ago, it just spiked. They were catching 1,000 people a night and there were only 50 Border Patrol Agents for this whole area." Larry Vance, president of Concerned Citizens of Cochise County, was bringing us up to speed. A hundred and fifty yards from his back porch near Douglas, Arizona, we watched the Border Patrol bring in yet another group of illegal entrants through night-vision.

Retreating inside, behind the barred windows of his modest rural home, he continued. "It's unbelievable what's happening to this country," he told us, .357 close at hand on an end table. "The lost sleep, the lost productivity, the heartburn and aggravation. It's outlandish. We've been here 27 years. We've always had problems with illegals, but you adapt to it. But what we've seen during the last administration is just over the top. This is probably the largest peacetime migration of people in history and we're the doormat." From environmental and property damage, the migration from south to north goes way beyond people simply looking for work. Recent data suggests that fluffy Clinton-era INS estimates of undocumented alien traffic have proven to be way off the mark.

"I was out here with a producer from *Nightline*. We went west a couple of miles and started back toward the house, counting foot trails. We stopped counting at 700," he said. "Some of them are 30 feet wide. How many people does it take to make those kinds of trails?" According to the U.S. Census Bureau and researchers at Northwestern University, something around 11 million, or twice as many as INS claimed. Mexican President Vicente Fox has put the number as high as 18 million. Unprecedented efforts by the Bureau to count aliens also led to the surprising conclusion that Hispanics

Ranchers Tackle Illegal Immigration

BY JIM BARTLETT & ANGELICA ALLINI



courtesy Don Barnett

Roger Barnett (far right) watches as Border Patrol Agents round up a sizable group that he found on his ranch near Douglas. During peak migration times, it is estimated that hundreds of aliens cross his remote spread.

now outnumber blacks in the U.S., years ahead of when demographers predicted it would happen. The impact is multi-faceted and shows no signs of abating.

Dirty Desert

The first thing one notices about the border areas is the environmental degradation caused by cross-border traffic. Because coming through the ports of entry as normal travelers do, is impossible, aliens cut across the desert. The impact to this fragile and one of a kind ecosystem is dramatic and long-lasting.

"Those trails will be there forever and there's unbelievable amounts of garbage, tons of it," Vance told us. He

isn't lying. Everywhere you look, detritus is scattered around, turning the area into one huge dump. Plastic water jugs, discarded clothes, backpacks, diapers, shoes, you name it; it's thrown aside and piling up. Because there is little or no natural decomposition because of the dry conditions, the material will lay there for decades.

The impact on wildlife and even domesticated animals is also dramatic. As native grasses are trampled into dust, the base of the food chain is disrupted and everything from rodents to deer and antelope are displaced, most times for good. Restoration of desert grassland is painfully slow and when it falls to desertification, it's mostly gone for good along with the animals that

depended on it. "All the game is gone," reported Don Barnett, brother of Roger Barnett, a local rancher who made international headlines when he started patrolling their 30,000 acre spread east of Douglas, rounding up thousands of trespassers in the process.

An avid hunter who's taken game as far afield as Africa, Don used to climb the high mesa on his brother's ranch and count herds of deer and antelope by the dozen. Today, the human traffic has driven them out. "You don't see deer and antelope anymore; they're all gone. They can't stand people amongst them like that. It's barren here now."

Domestic stock has also fallen victim to the human invasion and damage to the cattle industry is running into the millions. "The local cattle industry has been particularly hard hit," Rodney Rothcock, of the Cochise County Sheriff's Office, pointed out. "Cattle will eat the plastic jugs the aliens leave behind and it kills them unless you get a vet and that costs money, especially when it keeps happening over and over again. We've also been seeing more of what I would call malicious damage being done by aliens. For example, an alien would use a faucet on a stock tank to fill his bottle and then just leave. No we're seeing them kick the pipes apart or leave the valves open so you've got thousands of gallons of water draining out onto the ground."

Don told SOF, "You go out there and the cows are standing around with no water because an alien came by and undid the faucet and let 10,000 gallons drain out. The well pump can't keep up

with that so you've got to hire a truck to refill it. And then it happens again." His brother, Roger, told us that he actually installed faucets so that migrants could fill their bottles and avoid dying in the desert. "They were pretty good about it for a long time but then they just started leaving the taps on, so I took the handles off. Then they started smashing them with rocks and busting up the pipes. They're just doing it out of malice, it's beyond comprehension. We had to keep hiring a water truck to come and refill the tanks." With Arizona in the midst of a six-year dry cycle, water has become a precious commodity. At \$300 or more a load the Barnetts pur-

chased their own truck to cut costs and keep pace with the losses.

Even small landowners like Vance have been hit hard. "I had a couple of horses but I gave them to my brother. It was too dangerous for them here," he reported. "I've had three dogs poisoned by smugglers; one of them died. Fences got cut, the trash is everywhere, I just couldn't keep livestock anymore. It really broke my heart. I live in a rural area so I can have those kinds of things, but because of this now I can't."

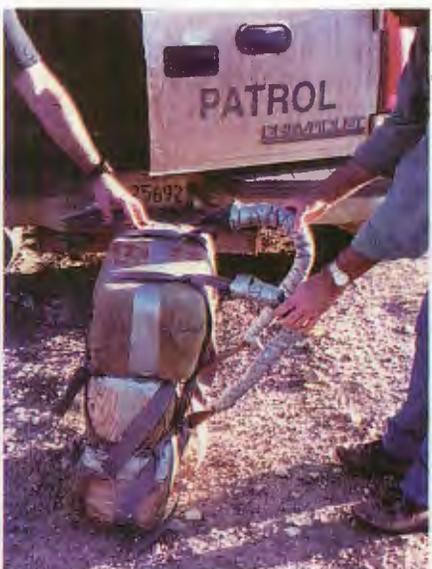
Cut Fences, Broken Glass

Livestock isn't the only thing endangered by border jumpers. Criminal activity has always been a factor of life on the border, but when the great influx began, mid-Clinton, the danger increased exponentially. "I doubt I'd even be alive if it wasn't for the Second Amendment and the laws here that favor self-protection," Larry Vance commented from his homestead. "Probably 95% of these people are simply folks looking for work, but you have to wonder about the other 5%. It's like the great migrations of wildebeests in Africa with all the predators around, waiting to take advantage at any moment. It's a terrible thing when you realize just how vulnerable you are."

The vulnerability is felt by everyone. When you drive through the area, every house near the border is fortified. Bars on the windows, high fences and barking dogs. One home, that of 82-year-old widow Teresa Murry Puzzi, is surrounded by chain-link and razor-wire. Living several miles outside the town of Douglas, she has been robbed more than 25 times last year. She told SOF by phone that in all the years she has lived there, it was never so bad. Born and raised on a local ranch she said, "People have always crossed over to work the ranches and there was never a problem. I don't know what's gotten into people anymore."

Rodney Rothcock, of the Cochise County Sheriff's Department, told us encounters with groups of aliens can be unsettling and most residents are armed. "You wake up at night hearing noises and you look outside and there's 30 people in your backyard. We've had residents who've been terrified, it can be really frightening for some people," he said. Continuing, he told us of numerous incidents of property crime and even one cross border gang who made their living victimizing the elderly.

With help from several people on



Backpacking smuggler-style. A load of dope captured by the Barnetts shows improvised "South of the Border" LBE of duct tape and seat belts.



Busted. Roger (left) and Don Barnett show off a 400-lb. load of dope they captured on the ranch. AR15s keep would be troublemakers polite and compliant. Accusations of gun-waving and commando-style tactics have proven unfounded.

this side of the line, the gang would stage military-style raids on local homes, holding retirees at gunpoint with AK-47s. When they were done looting the place, they would depart in the victim's car and drive south through the port of entry, where only the north-bound lane is monitored by U.S. officials. While that ring was finally broken, the potential for a re-run is always there. "The basic point of view around here is that if you wake-up and there's people outside, you don't leave your gun in the closet," he concluded.

Despite the inherent dangers of living near the border, individual action by homeowners and ranchers has brought down shrill cries of derision from the mainstream press who have branded anyone who seeks to protect themselves and their property as racist vigilantes. A favorite target of their bombast has been the Barnett brothers, whom they accuse of everything from shooting unarmed aliens to conspiring to undermine the authority of the Border Patrol. As with most things emanating from the Clinton-era press corps, it couldn't be further from the truth. When SOF visited the infamous brothers, we found honest hardworking folks who are seeing the dreams they worked a lifetime for trampled into the dust. When cries for help to the DOJ went unheard, they had to do something.

As damage and losses on the ranch continued to skyrocket, Roger and Don began mounting patrols of their own. Not wanting to get caught flat-footed by drug runners or alien smugglers miles from any help, they brought along their AR M-4s. In short order, they were apprehending large groups of aliens and numerous drug shipments, holding them for the Border Patrol. Contrary to hysterical accounts in the press, they were not jumping out of the bushes, guns drawn and ready to kill.

In reality, the traffic on their land is so heavy that all they have to do is check the thickets to find trespassers. No gun-pointing is needed and no Ranger-style takedowns are executed. The mere presence of gringos with the means to protect themselves is usually enough of a deterrent to keep people from getting stupid, even the drug-runners.

Compassionate Vigilantes

"There's been accusations that the Barnetts have exceeded reasonable lim-

its, but everything has been referred to the county attorney and the U.S. attorney and no charges have ever come out of any of it," we were told by Deputy Rothcock. "To date, they haven't seen fit to file charges against anyone for these types of incidents." Indeed, local citizens, law enforcement and the Border Patrol were unanimous in their support for the Barnetts taking responsibility to protect what is theirs within the law. "There is a requirement that you do that in a reasonable manner, but you have the right to defend yourself, your family and your property," Deputy Rothcock concluded.

In fact, the Barnetts have been instrumental in saving the lives of many crossers they find on their land. One recent group of aliens had been abandoned by their guide days before. Wandering lost on the vast expanse of



courtesy Don Barnett

A group of aliens apprehended by Don and Roger Barnett await transport to BP Station in Douglas, Ariz. The brothers gained international notoriety by apprehending trespassing groups but were forced to do so as damage mounted on Roger's Douglas ranch.

the ranch, when Roger and Don got to them, their water had given out and they were on the brink of a real disaster. Always prepared for this kind of scenario, the two brothers immediately summoned help, got the group out of the sun and began distributing water and food. Not exactly the blood-thirsty vigilantes the press has portrayed.

This didn't stop the INS in Washington, however, from issuing an inflammatory memo last year when they learned a Texas-based group called Ranch Rescue was coming to Douglas to help the Barnetts fix fences. Billed as an "Officer Safety Bulletin" the document was quickly leaked by sympathetic BP and Customs agents. In it, the Clinton-appointed bureaucrats in D.C. lumped the Barnetts, Larry Vance and a host of others who have voiced their concerns, in with the KKK and the

National Alliance, a dangerous neo-Nazi group. Local citizens and Border Patrol agents shook their heads in disbelief, especially since the memo that was supposed to warn and protect them arrived in Douglas days after Ranch Rescue had gone home. Accusations of racism were also particularly ridiculous in the case of Larry Vance, considering his father emigrated from Mexico prior to WWII and Larry still has family South of the Border. INS later issued a complete retraction and a public apology for the incident.

Responding to allegations of racism, Don Barnett told SOF, "There's a lot of people I don't like, but it's not because of the color of their skin. The treatment we've received from both the press and Washington is just ridiculous." He went on to point out that on a western ranch, a gun is a tool, something mainstream journalists from the urban centers, and apparently Washington bureaucrats, can't grasp. "What if you're out there and you come on a cow that needs to be put down? Are you going to call a vet and let the poor thing suffer for hours while he drives out there? No, you do the job yourself and get it over with," he said.

He also pointed out that with the number of aliens and drug smugglers out and about, even in the course of routine work the potential for unfriendly contact is high. "Picture this," he said, "You've just walked 17 miles and some guy comes up and says he's going to call the Border Patrol. Are you just going to sit there when there's two of them and 40 of you? I don't think so, and, oh, by the way, we're going to take your truck, too. If we went out there and weren't armed, we'd get a much different response."

The Mexican government has also shown itself willing to aid and abet cross-border traffic. The political machine on the southern side has actually been documented giving out advice to aliens on how to seek asylum and how to sue anyone they might encounter and be detained by. In some instances, they have actually assumed the legal costs for undocumented aliens who claim that their "rights" were violated and seek restitution. Numerous Border Patrol agents we interviewed spoke of this new threat. "They'll sue if you ruffle their hair anymore," one said. The situation was not helped when the former president of Mexico declared that he was proud

that his country's true border extended *beyond* its recognized national boundaries. Newly elected Vicente Fox egged things along as well when welcomed south-bound aliens as national heroes during the last holiday home-coming season.

Mucho Migra, Mucho Dinero

Beyond the damage and headaches suffered by individual citizens and property, local and state budgets are also severely strained by the influx. Social services are plentiful here in the land of milk and honey and many migrants take full-advantage, sometimes against their will. Everything from local law enforcement and hospitals to the social service agencies are feeling the strain.

The first and most obvious economic hit from alien traffic in southern towns is from the numerous car accidents and desert emergencies aliens get into. Desert climate and overloaded vehicles going at breakneck speeds over back roads make for some serious injuries and the victims, of course, must be cared for. "We've had as many as seven people evacuated by air to Tucson at a time," deputy Rothcock told us. "Add to that ground transportation and the expenses to local fire and rescue and it adds up quickly."

Because federal law forbids denying care for the injured, localities wind up picking up the tab which can reach astronomical proportions, as high as \$2.8 billion nationwide by one congressional estimate. In San Diego, an entire hospital has shut down as a result and in smaller communities, the bite is even deeper. While the law provides for INS to pick up the tab when aliens are involved in medical emergencies, it does so only if they are actually taken into custody and booked. Many times the last INS agents an injured alien sees is when the ambulance drives away from the scene. Left unclaimed at the hospital, most leave with family or friends, never to be heard from again and north of the border. With no one claiming responsibility for their bills, the costs are absorbed by the facility who treated them.

During our time in the Douglas and Bisbee area, we learned that the local hospital had been forced to close down its long-term-care facility for the elderly. Because of the costs associated with unpaid emergency care for aliens,

old folks who made the facility their final home had to be moved, many times hours away from their families. In this close knit, cradle to grave community, that kind of impact goes far beyond simple economics and the problem has rapidly expanded into all of the social services.

Socialista Security

Larry Vance has investigated the tip of a national iceberg surrounding social services fraud from both within and beyond the national border. "You can't get a P.O. Box here in Douglas anymore; people from Mexico have them. You'll also find 40 families registered to one home. That's because the Arizona Department of Economic Security doesn't check citizenship, just a utility bill to show residency. It's nothing to find check stubs for 20 or 30 families when



Larry Vance inspects a growing trash heap at an alien lay-up point near his homestead in Douglas. Slow decomposition in desert climate means that it will be there for decades.

you bust some of these smuggling houses," he told us from his vantage point on the border. "Watch the post office on the first and fifteenth and all you see are Sonoran and Chihuahuan plates. You go to the banks, it's the same thing. They've gotten their checks. We've made special trips just to look and we've seen it."

He went on to tell us about a conversation he also heard between two women in the supermarket. Not knowing he understood Spanish, the pair chatted away, one woman saying that she had finally gotten her Social Security card. The other woman laughed, saying that that was nothing, she already had three. When they noticed Larry listening, they hustled out of the market and drove off in a vehicle bearing Chihuahuan plates. That is apparently common anymore. Readers may recall that Raphael

Ramirez, the Texas railroad serial killer, had five cards in his possession when he was apprehended. Sources with the Border Patrol say that with traffic in fraudulent documents at an all-time high, this isn't at all unusual when dealing with aliens, most of whom are surprisingly well-documented except that it's all bogus. Another time, Vance was standing by his pasture when two women with seven or eight children came rushing by. He called out in Spanish and asked them why they were in a hurry. One of the women called back in English, saying that she had to get to Phoenix to get the kids in school!

Station Chief Ron Colburn, of the USBP in Tucson, also reported, "I remember one family we stopped on a checkpoint returning from a seasonal visit with five U.S.-citizen children ranging from newborn to six years old who had all been born on Arizona's Access program. That's a lot of taxpayer money. Another stark example I saw when I worked in upstate New York was a woman from the Dominican Republic who had illegally entered just 24 hours prior. She was arrested in Syracuse where she had taken a bus from New York City to pick up her *second* welfare check of the day on a second set of fake ID. She was into the system

within one day of being in the U.S. Somebody had to have briefed her on how to do that and set it up beforehand." Numerous anecdotes of this kind of fraud by aliens abound across the nation and estimates of the costs run into the billions.

"Clinton and his cronies want [at the time of this interview] these people coming in and they weren't about to stop this. The socialists need these people," Vance speculates. "You tell me we can't control our border? Bull. We mobilized half-way around the planet and destroyed the fifth largest army in the world. Our border can and should be controlled, but there doesn't seem to be an interest in that." He went on to describe what he sees is an obvious pattern concerning immigration with shadowy political sub currents.

