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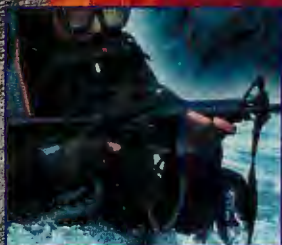
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Joe Flaedle/Getty Images

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Northrup Grumman



Samuel M. Katz

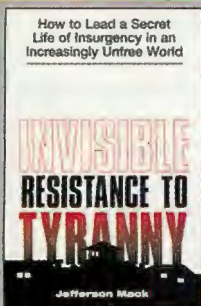


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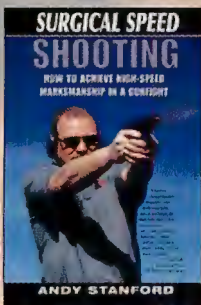


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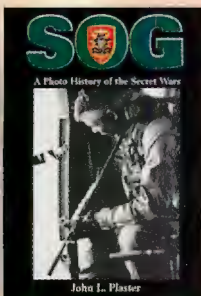


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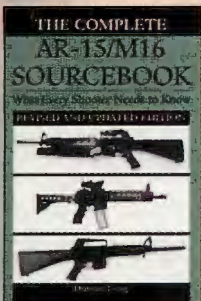


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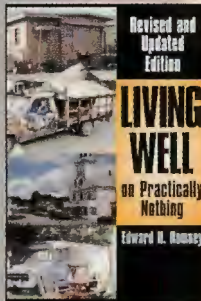


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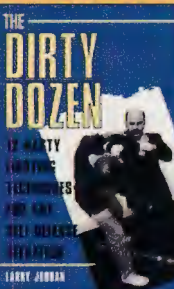


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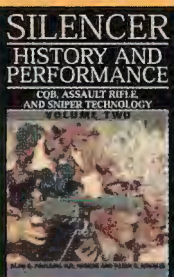


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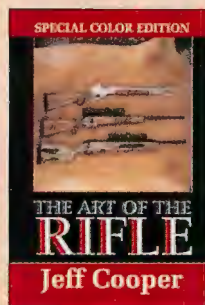


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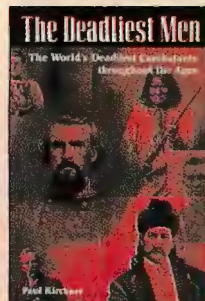


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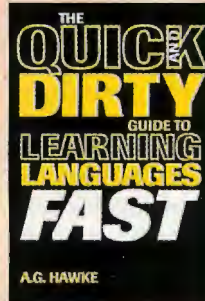


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Command Guidance

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Bush Sells Out Gun Owners

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During John Magaw's recent tenure as ATF Director, this column regularly pointed out the "Emperor's" nakedness. Thankfully, about a year ago after failing to get a much-wanted age waiver, the man was finally forced into "retirement." So, I never expected to write another editorial containing the name "John Magaw." Boy, was I wrong. This "bad penny" has turned up once again as nominee to the Department of Transportation Undersecretary for the new airport security program. "Mr. Magoo," as he was often called by disgusted ATF agents, was chosen by the Bush administration in part because, according to several news releases, "... he turned ATF around after Waco."

Let's get the facts straight. John Magaw DID NOT turn ATF around any time, including after the Waco debacle! In fact, his watch was punctuated by scandals, obscenely-low production, sell-outs, and controversy. If you think otherwise, review some old newspapers or

copies of NATA's newsletter, *The Agent*. Has everyone forgotten ATF's multi-million dollar "air force" embezzlement scandal? Don't you remember how AATF's criminal enforcement efforts tanked year after year under Magaw's "leadership" and nonsensical policies? How about the secret 180-degree turnaround he orchestrated with the black agents' class action? With the stroke of a pen, that piece of work made ATF's 1,500 non-black agents second-class employees. And, finally, who can forget Magaw's "imperial" entourage as it made its way back and forth across the country visiting various ATF offices? The motorcades, the special china, the ball park visits so he could throw out the first pitch, and other bits of pretentious fluff guaranteed he wouldn't be taken as seriously as the "dignitary" he tried so hard to be.

Pondering the return of this "bad penny," I tried to discern what about the likes of John Magaw, William Webster and, most recently, Dave Williams, makes them the "go to" guys when Uncle Sam has a problem. Looking at the track records of these three perennial bureaucrats, I saw a commonality: Each has been called upon at times when REFORM was badly needed. Yet, instead of meaningful REFORM, each then served multiple times as organizational top dogs who zealously maintained the status quo. Oh sure, there was lip service to REFORM, but nothing actually got done. That's the commonality: These guys are "do-nothings." The next time your family is on a commercial flight, remember the name "John Magaw."

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Bulletin Board

Correction

The cover photo of a Marine from the 1st Recon Battalion in the May 2002 issue, supplied by Special Operations Equipment, was taken in Kuwait, not Afghanistan as originally reported to SOF.

Mugabe "Wins" in Zimbabwe

In what was probably the most roundly condemned sham election in history, 78-year-old Marxist President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has secured for himself another six-year term as chief executive and dictator of the now-impooverished African nation.

The campaign, which was scarred by violence, and the election itself were condemned by local and international observers and Western countries, who said it was deeply flawed and unfair. Challenger Morgan Tsvangirai, arrested by Mugabe's thugs at the height of the campaign on "treason" charges, charged that Mugabe stole the election through systematic cheating.

Violence and widespread irregularities were reported throughout Zimbabwe during the 9-11 March elections, and as many as 15% (about half-a-million) voters were turned away from polls by ZNU-PF officials, "war veterans" or Youth Brigade militia. Using harassment, violence and roadblocks, Mugabe officials kept Movement for Democratic Change

(MDC) election observers from even monitoring some 47% of the polling places.

Military and police personnel were forced to vote separately and in advance of the regular election, without foreign observers. Some 2 million potential voters were disenfranchised by new citizenship laws and an Electoral Act. Three days before the election Mugabe used his emergency powers to reinstate regulations governing the election, which had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court the week before.

ZNA soldiers, ZANU Youth Militia and "war veterans" responsible for the two-year campaign of terror, land invasions and intimidation were inside virtually every polling station.

This sham election and its bogus results have been universally condemned by every international observer, NGO and government — with the exception of representatives of the South Africa ANC party. The head of the South African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum Team, Botswana's Duke Lefhoka, cited widespread violence and irregularities; the European Union and the U.S.A. have rejected the legitimacy of the elections, and the Commonwealth Observer Group issued a scathing condemnation.

More detailed information on the election and the sorry state of affairs in Zimbabwe may be found at www.frontline.org.za.

Never Dial Area Code 809

Unless you are using your ex-wife's cell phone, never return a call to "Area Code 809," as it will be a scam that could get you billed for thousands (as in, \$2,400+ per minute) of dollars. This area code is analogous to a U.S. "900" number, except that it is in the British Virgin Islands. Here is how the scam works: The scammers will leave you a message to call their "809" number on the pretense you have won some money, inherited some money, a family member is ill or in jail, or some other imaginative pretext — always urgent.

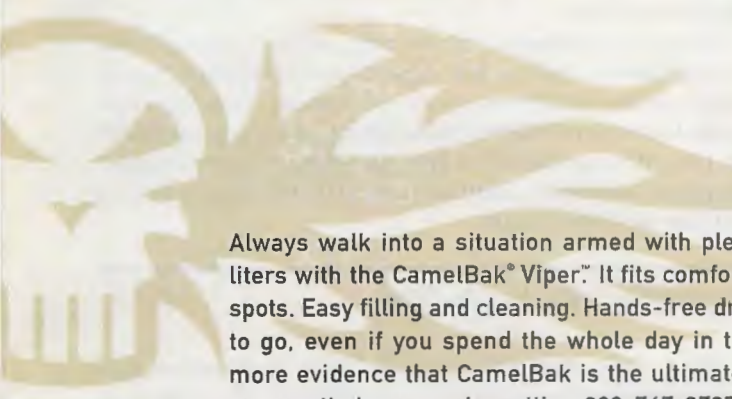
If you call from the United States, you can expect a recorded message or some other ruse to keep you on the phone as long as possible. Since 809 is not in the United States, it does not have any of the U.S. protections such as warnings it is a pay-per-call number, nor does it give the caller a chance to hang up before charges are incurred. Also, U.S. phones with 900-blocking installed are not effective against this scam.

The way to fight back is simply ignore phone messages or E-Mails or telegrams telling you to call — for whatever reason — area 809. Your local phone company and long distance carrier will be of no help; they will simply cop that they are merely providing the billing for the foreign company.

Sgt. Dan Williams, USMC



You can run, but you can't hide from SOF: Marines working at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul when it reopened found this mint copy of Issue 100, featuring Paul Fanshaw in Afghanistan on the cover, among the litter.



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60,000 More Guns On Israeli Streets

Sixty thousand additional gun permits will be issued to Israeli civilians, as authorities loosen licensing restrictions to help fight a new wave of terrorism. Civilians packing guns have played a significant role in bringing down terrorists, and most Israeli civilians are service veterans familiar with gun handling. Noted police Inspector-General Shlomo Aharonisky, "there's no question that weapons in the hands of the public have prevented acts of terror or have stopped them while they were in progress. Chance passersby have killed terrorists in the midst of gun attacks." In a radio interview, a retired police officer noted that easing restrictions on gun ownership would not arm criminals, as "every criminal who wants a weapon already has one."

Landslide Victory

Smart bombs and smart tacticians at CentCom formed a clever and effective team when attacking al-Qaida forces in the mountainous Tora Bora region of eastern Afghanistan. Dug in and hidden by the forested areas below precipitous mountain cliffs, the al-Qaida forces probably never expected the Coalition to resort to throwing rocks at them. Their relief and derision at smart bombs striking far above them on the mountainsides, however, soon turned to terror when they

realized these strikes had been precisely aimed to trigger landslides and bring the mountainsides down on them in their wooded lair.

Using U.S. Geological Survey maps, a Navy reservist who is a geologist in civilian life, figured out the probable trigger points to start landslides above the wooded areas where al-Qaida forces were believed to be hiding, and the jet jocks did the rest. Although there has been no estimate released regarding enemy casualties, CentCom considers the tactic a success and may well use it again.

Teasing The 101st Has Its Price

The Gardez offensive found some 101st Airborne troopers under company commander Captain Kevin Butler temporarily stumped: The al-Qaida mortar position halfway up the mountainside presented a problem. As F-15 Strike Eagles would approach and drop a load of ordnance, the enemy would simply duck into their caves, to emerge with derisive smiles — and gestures — after the bombs detonated harmlessly on the mountainside. When the troops from the 101st launched mortar rounds, the al-Qaida would duck into the caves as soon as they heard the *crump*, and stay there until the rounds hit.