Cinco De Noviembre? Election Fraud Con Carne

"It's just like a drug-dealer. Get these people in here, make them hurt a bit,

Continued on page 72

TEXT & PHOTOS
BY AL J. VENTER

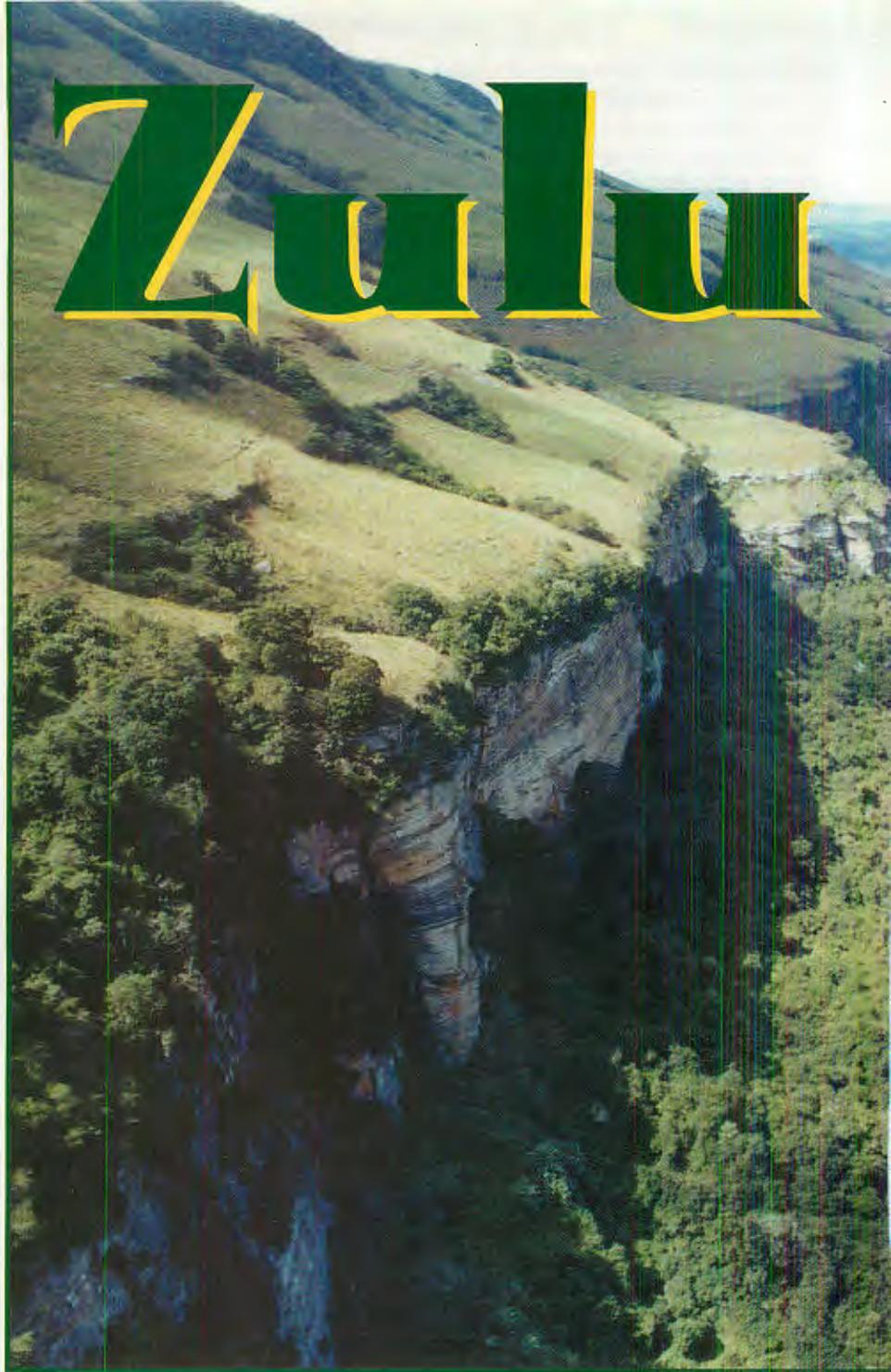
Along KwaZulu/Natal's porous frontiers with Mozambique and Swaziland —

Officially, the wars at the southern tip of the African Continent are over. But speak to some of the men charged with maintaining law and order in the region and you get a different story. Each day more drugs, illegal firearms and refugees are flooding into South Africa. It says much that the region has the highest murder rate in the world and that there is a rape every 10 seconds: Those are only the ones reported. SOF spent a week with a tough group of army, air force and police officers trying to maintain the status quo in Zululand.

Northern Natal/KwaZulu (formerly Zululand), even today, is a tough, uncompromising corner of the globe that boasts a colonial history as colorful as any place in Africa. Almost all of its northern reaches are inhabited by Zulu African tribesman — the same people, incidentally, who bloodied the nose of Queen Victoria's Imperial Army at Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift.

From the time that its black inhabitants made first contact with the white man, there has been a succession of confrontations between the Zulu and the usually European authority of the day. First the Zulu hierarchy challenged the early Boer *trekkers* — pioneers, who, like the early Americans swept northwards out of the Cape in their covered wagons as they sought to escape London's rule. Having opened up the interior of Natal for settlement, the Boers were followed by the British, who sought to impress their own brand of precedence on this warlike nation. This, too, emanated from the barrel of the gun.

Obviously the Zulu people would have none of it and events culminated in a string of border wars that the British, with preponderant resources that African tribespeople found impossible to match, eventually won.



The Zulu nation rebelled again in the next century — more subtly this time — against a white-led Pretoria government that came to dominate South African politics during the Apartheid era.

Their Zulu descendants are still as proud and bloody-minded today as they ever were, which is one of the reasons why my old friend *Inkozi Mangosutho Buthelezi* — leader of the territory's Inkatha Freedom Party challenged South Africa's new black government for as long as he did. That was only halted after the wily Xhosas (who dominate South Africa's ruling African

National Congress) made him a minister within their own government.

A Continent Still Untamed

The northern KwaZulu canyon that we approached in the tiny BO-105 four-seater chopper was like any other in a vast mountainous region adjacent to South Africa's two eastern neighbors, Mozambique and Swaziland. Much of the terrain was the kind of thick bush where crashed aircraft are sometimes not found for months. We had set out earlier in the day from Durban, Africa's largest port, and set course for the north.

Gradually the terrain below gave

Wars

of grass and mud huts and perhaps half a dozen head of cattle. It was a part of the world where a man's wealth is dictated almost solely by the number of cows he owns. And the number of wives he can afford to keep.

"You don't go in there on your own," the Colonel warned, "and definitely not after dark."

The region between the great Tugela River and the Pongola to the north of Durban has other attributes, not all of them savory. In places, such as Tugela Ferry, any white man — and the police especially — takes a chance by going in at night. Even blacks aren't safe: These communities are riddled by more clans, fiefdoms and tribal dynasties than anybody has cared to record. In truth, the Zulu, on his own turf, remains defiant. This is also a people who have long memories: A slight of long ago might be put aside, but is never forgotten. Consequently, inter-tribal killings go on all the time.

Because this is such a hard and difficult part of the country to police, a feature of contemporary Zululand is that there is a lot of marijuana around. As with Oregon, pot is the biggest cash crop in the area. Although illegal, just about everybody grows his patch, often planting it between rows of conventional crops. Larger plantations of the stuff are snuck away in isolated canyons that can often only be reached on foot. In our case, a chopper helped.

Called *dagga* on the sub-continent,



SOF Patrols The Heart Of Africa

way to the kind of thick semi-tropical bush that had once made Zululand one of the great hunting destinations of the world. No more. While there are still leopard on the high spots, the only lion, rhino, elephant and buffalo to be seen are in the reserves and you have to pay good money to get in there. Also, because of poachers, security in these areas is heavy.

Gradually, as we pushed north-

wards, the good roads of Natal gave way to tracks. Much of what had once been farmland had reverted to bush.

"A continent still untamed," as one of the men onboard called it, "and full of mystery," he added reflectively.

On the fringes of this wild terrain, the occasional Zulu tribal village came into view, but these were modest affairs. There was the usual requisite patch of corn on the verge of a cluster

(above) The alluring grandeur of northern KwaZulu (Zululand in the old days) where security forces engage in as many shootouts as in times past. Unlike colonial days, today it's about cattle-rustling, gun-running, illegal immigration from neighboring territories and some of the biggest pot plantations in Africa. (inset) Ready for harvest: Author's chopper lands smack in the middle of a grove of Natal's "Durban Gold" as this high-quality potent pot is known in Amsterdam coffee shops.

this weed is apparently so potent that it's in ready supply in Amsterdam's coffee shops. Those offering it talk discreetly — and reverently — of "Durban Gold."

Gun-Runners, Dopers And Rustlers

Our task on arriving in Northern Natal that morning was to link up with a combined force of about 250 army, police, air force and civil defense "volunteers" mustered for a 10-day operation against lawless elements in the region. Apart from our own chopper, an air force "Oryx" had been dispatched by Air Force HQ to provide back-up, plus an assortment of about a dozen army vehicles — including some *Buffel* (buffalo) troop carriers.

We had a vast area to cover: roughly 12,000 square miles of terrain on both sides of the river. We also had to stay

within budget and being Africa things came cheap: Most of the men would provide their own food and the total cost at the end of it would be roughly \$250,000 for the duration. By comparison, a similar-sized operation in Europe or America would easily have cost that much or more a day, never mind the additional logistical components.

The reason that the task force had been mustered centered, once more, on the Zulus: A lot of farmers had had their cattle rustled and they wanted them back. Whether this would happen was another imponderable because the authorities were aware that there were large and sophisticated gangs operating out of all of South Africa's big cities who would pay good money for fresh beef slaughtered on the hoof.

The arrangement was simple. Stock thieves would raid a farm and steal

anything from two to 50 head of cattle and drive them into the bush. Some of these animals would be slaughtered and four-wheel drive vehicles driven in from the main road after dark to collect the meat. By morning the haul would be at one of the big markets in Durban or Johannesburg. Overall, it was easy money.

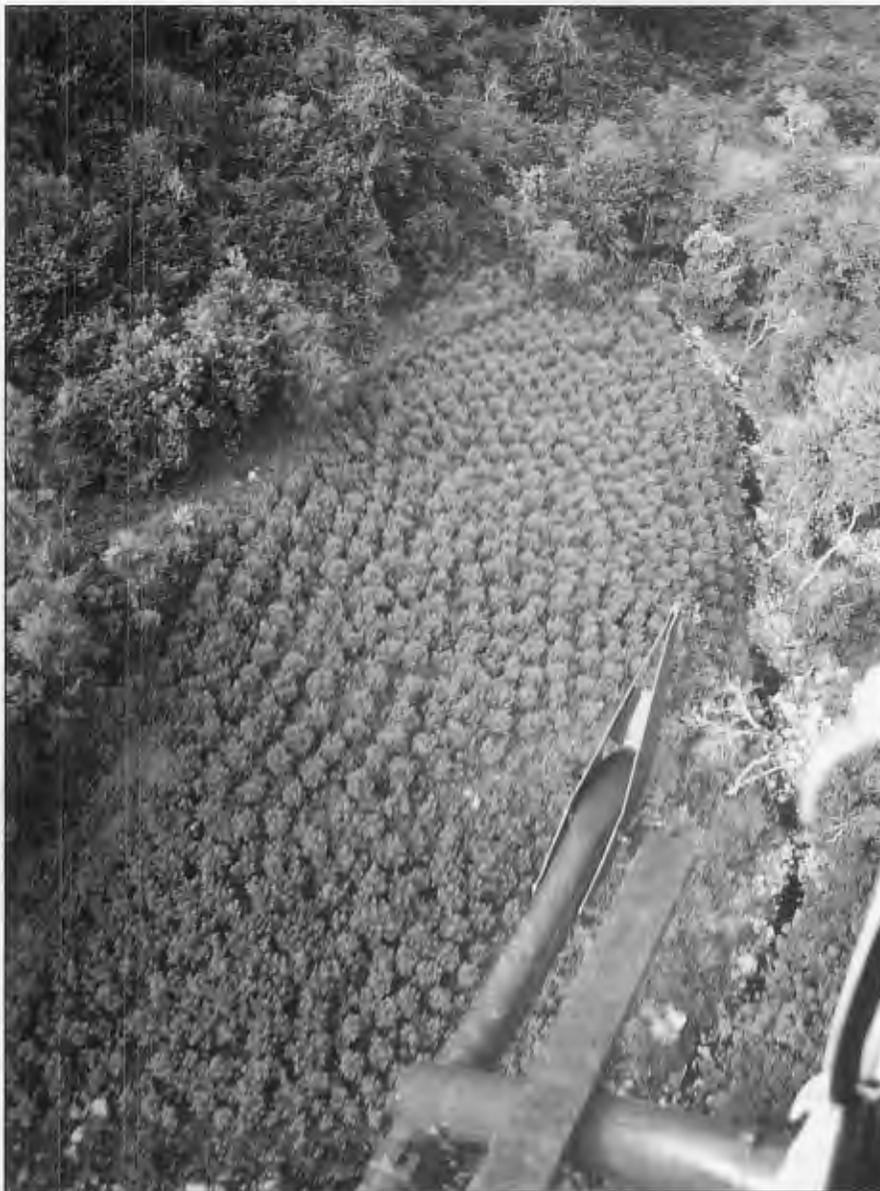
But in recent times there have been complications. Five years ago about three-quarters of all livestock stolen from farms was white-owned. And with Nelson Mandela's new black government in place, that didn't demand much attention. These days, in contrast, about 70 percent of the cattle taken belongs to Africans, and in KwaZulu/Natal, it's the Zulus who are feeling the loss.

During the course of these operations — where all cattle found grazing on open ground or in the bush would be brought together at an improvised pound — the animals would be identified by their brands. Even this simple task sometimes presented problems. Some rustlers don't hesitate to use a blade to cut out the brand mark so that the beasts cannot be positively identified. Some of the cattle carried horrible scars resulting from this barbarism.

The army, air force and police elements involved in the operation also used the opportunity to search for criminals, escaped prisoners on the run, illegal guns and gunrunners and, when time allowed, to destroy as many *dagga* plantations as we could spot from the air.

This, too, could be dangerous work. Flying into narrow canyons presented some obvious problems, especially when there was a stiff breeze blowing, and Flight Engineer Gideon van Zyl had his work cut out to keep the rotors clear. Consequently, we took no unnecessary risks. That only came when the air crews had to go back and drop small squads of soldiers — four, perhaps five, men at a time — to clear the marijuana. Afterwards, they used kerosene to set it alight. Since most of these fields were at the base of mountains or precipice overhangs, these actions sometimes made the men working there vulnerable to being fired on from above.

It happens. Because some of these tribespeople involved had worked long and hard to cultivate their precious crops — legal or otherwise — and they didn't appreciate strangers destroying a fair proportion of their wealth, especially when the crop was about to be harvested. Many of these



One of scores of pot plantations the SOF team scouted, along the Swaziland and Mozambique borders in northern KwaZulu.



Rich soil, remote location, strong market = thriving dope business in northern border areas of KwaZulu. Patrol goes well-armed, due to frequent shootouts with growers. (inset) Author's patrol found this large hand-spaded field about ready for planting. (below) Slash-and-burn law enforcement: patrol uses kerosene to burn crop that locals told SOF was scheduled for harvest during next few days. A week later, stash of heavy weapons was taken from nearby village.

“farmers” were armed.

Throughout, it was essential that the security forces involved remained in regular radio contact with headquarters.

A low ridge of mountains ahead of us looked ominous, and our chopper crew tackled it tentatively. The Colonel used his altitude to maneuver his craft

between a succession of heavy thunderstorms that swept in constantly from the Indian Ocean.

At first light our helicopter crossed the Pongola, the biggest river in the region, which empties into the Indian Ocean a few hundred miles to the east and brought the chopper down to tree-



top level. We crossed a wild country, seldom visited by strangers and great vistas of Africa unfolded before us. In places the bush was so thick that it seemed impassable. Yet a few miles farther on there would be some of the richest grazing ground anywhere.

Early reports about what we might find at our destination had not been encouraging: “A lair of cattle thieves and drug barons,” a member back at base in Durban had dubbed the region at our pre-dawn briefing.

“Been a stand-off between a group of rustlers and the police,” Colonel Rene Coulon explained before take-off. Having flown combat in most of Southern Africa’s conflicts, he isn’t easily phased, because like most of the old timers still active, he has taken his share of hits.

By all accounts, as he explained

before we went in, the bandits had guns, possibly AKs. Army intelligence reports had indicated that there were some of them around that had enough ammo to start a small war, he told *Soldier Of Fortune*. But orders had come “from up top” to avoid a confrontation and the recalcitrants usually disappeared into the bush, he explained.

It was a curious situation and symptomatic of South Africa’s “enlightened” new order. Everybody knew that there was a group of armed men in the area but because there was no war — and even the word insurgency was shunned — the authorities were reluctant to get involved in any action that might create bad publicity and affect tourism. Which is one of the reasons why the level of crime in the country is as high as it is.

People like Colonel Coulon — and those air force helicopter crews with whom we came into contact — were consequently reticent to take unnecessary risks for no other reason than that the authorities try to make a point of not firing weapons offensively in South Africa anymore. Still, the threat was there and those troops deployed in a variety of operations that took place over the next week and a bit kept their weapons readily to hand. So did we.

Missing, Presumed Lunch

Like all good plans, not everything ran to schedule. Things were going fine until we had put our heads down on the second night. Shortly after nine, Captain Attie Theunissen’s cell phone rang. A woman — white — had disap-

peared on her farm not far from where we had made our camp, he was told, and ordered to do something about it. His men were promptly hauled out of their fart bags to look for her.

The task facing us was difficult. The woman’s property was a game farm along the Pongola and you didn’t need a scientist’s mind to accept that the terrain that we would need to cover would be impossible. Much of the land was undeveloped and overgrown. Even the few roads that we spotted on our maps were impassable because of the rains.

There were other issues. The woman had apparently argued with the man she was living with. After a furious altercation, he had driven off and left her, unarmed, along an open stretch of bush road in fairly mountainous terrain. There were known to be leopards in the area and, word had it, there were more snakes than anybody could imagine, including mambas.

Still, the men went out. Almost every one of them came back six hours later, frustrated as hell. They hadn’t even found her tracks. At first light we took off to look for her.

There were a number of permutations as to what might have happened. Though the game farm was fenced, not everybody on the property worked there. Illegals from Mozambique had been spotted in the area in the week before and because the region was isolated, it was not impossible that she could have been raped and murdered.

There was also the question why the woman’s boyfriend had waited so long

before notifying the authorities? She had disappeared after breakfast the previous day, yet he had waited until after dark to call the police. And this was not the first time that the man had had trouble with his women. A big fellow, he was known to be violent. Some of the men asked if he were telling the police everything.

Then, just as we were about to accept the worst, word came through on the radio that the woman had been spotted by a patrol and taken back to her home.

We found out afterward that on leaving the road along a particularly wild stretch of bush, she had become hopelessly lost. Within an hour under that hot African sun she was also disoriented. For a long time she wandered about trying to get her bearings, with no success. Finally, after dark, the woman climbed into the fork of a large tree and spent the night listening to the voices of the African night.

Did she feel threatened? “All the time,” she told her rescuers. She saw half-a-dozen snakes and at one stage after dark was petrified by a large animal that prowled for eternity at the base of her tree. She had no idea what it was except that it snorted. In retrospect, it might have been a bush pig.

SAAF often lends hand, especially when going after gun-runners, part of mission statement on this 10-day op. Carbines in hand, a squad heads out from Oryx into unknown territory along the Pongola River where land was being prepared to grow pot.



Not only had she been sleepless throughout, but the woman was devoured by mosquitoes. Clad only lightly in a semi-tropical region, being May and heading towards winter, it became bitterly cold after dark. As Colonel Coulon commented afterward, "At least we didn't have to bring a body back to base."

There have been others living in the area who have not been so lucky. In the months before we arrived, at least two black children were devoured by crocodiles while bathing in the Pongola River. Though everybody living in the region is aware of the threat, the river is the lifeblood of many of the primitive communities clustered along its banks. Women living there haul its water for cooking and drinking and, as in much of Africa, they wash their clothes in it. Kids often play at the water's edge while their parents work nearby.

Tragically, you don't have to be in the water to be taken. These wily killers can approach to within feet of a group sitting on the bank, usually with only their snouts protruding. Having picked a victim, the brute will use its tail to knock an unsuspecting target into the water. Then, while everybody else scatters, they rush in for the *coup de grâce*.

Horseback, Helicopters And Hazards

In the end, it was the horses that made things tick. A tough breed, originally from the mountain kingdom of Lesotho (and with a sprinkling of Arabs), the animals had been adapted for work in mountainous terrain. It was not easy.

I settled into the saddle on our third day out and found the ride tough going. The last time I been on ops on horseback, had been with the Army's mounted unit in Angola and that was 20 years ago. Because of the high ground, Zululand was something altogether different.

Within an hour I had muscles aching where I didn't believe I had any muscles. Saddle sores appeared like tattoos down my legs. The men involved were more recently experienced: Every one had years of riding behind them. Some were farm boys who for want of anything better to do, played polo at many of the clubs that are to be found in rural Southern Africa.

We went out anyway on a hard slog that took us well ahead of army and police units covering the easier terrain. Mostly, our job was to search for cattle in remote chasms and valleys that could only be reached on horseback.



(left) Difficult rocky terrain requires horses. Patrol rode in extended column. (above) Where terrain permits, police also use 350cc Yamaha cross-country bikes to help with roundup of rustled cattle.

another. Each morning we would tackle another area in a search that eventually covered a region almost as big as Vermont. Five or six times during the day the chopper would be refueled from drums which were driven into the veld in advance of any operation. This aspect alone, required good planning and coordination.

It was Lt. Gideon van Zyl's job to service the chopper after dark each evening, and even he came up with the occasional surprise. Very early on he discovered an oil leak in our tail rotor hydraulics. As it happened, it was a false alarm, but it mightn't have been. As any chopper pilot worth his oats will tell you, tail rotor problems are usually terminal.

Operating in the heart of Africa, as we were, that was only one of the issues that we had to sort out for ourselves.

Another was, having to make two emergency landings in an hour one afternoon when we were caught in the open in 100-mph winds. Both times Colonel Coulon had to search quickly for open ground. Both times, too, he brought us down with our rotors almost within touching distance of some of the huge trees that dominate so much of the region.

As he said afterward, "sort of thing happens in Africa ... it's all part of the job ..."

Al J. Venter is SOF's contributing editor for Africa. ✕

Everybody was armed, R4 rifles slung casually over the shoulders so that our hands were left free.

The difficult part came once we left recognized paths or tracks and had to cut across country. Often this involved descending or climbing out of *dongas* (gullies) that only a madman would have contemplated under normal circumstances. One misstep and who knows what could happen, but the animals were superb in keeping their balance in sometimes impossible terrain.

Looking back afterward, I must admit that it wasn't fun. When I was given the opportunity to ride again the next day, I declined with haste. In any event, my butt ached for a week thereafter.

So it went and one day fused into

IN DEFENSE OF THE M1 CARBINE

Battlefield Experience Outweighs Armchair Critics

BY COL. MIKE PECK (RET.)

A close-up of the author's snub-nosed M1 Carbine used by 5th Special Forces Group (Abn) in Vietnam, circa 1965.

Ever since some observant firearms enthusiast first noticed that the .30 Carbine cartridge was less than half the size of a .30-06, legions of "experts" have carried on endlessly about the ineffectiveness of the U.S. M1 Carbine, and have damned it as being inadequate as a military arm. I always felt such condemnation was unfair, giving this fine little weapon a tarnished reputation that it did not deserve.

From the very first time I saw one, in a WWII movie back in the late 1940s, I have liked Carbines, and have carried them extensively in combat situations in odd unpronounceable places throughout the world. Although the Carbine was designed as a group effort by Winchester in 1941, the concept was championed by then-Major Rene R. Studler, who was the Chairman of the Ordnance Subcommittee that was



charged with defining and testing a light rifle to replace pistols and sub-machine guns in U.S. service.

Carbines traditionally were little more than cut-down main battle rifles that were issued to non-infantry formations; usually artillery or cavalry units. The infantry rifles normally had long barrels simply to accommodate bayonets, held in such high regard by military experts, who always seem to be at least one war behind the times. Britain initially pioneered the concept of the all-purpose rifle, by issuing the SMLE (Short Magazine Lee-Enfield) with its 25-inch barrel to all branches of service in 1902. The U.S. followed suit with its 1903 Springfield, with a 24-inch tube. The bayonets issued with these rifles were unusually long to compensate for their comparatively short barrels. Germany later adopted this concept with its Kar98k (Karabiner, Modell 1898, *kurz* or Carbine Model 98 short).

Even these rifles proved to be unwieldy for personnel not fully engaged in front-line fighting, though, and during the Second World War most of the major powers took to chopping and channeling their battle rifles to create even lighter and handier carbines. The British produced their Jungle Carbine, nothing more than a standard No.4 Mark I* Rifle with a short barrel, lightening cuts on non-critical areas, a flash hider, and a rubber recoil pad; Germany had its 33/40 Mountain Rifle, a 98 Mauser with a 19-inch barrel and a *Gebirgsjaeger* butt plate; while the Russians replicated their M1910 Carbine, a cut-down version of the M1891 Mosin-Nagant, with the M1938 and M1944 Carbines, issued on a large scale. Even the Japanese had an assortment of shortened folding stock, or sectioned, Arisaka rifles, originating with the early Type 38 and Type 44 Carbines and continuing through the Type 99 Rifles adopted in 1939.

The U.S. M1 Carbine was entirely different, however, and constituted a revolutionary concept, in that it was not simply a sawed-off full-power rifle. It was a specially designed, lightweight arm, utilizing its own unique intermediate-power cartridge. The concept was similar to the *raison-d'être* of the Winchester Model 1873 and Model 1892 (saddle-ring) carbines, which fired .32-20, .38-40, and .44-40 intermediate-power cartridges from high-capacity tubular magazines. Because of the popularity of these light handy rifles, which provided great firepower for their day, Winchester went one step further in 1905, introducing a semiautomatic rifle that chambered the .32 and .35 WSL (Winchester Self-Loading) cartridges. Once Major Studler put out his specifications for a lightweight Carbine, the design team at



A local patrol around the perimeter of Phu Tuc with the cut-off Carbine.

where their firepower and ease of handling more than compensated for their lack of stopping power.

My own love affair with the Carbine began one summer in the late 1950s when I was still in high school. There was a Teamsters strike, which put me temporarily out of my summer job as a laborer with a large construction company in Cincinnati. While this was being resolved, I availed myself of the opportunity to get to the range at the Miami Rifle and Pistol Club during the work-week, when no one else was around. I had purchased an 03A3 Springfield through the DCM (Director of Civilian Marksmanship) and had also signed-out, semi-permanently, a club-issued M1 Rifle, also courtesy of the DCM, which provided ammo, as

well. I was working on my 200-yard off-hand position with the Garand when one of the many fine police officers who belonged to the club drove up in civilian clothes. When he approached the line he was carrying a "by-God" M1 Carbine. I had held one once at a military display at a county fair, and later handled others at a Marine recruiting station that I frequented, but now someone was actually going to shoot one.

After firing off a couple of 15-shot magazines, he was kind enough to let me fire off a clip, and at that point I knew I had to have it. I began bargaining for it in such an earnest (desperate) manner that he must have felt sorry for me. I did everything but promise my sister to him (shee ees a nize gurl, a *vurgeen*), and he finally (probably against his better judgment), agreed to sell it to me for 35 dollars. That was the price of a Luger in good shape back then — a significant sum for me — which obliged me to scurry home in my 1952 Henry J to raise the money, while he continued to pop away at one of my



M2A1 Carbine pulling bath and water detail security at Song Be outside Phu Tuc.

200-hundred-yard targets.

First M1

Of course, when I arrived home, I was unable to get in touch with my dad, so all I could scrape up was 31 bucks! By the time I got back, my police buddy was over at the pistol range, and I explained my plight, offering to give him a .22 Beretta 948 as a hostage until I could come up with the other \$4. He thought this all amusing, since I was sort of the club mascot, so he finally let me have it for \$31, and even threw in a small fruit jar full of ammo which he had thoughtfully saved for me. I was in nirvana with my new toy, and scuttled back to where we had been shooting to scrounge up all the spent cases I could locate. I was unable to find Carbine dies for my Lyman 310 loading tool, so, once I got back to work and was making big bucks (\$2.57 an hour), I invested in a Herters #3 press and a double-cavity mold, also from Herters, which turned out round-nose, gas-checked bullets of 109-grains. At this point I really got serious about reloading. A little later, after saving up my pocket change, supplemented by the proceeds from an after-school part-time job, and was able to get an M1A1 "Paratrooper" stock for it, which made it the envy of everyone who ever saw it. I had more fun with that little gun than with any before or since.

Obviously Carbines have finally been eclipsed as military weapons by a proliferation of intermediate-power assault rifles, but many revisionists continue to disparage the Carbine's performance during WWII, Korea, and even Vietnam, woofing incessantly about what a dismal weapon it was. Usually these worthies also have unkind words for submachine guns, which seem to have fallen from grace, as well — except for the complex and astronomically priced Heckler and Koch MP5s. Because of the general unpreparedness of all parties and the sheer magnitude of the Late Great Hate, it is doubtful that any historian could dispute that submachine guns played an extremely significant role as military weapons during that conflagration. Throughout "The War" they proliferated in a variety of calibers, the major being 7.62 Tokarev, 9mm Parabellum, .45 ACP, and, to a much lesser extent, 8mm Nambu. SMGs were used on all fronts by all major powers with devastating effect, and there are one hell of a lot of guys in Valhalla, from all sides, who can attest to the effectiveness of Thompsons, "Schmeissers", Stens, and the Russian "Burp Guns." Not only is the Carbine lighter than all of the above, but is more accurate, has a longer effective range, and is ballistically superior. So why was it so bad?



Close-in security patrol astride Route 7 in Phu Bon Province carrying an M2 Carbine in an M1A1 Paratrooper stock, 1965.

outside of Cheo Reo, in II Corps. I learned to like it even less when I discovered its annoying proclivity to jam on full-auto — just when you needed it most. (Also, throughout the Vietnam War, the AR15/M16s were issued with 20-shot magazines, since the sorry toads marketing them wanted to make sure that the Army brain trust would type-classify them as "rifles" — so they could sell more of them). Twenty chances was never enough bullets to suit me, however, and I always felt more secure having those extra 10 rounds — for embarrassing moments, you know.

Although I carried an M1A1 Thompson, an M3 Grease Gun, and tried (unsuccessfully) to pack a 1918A2 BAR, I invariably went out with a Carbine on lengthy patrols, when the weight of the heavy .45 caliber ammo precluded the use of either of my submachine guns. For extended operations I used an M2 in an M1A1 stock, inletted along the right side to accommodate the sear trip lever. When flying in an L-19 as a back-seat observer/gunner, I used a solid stock model, with a high mix of tracers in the 30-round magazines. At the end of the rainy season in 1965, our armed aerial reces kept the VC in our area honest, and we soon cured them of traveling around during the day.

Reliable

I cannot ever remember having a malfunction with a Carbine, although I have heard of them jamming up on full auto, since the M2 conversion kit came along, more or less as an after-thought, toward the end of WWII. I liked them in the semi-mode, since I always took a certain amount of pride in hitting what I was shooting at; I only went full-auto during my B-17 waist gun



Getting psyched for an airmobile assault to re-open FSB Vehgle, packing author's own radio, plus an M2 Carbine and a SOG knife. 101st ABN, 1971.

antics, on close-in night ambushes, or when I was really scared (more often than I like to admit).

As for the Carbine being underpowered, it always served me well. A lot of our kills were with Carbines, and when the smoke cleared and the dust settled, all those dudes looked to be pretty dead to me. I remember hitting a guy point-blank on a night operation in late December 1965, which put him down for the count, but good, yet I had to smack one of his comrades who was running for cover with two successive three-round bursts to do him any good. After each burst you could see the dust fly out of his shirt. Although he was still on his feet when I lost sight of him in the darkness, I somehow don't think he ever managed to collect his pension after that sad experience.

Since I had to travel around a great deal as an A-Team XO, hand-carrying a plethora of diverse documents and miscellaneous papers, I modified a folding-stock M2 to fit into a large heavy WWII canvas document/map case, along with five loaded magazines — to keep the boogey man away when I was out on the road. This was accomplished by lopping off the barrel to a point just ahead of the handguard retaining band (so it would slide far enough forward to get the weapon apart.) It also included crowning the muzzle with a ball bearing and valve grinding compound, as well as moving the front sight back. It made a very neat and compact rig, and, again, was the envy of all who saw it.

Strangely enough, the same people who vilify the Carbine often heartily endorse the H&K MP5 submachine guns, mentioned previously. They are certainly cute and decidedly trendy, but I feel they tend to defeat the original purpose of an SMG, which is to be simple and cheap to manufacture. The H&K, *au contraire*, is rather complicated and extremely high-priced. Although the federal government can afford to equip its law enforcement agencies with gold-plated German submachine guns, I have often been amazed that smaller police forces — not having unlimited taxpayer funding — have also opted for the Heckler and Koch guns. Even when purchased by law enforcement agencies, these little jewels cost about \$3,500 a pop. It would seem that a reconditioned Carbine might serve just as well for \$350. Like the German gun, the .30 Carbine also fires from a closed bolt, yet it is more accurate than the former, and is more effective against automobiles and body armor than the 9mm Parabellum. For those fearing that over-penetration by the speedy, 110-grain .30 Carbine round might pose a problem, all they need do is load up a couple of clips with Glaser or other frangible-type rounds. For maximum psychological effect, these reconditioned police Carbines could also be outfitted with cut-off barrels and folding stocks. What happened to tradition and “buy American?”

It was during that first tour in the Highlands that the Carbine earned my unflinching respect and admiration, but, as it turned out, we were destined to meet again in Southeast Asia. In 1970 I returned to Vietnam for my third tour, and had managed to bring with me the accurized .45 automatic with the holster/stock from my second tour, plus a tiny Steyr .25 (the one with the flip-up barrel). Before joining the 1-327 of the 101st as a battalion S-3 (although I was still a captain),

I was able to acquire an M3A1 Grease Gun, plus an M2 Carbine in pristine condition. Along with all my other assorted goodies, I had also smuggled in a Weaver B4 telescopic sight, with a commercial AR15 mount, but, since I never managed to find an M16 that worked consistently, I gave it away to one of the company commanders. As a result, I carried the Grease Gun and the M2 Carbine as my individual weapons, along with the modified .45 (with stock, long-relief telescopic sight, and 20-round magazines).