It took Capt. Butler six trips up the mountain to pinpoint the exact location of the al-Qaida mortar pit, but once he had them cold, he put Plan A into action. As the next team of F-15s came in and the enemy ducked into their cave, he launched a mortar barrage, carefully timed not to hit the planes in the air. The air ordnance detonated, and the enemy

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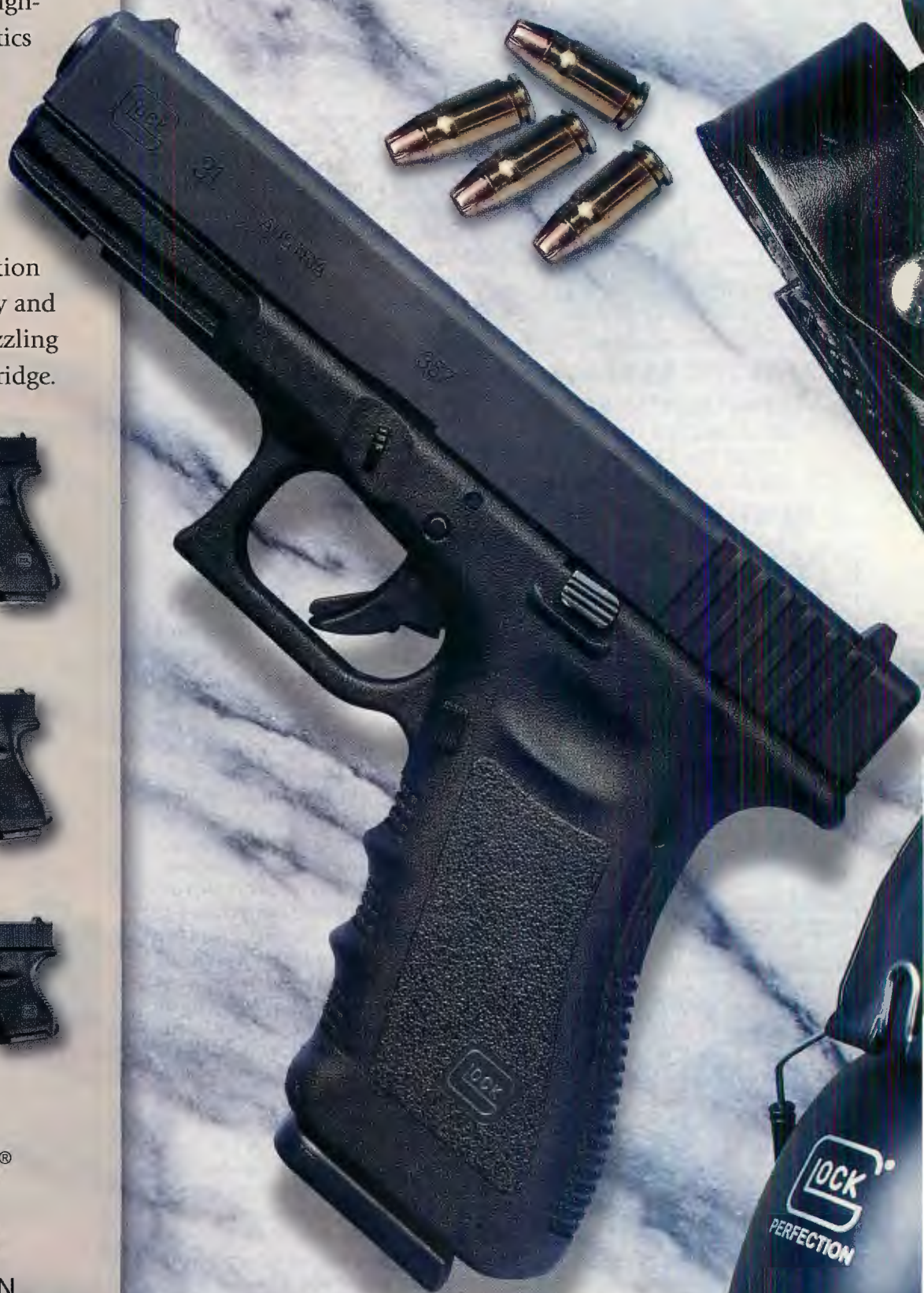
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gleefully came out of their caves, just as the mortar rounds came back to earth. There was no further counter-battery. According to SpecOps troops who climbed up the mountain for an assessment, four al-Qaida had been killed instantly.

Traveling Hunters, Take Note!

When you return to the United States from a hunt or shooting match in a foreign country, expect a real hassle if you did not take pains to register your firearms with U.S. Customs when you left the United States. Largely because of 9-11, there is increased scrutiny of all arms being brought into this country, including those being brought back in by U.S. citizens who took them abroad for sporting purposes. As *The Hunting Report* notes, it's not just a "good idea" anymore — it's an absolute requirement, and just keeping the old registration form from a previous trip in the gun case is *not* good enough. It is a cast-in-stone legal requirement to register any arms you take with you, every time, when you leave the country.

Report From Operation Anaconda: The Synergy of Teamwork

The following is excerpted from a letter home by a member of the 10th Mountain Division, and forwarded on to us:

Everyone out in the box is doing heroes' work — be proud of the American soldiers and airmen. The kids out there are operating at 9-10,000 feet with 80 pounds on their back, and sticking it to the bad guys. For most it is their first time in harm's way and they are handling it like vets: No one is forgetting to shoot or running in the wrong direction ... Operationally, the biggest lesson we seem to be learning is that there is no silver bullet. The more assets you can bring to bear against the opponent in conjunction, the more effective you are. AC130 won't do it by itself. Light infantry won't do it by itself, but when you can get boots on the ground controlling key terrain, OPs on the hilltops calling in heavy CAS, A-10s (yes, someone finally figured out that they would be useful in a ground-support role) and attack choppers providing armed escort to CH47s on insertion and hunting for targets of opportunity on the way in and out, all coupled with

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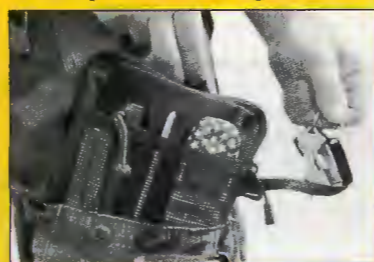
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real-time Predator and SAT imagery, then you can be pretty effective. Take away one piece and the others lose a lot of their punch, especially soldiers controlling key terrain.

Part of their usefulness is, it appears al-Qaida pride just can't abide our guys on their turf, so we make effective "bait" pulling the bad guys out of their holes. However, because they are not so smart, they try to attack uphill to the ground we own, and between direct and indirect fire we absolutely chew them up. In a one-on-one fight our soldiers are better trained and equipped and work together well — which gives us the advantage now that we control the high ground. Couple that with all the technological advantages we bring to the battlefield and it is not a fair fight, which is just the way we like it ...

Guinea Worm: Symptom Of An Evil Regime

Some 80% of the world's cases of Dracunculiasis, commonly known as Guinea Worm, occur in Sudan, almost all those in the war-ravaged south where government bombing of hospitals and clinics has led to debilitating epidemics of otherwise rare diseases such as leishmaniasis, polio, cholera, malaria, sleeping sickness and river blindness. Spread through drinking water contaminated by its larva, the Guinea Worm grows to 3 feet long, living inside its victim for about a year until over a very painful two-month period it slowly emerges at the site of a large welt that forms on the abdomen. It cannot be pulled out, as it will snap in two, causing permanent internal deformities. This grotesque parasite has been all but wiped out elsewhere through treatment, hygiene and education, but with government services in Sudan consisting of bombing hospitals, there have been

45,000 cases reported, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

New SIG Rifles For Delta

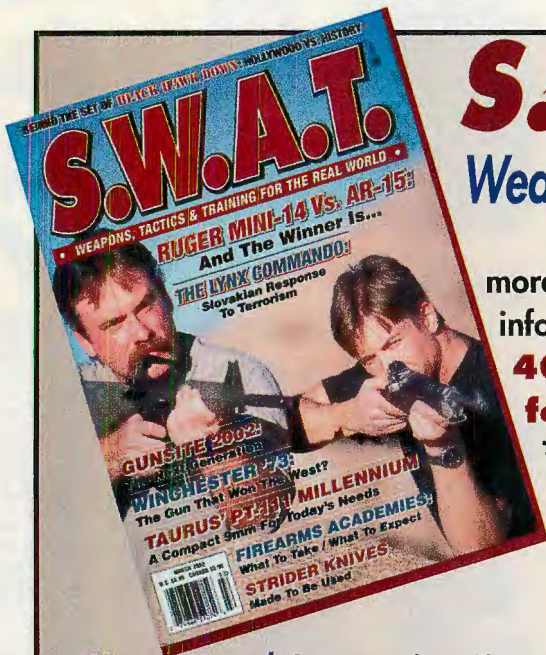
The premier hostage-rescue unit Delta, attached to SF at Ft. Bragg, is to be equipped with some 500 new SIG assault rifles. Look for a future article.

Sorry, Old Chap

Gibraltar, a 2.5 square-mile British enclave on the coast of Spain controlled by the Brits since 1713, is a small enough target — evidently small enough for the Royal Marines to get blown slightly off course and miss it. Some 20 Royal Marines stormed ashore at the small Spanish town of La Linea, thinking they were at Gibraltar last February. When local citizens and police informed them they had invaded Spain, the Brits apologized and left. The unintentional invasion came at an unfortunate time, when Spain and England were engaged in talks over the future of Gibraltar.

National Guard To Guard Border

More than 200 National Guard troops are slated for deployment along the Mexican border with Texas, Arizona and New Mexico. They are part of some 1,600 Guard troops who will be aiding the INS, Customs and U.S. Border Patrol. ✕



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Aladdinpower Hand-Held Generator

The Achilles heel of leading-edge high-tech mission-essential gear — GPS units, cell phones, sat phones, radios, night vision gear, target designators and the like — is that they all run on batteries. And batteries go down. With no such thing as battery Viagra available, it means you'd better carry ample supplies of the various spec batteries your mission may depend on.

The good news is, Aladdinpower has a high-tech, hand-held battery charger for such devices, *that actually works*, and works well. The lightweight (3.7 oz.), compact (5.31x1.65x.98 inch) unit puts out 1.6 watts @ a comfortable 90 strokes per minute, and each kit comes with an emergency high-power flashlight (we'll get back to that in a minute), a universal cell-phone cable and charging regulator in

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The emergency flashlight can be left in place for immediate use, or it can be charged with a few pumps and removed to aid in hooking up something else in the dark. About the size of a peanut with its shell on, this little flashlight has a lanyard hole so it doesn't get lost when detached, and it works fine under water. Its LED light source can be seen for miles under good conditions, and it's virtually unbreakable.

As GIs are wont to do, the troops in Afghanistan have been making creative adaptations of the Aladdinpower hand-held generator with alligator clips, to put new life in all nature of rechargeable batteries. EOD personnel have even been using it as a blasting machine that in many cases works better than the bulky issue unit, as the Aladdinpower has a built-in regulator, useful for detonating where the initiator is designed to react to a specific power. If you are at all handy with electronic/electrical devices, a trip to Radio Shack for adapters will have you using your Aladdinpower to recharge much

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the muzzle) features button rifling, with a hand-lapped bore.

The TRR Magnum is available in .300 Win Mag, .300 Weatherby Mag, .30-378 Weatherby Mag, and 338-378 Weatherby Mag. Its 26-inch cold hammer-forged barrel comes equipped with a Weatherby Accubrake™ in the latter two calibers, which the manufacturer reports cuts felt recoil and muzzle jump by more than 50%.

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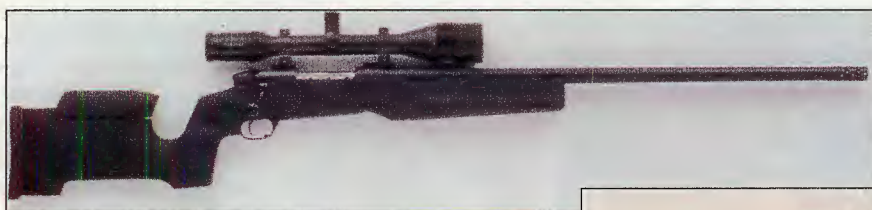
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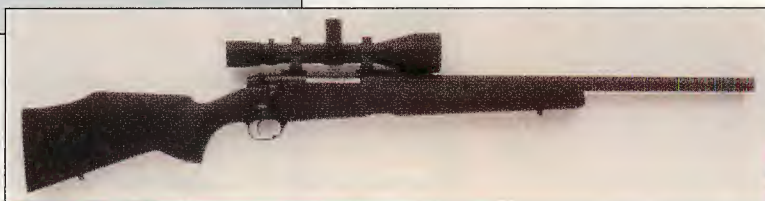
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WHAT IS SCARS? It is a mathematical blueprint of the human species for the purpose of physical and physiological control in both non-lethal and lethal confrontation in close combat and field operations. (**"The mind is your primary weapon and your body is your secondary weapon all else is ancillary."**)

WHERE DID IT COME FROM? It is a subset of Peterson's Dominate Process Systems released in part to the United States Navy SEALs in the mid to late 1980's under the project name SCARS. Its purpose was to set a standard above all known fighting systems of hand-to-hand and hand-to-weapon combat. The results were above and beyond what the US military expected. It was tested, officially approved, and implemented.