Our battalion operated in and around the Ashau Valley, and I often went on armed aerial forays to shoot at trucks or troops brazenly operating in the open on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. I had a stockpile of tracers for the Carbine, and used it for strafing missions out of the C&C helicopter, with the same success as from the L-19s in 1965. I also used it for all the airmobile assaults when we went in to set up a series of temporary firebases or forward mortar support positions on the escarpment overlooking the Valley. We were up against some very hardcore, experienced Viet Cong out in that area, and the only thing more comforting than the chaplain's hand going into a hot LZ was the familiar feel of my outdated Carbine's solid wooden stock. Down toward the end of my tour, I finally ran out of ammo for it — and was unable to locate



Briefing a platoon leader on Firebase Cannon overlooking the Ashau Valley in 1971.

another source. I finally wrapped it up, shrouded in an oiled poncho liner along with all its magazines, and sealed it in an artillery shell container. It is buried in a little graveyard just outside of Hue where I could find it — just in case I ever go back. I suppose that is as fitting an end as I could give to an intimate and faithful friend that had soldiered so long with me and had served our noble cause so well.

I now have an entire collection of Carbines, including a licensed M2 model, and, even at this late date, when I can manage to get out to a full-auto-friendly range, its unique and nostalgic rattle, gently bucking in my hands, always takes me back in time; back when things seemed so much simpler. Back when the United States was really a super-power. Back when we made such a deadly team together. Back when we were trying to save the world for democracy. Or from itself. Or whatever ...

Colonel Mike Peck (Ret.), a highly decorated Vietnam veteran, was previously director of DIA's POW/MIA office in Washington, D.C. Presently, he is an international security consultant. ✕

M1 CARBINE

SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	7.62 x 33, 110 gr. ball, 1,970 fps at muzzle
System:	"Williams" short-stroke gas piston
Barrel Length:	18 inches, 4-groove right-hand twist
Overall Length:	35.65 inches
Weight Unloaded:	5.2 lb. (depending on stock and fixtures)
Magazine Capacity:	15- or 30- round detachable box
M2 Cyclic Rate:	750 (+ or -) rounds per minute

omega PROVINGround

Krebs Custom Inc.'s AK-103K

BY DAVID M. FORTIER

PHOTOS BY EMILY K. NICKERSON

Without a doubt one of the most interesting pieces of modern military small arms is the Kalashnikov family of assault rifles. Produced in far greater numbers than any other rifle ever made, the Kalashnikov has seen heavy combat around the world. Continually modernized over the years the current version of the Kalashnikov issued to Russian Federal Army units is the AK-74M in 5.45x39mm. While the Russians have fielded the high velocity 5.45x39mm "Poison Bullet" since the 1970s it never caught on around the world as did its predecessor, the 7.62x39mm. A true intermediate cartridge along the lines of the German 7.92x33 Kurz, the 7.62x39mm has proven its effectiveness in countless wars. So to boost lagging sales the Russians introduced a "modernized" version of the 7.62x39mm AKM based upon the AK-74M. Designated the AK-103, it features modern synthetic furniture, a siderail for optics, and an AK-74 style muzzlebrake. This rifle is the high water mark of 7.62x39mm Kalashnikovs. Unfortunately, of course, they are not available here in the United States.

Where there is a will there is a way though, or at least according to Marc Krebs there is. Marc is well-known for building top-quality M1911 IPSC pistols and his workmanship is well regarded. As of late he has turned his attention to something different: the Kalashnikov family of rifles. Like many people, he wanted a real Russian AK, one actually made at IZHMAH in Izhevsk, Russia. After scratching his head for a bit, he found out that he could take an original Russian 7.62x39mm Saiga hunting rifle and return it to its military AK-103 guise with a little bit of work. Recently, SOF was able to give one of his rifles a good flogging, and

we came away quite impressed.

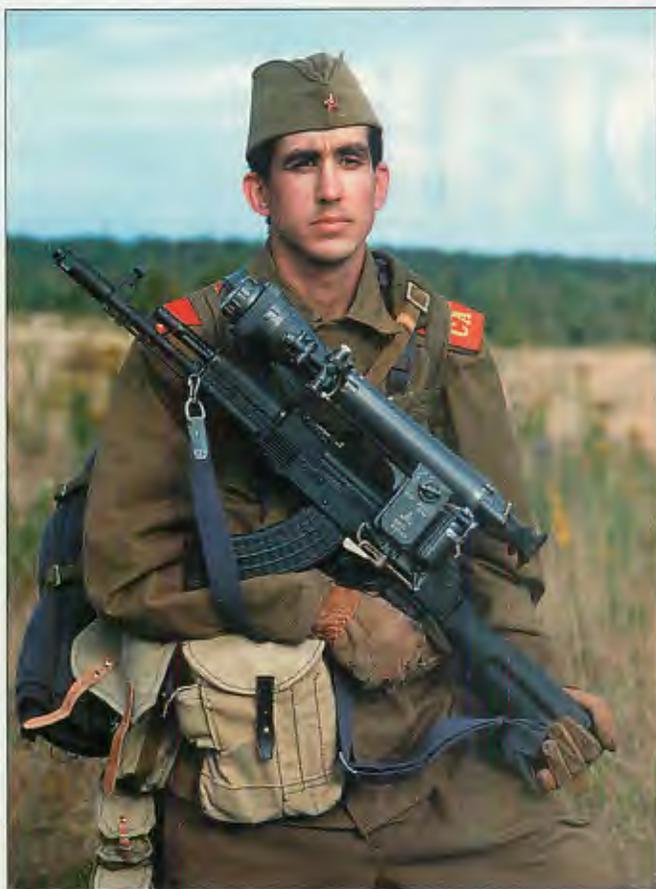
We received one of his AK-103Ks for testing. This model features a 14-inch barrel with a permanently attached muzzlebrake that brings the barrel out past the legal requirements. Of special interest is that the brake is an exact copy of the current-issue Russian brake. The rifle features a cold hammer-forged chrome-lined barrel, black synthetic furniture, stamped steel receiver, siderail for day or night optics, and accepts high capacity magazines. There is quite a bit involved in the transformation from Saiga hunting carbine to AK-103K, but I was extremely impressed by the quality of his workmanship. The rifle is an evil looking snub-nosed brute sure to strike fear into the heart of every anti-gunner and jealousy in your shooting buddies.

Stripping the rifle revealed the difference in quality between a real Russian AK and all the others. The Russian guns are extremely well-made with excellent machine work, fit, and finish. Plus, I was impressed with the required American-made trigger parts. The bolt operated smoothly and the two-stage trigger was very good with a crisp let-off. Finish is a corrosion resistant black enamel. The muzzlebrake was well-machined and identical to an actual Russian brake with which I compared it. Sights, magazine release and safety are typical Kalashnikov with the exception being that the rear sight from the Saiga is only calibrated to 300 meters.

I put several thousand rounds through the AK-103K during testing without ever cleaning it. The only cleaning it received was when I dunked it in a stream by the sling a couple times to get some of the mud off it. Nevertheless it functioned flawlessly in typical Kalashnikov fashion. Accuracy from the



Ever wanted a real Russian AK from the factory where Mikhail Kalashnikov himself worked? If so, you are in luck! Krebs Custom Inc. is currently offering a shorty version of the Russian AK-103 built from real Russian Saigas. At left is an AK-103K, at right a standard length AK-103. (below) One nice addition to the latest Russian AKs is the scope siderail allowing the easy mounting of optics, such as this 1PN58 NVD.



With tons of historical appeal, the AK-103K will be of interest to both collectors and shooters alike.

bench was quite good with a combined average of all loads tested of 2.9 inches for 5-shot groups at 100 yards. But this is no bench gun. It was designed for CQB-style work, so we did a lot of that with it. While some complain about the AK's short stock, I find it much to be preferred; the weapon shoulders extremely fast. With its short length it also swings quickly while engaging multiple targets. Control was extremely good thanks to the effective muzzlebrake, although there was substantial muzzle flash during low-light drills. Magazine changes were fast and while the sights are basic, they performed their intended function well at close range.

I came away quite impressed with Krebs Custom Inc.'s AK-103K. It is a light, handy, rugged little carbine packing a .30-caliber punch. Quality and workmanship are excellent, and it is a real Russian AK, not a Chinese or Romanian knockoff. Krebs is one of the few companies specializing in Kalashnikovs and offers a variety of models, calibers, and options. He can literally build a rifle to a buyer's specifications. If you're looking for a top-quality Kalashnikov from the original Russian factory, I suggest giving Krebs Custom a call. ✖

AK-103K

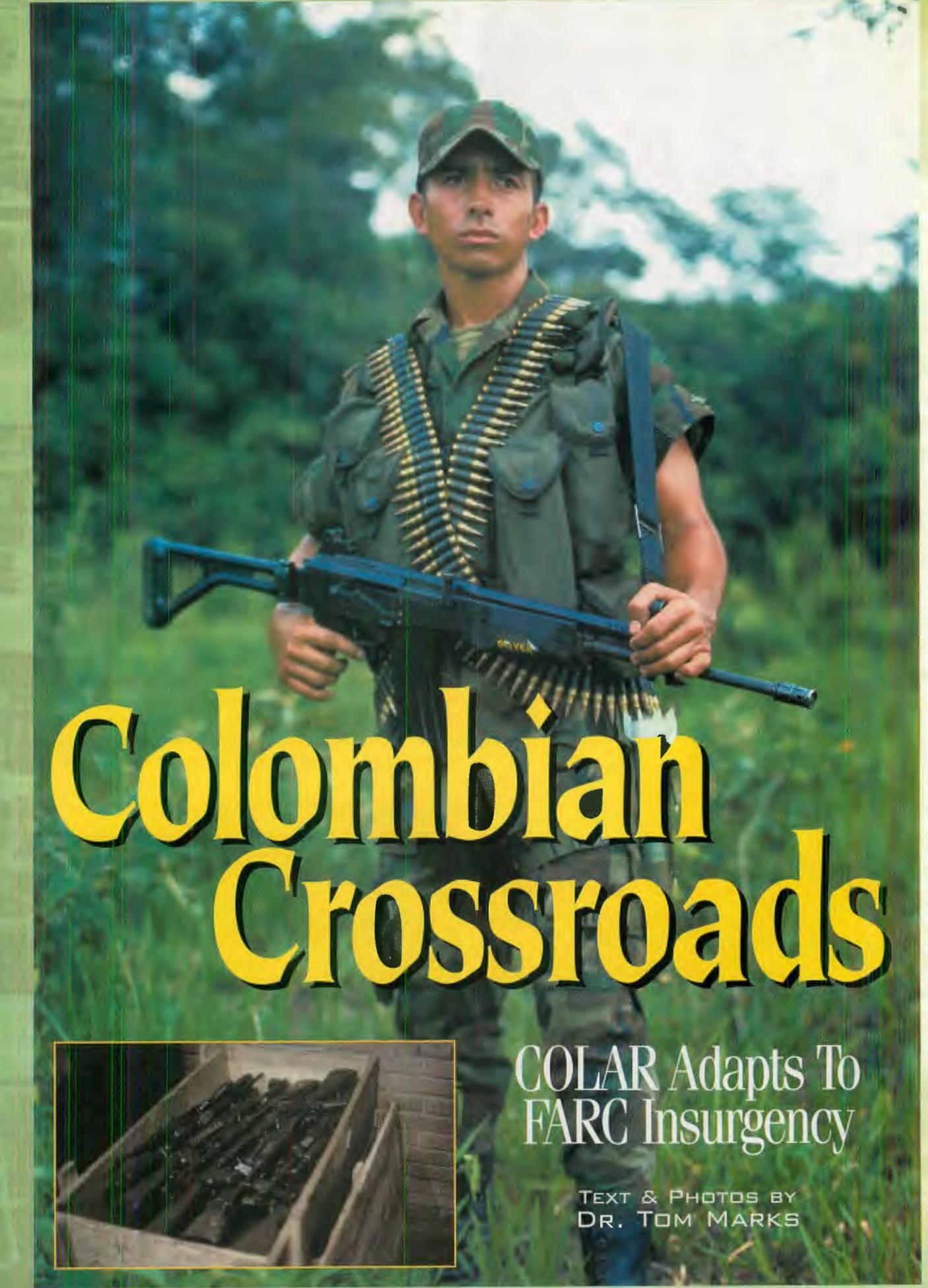
SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:	7.62x39mm
Method of Operation:	Self-loading, long-stroke gas piston with a rotating bolt
Weight, Empty:	7 pounds
Feed:	Detachable 5-, 20-, 30-round box magazines; 75-round drum
Sights:	Front: post, adjustable for windage and elevation
Rear:	Tangent with "U" notch adjustable to 300 meters
Barrel length:	14 inches
Twist:	1 turn in 9.4 inches
Overall length:	34 3/4 inches
Price:	\$755.00 Retail

CONTACT SHEET

Krebs Custom Inc./Dept. SOF
1000 Rand Road, Unit 106, Wauconda, IL 60084
phone: 847-487-7776; website: www.krebscustom.com

Centerfire Systems/Dept. SOF
102 Fieldview Drive, Versailles, KY 40383
phone: 800-950-1231 (Russian Military 3.5x21 scope)

A young man in military uniform, wearing a green cap and a vest with a large magazine of ammunition, stands in a lush green jungle. He is holding a black assault rifle. The background is filled with dense foliage and trees.

Colombian Crossroads



COLAR Adapts To
FARC Insurgency

TEXT & PHOTOS BY
DR. TOM MARKS

Counterinsurgency is a political campaign. It can be carried out only through an act of national will, a combined effort which harnesses all facets of power, civil and military, into a weapon which beats back the insurgent challenge.

What is unique in the present Colombian experience is that the system seems unsure whether to fight for its life or go down grinning. Indeed, the military has the singular disadvantage of being forced to engage in counterinsurgency operations at a time when strategic Cold War victory has caused all potential sources of support, both ideological and material, to turn their backs on the operational remnants of the failed communist crusade. Hence, Bogota finds itself quite on its own — at the very time when policy makers, both Colombian and American, have little knowledge as to the realities of insurgency-counterinsurgency, particularly the philosophy and mechanics of internal war.

This has thrust the burden of conducting counterinsurgency almost completely upon the shoulders of the Colombian military alone, principally the Colombian Army, or COLAR. It has taken up this burden, at considerable cost (see sidebar), driving FARC to return to a guerrilla-driven approach rather than one where mobile warfare leads.

Roots Of The Insurgency

Soldier Of Fortune got on the ground early in this conflict and has covered it extensively. What is paramount in understanding the present nature of things is that the major insurgent threat, *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia*, or FARC, became a going concern only when it linked up with drug production as a funding source. The money from, initially, taxation of the drug trade, later, direct involvement in it, provided a resource windfall which made previously marginal political actors into major players.

FARC, in other words, did not become a serious factor due to mobilization of an alienated mass base. It became a serious factor due to the power which came from drugs grown by a marginalized population. In terms of national percentage, these marginalized actors would not be major players. They became so only because of their role as the base upon which drug-cultivation — and thus insurgent finances — was built.

This dynamic is crucial. U.S. policy under the previous administration



The military has the singular disadvantage of being forced to engage in counterinsurgency operations at a time when strategic Cold War victory has caused all potential sources of support, both ideological and material, to turn their backs.

focused primarily on “drugs” but went to extraordinary lengths to avoid “counterinsurgency.” Certainly this stemmed, as well, from the multiple constraints imposed by Congress, particularly in 1986 legislation, but policy obfuscation eventually took on a life of its own.

It even extended to the apparent slanting of intelligence so as to reflect a criminal direction of the drug cycle (a posture which served the needs of actors such as the Embassy and DEA) even as the insurgent groups increasingly moved to a central role in that cycle (as was correctly, if imperfectly, reflected in Colombian reporting itself).

It further extended, during certain periods of the Clinton administration, to placing a nebulous conception for “human rights” before all else, even as Colombian military units grappled with a communist insurgent threat which in many ways began to amass superior operational resources to those deployed by the security forces.

A communist insurgency in 2001? Though active Maoist-oriented insurgent groups remain in the likes of Colombia, the Philippines, Nepal, and even Turkey, few take them seriously. This is to confuse strategic Cold War victory with local operational circumstances, where such rebel movements remain a threat.

Such has been the case in Colombia. There, the lack of concern by the ruling elite played a key role. For decades, following their initial effort in the early 1960s, the insurgents remained largely “out there,” out of sight, out of mind, patiently building an alternative society. No one much cared.

Yet FARC had big plans. In a key meeting, its seventh party conference, held at Cubarral, Meta, 4-14 May 1982, it was decided that the priority task was to create a revolutionary army capable of taking on the security forces. To fund this endeavor and to gain manpower, FARC opted to exploit narcotics. By taxing all facets of the drug trade, it would obtain money. By protecting and controlling production areas, it would not only secure its income but recruit from the marginalized.

The result was that FARC, which began as a remnant group in the eastern llanos, or plains, built their substantial base areas and eventually created a force which latest order of battle figures show to be some 16,500 combat-

ants (with another 50-70% of that figure fielded in local militia). This it deploys under the command and control of 66 fronts, which themselves were grouped under seven larger Bloques. Led throughout by a single individual, Manuel Marulanda Velez, alias *Tiro Fijo* or “Sure Shot,” FARC’s overall command falls to a seven-man Secretariat which nominally reports to a central command, or *Estado Mayor Central*, of 25 members (strength has varied).

Considerable irony is involved here. For decades, the government had been faced with any number of insurgent movements, none of which were particularly powerful, but which together constituted a significant problem. At



U.S. policy under Clinton focused primarily on “drugs” but went to extraordinary lengths to avoid “counterinsurgency.”



times, notably 1960-65, Bogota had even put together model counterinsurgency efforts.

Yet overall, the government did little. Instead, it told its security forces to deal with the rebels. This they did by engaging in counterinsurgency warfare.

There was little else it could do. Though the government would at times move towards some sort of resolution — generally when enlightened or ambitious personalities appeared — grievances embodied in marginalization were never structurally addressed. Development was controlled by an elite, as was politics, and bringing the margins into the mainstream simply was beyond the mindset, and perhaps the capacity, of the system.

FARC, of course, was implacably opposed to that system, and the insurgents put their money into their bite —

and caught the security forces in 1996-98 still in counterinsurgency mode. In a series of actions throughout those years, FARC demonstrated that it had entered the mobile warfare stage. Though coordination was effected in 1995 with the other major insurgent group remaining in the field, the much smaller *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN), the new war was principally a FARC show.

Modern communications equipment allowed a high degree of both tactical and operational coordination. Simultaneously, Colombia itself was hammered by the U.S., which decertified the country in both 1996 and 1997, thus denying it aid and advice even as the insurgents moved to exploit weaknesses in security force organization, doctrine, and deployment.

A harbinger of what was to come was the overrunning, on 30 August 1996 at Las Delicias in Putumayo, of a draftee company base of 120 men, killing or wounding half, capturing the remainder. There followed other actions, often coordinated with demonstrations by coca growers in municipal areas.

Concurrently, a stepped-up campaign sought to clear entire areas of government presence. Mayors and policemen were particular targets, for once they were killed or driven away, a region became ripe for control. Special attention was paid to areas which would serve to isolate the national capital, Bogotá. Urban militias were formed to multiply the combat power of FARC fronts themselves.

Just how far FARC had progressed was brought home in late February 1998 when the under-strength 52nd Counterinsurgency Battalion (52 BCG) of the newly formed 3rd Mobile Brigade (3 BRIM), deploying only 154 men in three of its companies, was lured into a prepared ambush and decimated at El Billar, Caquetá.

As the Colombian presidential election campaign went on in August 1998, FARC launched a nationwide series of attacks. The most significant saw an estimated 1,200 insurgents attack a draftee company of the Joaquín París Battalion and the co-located counter-narcotics police base at Miraflores, Guaviare. Overrun, government forces again took heavy casualties: 30 killed, 50 wounded, and 100 taken prisoner.

Anxious to act upon popular sentiment for "peace," the president-elect, Andrés Pastrana Arango, personally met with FARC leaders, then ceded to them, on a "temporary" basis, a demilitarized zone (*Zona de Despeje*; see map), as the

Human Cost Of The War

Statistically, Colombia, with 40 million people, is one of the most hazardous places on earth. Figures for the year 2000 claim 38,820 "violent deaths." The U.S. figure for the same year is less than 16,000 matched against a population of some 280 million.

Still, virtually all sources place the number of dead in Colombia due to "the war" at but 3,600-5,000 per year, a relatively low figure when one considers that California's 1990 murder figure was approximately 3,600 for a population of some 30 million.

Insurgents in 2000 killed approximately a thousand civilians, *autodefensas* killed another thousand (published data goes through only October, which requires the imprecision). Some 970 insurgents were listed as killed by the security forces, as well as 89 *autodefensas* members. The army alone had 286 KIA for the year. The police have been savaged,



losing more than 5,000 men since 1990.

Yet the bulk of the burden may be considered hidden. Well-known are the various estimates of more than a million displaced persons since 1995; more than 125,000 last year alone. Not publicized is that, at any one time, there are 300-350 military personnel, most COLAR, assigned to the Rehabilitation Battalion after release from the larger Military Hospital in Bogotá: 71% gunshot, 5% mines; significantly, 15% are listed as psychiatric casualties.

Most controversial of all the efforts to measure the war is the area of human rights. It is a statistical minefield but one the security forces have found they must enter. They have thus gone to great lengths to demonstrate and publicize the nature of deaths and other activities related to the insurgency (as opposed to those attributed to Colombia's extraordinary crime rate) — to the point of publishing on the COLAR website *Ejercito.mil.co* the particulars of every individual who appears as but a bit of data on a table.

These demonstrate clearly the validity of the longstanding security force contention that it is the insurgents who are overwhelmingly responsible for not just deaths but all forms of human rights abuses.

Recently published sources include two excellent works from the Colombian Ministry of Defense: *La Fuerza Pública y los Derechos Humanos en Colombia* (Bogotá: Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, March 2000), with complete statistics through 1999; and *Informe Anual Derechos Humanos y DIH 2000* (Bogotá: Ministerio de Defensa Nacional, January 2001), with complete statistics through October 2000 (available in English as *Annual Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Report 2000*). Statistical updates are published monthly by the Ministry of Defense in all major Colombian media.

— T.M.

price for entering into negotiations. Centrally located in the heart of the country, within easy striking distance of both the capital and other major targets, it was ostensibly an area where military activity was prohibited. FARC not only violated such prohibition immediately, but subsequently used the *Zona*, as it came to be called, as a coca production base and recruiting zone, as an unsinkable aircraft carrier from which to launch repeated strikes against government targets.

This activity reached a new high in July 1999, when a massive offensive from the DMZ sought to strike in all directions, to include Bogota itself. It was followed by another in November-December, but both were stopped cold in fierce fighting which involved security forces knocking out FARC homemade, but nonetheless formidable, armor.

Security Force Response

That the offensives were blunted stemmed from significant changes which occurred in the security forces, primarily the army, even as the insurgents were making headway. *Soldier Of Fortune* has covered these in detail (see April, May, August and September 2000 issues). If any measure was key, it was putting in command leaders who could recognize what they were seeing.

Naturally, it was the army that was expected to blunt the insurgents. Of its total 145,000-man strength, however, less than a quarter, some 30,000 men, were professionals. Of these, some 20,000 were being used in actual counterinsurgency operations. They were deployed in 3 *Brigadas Moviles* (Mobile Brigades or BRIM) and 47 *Batallones Contraguerrillas* (Counterguerrilla

Battalions or BCG), a total of some 60 BCG (numbers varied; there were 4x BCG per BRIM).

It was from these units that the new chain of command came after the change of administrations in mid-year 1998 (Colombia is and remains a democracy). Under civilian Defense Minister Luis Fernando Ramirez Acuna, Army Lieutenant General (called simply *General* in the Colombian system) Fernando Tapias Stahelin became head of the armed forces (*Fuerzas Militares*); General Jorge E. Mora Rangel became head of the army itself. Both were former commanders of the elite mobile brigades (BRIM).

Under their leadership, the military was able, in but several years, to field a revitalized force able to be employed in a manner more appropriate to the new phase the conflict had entered, that of mobile warfare. With primary effort directed against what was perceived as the main insurgent threat, FARC, a multi-pronged plan was put into execution by COLAR to counter the insurgent approach.

First, a critical areas assessment was drawn up, and forces allocated to secure resources imperative to national survival and operations. Second, the military moved to blunt the insurgents' own strategy for seizing power.

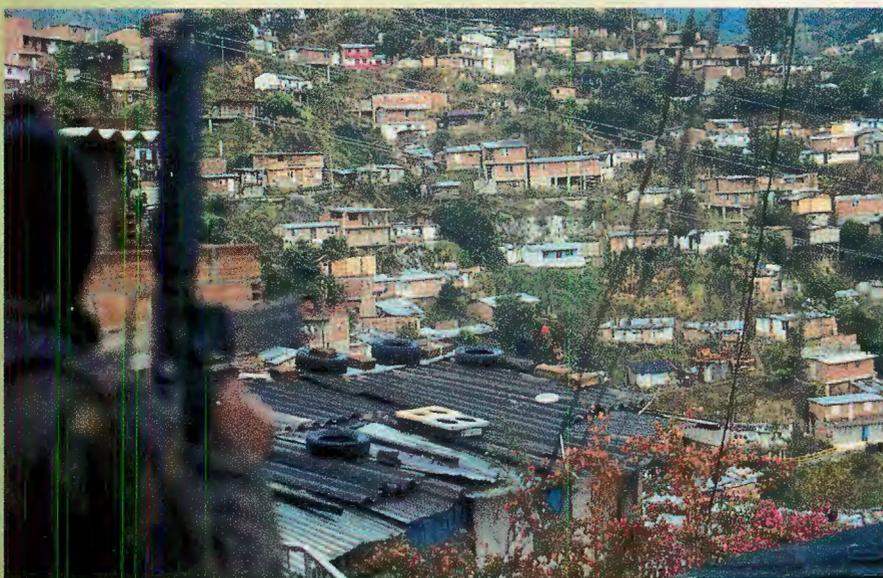
This involved cutting FARC's "mobility corridors" (*corredores de movilidad*), going after intermediate base areas, and, finally, attacking primary base areas. It was a strategy that attacked the insurgent strategy and reflected the relatively sophisticated level of operational art practiced by the commanders who came out of the BRIM/BCG tradition.

It took as its starting point the reality that the insurgents had well-developed concepts for accomplishing their professed goal of seizing state-power. To implement its multi-year strategic plan, the product of the 1982 congress and subsequent plenums, FARC utilized the tripartite approach embodied in Maoist insurgency — mass line (development of clandestine infrastructure), united front (use of fellow travelers, both internally and abroad, witting and un-, especially human rights organizations), and military action.

The move to mobile warfare in mid-1996 took military action to a new level, one whereby guerrilla and terror actions are used in conjunction with conventional action. Task-organized columns (*columnas*) are used to hit primary targets (though light infantry, these have featured massive indirect fires, armor, and sappers), even as numerous guerrilla attacks seek to conceal the objective, and terror sows confusion.

For example, the August 1996 attack on the company-size base at Las Delicias mentioned earlier was but one of 22 simultaneous assaults, most guerrilla action, carried out throughout the country. As a COLAR working paper states: "These were carried out in different directions, each with great initial intensity that caused disorientation among the unit commanders, who, seeing their troops in imminent danger, caused even greater confusion in army headquarters as it tried to respond across the length and breadth of the country."

Typically, a major attack will have a tactical and operational component, but both are intended to fit into FARC's strategic plan. That plan assigns to each FARC Bloque a primary objective — essentially, the major city (or cities) in



The military was able, in but several years, to field a revitalized force able to be employed in a manner more appropriate to the new phase the conflict had entered, that of mobile warfare.

that Bloque area. Local attacks are designed to facilitate the ultimate taking of this objective(s).

Thus — to use an illustration written about extensively in U.S. media — Dabeiba, a small town attacked in October 2000, was located along a strategic corridor FARC's Bloque Noroccidental (Northwest Bloc) had for years been working to open up to allow access to strategically and economically important Medellin and its vicinity (COLAR 4th Brigade, I Division, has its headquarters in Medellin).

In FARC doctrine, the designated city-as-objective, whether Medellin or any other, is to be isolated by having its lines of communication cut and its sources of sustenance blocked, to

dead — hence the publicity.

COLAR is well aware of this technique. Units of the IV Division — led by Major Gen. Carlos A. Ospina Ovalle, now COLAR Director of Operations — successfully smashed identical ambushes in the July and November 1999 fighting, east and northeast of the DMZ (with kill zones as large as approximately 8 kms x 6 kms), inflicting hundreds of casualties. They succeeded again in even more difficult circumstances in July 2000 in the combined Colombia (the town)/Vegalarga operation near Neiva, Huila (where the kill zone was circular, with a radius of approximately 10 kms).

In the October 2000 operation, however, the 4th Brigade did not utilize the

Vietnam and El Salvador, has not, to my knowledge, been encountered frequently in Colombia.

Yet instances of explosives placed on LZs in Colombia by forces under Marulanda have been recorded since at least 1964. It is known, as per interviews conducted February 2001 with COLAR intelligence personnel, that FARC has been involved in intense workshops designed to implement and standardize counterhelicopter techniques. Among these are apparently efforts to rig charges in the trees if the LZ lends itself to such.

Method To The Madness

The point is that there is method behind the actions which occur, and the COLAR counter seeks to attack that method.

The scope of mobile warfare is illustrated by the Colombia/Vegalarga operation, which ultimately involved two groups of four COLAR counter guerrilla battalions (BCG) each, operating across a 40-km front, backed by heli-lifted 120mm and 105mm support weapons, engaged with half a dozen coordinated guerrilla columns that numbered some 3,000 men total — with additional guerrilla actions designed to conceal the main objectives, and targeted assassinations in the rear to increase dislocation.

The Colombia landing went smoothly, but an initial government effort to land under cover of darkness at Vegalarga was repulsed; a second was successful. Supporting arms were flown in using standard helicopter sling-rigs. Such techniques have become standard for COLAR.

Significantly, evidence exists that the FARC forces involved had intended to use SAMs for the first time in the conflict but, for reasons not clear, were unable to do so. This would have been the first use of SAMs but was apparently not the first time FARC endeavored to use the weapon. An earlier report from a planned attack upon San Jose del Guaviare mentioned equipment which matched in particulars that described for this operation.

What has changed, to my mind, in the SAM debate is that earlier reports I examined involved individuals who were assigned to guard boxes or containers they were told contained SAMs. None claimed to have actually seen a missile. More recent reports do claim to have actually seen the weapon. These reports have included

Continued on page 72



include power and water. This requires systematic domination of mobility corridors so that seemingly exterior lines (imagine a spider's web with the target at its center) actually become interior lines when considered within a countrywide context. Domination of towns and human geography within or along "corridors" allows FARC free movement of men and supplies.

Hence, the tactical attack on Dabeiba was designed to drive out government presence, in particular the police. Such actions occur regularly. The operational intent, however, was to open up the mobility corridor using the same tactical kill zone technique (called a "defensive curtain" — a defensive *cortina*) which has been used time and again (particularly in the COLAR IV Division area, as indicated previously) to hold the corridor by luring the military relief force into an area ambush. The town, in other words, was but the bait — and the 4th Brigade relief force, which was hastily dispatched, went for it, with five-score

proven techniques and so paid the price. In particular, the troops were not landed in darkness, as has become normal practice, but went in at noon. Hence, they ended up losing a *Black Hawk* and the 22 men aboard before forcing entry.

The shutdown involved but one of the potential landing zones (LZs) in the area. It is this area preparation which is the key to the technique.

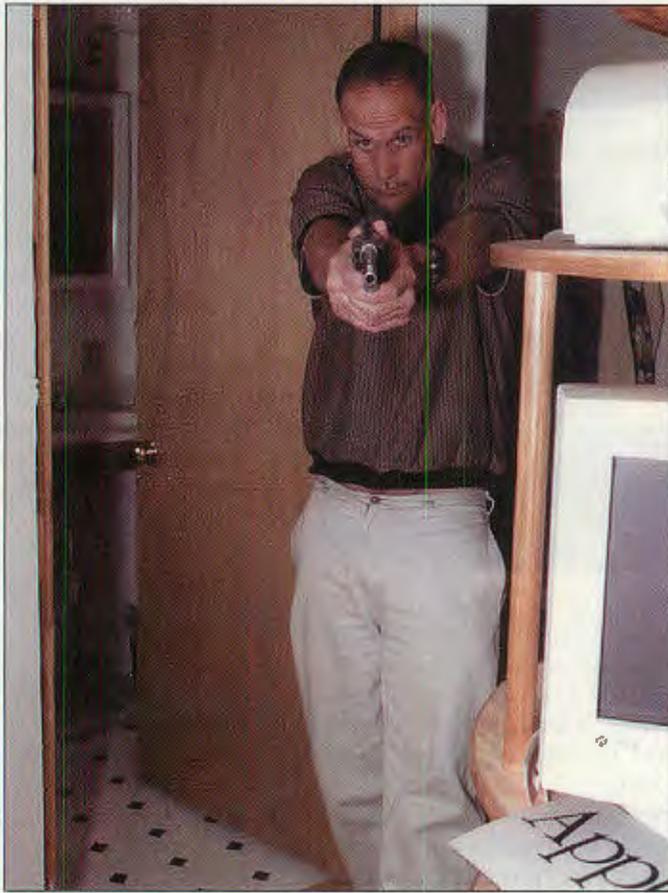
At Dabeiba, sources indicate, a new wrinkle was that the prepared positions, built to create a true zone ambush, were not manned in advance, as had been the norm. Rather, "watchers" were in position and called for the "fill" only once the actual LZ had been determined by the delivery of government close-air support (CAS).