ARE MARTIAL ARTS USED IN THE MILITARY? Yes and they are effective programs for teaching confidence and coordination building skills along with limited defensive skills.

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Flak



A Ration From Rashid



Comments: Let me start by saying f*** you. Congratulations on losing one reader. Why, you ask, take a look at the caption for the picture on page 37 of your current issue.

This Rag Head is no longer interested in supporting your increasingly Christian right magazine. For the record, I was born in Sudan and raised most of my life there. My family immigrated here when I was 16 and since then, I have been a very proud American. I served in the Army out of pride and was horrified when 9/11 happened. I vote and I exercise my right to keep and carry firearms. It is bad enough that I get ugly looks when I get on a plane but to be degraded in such a manner in your magazine is wholly uncalled for and unacceptable.

What you said was very un-American and only serves to make the less intelligent readers of your magazine think it is OK. So, shape up or ship out. There is plenty of hate and ignorance in the world without you contributing to it.

By the way, tell your friend Jack Wheeler to lay off the crack pipe and get his facts in order. Submission of Islam? Nice one, ass-h***, way to make it about the whole religion, and other entire populations you want to vilainize while you are at it?

Via e-mail

American Taliban?

What was written in "Command Guidance" in the April issue is an example of people who want a "Taliban American Style" country with Christianity substituting for Islam. This

country was not founded on the principle of a Christian God. It was founded on the principle of everyone having any religion they wished. Many of the founding fathers were not Christians. As famous examples, Benjamin Franklin was an atheist and Thomas Jefferson wavered between being an agnostic and a deist, and they were not alone. A majority of the founding fathers did not want God included in the founding papers, but He was included to compromise with, what were considered at the time, the ultra-religious representatives primarily from the New England area. Bottom line, it is fine to exercise one's freedom of speech and be vocal about those beliefs.

Patriotism and Christianity are two separate subjects, and one can be very patriotic and not Christian.

Maurice P. Woodward
(long time and satisfied subscriber)

Poor Research Protected

In response to the April 2002 "Command Guidance", the anonymous author of the piece perpetuates the common myth that our founding fathers were Christians. Most of our founding fathers were Deists, or Skeptics, as well as a few who paid lip service to religion when it served their purposes. Of course, the First Amendment applies to poorly researched forms of speech too.

Dan Casner
Via E-Mail

Weird Twisting

That "selection" in this month's "Command Guidance" was bullshit. It amounts to someone thinking that the current situation makes the time right to pick a fight. The whole thing is a

weird twisting of truths intertwined with Christian Right rhetoric. It stinks and frankly, it offends me that you guys stooped to printing it. The American Way, is to make your own way however you see fit. Speaking of patriotism being taken out of schools and then talking about religious language that some find offensive is completely slanted. You don't need God to be patriotic. You can love your country without believing in Jesus. I am a godless heathen but I did spend eight years in SpecOps. Oh, and my patriotic contribution, is to raise my kids to care about what's going on around them, ask questions, and help others when they can. We got where we are as a nation by learning to celebrate and embrace diversity. To sum up, this is the kind of right-wing crapola that makes it so easy for the media to make us look bad.

Jeff
Via E-Mail

Quoting the Source

Begging the Colonel's pardon, but I am forced to quote someone who had a closer view of what this nation was founded upon:

"The government of the United States is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian Religion." George Washington, Treaty of Tripoli, 1796

What has happened since the original George W. was in office, well, that is another thing.

Jeff Taber
Via E-Mail

Be Inclusive

Here's my comment on your "Command Guidance." You are right — the media won't go there! As far as the

text goes, I basically agree — but when bringing God in to the equation and them bringing Christian into it, we play right into the radical Islamists' hands!

I agree most of America is basically Christian — though I am not — not Muslim either, mind you.

Most of the problem is Western aka Christian vs. Eastern (Muslim?) religion to many people. It is most surely the Evil One's viewpoint.

I am 100% for the Founding Father's principles, but they themselves used "God" — not Christian — in forming our principles.

Let's leave it as "God" and be inclusive and not exclusive.

Thanks for asking,

John Yashinski
Red Lodge, Montana

Paper The Halls of Congress

I just received my April copy of *Soldier of Fortune*. The first thing I read, as usual, was "Command Guidance." I fully agree with everything said in it. I have been wanting to express the same sentiments for sever-

al years. We need it to be printed and passed around everywhere, especially in the halls of Congress. I would like to suggest that it be copied and a copy sent to every member of Congress and to everyone in the White House and the President's cabinet.

Thank you for printing it. I hope that you will give me permission to copy it and to distribute it to everyone I am acquainted with. I would also like permission to send it to "The Voice of the People" in our local newspapers.

I also appreciate Col. David H. Hackworth, and always read his articles before getting into other things in the magazine. His picture indicate that he is a couple of years younger than I am, but I find I totally agree with him.

Thank you for your good work! We are with you!

Malcolm E. Anderson
Attorney At Law (Retired)

Magnificent Piece

I have just read "Just A Reminder" from "Command Guidance." Thank you so much for printing this magnifi-

cent piece. It says so succinctly my heart-felt feelings about my America. At age 68 I clearly remember the nationalism and patriotism of WWII. I served in the USAF as a B-29 radio/ECM operator during the so-called "police action" and the less-than honorable negotiated settlement of that war. Police action my ass — 37,000 KIA!

We need to harp on the declining patriotism currently. I am sick to death [of] this politically correct multicultural bullshit. One only need read Pat Buchanan's most recent book. I can actually remember when immigrants came to this country to become proud Americans.

Thanks again for printing "Just a Reminder." I am committing it to memory.

Dick Mason
Proud American, former S/Sgt USAF

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alloy as a result of the melt, mix and re-solidification. We have demonstrated [the worth of] that new alloy for a couple of centuries until about the 1970s.

We as citizens of the United States have unique Constitutional rights. When one demonstrates his allegiance by becoming a U.S. citizen he shares these rights. Until then he is a human being and should be treated as such but is not sharing in the American dream and "American Rights."

I have watched things degrade over time, especially the eight years of Clinton politics. It is time for some things to change back a little, while keeping the equality gained since JFK.

Richard W. Conserriere

Exactly As Described

You have, as always, hit the nail right on the head. As a recent college graduate and firearms-owning resident of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I can attest to the fact that the majority of this nation's youth is exactly as you described. They somehow believe that the WTC incident and all violence against our great nation is somehow deserved. Some question why I have an American flag, and I was asked yesterday, "Do you really support the United States?"

I am disgusted to be a member of this spineless generation that would sooner throw our way of life to the dogs of evil than lift a finger to defend us.

Jonathan S. Keseberg

Sharp? Us?



I am amused by the imaginary debate the editor made of the letter "distancing Green Berets from Candy Strippers ..." from Charles Berg (FLAK, SOF, April '02). The

cleverly inserted comments show that you are a very sharp writer and your attention to technicalities shows you missed a great career as a lawyer. One thing is perfectly clear, you are clueless about the SF community and you have quite obviously never served a single day in the Special Forces. That said, you are an entertaining writer and that plus pictures is what we pay SOF for, not facts.

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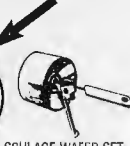
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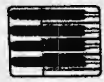


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We in the real-life SF community can get the facts elsewhere.

John Hanscom

Well, you're right, that reply (and this one) was written by the only guy on staff, from the publisher on down, who is not former SF — and was a straight-leg MP to boot — but he's never been accused of being sharp before. Pity you do not buy SOF for the facts, however, as they are solid as we can ascertain them. It has been interesting that the facts as stated in the story were not challenged, but rather the author or anyone who came to his defense. Anybody have a misstated fact to challenge?

Soldiers Once: Mindless Dogma of The Left?

[to *The Washington Times*]
RE: Review of "We Were Soldiers"

It may be the unthinking repetition of the Vietnam Myth, rather than conscious deception on your reviewer's part, but please allow me to take the most strenuous possible exception to it.

Here is the reviewer's description: The movie recounts "the first pitched battle between American and North Vietnamese troops, during three days in the Ia Drang Valley of South Vietnam in November, 1965 ... (with the) NVA eager to inflict a heavy toll on the intruders."

So — the NORTH Vietnamese are fighting in SOUTH Vietnam, and it is the Americans, not the NVA, who are the "intruders"??

The Communist government of North Vietnam militarily invaded the sovereign country of South Vietnam. American soldiers were there to defend South Vietnam from this invasion. Yet your reviewer has the bald temerity to accuse America, not Communist North Vietnam, of being the intrusive aggressor.

This is the mindless dogma of the Left, which still has never forgiven the American military for committing the Unpardonable Sin of the Left: actually fighting Communists. *The Washington Times* is not known for a mindless left-wing bias. I request that you make an adequate correction in the next edition of this review.

Jack Wheeler, President
Freedom Research Foundation

The 11 Days of Christmas

America's Last Vietnam Battle

by Marshall L. Michel III



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Honor Among Soldiers

BY JOE GALLOWAY

IF you have fed from a steady diet of Hollywood movies about Vietnam you probably believe that everyone who wore a uniform in America's long, sad involvement in war in Vietnam is some sort of a clone of Lt. William Calley — that all three million of them were drug-crazed killers and rapists who rampaged across the pastoral landscape.

Those movies got it wrong, until now. There is one more Hollywood film now playing called *We Were Soldiers* and it gets it right. Ask any Vietnam veteran who has gone to see the movie. In fact, ask any *American* who has gone to see it. It is based on a book I wrote with my lifelong friend Lt. Gen. Hal Moore (Ret.); a book written precisely because we believed that a false impression of those soldiers had taken root in the country which sent them to war and, in the end, turned its back on both the war and the warriors.

I did four tours in Vietnam as a war correspondent for United Press International — 1965-66, 1971, 1973 and 1975. In the first three of those tours at war I spent most of my time in the field with the troops and I came to know and respect them, and even love them, though most folks might find the words "war" and "love" in the same sentence unsettling, if not odd.

In fact, I am far more comfortable in the company of those once-young soldiers today than with any other group except my own family. They are my comrades-in-arms, the best friends of my life and if ever I were to shout "Help!" they would stampede to my aid in a heartbeat. They come from all walks of life; they are black, white, Hispanic, Native American, Asian; they are fiercely loyal, dead honest, entirely generous of their time and money. They are my brothers and they did none of the things Oliver Stone or Francis Ford Coppola would have you believe all of them did.

On the worst day of my life, in the middle of the worst battle of the Vietnam War, in a place called Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley of Vietnam, I was walking around

snapping some photographs when I caught a movement out of the corner of my eye. It was a tall, lanky GI who jumped out of a mortar pit and ran, zig-zagging under fire, toward me. He dove under the little bush I was crouched behind. "Joe! Joe Galloway! Don't you know me, man? It's Vince Cantu from Refugio, Texas!" Vince Cantu and I had graduated together from Refugio High School, Class of '59; 55 boys and girls. We embraced warmly. Then he shouted over the din of gunfire: "Joe, you got to get down and stay down. It's dangerous out here. Men are dying all around."

Vince told me that he had only ten days left on his tour of duty as a draftee soldier in the 1st Battalion 7th U.S. Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). "If I live through this I will be home in Refugio for Christmas." I asked Vince to please visit my mom and dad, but not tell them too much about where we had met and under what circumstances. I still have an old photograph from that Christmas visit — Vince wearing one of those black satin Vietnam jackets, with his daughter on his knee, sitting with my mom and dad in their living room.

Vince Cantu and I are still best friends.

When I walked out and got on a Huey helicopter leaving Landing Zone X-Ray I left knowing that 80 young Americans had laid down their lives so that I and others might survive. Another I24 had been terribly wounded and were on their way to hospitals in Japan or the United States. I left with both a sense of my place, among them, and an obligation to tell their stories to any who would listen. I knew that I had been among men of honor and decency and courage, and anyone who believes otherwise needs to look in his own heart and weigh himself.

Hal Moore and I began our research for the book-to-be, *We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young*, in 1982. It was a ten-year journey to find and ultimately to bring back together as many of those who fought in LZ Xray and LZ Albany, a separate battle one day after ours only 3 miles away in which another 155 young Americans died and another 130 were wounded. We had good addresses for perhaps no more than a dozen veterans, but we mailed out a questionnaire to them to begin the process.