There seems to be more of this in the offing. An interview in February 2001 with a COLAR Special Forces lieutenant, badly wounded in a different incident, revealed, as per his experience, the use of pressure mines placed on potential LZs. This technique, which was common in

Fight For Life

The Very Essence Of The Second Amendment

TEXT & INTERVIEW BY JIM SHULTS



(left) This is what a startled Richard Barbee got as badly wounded, but experienced, pistol big-game hunter Charles Harris faced him with a .44 Magnum. (above) Harris points to the "trash can" next to his desk which held the holstered .44 Magnum Blackhawk that saved his life.

On Thursday, 1 March 2001, 48-year-old Charles Harris found himself and his ravaged Cadillac at the Cameo Colorado Total truck stop some 15 miles east of Grand Junction, Colorado. It was getting late and the cool — soon to be cold — Colorado evening was on its way into the canyon area when Harris noticed two men, Richard Barbee and Harold Scott, and a girl, Colleen McLean, hitchhiking.

Harris pulled over to the three and offered them a ride. They put their gear in the trunk of his car and away the four went. The idea was to take them to

his small ranch house in rural western Colorado and get them a meal, try to help them locate some work in the area (where lots of construction is going on) and then give them a place to sleep for the night.

Misguided or not about his hitchhiker-helping habit, Harris is a genuinely good guy who has known tough times himself and wants to help when he can. He offered the hospitality of his house and fed the trio steaks with the thought of having them do some work for him the next day for \$50 each and then give them a ride to the next town on the way

into Denver where they could find another ride on I-70.

The two men showed their appreciation for his kindness by plunging Harris' 12-inch kitchen knife into his torso, missing his carotid artery by a fraction of an inch but piercing his left lung. As Harris fell to his knees he received more stabs to his head from the other assailant wielding another of Harris' butcher knives, a 10-incher. The knife blows ripped through his scalp and glanced off his skull. He fell onto his belly and the men moved in for the kill.

SOF: Why did you stop for the hitchhikers?

Harris: I thought I could help them out like other people do.

SOF: Have you done that before?

Harris: Not always but about of the third of the time I will do so.

SOF: Will you do it again?

Harris: Probably, yes.

SOF: Had you been drinking when you picked them up?

Harris: Absolutely not!

SOF: Were you drinking when you got home?

Harris: No, sir.

SOF: Why did you take them to your house?

Harris: When they got in the car they expressed an interest in working somewhere in the community. I even had some work I needed done on my building over here and they said they were interested and they seemed pretty enthusiastic about it so I prepared to let them work the next day and let them earn some money. But it now looks like they weren't too interested in work. I was then (after their work) going to give them a ride east to Parachute, Colorado so they could hitchhike from there (about another 15 miles east of his house on I-70).

SOF: When you arrived at your house, what time was it?

Harris: Around 8:00 to 8:30 p.m.

SOF: Once you arrived at your house tell us what happened and what you did leading up to the time they attacked you.

Harris: The first thing that I noticed was they were really impressed with



Badly wounded with a collapsed lung and numerous cuts on the head, a stubborn Harris fired a 30-yard precision shot which hit the tire of his car and prevented the assailants from escaping.

the car. I think it looked like it went through a demolition derby. Then I showed them the building and the tasks they could do there. They were real polite, lots of "Yes, sirs" and "No, sirs." I had other work they could do: some ditch work and then I could give them a dab of money for their labor. So my first thought was to let them sleep in the hay shed and I felt sorry for them and besides I had some tools out there and felt they might steal something so I wanted to keep an eye on them.

So I decided to cook them dinner and then let them sleep on the floor in the house with me. I figured to send them down the road with \$50 each. So we ate dinner and after that they asked if I would like to listen to their "gangs-ta" CD music and I said, "Sure, let's listen to it." So they brought those in and we played them. Then I said let's get to sleep; let's get the sleeping stuff out of the attic. They were not very enthusiastic about doing that and said "No, we'll sleep on the floor. We don't need it." Now I realize they were planning to kill me so they weren't planning on staying anyway. But I said let's get it down so you can get comfortable. Then the guys

told me they had to get some feminine products out of the trunk of the car where their nap sacks were.

SOF: The guys said that, not the girl?

Harris: Yes, the guys said they needed to get feminine products out of the car trunk and asked me to do it. Now I knew the keys were in the car, so did they. But the trunk was operated by a button in the glove compartment. By the time I could explain all of that it would be easier to just go out and do it for them, which I didn't want to do, but did anyway. I was told Colleen needed something.

SOF: What happened then?

Harris: I had already kicked-off my cowboy boots and while fully dressed I had my bedroom slippers on so I went out of the house with the men; the girl was not with them, she was in the house on the sofa. One was behind me and the other in front of me. I got about halfway out to where the car was parked when I felt something hit me that felt like getting hit with lightning.

"If the pistol had had a trigger lock on it ... I'd be dead."



Colleen McLean, DOB: 30 Oct 82. She should have picked better friends.

I fell to my knees and they hit me and I went down to my stomach flat on the ground. It was there where they started stabbing me in the head. I put my hands behind my neck to protect me and they kept stabbing kicking and slugging me. I knew I had to fight back so I rolled over on my back so I could

kick back at them. I heard Harold Scott scream for Barbee to cut my throat. All the while every time I took a breath I could feel air going in and out of the hole next to my neck as bloody froth bubbled up from the wound.

I knew it was a lung wound.

They must have feared me some because they backed up. They demanded the car keys. I told them they were in the car, which they were. But they would not believe me. I guess where they come from people don't do that. They screamed at me "Do you have money in the house?" I said "I don't know. I'll go look." This was to buy time, as I didn't know of any money in the house, but I knew I had a gun there. I was just buying time. I was surprised I could stand. The breath going past my ear from my punctured lung was really weird.

The house seemed dark to me but Barbee continued to stab me. All total, he stabbed me three more times in the face.



Richard Barbee, DOB: 3 Dec 52. Damn lucky to be alive.

Well, I was in the house by this time and fumbling around on my desk trying to pretend that I was looking for money for them. They were punching and stabbing me and I screamed out "Guys, I'm bleeding to death! Give me a chance!"

They said "Find it!" and were slugging me and jabbing me in the face with the knife. I knew they were running out of patience and I knew I wasn't going to find any money and if I did find money they were going to kill me anyway, so what good was that going to do me?

I then started backing around away from the desk, backing towards where I knew my pistol was. All of a sudden I was near that pistol — it was there in its holster. I've killed elk, deer and bear with that pistol.

The desk kind of kept Barbee from seeing the trash can with the pistol in it. But Barbee somehow got the feeling I was thinking about something and told me "If you even think about going for a weapon, I'm killing you right now." I thought, oh yeah? You're killing me anyway.

I looked at the gun long enough to make sure the safety strap was undone. Even if it wasn't, I was going to go for it. Seeing it was undone I knew I could make a clean draw from the holster smoothly.

Then I just reached down and pulled the hammer back with my right thumb. This process gave Barbee enough time to turn around and start running while he was screaming I had a gun.

Scott was in the bedroom rummaging around looking for money or stuff to steal. Then he came out behind Barbee from the bedroom, and as he exited I blasted him. The bullet went through him and lodged in the bottom of my CD shell.

Then they ran out of front door onto my porch and made a left turn. I followed them out and fired again at them on the porch and again as they ran

Jailhouse Interview

Portions differ from police report which states that she knew the criminal intent of her accomplices.

Her mother was a heroin addict and schizophrenic and she never knew her dad. She is a street-smart kid raised in the California foster family system.

She related that she met her now-former boyfriend Harold Scott in a bus station in Barstow, Calif. She found Harold to be a very polite considerate guy who seemed to care and respect her. She was finally hooked when he told her he loved her.

Harold told her that he had a friend in Fruita, Colo., who had a five-bedroom house he'd let them stay in if they came to Colorado.

Later, Richard Barbee joined them and they hitched eastward. The Fruita contact didn't show so they again started hitchhiking at a truckstop just 3 miles west of Grand Junction — where they were picked-up by Charles Harris.

SOF: When you got picked-up at the truckstop, did you plan to rob Harris?

McLean: I had no plan in any way. Possibly the guys had a plan.

SOF: When did the plan to rob him begin?

McLean: I don't know. He [Harris] had been drinking. I think he was a little drunk. When we got to his house he left the keys in the ignition. I wanted the car. I was just tired of hitchhiking and walking and really wanted a ride. ... I had no idea the guys were going to rob him. ...

SOF: Why did the guys decide to attack Harris with knives rather than just taking him hostage and tying him up and robbing the house?

McLean: Richard said "No witnesses." He didn't want Harris to get free and turn them in.

SOF: Do you think his having a gun saved his life?

McLean: Yes.

— T. R.

across the yard area. Then Barbee and the girl got into the car and were thrashing around trying to get it started and that's when I took careful aim at a tire car and fired.

SOF: *You did something remarkable when you were badly stabbed, cut, kicked, beaten and bleeding like a stuck hog. You were able to fire an accurate well-aimed shot at your car tire that was 30 yards away. Did you really intend to hit the tire?*

Harris: Yes, sir.

SOF: *Why not just shoot Barbee in the head rather than the tire?*

Harris: Well, the car was backed into the parking place which put Barbee opposite me and I could not see him in the driver's seat so I had no target. (Note: Colleen was, by her own admission, hunkered down in the back seat.) I had no idea where in the car or where they were, so I picked the best target — the rear passenger-side tire.

SOF: *What would have happened if you would have killed any of your assailants?*

Harris: The deputies told me that if I had killed [anyone] I would have been arrested and held in jail as a formality if nothing else.

SOF: *What kind of ammunition did you have in your .44 revolver?*

Harris: It was loaded with Remington .44 Magnum 240-grain hollowpoints.

SOF: *What kind of pistol is it?*

Harris: It is a Ruger Single-action Blackhawk.

SOF: *When did you get it?*

Harris: I bought it used about 15 years ago.

SOF: *How many rounds did you have in it?*

Harris: I kept five in it with the hammer down on an empty cylinder for safety.

SOF: *When you produced the revolver, what did you do?*

Harris: I immediately began to fire.



Charles Harris points out the location of the spent 240-grain hollowpoint .44 bullet after it exited through Harold Scott, hitting him in the lung, diaphragm and liver. The bullet hole is at the top and the dislocated jacket just below it.

SOF: *What was the effect of Richard Barbee seeing you had a gun?*

Harris: He spun around and ran hollering "He has a gun!"

SOF: *What was the effect of Scott when you shot him?*

Harris: He continued to run out of the house and along my porch with the others. He ran around behind the house and tried to jump a barbedwire fence and got tangled up and fell on the other side into a dry irrigation ditch. The paramedics found him setting there in a pool of his own blood some 30 minutes later. (Note: Scott is now in jail with Barbee and facing the same charges.)

SOF: *You had a rifle in the corner of your livingroom. Why did you opt for the handgun?*

Harris: It is a five-shot .22 rimfire bolt-action Winchester and I was not close to it. We were going to the area where I had the revolver.

SOF: *Do you read Soldier Of Fortune magazine?*

Harris: (chuckles and shows me the most recent issue) I have a copy right here. I will tell you this. If the pistol

had had a trigger lock on it, or the ammunition was kept separate or if the gun was in a lock box or any of that stuff, I would be dead, there is no doubt in my mind about that. The easy access ability of the ready-to-go pistol is what saved my life.

SOF: *So the gun did save your life?*

Harris: Yes, absolutely, that gun is a friend of mine.

SOF: *Do you recommend guns for homeowner protection?*

Harris: If they are comfortable with them, I certainly do.

SOF: *Currently, your handgun and rifle is held by the sheriff as evidence. Do you have another to replace it?*

Harris: (smiles) Yes.

SOF: *Has it occurred to you that these people may have friends who might try to eliminate you as a witness?*

Harris: Yeah! Bring them on! But I doubt it. They were broke, dirty, and hitchhiking, I doubt they have many friends.

SOF: *How many days were you in the hospital?*

Harris: Five days. The worse part was when they stuck a drainage needle in my side to drain blood and fluids from my lung. That was terrible, it really hurt!

SOF: *How many knife wounds did you suffer?*

Harris: The nurse told me 15. I had the large near-fatal wound, three stabs to my head, one in the nose, two in my cheeks, four in the right hand, one in the left hand for 12 in total. I think she counted some nicks as wounds, too.

SOF: *Do you have any military or police background?*

Harris: No. About the only thing is my daughter [Harris is divorced] recently completed her four-year tour in the Marines. She is now married to a Marine drill instructor.

Jim Shults, a longtime SOF contributor, resides in western Colorado. ✕

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10:30 to 6:00 Pacific Time

Battle Blades
 Continued from page 17

and disable the opponent in the process. A solid hit here with a true Battle Blade such as a Bowie or a kukri will instantly render that particular hand useless if not sever it completely. Unless a tourniquet is immediately applied, the recipient of such a cut will lose consciousness in a minute or less.

There is another aspect to attacking the extremities that deals with efficiency. Get an anatomy text or chart that shows the circulatory system and while you're at it, have a look at the chart of the muscular system as well. What they have in common is that each run up and down the skeletal structure, or what I call north and south. With only a little study and observation it becomes obvious that the most disruptive attack to either or both of the systems of blood flow and locomotion and function would be those cuts that run east and west, or directly across the large veins and arteries and muscles rather than parallel to them.

of the ledger, a slashing attack to the extremities is one of the safest to mount while maintaining a good defense and keeping yourself out of harms way. It is also very good at disabling your opponent. On the down side, you need to be prepared to stay awhile as a general rule, because the opponent is not going to drop immediately and the attack on the hands and arms is the slowest to kill. The risk of discovery will also be high, because when you whack him across the arm, you can bet that he ain't gonna be quiet about it. On the other hand, a hit straight to the heart or kidneys is a quick killer, and a man with a severed carotid artery or jugular vein expires in short order.

A successful attack on the central nervous system is by far the most effective and the quickest killer of all as it disrupts brain function and/or severs the spinal cord. It can be the safest attack of all in some cases, such as a rear attack on a sentry. Simply and bluntly described, you either split the enemy's skull to the sinuses, decapitate him, or stab him in the base of the skull ranging upward from the point of attachment of the skull to the neck.

There is a very special and very real caveat attached to this type of attack. Not just any knife will make these cuts successfully. While a slashing attack can be successfully mounted with a smaller, lighter blade, you will need a true Battle Blade such as a kukri or Bowie knife to kill a man instantly with one blow. A blade with heft that is a minimum of 9-1/2 inches in length is required, and 11 or 12 inches is even better. If you've got an ordinary knife such as a KaBar or M9 bayonet, this cut is to be strictly avoided, as neither of these knives has the power to make heavy cuts such as this. A failed attempt at splitting an enemy's skull is guaranteed to generate his undivided attention and he will likely ruin what is left of your day. However, if you have the right knife, head and spinal cord cuts are not only possible, they are eminently feasible. They are also instantly lethal and result in a near silent kill. Just ask the Gurkhas.

If survival on the street is your problem and your only option is to go one-on-one with a knife, your best and safest bet is probably a slashing attack to the extremities. Just remember that this is the last place you want or need to be, and a folder is better than your fingernails, and a Bowie is best of all. ✘



A cut to the larynx or trachea is immediately debilitating and ultimately fatal. This destroys the capability of speech.

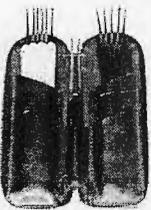
In other words, a cut that runs from elbow to wrist, or parallel to the blood vessels and muscle bias, will not be as instantly disabling as would a cut across the elbow or wrist. The same holds true with cuts across fingers, or legs, or whatever. Cuts that run across muscles cut them in two and they quit working, while cuts that run with muscles simply split them. While split muscles may bleed somewhat, it can continue to function, but when it is severed, function ceases. It is for this reason that I consider cuts across the extremities to be doubly effective and call them "bonus cuts."

Now that we have briefly examined some of the basic approaches to a circulatory system attack, what are the pluses and negatives? On the plus side

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Keep 'Em Shooting

Continued from page 25

rifle in the Fire mode when the wing is to the left, and Safe mode when it is to the right. When the wing is in the middle, the bolt shroud and entire striker assembly can be unscrewed and removed for cleaning and maintenance.

Sights are also calibrated to 2,000 meters, and removal of the bolt for cleaning is the same as the earlier Mausers.

Nominal bore diameter is .301-inch, and groove diameter is .311. Rifling is four-groove with a right-hand twist of one turn in 9.8 inches.

As mentioned, reloadable Boxer-primed cases for this cartridge can be obtained with the proper headstamp from Norma, or they can be made from any of the full-length .30/06 family of cases, including the .25-06 Remington, .270 Winchester, .280 Remington or .30/06 itself, or from other common Mauser rounds such as 7.92.57, 7x57, etc..

Loading this cartridge is simple and straightforward: Consult loading manuals from the major component manufacturers. Maximum case length is 2.090 inches. Maximum overall is 2.850.

Following are two types of loadings: suggested "starting" loads and maximum loads. Consider the starting loads to be the working loads for Model 1891 rifles and carbines. Maximum loads should be used only in Model 1898 rifles, and they should be approached with caution. Begin with the suggested starting loads for the 98s and work up from there, if desired. ☞

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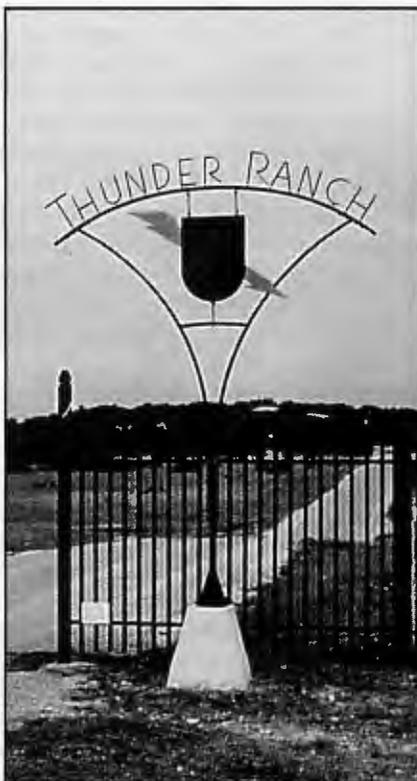


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Company Boy

Continued from page 34

materials for the OKC bombing. However, if the FBI ever asked "Wild Bill" for the names of those persons, it is not noted in the government's records provided defense attorneys in the ARA cases.

But more information did slip out from another key ARA member. When fellow gang member Mark Thomas is arrested in early 1997 for his role in the bank robbery conspiracy, he quickly acknowledges that Guthrie had, indeed, implicated a young man that Thomas once tutored in Christian Identity and who lived for quite some time at Thomas' Pennsylvania farm before moving to Elohim City. He was Kevin McCarthy, one of Strassmeir's roommates at Elohim City.

Thomas told a bevy of reporters that McCarthy was involved in the bombing. "Richard Guthrie told me, 'Your young Mr. Wizard took out the Murrah Building.'"

However important this information might be for the OKBOMB case, implicating the 19-year-old skinhead in that crime presented the government with another real problem.

Death: The Great Neutralizer

Federal prosecutors in Philadelphia were counting on McCarthy to provide them with much need testimony to get convictions against Langan and other ARA members for the bank robberies. The dilemma was only resolved when Mark Thomas entered into a plea agreement with the government. Suddenly, the U.S. Attorney in the ARA case appeared at a press conference and announced that Thomas had recanted his earlier statement regarding McCarthy, indicating the whole story had been concocted to make McCarthy look bad.

By this time, Richard Guthrie was in no position to confirm or deny anything. Months earlier, on 12 July 1996, he was found in his cell, dangling by the neck from a bed sheet. Suicide was listed as the cause. Inexplicably, only the day before his death, Guthrie told a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* that he was excited about a book he was working on that, "(G)oes a lot more deeper than the bank robberies" and would record his exploits in the White Power movement. Also on the day Guthrie spoke with the reporter, a federal judge

signed an order to move the inmate to a different facility. According to a written plea agreement that Guthrie had just entered into, he would provide information about, "Organizations whose goal was the overthrow of the United States government or engage in domestic terrorism."



McCarthy with tattoo.

When Pete Langan heard about the manuscript, he asked his lawyers to get it. The government vigorously denied they had found a manuscript in Guthrie's cell when they cut him down.

But they had found it.

In our next issue, more extraordinary details about the Elohim City connection to the OKC Bombing, including intriguing information from "Wild Bill" Guthrie's amazing account of the gang from his unpublished manuscript, *Banks For The Memories*.

J.D. Cash, a longtime Oklahoma investigative journalist, has broken several major stories on the OKC Bombing.

Roger Charles, a U.S. Naval Academy grad and former consultant on ABC's 20/20, is, likewise, an authority on the tragedy and a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕

I Was There

Continued from page 23

into the Herzegovinian mountains to get her story. Having made a nuisance of herself at the brigade headquarters they told her to check the restaurant-bar of the Hotel Tomislav for mercenaries. She wanted an interview, of course, and Pat said, sure, no problem as long as I did most of the talking. I think the only reason he stayed was because he was worried about what I might say. We chatted a little and I mentioned the dangers inherent in being a female journalist wandering around Bosnia. She said something really inane like, "Well, I'll be okay, won't I? I mean, I'm a journalist. I have a press card."

"You mean like this one?" I said as I flipped out my press card issued in Zagreb. Pat did likewise.

"We'd heard about this," she said, "that you guys all carried these, but I wasn't sure if it was true. Will they help you?"

"Probably not, even if we're in civvies. They'll kill anybody they want," I said, "and if they get you they'll do more than just execute you."

"Well, I'm not scared of being *raped*, but I'm worried about being *tortured*."

Pat and I exchanged glances as if to say "what a fucking idiot; this chick is totally clueless." The Germans still sitting at the table looked at her with renewed interest, because if she didn't mind being *raped* ... I turned back to Nancy and said, "Well, lady, how do you think they're going to torture you?" Then she said, "Well, I've heard that you guys all save the last bullet for yourself, is that true?" Pat rolled his eyes yet again. Then he told her about Ted Skinner and Derek Arnold, two British mercenaries tortured and executed by the Muslim extremists they were training, and a few other atrocity stories just for good measure. The Germans, one of whom had a penchant for slicing off Chetnik ears, just sat quietly.

Still sitting at the table everyone agreed that they'd rather do themselves than be captured by Chetniks or Muslims all wound-up from the heat of battle. When a round of drinks came she said, "Oh, let me, I'll pay. How much of this do I need?" I stared numbly at her wad of Muslim money. You could've heard a pin drop. I thought the waiter was going to spill his tray. "Not with that you won't," I said. I grabbed the wad of Bosnian money from her before she could wave it around any more. Her big hulking

Croat driver-interpreter (who should've been in uniform rather than making money off the press corps) wasn't clued-in to make sure she knew to pay with Croat *dinars*. We explained that the crowded room full of troops had all killed Muslims and lost friends in battle against Muslims. They used Bosnian-Muslim dinars for toilet paper, not to buy drinks with. Just because the line on the map said Bosnia-Herzegovina didn't mean diddly and she had better wise-up real quick.

Nancy said she wanted to go up to the front and wondered if that was possible. Pat rolled his eyes again and began muttering under his breath. I grinned at him and winked. This was fun. For laughs it was even better than watching Croat militiamen attempt close-order drill.

This lady had covered the war in Nicaragua and obviously not learned a damn thing. I can imagine the accuracy and slant of her reports filed from Managua. Everything about her screamed 60s' radical wannabe and left-wing bleeding heart. I'm surprised she wasn't wearing Birkenstocks. Regardless of all that, she was an idiot devoid of common sense, but possessing a great set of legs. A combination that, well, I know, some men really like in a woman. Me, I thought that this was the best entertainment we'd had in weeks. It sure beat hell out of the lousy reception on the old black-and-white TV the guys had "found." It was even better than our homemade Ouija board which really freaked out the Brits. So I told her, sure, let's go, I've got a clean uniform you can wear and I've eaten and recharged my batteries and can't get any wetter or muddier than I already am.

I told her to go get her boots out of the car. Nancy said she didn't have any boots. No boots? No blue jeans and sweater, etc.? "No," she said. That was it. Everybody at the table looked at her like she was the dumbest person they've ever met. She had to be, either that, or suicidal. She actually intended to tour the front line in winter in a miniskirt and high heels. Maybe she thought we'd just drive up to the heated walkways and wheel-chair access ramps to the climate-controlled wood-paneled bunkers?

Meanwhile, journalists were being killed for their Nikons and probably their wristwatches. Several "mercenaries" and Croat soldiers had been caught looting. Members of both groups were arrested throughout the war and later for rape, murder and armed robbery. I

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knew some involved in black-marketeering, arms-smuggling, and dope-peddling. And these were the "good guys."

Nancy was courting disaster. I tried to give her some advice. She didn't exactly act like she cared. Then, again, who am I, right? What would I know about staying alive in a war zone? When she started to tell me she knew what she was doing I read her the riot act. She and her driver (I told her to ditch him and find someone who would take care of her before she got herself whacked) had driven from Split to "Tommytown," just for the day. Just a Sunday drive (it was a Sunday) without food, water, outdoor clothes, or survival gear of any kind, but with a wad of the wrong kind of money, into the middle of a war zone — a war zone that had already claimed the lives of more than 40 journalists. If Nancy Nusser was in any way representative of the press corps covering the war perhaps that's why so many journalists got themselves whacked in the Balkans. I guess there's something to be said for Social Darwinism and the law of natural selection. Yeah, Nancy was lucky.

She was lucky she wasn't wearing a Rolex.

Epilogue: Nancy survived her trip back to Split to file her story and it was published on page 2 of the 27 April 1993 issue of *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. In it were such unintentional *bon mots* as: "If there is such a thing as a nice mercenary, the man who calls himself R. E. Krott would appear to qualify," and "Mr. Krott looks as though he would be comfortable not only in a war zone, but in a place where civilized behavior rules." Nancy also wrote, about Rob's U.S. Army-funded Harvard education: "However, officials at Harvard say they have no record of his graduating — or even attending — their school." If Nancy reads this, she needs to go back to J-school to learn note-taking and researching skills. Next time, Nancy, call (617) 496-6397 for the ALM graduate program at Harvard University's Extension School at 51 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA; *not* the undergraduate college program which awards bachelor's degrees. And next time, sweetheart, *bring your boots*.

SOF Senior Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott has always been a "nice mercenary" and "comfortable not only in a war zone, but in a place where civilized behavior rules." Now please pass the Grey Poupon. ☘

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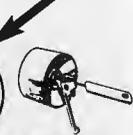
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Adventure Quartermaster

Continued from page 26

black powder you'll ever want, but it is probably the best single volume published on the topic. And for cowboy-action or other 19th Century cartridge shooters who like to have the smell of sulfur to go with their period costumes or for the fringed-jacket crowd who could use the acrid fumes to mask a lack of hygiene, this volume also has the most complete loading data for black-powder cartridges we have seen in print.

And herein lies one of the most valuable aspects of this volume: the loading data, of which there are more than 150 pages that cover virtually any bore size, bullet style and weight, cartridge case or barrel length one is likely to come across — complete with muzzle velocity, muzzle energy, pressure, and velocity/energy at 100 yards. Muzzle-loading began when science itself was a new science, and wive's tales and folklore from centuries ago still refuse to die, but Fadala and Griffin artfully (and tactfully) manage to drive stakes through the hearts of a good many misconceptions and unsafe practices that have no doubt levied pain against the credulous over the years. And in the course of their dragon slaying, the authors are very good about telling the reader *why* something is a bad practice, which helps the student remember and makes him more likely to do the right thing. There are enough variables in muzzle-loading without repeating mistakes from the past, and the right way is delineated for the full spectrum of old and new arms and propellants.

Profusely illustrated, in its more than 300 pages this volume covers virtually everything one needs to know about black powder handguns, rifles and shotguns: proper loading and safe firing, traditional and modern propellants, maintenance, rendezvous and cowboy action shooting, hunting, the black powder cartridge and much more, including a very good directory of suppliers. Not everything one would ever want to know, of course, since there are shelves of books on the topic, but certainly everything one *needs* to know, and a work we'd have to judge the most comprehensive and best single volume available on the topic.

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Command Guidance

Continued from page 4

that this model was made from 1884 to 1895, and is therefore an antique, with no federal background check required. Just pay the man the \$150, and buy a box of .38 S&W ammo to feed your new pet. According to Waxman and McCarthy, that's a "loophole" that allows criminals to purchase guns without a background check. According to anyone with any knowledge or sense, that's a crock. Ask any cop: Criminals, gangbangers et al. do not commit their dastardly deeds with interesting antiques. They don't have to. There are plenty of modern semi-autos floating around on the illicit market, so why go to the gun shop and buy a Hopkins & Allen when you can impress your homies with a stolen Glock or Raven?

The problem today is not so much the use of false IDs to buy guns, but the overall use of fictitious or stolen identity. This has become a booming criminal industry, and is not going to be addressed by feel-good little band-aid laws that serve only to harass legitimate gun owners.

Are the GAO and Reps. Waxman and McCarthy actually unaware that the Brady Law and the Instant Check System are almost totally ineffective in keeping disqualified persons from obtaining firearms? Of course not. They have known from Day One that the system is irretrievably flawed. But they also understand that it is a necessary step on the road to a total prohibition on the private ownership of firearms. Do they think your local crack dealer is waiting for an 1880s-vintage Merwin & Hulbert that he can legally buy as an antique? I don't think so, although even a flintlock pistol could conceivably be used today with deadly effect. The name of the gun-grabbers' game is not to make you a good person, but to remove from your possession what they consider to be the tools of evil. After all, if it worked for Hitler, Stalin and Pol Pot, why can't it work here? The Bradys and Kennedys and Schumers would like for us to forget that, in a free society, we punish people for crimes they have committed, not those that they might be capable of committing. Prior restraint is a necessary component of a dictatorship, not a democracy.

This editorial is reprinted with permission from Mike Dillon's *The Blue Press* (www.dillonprecision.com). ☒

Colombian Crossroads

Continued from page 61

mention of Caucasians (possibly ex-Yugoslav) responsible for making the equipment operational.

Regardless, once their very large kill zones were compromised in both areas, FARC units withdrew as quickly as possible for the *Zona*. Both COLAR four-battalion response groups (4 x BCG from FUDRA; 4 x BCG from IV Division assets) performed very well, using two battalions each to push, two battalions to hook left, in an effort to get behind the fleeing insurgents. The FARC *columns* suffered casualties but were able to remove most bodies as reported by area inhabitants.

Two under-informed media interpretations have relevance here. One seeks to present setbacks such as Dabeiba as common (a single *Black Hawk* was lost; the town ultimately was relieved — even if battered — but the two-decade-old *Black Hawk* itself is presented as a wonder weapon, so its loss is equated with the downing of a *Stealth* bomber). The second claims that the U.S. is seeking to bring the Colombian military, particularly COLAR, "up to speed," and that somehow such U.S. training is designed to "reverse" a tide of defeat.

These are flawed interpretations. Obviously, Colombia itself suffers from state crisis. Yet, amidst such, the military remains one of the most cohesive, competent groups in the country. Further, as I have indicated throughout this article, it is fairly good at counterinsurgency.

Like all militaries which have just seen a curve ball, it is adjusting — and has done so in solid fashion since the days when it suffered several local reverses occasioned by the FARC switch to mobile warfare. It is implementing a viable counter, even as the insurgents have continued to use the opportunity provided by the government's "Peace Policy" to recruit vigorously, drawing mainly upon rural youth exposed to both proselytizing and coercion, and to improve weaponry.

Next month Dr. Marks will address *U.S. blunders and the impact of Vietnam on Colombian policy and its success or failure*.

Dr. Tom Marks is a frequent contributor to SOF. ☒

A Run For The Border

Continued from page 43

give them all these handouts and get them used to all the tax-funded freebies. Then you create a situation where that is threatened and put them in a position to choose. Of course they're going to vote for the guy who's going to keep all this stuff coming. Because these people simply don't know what made this country a desirable place to live, it's very easy to get them to vote for tyranny. That's what happened the last election and a lot of people down here are p.o.ed!"

When one examines the *USA Today* map of voting patterns, it is curious to note that in most of the rural gun-toting border counties the vote went to Gore in a state that is overwhelmingly pro-gun and Republican. Cochise County narrowly went Bush, despite 85% of the residents being Hispanic who tend to vote Democratic. Apparently, they too have had it with the border stampede. In some areas, such as northern Arizona, the "Gore twist" is understandable as much of that part of the state has been settled by liberal transplants from the West Coast. But in the south, questions arise and Vance points to voter fraud that he himself claims to have witnessed.

"One of Gore's programs was Citizenship U.S.A. which was a big push to register voters. They were working this here at Safeway and Wal-Mart and I saw people register who then drove away in cars with Sonoran plates. Store employees were the ones doing the registering and when I asked them about how they determined citizenship, they said that all they did was ask them if they were citizens and get them to sign a form!" Incredulous, he asked if those registering were required to provide any form of ID. At that point, the employee testily replied that they'd have to check everyone's I.D. and then spun a story about how the county recorder's office would cross-check citizenship.

"Well," he said, "we checked with the recorder's office and they had heard of no such thing. After we raised some cane about it they agreed to check the voting list against actual citizenship but when they attempted to do so, INS issued an edict from Washington. It stated that INS was the only agency authorized to check citizenship status and the counties were hereby ordered to cease any such action." As far as any-

one can tell, no check for citizenship or voting status was ever carried out by INS or DOJ, then under the control of Clinton appointees. Many speculate that the same people who take up every P.O. Box in the county and register 40 families to a house, also voted in the presidential election in November. It is not hard to imagine who they cast their ballot for.

Statistics available from the Federal Electoral Commission also show that while the numbers of registered voters in the black community have remained stable throughout the 80s and 90s, the number of voters who declared themselves Hispanic in origin jumped exponentially at the start of the Clinton years. In the 80s, registered Hispanics hovered between 6 and 8 million but started spiking in 1992. By 1996, the number had increased to over 18.4 million. Figures for the 2000 election are not yet available, but with recent U.S. Census data turning up an unparalleled number of undocumented aliens, a close examination of voting rolls versus citizenship could prove to be embarrassing.

Many point to the "Motor Voter" or National Voter Registration Act pushed through by Clinton in 1993 for this unusual increase. This act made registering to vote as simple as mailing in a single-page form and contained no requirements for checking identities or citizenship. California, who undeniably has one of the largest undocumented alien populations in the U.S., was taken to court by the Clinton Justice Department when they balked at this open-ended ticket to voter fraud. The Justice Department won, of course, and in the last election several key population centers, such as Los Angeles and San Francisco, turned the entire state over to Gore despite a majority of counties voting for Bush.