Late one night a week later my phone rang at home in Los Angeles. On the other end was Sgt. George Nye, retired and living very quietly by choice in his home state of Maine. George began talking and it was almost stream of consciousness. He had held it inside him for so long and now someone wanted to know about it. He described taking his small team of engineer demolitions men into Xray to blow down some trees and clear a safer landing zone for the helicopters. Then he was talking about PFC Jimmy D. Nakayama, one of those engineer soldiers, and how a misplaced napalm strike engulfed Nakayama in the roaring flames. How he ran out into the fire and screamed at another man to grab Jimmy's feet and help carry him to the aid station. My blood ran cold and the hair stood up on the back of my neck. I had been that man on the other end of Nakayama. I had grabbed his ankles and felt the boots crumble, the skin peel, and those slick bones in my hands. Again I heard Nakayama's screams. By then we were both weeping. I knew Nakayama had died a



Author Joe Galloway.



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day or two later in an Army hospital. Nye told me that Jimmy's wife had given birth to a baby girl the day he died — and that when Nye returned to base camp at An Khe he found a letter on his desk. He had encouraged Nakayama to apply for a slot at Officer Candidate School. The letter approved that application and contained orders for Nakayama to return immediately to Ft. Benning, Ga., to enter that course.

George Nye is gone now. But I want you to know what he did with the last months of his life. He lived in Bangor, Maine. The year was 1991 and in the fall plane after plane loaded with American soldiers headed home from the Persian Gulf War stopped there to refuel. It was their first sight of home. George and some other local volunteers organized a welcome at that desolate airport. They provided coffee, snacks and the warm "Welcome home, soldier" that no one ever offered George and the millions of other Vietnam veterans. George had gone out to the airport to decorate a Christmas tree for those soldiers on the day he died.

When we think of ourselves we think Shakespeare, Henry IV, Act IV, Scene 3:

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;

For he today that sheds his blood with me

Shall be my brother."

Honor and decency and uncommon courage were common among these soldiers and all the soldiers who served in Vietnam. I think of how they were, on patrol, moving through jungle or rice paddies. Nervous, on edge, trying to watch right, left, ahead, behind, all at once. A friend once described it as something like looking at a tree full of owls. They were alert for sign, sound or smell of the enemy. But they also watched each other closely. At the first sign of the oppressive heat and exhaustion getting to someone the two or three guys around would relieve him of some or all of the heavy burden that the Infantryman bears: 60 or 70 pounds of stuff. Rifle and magazines. A claymore mine or two. A couple of radio batteries. Cans of C-Rations. Spare socks. Maybe a book. All that rides in the soldier's pack. They would make it easier for him to keep going. They took care of each other, because in this situation each other was all they had.

When I would pitch up to spend a day or two or three with such an outfit

Continued on page 80

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American Sniper In Israel

BY DAVID STONE

Jerusalem Diary

(Author's Note: Some geographic and distance references too close to home have been removed for the peace of mind of Mrs. Stone.)

6 February 2002: Our Top Cop announced the statistics for 2001. There were 1,794 terror attacks, including 31 suicide bombings, resulting in 208 killed and 1,523 wounded. My home, Israel's capitol, Jerusalem, saw the most terror with 90 attacks 31 killed 475 wounded. Meanwhile, The Saudi Council to Support the Palestinian Intifada announced it has donated \$55.7 million to the cause. The charity said it would give \$5,333 to each family of the 200 Palestinians who died in recent fighting. The Saudis' payment together with the \$5,000 reportedly paid by Saddam Hussein to the family of each Palestinian killed makes being killed attacking Israelis the Palestinians' largest cash crop.

7 February: The driver noticed wires protruding from beneath the coat of a man who boarded his intercity bus at Jerusalem's French Hill Interchange. The man did not respond to the driver's asking him, "Your destination?" in Hebrew, Arabic and English. Two alert passengers made a life and death decision. One chanced grabbing the man's hands. The other helped hold the man down while the driver raced to the Border Police security checkpoint a mile away. There the would be suicide bomber was wrestled off the bus and the vest of explosives he wore was removed.

IDF Reserves manning a roadblock in the West Bank caught eight Kassam-2 rockets being smuggled in the back of a truck. These terrorist, domestically manufactured 120mm rockets have a range of 10 to 12 kilometers (8 to 9.5 miles) and carry a 4- to 6-kilogram warhead.

A terrorist wearing IDF fatigues was able to infiltrate an Israeli collective farm in the Jordan Valley. Armed with an M16, eight magazines and a grenade, he got past six soldiers,



AFP Photo/Sven Nick-Selthard

An Israeli police sniper scans the crowd with his binoculars from his position behind a loudspeaker as as some 80,000 people gather on the sixth anniversary of the murder of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, at Rabin Square, in Tel Aviv, 3 November 2001.

even after they engaged him in a firefight. He killed one and entered a home. Inside he killed a mother and her severely handicapped 11-year-old daughter before being killed by Yamam (Israel's Elite Border Police anti-terrorist force) snipers using night vision-equipped rifles. Our soldiers should have prevented the infiltration or at least killed the terrorist in the firefight well before he could get to civilians.

10 February: A Jerusalem terror cell of Arab 12- to 14-year-olds stabbed to death a young woman and wounded her male companion at 13:15 in Jerusalem's Peace Forest, not far from my daughter's high school. The gang operated a few hundred yards from their own homes and was responsible for a series of stabbings and firebombings. In northern Israel, a

huge car bomb exploded, killing the three (according to the number of body parts) terrorist occupants.

11 February: Two terrorists disguised in fashionable civilian clothes, approached a pastry shop by an IDF base in Be'er-Sheva and sprayed the patrons with AK-47 fire. Two female soldiers were killed, and four wounded before soldiers returned fire, killing both terrorists, one of whom was wearing a pipe bomb.

Later Kassam-2 rockets were fired from Gaza at Israel's northern Negev towns.

13 February: While dropping my daughter off at her school I notice two 20ish Arab females walking in the direction of the school's entrance. In a split-second I'm out of the car reaching for my Sig 226. The school guard signals me "off." He explains he has already had passing police check the two for hidden vests of explosives. The guard has the school's entrance gate chained closed and padlocked. He unlocks to let students in and out then immediately replaces the chain and padlock; new SOP. I'm pleased especially since learning that "the school" a terrorist repeatedly and unsuccessfully tried to enter a few months ago was my daughter's.

On a lighter note, PA Chairman Arafat settled an argument with his West Bank Preventive Security Chief in an especially demonstrative fashion; one allowing a rare insight into the Chairman's thought process. Arafat pulled his pistol on his own Top Cop, the act of a true statesman and Noble Peace Prize Recipient. His answer to everything — his only answer — is violence.

15 February: Another blow to our IDF's image of invincibility. Terrorists totally destroyed one of our main battle tanks, killing three of the Merkava's four-man crew. Good collection of intel allowed the terrorists to plant a drum containing 50 kilos of C-4 exactly where the tank would drive over it, which is exactly what it did when the terrorists fired on a civilian convoy to draw the tank out. How were the terrorists able to plant their bomb in sight of the IDF? Why did the tank always take the same route? Where did the terrorists get the C-4? How many "Karine-As" have not been stopped?

Our Sniper Unit members undergo semi-annual qualification. Head- and partial head-shots at four distances, six rounds total, timed. I "mis-feed" the magazine into my AR10-(T). Several people are yelling nasty things at me. Only 30 seconds left and I've yet to fire a shot. I reinsert the magazine and chamber a round as I assume a firing position. Only my perfect score saves me from a serious chewing-out. God Bless ArmaLite, and adrenaline. Everyone qualifies, which is real good. We need everyone "operational." We no longer face "a situation," we are in a war.

This evening a suicide bomber blew up a pizza parlor, a kids' hangout, killing two girls and a boy in their mid-teens, and wounding 29.

17 February: Terrorists shot and killed a soldier at a roadblock in the West Bank. They simply walked up and fired at point-blank range then returned to their waiting car and drove away while other soldiers manning the roadblock directed ineffective fire. We have a problem.

18 February: Two traffic cops in the middle of the country thwart a double suicide-bombing. Alerted by mismatched license plates they chase a suspect vehicle. A terrorist jumps out and shoots at the pursuing police. Before being killed by return fire, he throws a pipe bomb at them taken from the vest of explosive he wears. The chase ends when the suspect car explodes. Plan was to explode the car at the entrance to a nearby IDF base and afterwards the vest wearer would explode himself among the responding emergency caregivers.

Closer to home, a terrorist wearing explosives is caught by our Border Police "Recon" Unit trying to sneak into Jerusalem from Ramallah, via my neighborhood. Down the hill on the road to the Dead Sea, there is a drive-by shooting.

19 February: By the checkpoint to Jerusalem coming from the Dead Sea, police stopped a suspicious vehicle. The driver detonated the "car bomb." We heard it. The amount of explosives was enormous. Literally nothing was left of the vehicle except some little pieces. By keeping the car bomb from reaching the roadblock and/or Jerusalem, the police officer undoubtedly saved many lives.

He was killed in the explosion. Later this evening three

Israelis were murdered in an ambush shooting by the Gaza Strip.

20 February: West of Ramallah terrorists walked straight up the road to an IDF roadblock. Only an hour before a new group of soldiers had arrived to take over the position. From point-blank range two, or three, terrorists opened fire instantly killing the three soldiers on duty. They then entered the soldiers' quarters and killed the three soldiers they found inside, two sleeping in their beds, and their officer as he tried to return fire from the floor having made it out of his bed. The terrorists departed unscathed, taking with them two M16s and wounding a seventh soldier. IDF officers believe the roadblock had been under intense observation. This was a well-planned and professionally executed operation. Time to call



Reuters/Reinhard Krause

Israeli army snipers take position to protect the funeral convoy for a slain Jewish settler.

this growing type of action what it is: guerrilla warfare. And we're getting our ass kicked!

On the other hand, our bus drivers' acts of heroism continue. A driver pushed a would-be suicide bomber off the second step of his bus as the terrorist tried to board at a stop in the Jordan Valley. While fleeing from soldiers, the terrorist's explosive exploded.

24 February: We are virtually under siege. The number of attacks grows daily. The combined number of shooting, bombing, mortar and rocket attacks now averages 40 per 24-hour period. In the worst example of public speaking (and perhaps worst speech) I may have ever witnessed, Prime Minister Sharon announced his "Buffer Zone" plan. Consequential details were lacking. This afternoon yet another Israeli was murdered in a drive-by shooting by Jerusalem's Atarot Industrial area.

25-26 February: Two are killed, two wounded in two shooting attacks by Tekoa, 20 minutes' drive south of Jerusalem.

Around dusk, I noticed the streetlights were off, a rare occurrence. Shortly thereafter, it is clear there had been an attack. We watched the police and IDF vehicles racing north. That told me it was a shooting attack in Neve Yakov. Experience has shown that our windows would have shaken from a bomb. Ten minutes later, the radio confirmed my analysis. A terrorist simply walked over from the neighboring Arab village 200 yards away. He opened fire on people waiting at the last stop of the 25 bus, (the turn-around point on my daily jog) continued down Neve Yakov road another 50 yards firing at anyone he saw or who he noticed looking at him out of their windows. "Calmly" he waited for the first police to arrive.

One female and two male police officers in an Econoliner Van were first to the scene. The terrorist was ready and emptied half a magazine into the van before it could come to a stop, critically wounding all three officers inside. One officer exhibiting typical Israeli *Ain BraRah*, "No Alternative" grit and guts managed to return accurate fire. Seeing the terrorist being shot, several youths raced across the street and struggled with him. One grabbed the terrorist's rifle (AK-47, or M16; can't say which; Court Gag Order) to shoot him. It was out of ammo. Only after stabbing the still full-of-fight terrorist with his own knife did the fight go out of him. Additional police arrived and the terrorist was taken to a local hospital for treatment. All told the terrorist fired four full magazines,



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120 rounds. Truth is the attack ended because he ran out of ammo. Not a single resident of Neve Yakov responded to the attack with a firearm.

This morning the female police officer died of her wounds. She had only just graduated as "Outstanding Cadet" from her class at the Police Academy in early December. She was 21. Eight other of my neighbors/fellow officers are wounded. The attack in the neighborhood was predictable. I have repeatedly seen young Arab men in our exclusively Israeli area, obviously on reconnaissance missions. They ride their horses and walk their dogs here. I've seen them sitting in a car studying an aerial map of the northern Jerusalem neighborhoods. I have watched them drive up and down our streets at 10 miles an hour videotaping every building, entrance, ally, yard and parking area. I believe that last evening's attack was just a precursor, a "hot" dry run to observe our emergency response. We have yet to see the real attack on the northern Jerusalem.

It certainly isn't "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." But Arafat is not going to make my neighborhood his, regardless of how many *Tanzim* he payrolls and "green-lights" to attack our neighborhoods now and capture them in the future.

28 February: Surprise, our Unit has been activated. We are now doing daily duty in addition to our "routine assignments." Once again we are the eyes of the police; plugging holes, providing cover for fellow officers and watching for "means and demonstrated intent." It does not appear that it will be temporary.

This morning an alert policewoman and her Civil Guard partner thwarted a suicide shooter. They grabbed him before he could get his loaded AK-47 out of the bag in which it was concealed and begin firing. This afternoon, "motivated by nationalism," a Palestinian worker in a coffee factory shot and killed his Israeli employer of three years. This evening a suicide bomber, female, trying to get to the Tel Aviv area blew herself up at a security checkpoint on Route 443. Police manning the position discovered that she had no I.D. and asked her to get out of the car in which she was riding. BOOM!

Thankfully it has been a quiet day.

David Stone is an American citizen who several years ago emigrated to Israel. He is a member of the Israeli Police Reserve Sniper Unit. Contributions from his monthly journal appear regularly in Soldier Of Fortune. ✕

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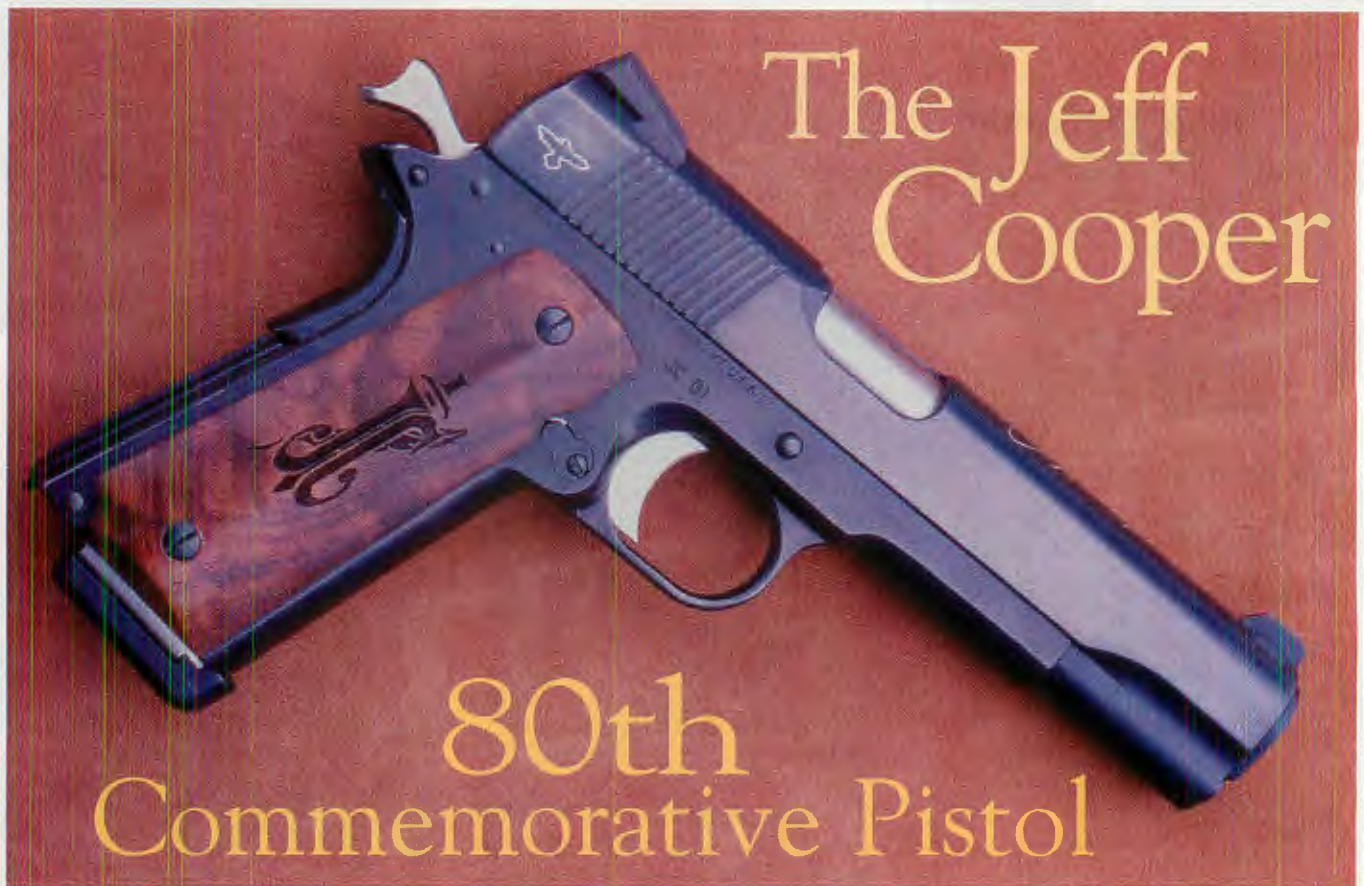
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The Ultimate Tribute To A Man And His Gun

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Born eight years after John Moses Browning invented his timeless .45 ACP caliber M1911 pistol, Jeff Cooper would become its greatest proponent. Quite familiar with the M1911 from service as a Marine during World War II, Cooper made the gun an integral part of his life. And, his widely read writings about this pistol made it an integral part of the life of a million other shooters. Being one of these people, I started following Jeff Cooper's writings in the early 1950s — I still have an original copy of his first book,

Fighting Handguns. In addition to becoming a prolific writer through the years, Jeff Cooper also did much instruction and was also the chief proponent of the "modified Weaver" shooting stance, christening this stance as the Modern Technique. In the mid-1970s, Cooper founded The American Pistol Institute at his Gunsite Ranch in Paulden, Arizona.

Having used the Model of 1911 pistol for 40 years, Jeff Cooper came to have some strong opinions about the gun — what made it work, what didn't, but almost as important was

what he thought it did and did *not* need to make it work better. Jeff's methodology was the "KISS" principal: "Keep It Simple, Stupid!" In Jeff's strong opinion, if it wasn't broke, you didn't fix it.

The Jeff Cooper 80th Commemorative Pistol

Upon achieving the grand age of 80 years, Jeff Cooper agreed to offer his idea of the ideal Model of 1911 pistol to the millions of those who have followed his teachings. However, it is a pistol only 79 of his followers may own, because only 80 will be made, one for every year, and half have already been sold! Jeff's 80th Commemorative 1911 is the first. Its serial number is JC001, and I was fortunate to be able to borrow it for this article.

Built on Caspian's excellent frame and slide, Cooper pistol #JC001 is fitted to perfection, including a Kart National-Match barrel and bushing. These parts are carbon steel, as is every other part in the pistol except for its adjustable aluminum trigger and stainless-steel Chip McCormick Power Mag eight-shot magazine. Beautifully lowered and flared, the ejection port, like the rest of the exterior, is totally free of sharp edges. On the slide are genuine Novak LoMount Sights. Dovetailed and pinned, the front sight is equipped with a red insert. Also on the top of the slide between the front sight and the ejection port beautifully inlaid in silver is the signature of Jeff Cooper. Also inlaid in silver on the right side of the slide behind its angled cocking grooves is the Gunsite Raven logo.

Favoring a short grip-safety tang, Cooper had this made flush and blended with the ears of the frame – even shorter than on John Browning's first prototype 1911 pistol. To prevent the "hammer bite" that plagues so many 1911 shooters, Cooper had the hammer spur shortened similar to the "No-Bite" hammer offered by Wayne Novak. A slim, extended thumb safety is included and is perfectly blended with the frame and grip safety radius.

One of the most interesting things about the Cooper 80th Anniversary Pistol is its mainspring housing. Flat, with fine vertical grooves, this housing has a unique lanyard mount. Consisting of a loop similar to that found on the Model of 1911 and 1911A1 pistols, this one is set farther to the rear. It is also not as rounded and does not protrude as far below as the standard loop. To facilitate the use of a lanyard, or clip-on hook, the bottom corner of the mainspring housing has been relieved with a ball mill to provide clearance of about 3/16". This is the best lanyard mount I have yet seen on any auto pistol and, like Cooper, I am a strong proponent of a lanyard mount on any handgun.

Slight beveling to the mouth of the magazine well and five vertical grooves in the middle of the front strap completes the

exterior, except for a deep blue finish with the appearance of the beautiful rust blue hand-applied to some of the finest custom firearms. The stocks are of fancy walnut with Cooper's crest laser-engraved on both panels.

Inside, pistol #JC001 is almost as fancy as outside. Fitting and polishing of the rails and other surfaces is apparent, and the bottom of the slide also bears the serial number of the frame. The trigger let-off is just under a crisp four pounds, and all aspects of function are silky smooth. No full-length guide is used, only the standard recoil spring that has worked perfectly on the 1911 for nearly a century.

Cooper's Leather

As with his pistol, Jeff Cooper has a strong preference in leather, and that's still the Yaqui Slide made by Gordon Davis

Continued on page 79



(opposite) Representing 60 years of shooting and studying the Model 1911 pistol, the Jeff Cooper 80th Commemorative Pistol is a tribute to the chief proponent of this timeless handgun. Inlaid in silver on the top of the slide is Jeff Cooper's signature. (left) The finish is a deep rich blue giving the appearance of the traditional hand rust blue applied to the finest firearms. (above) In its Yaqui Slide from Gordon Davis, the Cooper 80th Commemorative Pistol comes in a walnut presentation case with Jeff Cooper's crest laser engraved on the lid.



An “Aye!” For An “Eye”

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Reliable Allies

ON the first night of the air campaign against unfriendly forces in Afghanistan, an armed “Predator” unmanned aerial vehicle tracked a convoy near Kandahar in the southern part of the country.

The convoy was believed to be carrying the Taliban’s spiritual leader to safety. But when the CIA, which was operating the UAV, requested permission to fire two air-to-ground Hellfire missiles this particular Predator carried under each wing, permission to fire was denied by U.S. Central Command at MacDill AFB, Florida.

A young Navy Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General’s office at CENTCOM advised superiors he could not legally authorize the killing of the Taliban leader.

PART I

BY DALE B. COOPER

The “Junior JAG” cited an executive order signed by President Ford in the mid-1970s and adhered to by every President since then that prevented the assassinations of world leaders.

The only thing Predator could do was photograph the license plate number on Omar’s vehicle with its 950mm lens as the SUV pulled out of the parking lot, and disappeared into darkness as U.S. warplanes bombed Taliban targets in Kandahar and more than 70 other targets in Afghanistan.

When Donald Rumsfeld heard about

the incident, the usually unflappable Defense Secretary reportedly had a fit.

President Bush had the power to secretly rescind the executive order, but chose not to do so in this case, because he does not consider either Mullah Mohammed Omar or Osama bin Laden a world leader by any stretch of the imagination.

When an opportunity to take out some Taliban leaders presented itself again on the night of 13 November 2001, the night the Taliban staged what it called a “tactical withdrawal” from Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, the CIA didn’t bother asking JAG for permission to attack.

As a convoy of sport utility vehicles and pickups sped down the highway to Kandahar, the Taliban’s spiritual

stronghold about 240 miles south of Kabul, they were spotted by a CIA-operated Predator.