"The liberal politicians have taken a page straight out of the PRI handbook and that's win at any cost," Vance declared, referring to the Mexican national PRI party who has held onto power by hook or crook for the last 70 years. "All we've tried to do is make the government enforce the law the way their supposed to. I don't think Bush can correct what Clinton's done. That man has done so much damage to this country you can't correct it; all you can do is live with it."

Border Patrol Or Border Bypass

Despite glowing reports of success from the higher echelons of the INS

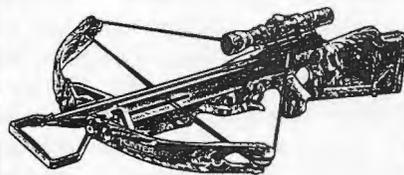
and the Border Patrol, sources inside and out of the BP paint a different picture. According to them, the higher-ups base their claims on "apprehension" figures that show how many people are actually detained and processed. Because the number of detainees has been going down over the last few years, Washington bureaucrats and regional chiefs, who have careers on the line, have proclaimed that they are holding the line and illegal immigration is a fading thing. What insiders report is that aliens simply go around the BP and the brass has deliberately changed the way the agents operate to make sure that as few aliens get caught as possible. In the Clinton-era numbers racket, "deterrence" is the name of the game, not apprehension. Slow or stop traffic in high visibility areas and the hell with the rest.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, one senior agent with years in the field outlined how things have changed. "I love this job, it's just incredible, but I cannot convey how frustrating it is. This is the best job in the world but they just won't let you do it," he said.

"It starts with the glorious Sylvester Raez, who's now part of our congress. He was chief in El Paso back in the 92ish time frame. At that time, El Paso had a real problem, with people just charging through downtown every day. To put a stop to it, he started "Operation Hold the Line" where he brought in a bunch of detailed agents and put up a green wall along the Rio Grande. He pretty much put a stop to it by deterring traffic through that area. Car theft plummets, crime plummets and everybody raises their hands and proclaims success. Well, where do you think the aliens and dope went? Right around the flanks and everybody knows it."

"Then, comes Operation Gatekeeper where they start in a corner of the U.S. and begin building up, using the ocean as a start point. Problem is, you put all your resources there but as soon as you get out there a ways, you're not stopping anyone, your just sending them around, out into the rural counties. A good example is El Cajon Station in eastern California. They went from a record-breaking apprehension count of 1,300 a month in January of 1995 to 12,000 a month by May and they were only catching one out of 30 or 40. It destroyed the east county, but apprehensions were down in San Diego so they proclaimed success. Then they came to Arizona with Operation

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Safeguard in the late 90s and the same thing happens. Build-up Nogales, push them through Douglas. Build-up Douglas, push them through Naco. Put a lid on the population centers where the problem is high-profile but leave the rest wide open. Tucson Station has 48 miles of border in the western desert but how many agents do they put out there? Five. It's wide open but it's in the middle of nowhere and no one is around to complain, so does Region or Washington care? No. Apprehensions are down, the figures look good, presto, success. Put everyone forward on a fixed-position, squeeze in and shut down the town. No more back-up, no more defense in depth. Civilians in urban areas are no longer being overrun so the PR headache dies away."

Another senior agent also expressed his dismay at the way things were being run. Concerned about internal retribution, a fact of life under Clinton-run federal agencies, he too asked to remain anonymous. "It almost construes a conspiracy in my book. There are very few people within Border Patrol who control and run this deterrence mentality. You can get promoted to first-line superintendent and still be a go-getter, but if you go any higher, your through. You just can't fight it. They pick the people who are playing ball and promote them extremely rapidly and these people are the one's controlling things and towing the party line from Washington. It's about greed, get as many promotions as possible and right now, Johnny Williams at Region is the godfather of this. I personally think he'll run for public office the way Ruez did."

"Anybody who's a go-getter gets their wings clipped if they get too successful. Look at the SRT guys in Tucson. They go in and start busting dope loads left and right last year in this one area. What happens? Region calls down and pulls them out. In my view, that comes very close to criminal complicity. They know what's going on in a certain area, they have the resources and power to stop it, but they pull the assets out and let it go on so it doesn't effect the batting average. Border Patrol interdicts more drug traffic than all the other agencies combined, but the word from on high is that drugs are 'incidental' to our mission."

"It's a real invasion in some areas. Two- and three-hundred-person groups coming across and no one to stop them. But apprehensions are down in Tucson, San Diego and El Paso so the public

thinks everything's OK. It's how Clinton got away with everything he did — repeat the same version over and over again and sooner or later it becomes truth. If people only knew."

Many others who live on the border see the same thing. Don Barnett pointed out his living room window to a series of high hills in the distance. "You see those hills?" he asked. "There is no BP presence up there at all. Sometimes I can see groups moving along the ridgeline with my binoculars and no one stops them, everybody's down in Douglas sitting on an X. We love the guys, they're a great bunch and they're always ready to come if you need them, but BP has a couple of problems. They're undermanned, understaffed — and under INS."

Indeed, the U.S. Commission on National Security, established by Congress in 1988, came to a similar conclusion in a report issued in February. Citing domestic attack with unconventional weapons of mass destruction on U.S. soil as the biggest threat to U.S. security over the next 25 years, the panel recommended the creation of a "national homeland security agency."

Chaired by former Senator Warren Rudman, the panel proposed folding the Coast Guard in with Customs and the Border Patrol and forming the new entity under the auspices of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The panel also concluded that the National Guard should be restructured and re-trained with homeland security as their primary mission. This would effectively end the prohibition under Posse Comitatus that forbids active military units from performing domestic law-enforcement missions on the border. Many SOF spoke to felt that Guard MP units TDYed to the border would go a long way towards plugging the holes.

Mexico has also shown little real interest in controlling its northern border. They know what is going on and see the impact to towns such as Agua Prieta, where north-bound migrants sleep in the streets, criminal gangs create massive crime problems and civil infrastructure is stretched to the breaking point. They point out that it is not illegal to leave Mexico and ask for more aid dollars for the their army, claiming that they are under-equipped to take on the mission. SOF, however, saw firsthand how effective they can be when they want to close down a stretch of border. (See "SRT," June 2001.)

Most everyone involved in border issues has an opinion on how the situation should be managed. On the left, many pundits call for establishing a policy for issuing temporary work permits that would allow people in to work jobs they claim that Americans don't want to do. They fail to point out that most Americans couldn't afford the jobs illegal migrants take because they could never survive on such low wages and that the last thing America needs is more low-paid workers to drive down an already subsistence-level service economy.

Larry Vance commented on the link between corporate America and cheap migrant labor. "These corporate guys are worried about one thing, money. These people will work for half of what an American will work for and the taxes and social security that doesn't get paid winds up being rolled into the bottom line. They're in construction, they're in manufacturing. Americans shouldn't have to compete with people here illegally or on a temporary guest worker status."

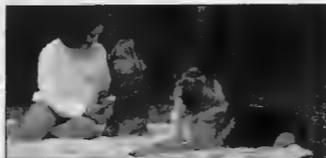
"The effort down here on the border isn't going to do any good until we start doing something about the interior. These companies are not investigated or prosecuted for hiring illegals. INS has been real bad about this. They give these factories and meat-packing plants 72 hours' notice before an inspection! What needs to be done is make a few examples. Seize a big motel from a national chain and word would get around pretty quick."

Don Barnett pointed to the Mexican government's failure to address poverty as a major factor driving northward migration. "Down there, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Every illegal you catch up here, issue him an AK-47 and send him back. You'd see things start changing pretty quick," he concluded. By sending the poor out of country, illegal immigration has proven to be an effective safety valve for preventing real civil unrest and, hence, real change in Mexico.

"How much aid do we give Mexico a year? Billions?" he said. "Well, let them see what this costs, on paper. Deduct the cost of everything, from the rancher's tank getting drained to the salaries of the Border Patrol to the social services. Deduct that before it goes down there and see what happens. In effect, say, "Here's your receipt."

Jim Bartlett and Angelica Allini have authored several features for SOF. ✕

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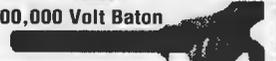
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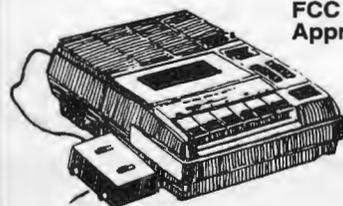
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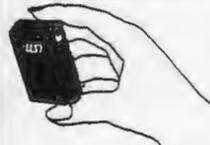
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SOUND OFF

BY COL. DAVID H. HACKWORTH (RET.)

Women At The Infantry School — Say It Isn't So

OK, I confess. I work out three times a week with my wife and a bunch of other women. It's called the Bar Method, and you can sign up and do the drill in both Connecticut and California studios.

I'm blowing the whistle on myself because my buddies at "Fox and Friends" were about to out me. Seems Steve and Brian, two young bucks, are a little peeved that I, at 70-plus, can whip them at push-ups.

The Bar Method is the toughest fitness course I've struck — including parachute training, which back in the Brown Shoe Army was four weeks of sheer torture. It's even harder than the routine I set for the Wolfhound Raiders, an elite commando-like unit I led during the Korean War.

I'm usually the only guy. Lots of strapping studs show up, but they don't stick around long. The strain and pain are just too much for these newbies, who start as alpha males but soon quit, normally after their first class.

Makes a fellow ponder who's the superior sex. I wasn't around women soldiers in the Army. In my time, they did the doctoring and paperwork. Never saw a woman where the bullets flew in either Korea or Vietnam. But what this training has given me — besides being push-up king at "Fox" — is an even greater respect for women. They're tough and tenacious, with a triple-issue of pure grit.

Does this new awareness of the courage, strength and tenacity of women mean I'm now into women becoming combat warriors? No way!

Matter of fact, I still think putting women in combat is flat nuts. Even doing the Bar Method daily, the average woman wouldn't have the upper-body strength to drag a casualty off a fire-swept field or pack a 100-pound rucksack — or fly an aircraft that's lost its hydraulics. Imagine if our recon plane that's still hostage in Red China had women pilots flying that broken sucker instead of the two male hulks who look like they'd fit fine in the front line of the Giants!

Billy Scott was a brave combat medic in my Hardcore Battalion in Vietnam. But his aid bag was almost as big as he was — and his mates well knew he didn't have the strength to pull a wounded grunt to safety. Even though Billy had the right stuff, he couldn't cut it in the critical area of soldier trust. Paul Dillon, a rifleman in my platoon in Korea, was



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.

about Billy's size. Another liability. We left him behind with the cooks.

My seven years of combat experience as an infantryman, from rifleman to squad and platoon leader to company and then battalion CO, screams that combat arms work isn't for women. And my years of covering nine conflicts as a reporter reinforces this view — especially Desert Storm, where I saw women in all services fail the combat course. A study commissioned by George-the-Elder, then shelved when the Clinton gang put the woman vote over combat readiness, confirms my on-the-scene evaluation.

The distraction factor can't be ignored, either. Unless you've been locked-up in a prison all your life, you know that young men and women really lose it when they're around each other. If joy-riding civilians distracted one of our sub crews to the point where they sank a Japanese ship off Hawaii, can you imagine the havoc female submariners could cause? If the dozens of 50-year-old generals and admirals who've been fired in the past decade alone couldn't keep their hands off their female subordinates, what can we expect from the younger bloods?

The U.S. Army Infantry School, in Columbus, Ga., is now experimenting with women lieutenants attending the basic infantry officer course. Will this further lower the standards and be the final nail in the coffin to kill the development of hard-charging warrior leaders?

The Pentagon is currently determining how to transform the military into a more agile, lethal and stealthy force; a force fit to fight in the 21st Century. Before it spends a dime on new wonder gear, it should dust off the Desert Storm study and decide whether the experiment to have our daughters become combat warriors will cost us the next war.

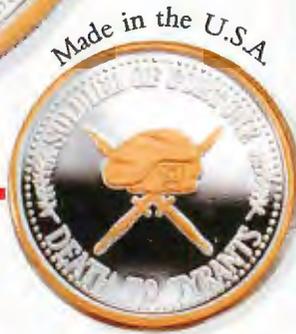
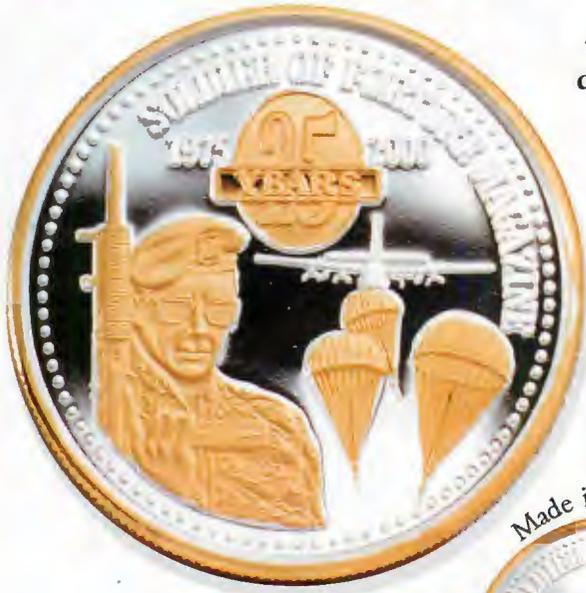
<http://www.hackworth.com> is the address of David Hackworth's home page.

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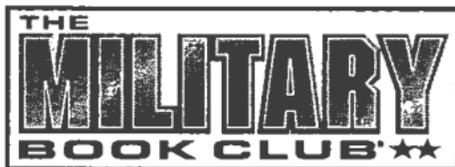


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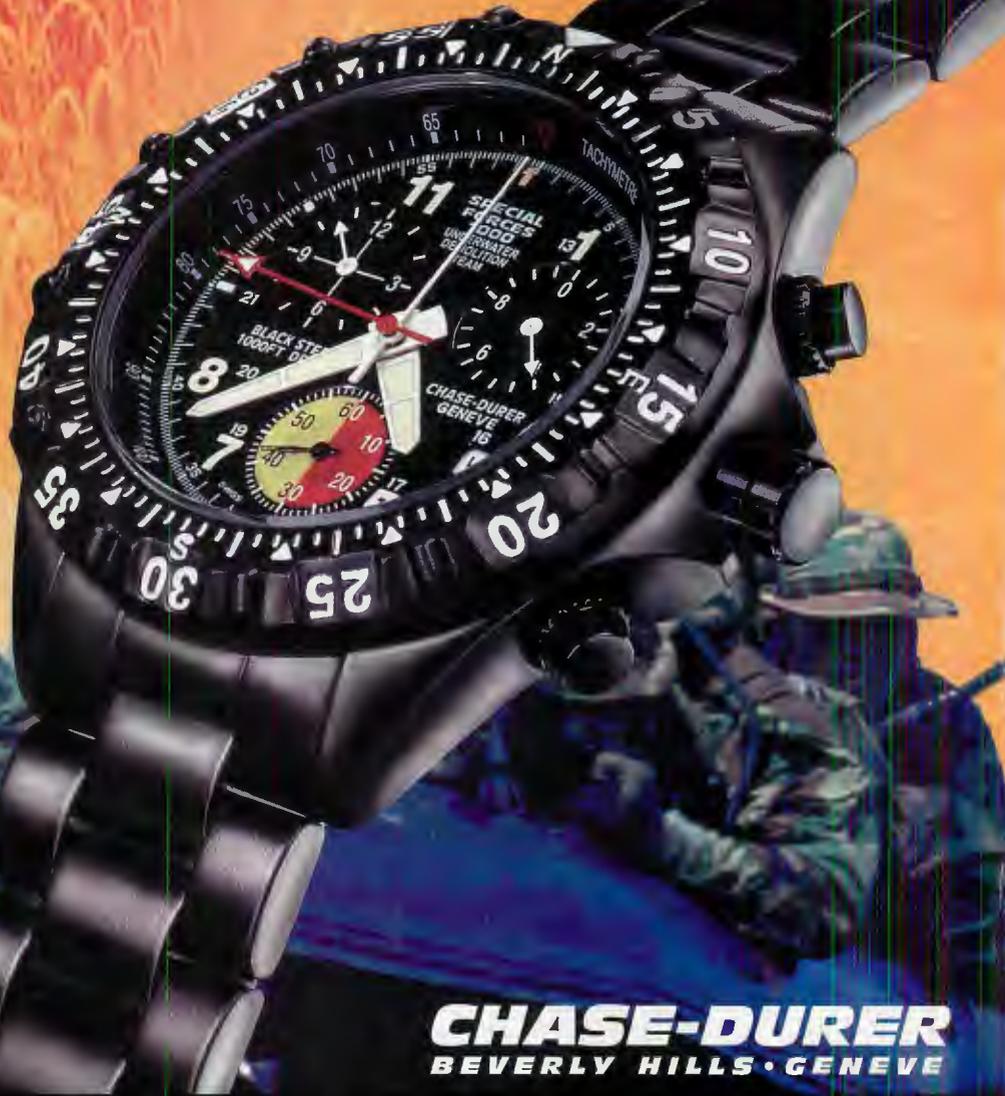
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