Although Predator is in the Air Force arsenal and flown by Air Force officers a version of the UAV was made available to the CIA shortly after the terrorist attacks on 11 September.

None of the Air Force Predators deployed to the region in the wake of 11 September was armed. An Air Force pilot told SOF, "We weren't allowed to fly armed missions."

When the convoy of sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks fleeing Kabul approached choke points on the highway to Kandahar, the CIA operator, who was sitting at a console in a neighboring country, noticed several vehicles in the convoy were allowed to move to the head of the line.

Sensing someone important must be in those vehicles, Predator followed

them to a small village south of Kabul. When they pulled up in front of a three-story hotel, and the lights came on, Predator's TV camera picked up a small group of men going inside the building for a meeting on the third floor.

Concerned that the Hellfires Predator carried were not powerful enough to take down the building and kill those inside, the CIA operator put out an emergency call for help. Two Navy F/A-18 Hornets from the U.S.S. *Roosevelt*, a nuclear-powered aircraft in the Arabian Sea, each responded with a pair of 2,000-pound bombs. Predator administered the *coup de grâce* by launching two Hellfires into the parking lot to finish off any survivors.

The attack killed Mohammed Atef, one of Osama bin Laden's two top deputies. Atef had advised bin Laden on military matters and helped him plan the terrorist attacks on 11 September. His body was never recovered from the rubble.

In early February of this year, another CIA-operated Predator spotted a group of 15 to 20 suspected al-Qaida fighters near Zhawar Kili, in the eastern province of Paktia, an area that was fre-

quented by members of bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

"This was an agency mission," said Rear Admiral John Stufflebeam, Deputy Director of Operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, adding, "This was a case where U.S. Central Command was not actively participating or coordinating this particular strike."

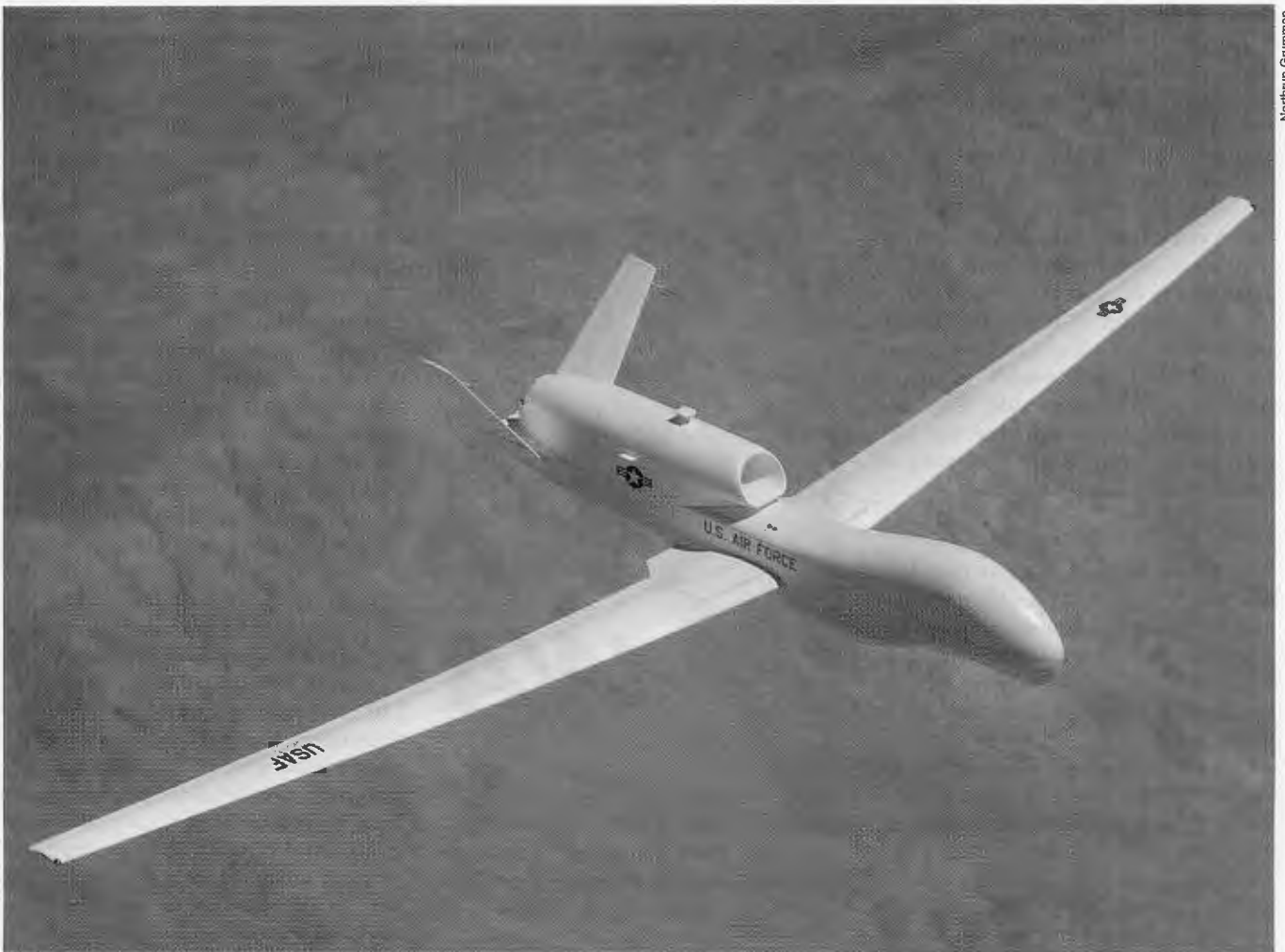
Stufflebeam said there were times when the CIA had its own objectives and pursued them without asking for support from the Pentagon and, in some cases, without informing DoD what it was doing.

Asked if he had any problems with the CIA working outside the military chain of command, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "No." The CIA was operating Predator over Afghanistan before the military campaign began. However, this arrangement has raised some eyebrows in Washington about the oversight of the military in clandestine operations.

In The Crosshairs

When three men at Zhawar Kili moved away from the main group toward some trees to hold their own

(opposite) Global Hawk carries a threat warning receiver, an on board jammer and an ALE50 towed decoy that can draw high-flying SAMs away from it during reconnaissance flights. (below) Global Hawk over the desert.



Northrup Grumman

private pow-wow, the TV camera in the nose of the CIA drone detected that two of the men acting deferentially toward the central figure, a taller man than his two friends.

Government officials who have seen the Predator's video footage say it appears to show conclusively that three men wearing Arab dress were under a tree when they were hit and killed by a Hellfire missile.

Villagers claimed the three men were not al-Qaida, just peasants who were scavenging scrap metal from earlier airstrikes. When U.S. Special Forces returned to the area a week later, they found evidence to suggest those killed were *not* peasants.

Wild animals had done a pretty good job of policing up the battlefield, but Secretary Rumsfeld says the 50-man team found a tail fin from a Hellfire, and also some credit card applications and airline schedules among pieces of human flesh, bones and bits of clothing when they cleared up to 4 feet of snow from the area where the missile impacted.

Special Forces personnel also found 50-caliber ammunition and an empty box for a hand-held radio. However, a search of three nearby caves turned up nothing of note.

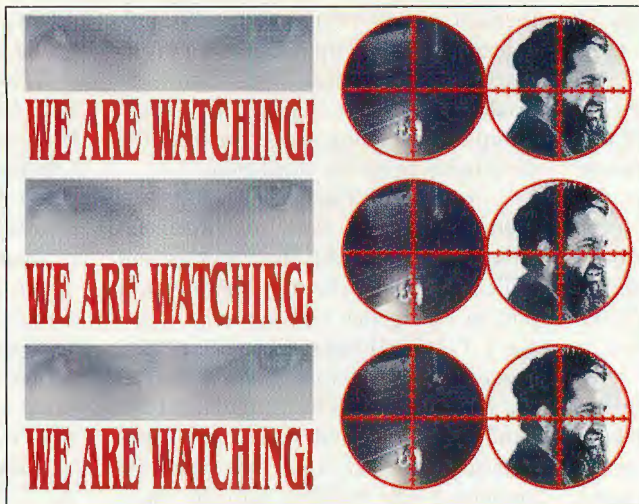
Admiral Stufflebeam says DNA was recovered from shattered human remains at the site and flown back to Washington for analysis, but the only way DNA would be useful in identifying Osama bin Laden is to have a sample from bin Laden himself, or from a relative on his mother's side. Since neither scenario seems possible, the U.S. may never know if the tall man at Zhawar Kili was bin Laden.

Head For The Hills

When it became evident that U.S. bombing had stirred up a hornet's nest and the bad guys were running all over Afghanistan, General Franks, commander of the U.S.-led coalition, sent out a call for Predator's big brother to join the fight.

This was kind of like putting the cart before the horse, because "Global Hawk" was still in the developmental stage at Edwards Air Force Base, California.

The commander of the 452nd Flight Test Squadron, part of the Global



Leaflet of Mullah Mohammed Omar, the Taliban leader, that was dropped by the thousands over Afghanistan offering a reward for his capture.

Vigilance Combined Test Force at Edwards, says the deployment was unique.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Guidry says the experience in Afghanistan allowed the Global Hawk team to develop a production-representative vehicle that is exactly what the warrior needs. Such a vehicle is the final version of a weapons system before it heads to low-rate initial production.

Guidry, who deployed with Global Hawk during its combat debut, says this will significantly benefit the test program in that it minimizes the required sorties necessary to complete the test process and allows his people

to make the most out of the sorties they do fly.

At least three of the sophisticated UAVs deployed to the U.S. Central Command theater of operations helped keep track of Osama and his boys as they ran for their lives.

To find out how Predator and Global Hawk operate together in a hostile environment like Afghanistan, SOF contacted the companies that manufacture both UAVs, and interviewed a young Air Force captain who flies Predator. SOF also contacted Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Doug Boone, acting chief of the Reconnaissance Systems

Division at the Pentagon. Boone's division is responsible for the development of all the new recce platforms and sensors which includes "U-2," "Rivet Joint," and "Compass Call," as well as "Predator" and "Global Hawk."

"They are all hunters," said Boone during a two-hour interview in which he described in great detail what both systems bring to the war fighter; persistence on the battlefield, a level of protection and a lower price than manned aircraft.

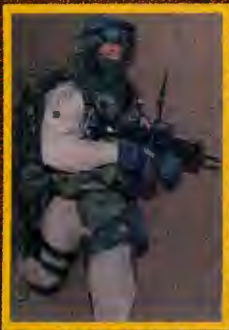
"They get the imagery they need, but don't have to risk a pilot to get it," said Boone who hastens to point out that UAVs are not expendable. They're expensive, but if you lose one, the cost is a lot less than losing a human, because you can't put a price on a pilot's life.

Tom Cassidy, President and Chief Executive Officer of General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., the Rancho Bernado, California firm that designs and develops the Predator family of UAVs, wishes unmanned air vehicles had been around in 1965 when he put his life on the line every time he escorted reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam in his F-4D Phantom.

Cassidy, who commanded the "Chargers," Fighter Squadron 161, on the U.S.S. *Coral Sea*, has come a long way since retiring from the U.S. Navy as a Rear Admiral. Cassidy, who flew 150 combat missions during the war, remembers the reconnaissance flights always took a lot of flak, and for that reason he says he didn't like escorting them up north. But it wasn't until later in his naval career that he realized the value of an unmanned system. In the late 1970s, Cassidy named the first unmanned aircraft his company built



Tech. Sgt. Kevin Gattschling, a flightline expeditor, checking propeller of an RQ-1 "Predator" prior to a mission in Afghanistan.



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"Predator," but the first unmanned vehicle was more of a "Kamikaze-style" plane than a recon platform. It was designed to carry an explosive charge and crash into a target using GPS coordinates, but it was never field-tested.

"I don't think the world was ready for it then," chuckled Cassidy, "It was more like a cheap cruise missile."

To take a pilot out of a plane and develop the kind of reliability the military insisted upon was not an easy chore, but General Atomics didn't give up, and by 1995, Predator was deployed to Southwest Asia where it provided reconnaissance support to NATO forces. Cassidy says the Predators were based in Tuzla,

Albania. From there, Predators would fly up the Adriatic Sea, and go in over Croatia and Bosnia where NATO was bombing Serb forces.

This was the first time in combat that a reconnaissance airplane provided real-time color video of what was happening on the ground. Up to that point, military commanders and planners relied up 8 x 10 still photos.

"This gave the operational commander an opportunity to watch the action on video," said Cassidy.

Based upon the success of the program in the Balkans, the Department of Defense selected the Air Force as the operating service for the Predator system in 1996.

Global Hawk test vehicle approaching runway at Edwards AFB, California.

Predators currently in production for the U.S. Air Force cost about \$2.5 million apiece. Future Predators to be delivered in Fiscal 02 will cost \$4.5 million.

The RQ-1 Predator is a system, not just an aircraft. "R" is the Department of Defense designation for reconnaissance. "Q" means unmanned aircraft system. The "1" refers to it being the first of a series of unmanned reconnaissance aircraft systems. The "A" indicates it is the pre-production version of the RQ-1 series while the "B" denotes



(left) Global Hawk control van. (above) Inside Predator control van. Pilot sits to the left of the console in the background.

the baseline production configuration.

The fully operational system consists of four aircraft with sensors, a ground-control station, a primary satellite communication suite and 55 support personnel. At \$25 million per system, the Air Force has spent \$300 million for the 12 Predator systems purchased to date.

A third Predator squadron, the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron, was activated in early March of this year. It joins the 11th RS and the 15th RS currently operate the RQ-1A/B at Indian Springs Air Force Auxiliary Field, Nevada. The new squadron was activated by order of Air Force Chief of Staff General John Jumper because of increased mission requirements based on success of the Predator system in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Operation ALLIED FORCE, in the spring of 1999, demonstrated the need to be able to "shoot and ask questions later." During the course of the NATO air campaign against Yugoslavia, it became very difficult to kill a tank or armored personnel carrier in Kosovo, because the Serbs moved them around so rapidly. By the time Predator spotted

guided Hellfire missiles were chosen. Predator could carry two of the 100-pound weapons, one under each wing, without sacrificing much of its loiter-time over enemy territory.

When the Air Force began to experiment with weapons on Predator, there were several concerns: amongst them, when one of the weapons was fired, would the aircraft lose its aerodynamic properties, and endurance? And would the heat from the missile as it leaves the hard point melt the composite wing or cause fractures in it?

Between the spring and summer of 2001, the Air Force fired 16 Hellfires from Predators and 12 of them were direct hits on an abandoned tank. Three of the misses hit beside it. Close enough for government work, and there was no wing damage.

The tests at Indian Springs went so well, the Air Force decided to experiment with moving targets, but those tests were put on the back burner when the U.S. attacked Taliban and al-Qaida targets in Afghanistan.

The video Predator provides of potential targets to the battlefield com-

mander is much like video local TV news helicopters provides of police chases and other breaking stories.

for the system to be fully evaluated. The next generation of UAV, Predator B, which will be available in Fiscal 02, will have a laser designator as part of the ball turret. When the new birds become operational, they will be used as forward air-controllers, and if the Air Force decides to weaponize Predator-B, then the role of Predator will be expanded to that of a strike aircraft as well as ISR, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

Admiral Cassidy says his company is currently looking at electro-magnetic pulsing for a deicing system on Predator B. Triple redundancy is also being built into Predator's big brother.

Predator B will also be "beefier" than its predecessor. Take-off gross weight for Predator is about 2,400 pounds. It'll be around 10,000 pounds on Predator B.

Predator B will have 50% more payload capacity, an endurance of up to 24 hours and speeds more than 200 mph at altitudes up to 45,000 feet.

Carl Johnson, project manager for Global Hawk at Northrup Grumman Integrated Systems in San Diego, California, says its longest mission to date is 31-and-a-half hours. Global Hawk is also a high-flyer.

General Atomic

"It can soar to 65,000 feet and survey an area equivalent to the state of Illinois, some 40,000 square nautical miles," said Johnson.

During a typical mission, Global Hawk can provide a battlefield commander with near-real-time imagery of an area of interest. From 12-and-a-half miles high, Lt. Col. Boone says Global Hawk can see 100 miles with its synthetic radar. Although operators can't discern someone's

face from that altitude, they could discern objects as small as a case of RPGs, (rocket-propelled grenades).

Optical cameras can ascertain people from 20 to 30 miles away and tell the difference between Toyota pickups and Soviet-built tanks.

In the infrared mode, Boone says, Global Hawk's cameras can also detect a human being walking across a snow-covered mountaintop in Afghanistan. "The heat from a human appears white against a cold, dark background," Boone said.

Before Christmas, both Predator and

Continued on page 66



Predator firing a Hellfire missile.

a Serb tank, fed the video back to the command level, and a strike aircraft was given the coordinates, the enemy armor was usually long gone.

After ALLIED FORCE, General John Jumper, then head of the Air Combat Command, ordered Predator to be armed, a feat that Cassidy claims took only a couple of months. The original Predators were already designed with hard points under the wings in case the Air Force wanted to hang additional fuel tanks or munitions on them. But weight was a factor. That's why laser-

mander is much like video local TV news helicopters provides of police chases and other breaking stories.

"From 15,000 feet, you can see people walking around. You can even see [one] holding an AK-47," said Boone.

During ALLIED FORCE, when field commanders clamored for more than just video of targets in Kosovo, Air Force technicians did the next best thing. They strapped a laser designator onto the ball turret of a Predator that contained the TV camera, and demonstrated that slow-moving Predator could "laze" for a fast-mover like an F-15E Strike Eagle, but the campaign in Kosovo ended too quickly



Last Flight Home

A Death On Basilan Island

BY DORIAN SICAT

"Ambush!" he shouted into the ancient, Vietnam War-vintage PRC-10 radio transceiver. "Ambush! Romero is hit! Two others hit! Request support!"

I was at the 25th Ranger Company base camp when the 0430 ambush kicked-off. We could hear the radioman yelling as the clatter of automatic-weapons fire, punctuated with grenade blasts, echoed from the distance.

Early that morning a squad of 11 men of the 25th Scout Ranger Company, 103rd Infantry Brigade, left the relative safety of their base camp for a routine patrol. With them were four local militiamen of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU).

In the muggy pre-dawn of 10 February, the squad moved out of the small coastal town of Tuburan, on Basilan Island, an area notorious for terrorist activity.

Tuburan is almost purely Muslim. The few Christians

there are fishermen and small-scale coconut farmers. Those are a gutsy lot, living in the middle of a hotbed where Muslims and government troops have frequent firefights. Brutal reprisals are commonplace. Forgiveness is not.

The coast of Tuburan is rugged. So are the foothills that surround the town. Sheer cliffs and deep crags make up most of the topography. In those crags and canyons are the camps of the formidable Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the dreaded Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). The place is a literal

Philippine elite Scout Ranger soldiers carry out a practice patrol February 13, 2002 on Basilan island. U.S. soldiers and equipment are arriving in the southern city of Zamboanga prior to the start of the main phase of military exercises between the Philippines and the United States aim at stamping out the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf rebel threat in the south.

snake pit. For that reason, government troops venture out only far enough to protect the town proper and secure their own perimeter. To do otherwise might well be suicide.

The viciousness of the ASG has gained increased global notoriety. Hideous videotapes showing one of their hostages beheading another demonstrates their barbarism without prejudice. Both the ASG and the MILF have issued rewards for the heads of government soldiers. The higher the rank, the higher the reward.

Balikatan ("Shoulder to Shoulder"), the joint training exercise with America, and the U.S. troops, are welcomed in Basilan by most everyone. The protests in Manila seem not to have caused a ripple here. Maybe that's because folks here live with the gruesome reality of war, day in and day out. Maybe that's because the realities experienced here like the tragic death of a young soldier in an ambush, strike a different chord than the hollow and naive rhetoric of those who demonstrate in the safety of Manila's streets.

His Last Patrol

For squad leader, Lieutenant Pete Romero, it was supposed to be his last patrol. On 13 February he was slated to rotate back to his mother unit at Camp Aguinaldo, in Quezon City, Philippines. The next day he planned to take his young wife out for Valentine's Day dinner.

But now he lay critically wounded, any spinning thoughts no doubt hundreds of miles to the north.

Back at base camp, Rangers dashed about. Squads formed and quickly moved out beyond the perimeter while another radioman called 103rd Brigade headquarters, some 30 kilometers away.

Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) Company, only 1 kilometer beyond the Ranger camp, also went into action. 1st Lieutenant Angelo de Vera was commanding.

And from the north, a 12-man element of the Philippine Navy Special Warfare Group (SWAG) landed to form a cordon, while the Scout Rangers penetrated the area amid crackling gunfire to extract their comrades.

By 0500 hours the firefight had ceased. By 0600, there was no sign of either the MILF or the ASG. The ghostly enemy had slithered into their crags and canyons, once again eluding the hotly pursuing military and police units. By 0730, the bodies of Romero, and four others, were brought to base camp where they were prepared for medevac to Edwin Andrews Air Force Base, some 16 kilometers across the Basilan Strait. From there, the fallen soldiers would be flown home.

It was difficult for me to interview the survivors of the ambush. I was emotionally shaken. I was at the Ranger base camp on invitation of my good friend — Lieutenant Pete Romero. The invitation had approval because I was to witness, as a media person, the surrender of three ASG combatants, a ceremony which never occurred.

I did talk to one of the men, Corporal Hermomides Capinpin, the radioman. "We were out-numbered. We assaulted the ambush as we were trained to do, but there were too many. We had to go into a defensive position and wait for



reinforcements and other support. As we formed, Lieutenant Romero was hit in the head. Once SAF and SWAG reinforcements arrived from the base camp, and the SAF and the SWAG took up their flanks, the shooting was over and the enemy was gone. It is always like that," Capinpin told me in his native dialect, Ilocano.

Another survivor, who asked me to withhold his name, asserted "That is why we need the help of the Americans. Even if we know how to fight, the enemy is quick and can hide like snakes. We need the kind of equipment and technology that the Americans can give us. How can you fight snakes who can crawl away once they have hit you?"

On 12 February, Romero's body was loaded aboard a Philippine Air Force C-130 for his last flight home. There would be no candlelight dinner, no Valentine's Day celebration. Romero and four others, one Ranger and three CAFGUs, were killed-in-action.

I accompanied my friend's body back to Andrews. I lamented that I could not escort him all the way to Manila, so that I could shout at those leftists who opposed the joint U.S.-Philippine military training exercise, *Balikatan 02-1*; shout and tell them that good men like Romero would be alive today if the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) already had the kind of modern equipment and technology that *Balikatan* will now give them.

Five days later, in the town of Maluso, Basilan Island, a band of ASG bandits gunned-down four policemen and vanished into the surrounding jungles. According to the only survivor, the bandits warned, "This will happen to you if you welcome the Americans here!"

Three days after, the Americans arrived, were warmly welcomed, and set-up camp with their Filipino counterparts.

Dorian Zumel Sicat is a longtime journalist for The Manila Times. This is his first report to SOE. ✕

Terror war in Philippines

American and Philippine military forces are conducting joint exercises to train Filipino soldiers to fight terrorism. Philippine rebel group Abu Sayyaf reportedly has links to Osama bin Laden.

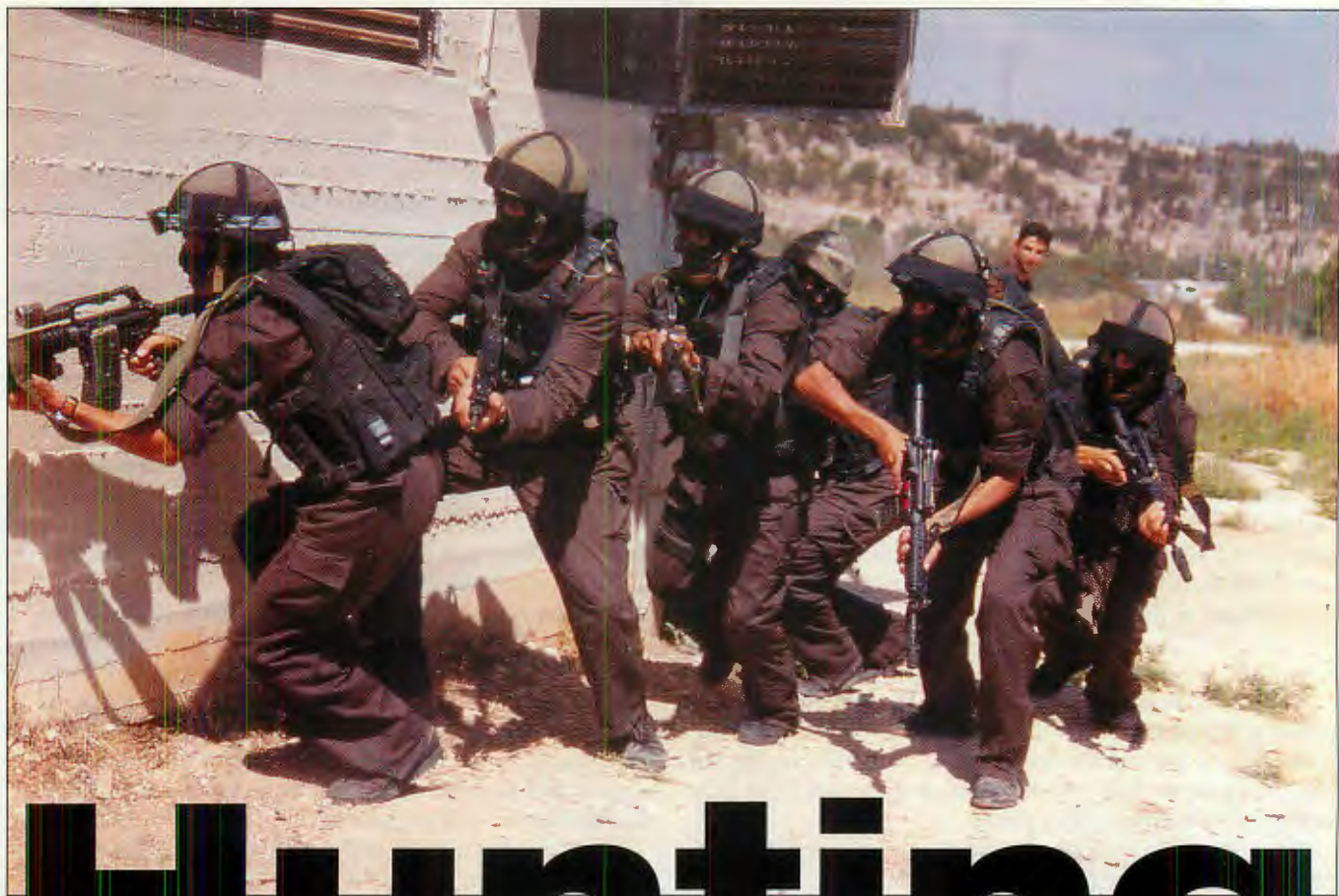
Abu Sayyaf chronology	
Early 1990s	Abu Sayyaf, meaning "Bearer of the Sword" formed by Islamic cleric
Jan. 1995	Involved in plot to assassinate visiting Pope John Paul II
April 1995	Kills 53 people in raid on Christian town
April 2000	Ten western tourists and 11 Asians are taken hostage and held for more than four months
May 27, 2001	American couple kidnapped, held on Basilan island

650 U.S. troops deployed

U.S. tasks

- Instruct Philippine soldiers in techniques of counterterrorism
- Free American couple kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf in May 2001

Source: BBC Graphic: Elsebeth Nielsen, Eeli Polli © 2002 KRT



Hunting

TEXT & PHOTOS BY SAMUEL M. KATZ

Suicide Bombers, Part I

The Undercover View From A Different Ground Zero

The two young men who appeared to be attempting repairs to their battered Subaru sedan outside an East Jerusalem café weren't watching CNN when news of the first hijacked airliners hitting the north tower of the World Trade Center was broadcast to a horrified global audience, but they knew that something *big* had happened. The two young men that they had under surveillance all afternoon suddenly raced to the nearby mosque and emerged with bags of candies and sweets that were joyfully thrown into the air in an exuberant expression of victory. Crowds soon gathered. Women, wearing black and gray veils,



began clapping their hands and dancing with a victor's glee.

The Jewish New Year was in one week and intelligence reports were that *Hamas*, or the *Islamic Jihad*, would be attempting a "major" suicide offensive, which had the Israeli securi-

ty establishment on edge. This celebration on the streets of Arab East Jerusalem was ominous. *Hamas* had always orchestrated displays of joy following suicide bombings. Dancing in the streets following the bombing of the Dolphi Disco in Tel Aviv and "the street" in the West Bank, and Gaza rose in celebration after the Sbarro pizzeria in Jerusalem was hit by a young suicide bomber packing TNT in a guitar. The two men working on the battered Subaru had hoped to snatch one of the men they were watching, suspecting him as an operational lieutenant in a *Hamas* cell, but those plans were changed by the onset of crowds and men firing pistols and Uzi subma-

chine guns into the air.

As the two carefully reached for their weapons in case they had to fight their way out of a bad situation, one of the young men fiddling with the engine whispered into a concealed radio device, "What's going on here?" "Get back to base immediately," came the order from the team leader watching the events from a van packed with heavily armed commandos parked at the entrance to the village, "you'll never believe what has just happened!"

To many Israelis, especially those in the security services, the Israel Defense Forces and the police, the tragic events in New York City, and later outside the Pentagon, were highly distilled portraits of what life and death has been like in Israel for the last 10 years. For nearly a decade, Israel has been fighting a maddening war against a faceless enemy of suicide bombers that it has found almost impossible to vanquish. Palestinian youths — and even middle-aged men — have, without warning or discrimination, detonated lethal payloads of explosives strapped to their bodies or in the bags they carry, inside crowds of shoppers at a mall, passengers on a bus, diners inside a fast food restaurant, and dancers in a disco. The might of the Israeli defense juggernaut, the Israel Defense Forces, the *Shin Bet* and the National Police have waged an unnerving campaign of street-fighting chess, hoping to always be one step ahead of the bombers. The effort to crush the Hamas and Islamic Jihad headhunters who search the refugee camps and towns of the West Bank and Gaza for hopeless souls willing to mar-



Border Guard forces bring in suspect after a Ya'mas reconnaissance of a Hamas stronghold.

tyr themselves for the cause has been a violent and brutal one. Israel's weapons in this war have ranged from full-scale military strikes to covert assassinations. Israel's tactics have been unconventional and, often, undercover.

Controversial — But Effective

Israel's elite commando undercover squads, or "*Mista'arvim*," have, for the last decade, been one of Israel's most effective, albeit controversial, tools in preventing this terror. These specialists masquerade as Palestinian men and even women to infiltrate terrorist strongholds in order to gather intelligence, rescue hostages or strike — either preemptively or in retaliation — against terrorist safe-houses and forti-

fied positions. Undercover squad operators are actors as much as they are commandos. To the Palestinians, these dramatically effective undercover teams are nothing more than cold-blooded death squads. For the men tasked with leading Israel's war against Hamas — and, increasingly, Arafat's Palestinian Authority — the undercover units are the difference keeping the suicide bombers from striking at will inside Israel's major urban centers.

Publicly unveiled by former Ehud Barak some 10 years ago during his tenure as the IDF's Chief of Staff during the first *Intifadah*, the undercover units have been a staple of special operations for nearly a hundred years in the unstoppable cycle of violence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. A *Mista'arvim* (derived from the Arabic expression of *Musta'arvim*, meaning "intervening") is someone who isn't an Arab by origin, but due to various reasons dresses in Arab garb, acts in accordance with Arab manners and customs, speaks Arabic, and lives where most of the population is Arab. The first *Mista'arvim* date back to 1909 and the *Shomer*, an organization designed to provide security to the first Jewish settlements in Palestine. The *Haganah*, the military arm of the Jewish settlements in pre-independence Israel, created its own undercover intelligence unit during the bloody Arab revolt of 1936-39, when agents in Arab garb were dispatched to infiltrate local Arab villages.

During the Second World War a Haganah undercover platoon, called "the Syrian Company," was set up with British support to carry out sabotage



(opposite) Ya'mas assault force moves in on a "terrorist" location during a room-entry exercise. (above) Ya'mas operator dressed in Palestinian drag leads a van loaded with fully equipped operators during a raid near the frontier lines with Ramallah.

missions deep behind Vichy lines in Syria and Lebanon: Moshe Dayan, the most famous veteran of this unit, lost his eye on a behind-enemy-lines operation. And, in 1970, in the Gaza Strip, the Israel Defense Forces waged a ruthless counter-terrorist campaign that was led by a small force of commandos, dressed as Palestinian guerrillas, who waged an intrepid and ruthless campaign that was bloody and unforgiving — even by Middle Eastern standards.

The undercover operatives became what they hunted — “When you are in Gaza act like you are from Gaza” was a unit catchword. Unit operators not only dressed as local Arabs, but also disguised themselves as terrorists, moving through populated areas clutching Soviet-made assault rifles. They infiltrated the terrorists’ world by eating in their restaurants, shopping in their markets, and even staking out their warehouses. In one year, the operators killed or captured most of the wanted terrorists in Gaza.

In November 1987, the first Intifadah, or Palestinian uprising, erupted inside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and Major-General Ehud Barak, commander of Israel’s Central Command, resurrected the notion of a counter-terrorist undercover commando squad to operate in the territories. Two units would eventually be formed — “Duvdevan,” or “Cherry,” to operate in the West Bank, and “Shimshon,” or “Samson,” after the biblical hero who fought the Philistines, was formed to function in and around Gaza. Soldiers in these units were all volunteers, subjected to a grueling undercover instruction regimen including a “disguise course,” counter-terrorist training, and intensive instruction in Arabic and Palestinian customs. In 1990, the Israel National Police Border Guard created a third undercover unit. Known by its acronym of *Ya’mas*, or undercover unit, the force was divided into three separate entities for operations in Gaza, the West Bank and in-and-around Jerusalem. The Border Guard operators tended to be older than their counterparts in the military, who were teenage conscripts completing their three-years of mandatory military service.

Blending In

Many in the Border Guards came from households where Arabic was a second language and the Oriental traditions were second nature, and it was easier to recruit a force of operators who felt comfortable inside an Arabic-



Window-clearing, Ya’Mas style. Even smallest openings are potential firing ports for terrorists in urban terrain.

speaking environment. The Border Guards, because of the large number of Ethiopian immigrants in its ranks, were also able to recruit policemen who could openly pose as Sudanese and other North African migrants. The “*Ya’mas*” became the elite of the Israeli undercover units. By 1994, the “*Ya’mas*” had already captured 70 of the top Hamas fugitives wanted by the Shin Bet and the Police. They had captured hundreds of low-level operatives. They

had also killed 50 terrorists in some of the bloodiest firefights ever seen in the West Bank.

According to Israeli field commanders, the undercover units were highly effective special operations forces that struck terror into the hearts of the terrorists. According to most Palestinians — and Israeli human rights activists — the undercover units were nothing more than masquerading hit teams. Those involved in the struggle then, including those now in the security hierarchy of Arafat’s Palestinian Authority, grudgingly admit that the undercover units were instrumental in breaking the back of the Intifadah. “These men used ruthless and provocative measures to infiltrate our villages and towns,” a senior commander of the Palestinian police in Ramallah grudgingly admitted, “but their methods were ultimately successful.” Former Israeli Education Minister Shulamit Aloni, from the left-of-center Meretz Party, expressed her opinion on the existence of these units by saying, “I oppose in principle that 18- and 19-year-old boys will judge the verdict of the Palestinians, and also will implement their death sentence.”

According to statistics compiled by B’Tselem, the highly regarded Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, in their 10 years of operation, the undercover units killed 161 Palestinians in ambushes, including 19 under the age of 16. Twenty-nine of these deaths occurred since the signing of the Oslo Accords and of the 13 Israeli investiga-

Not An Atta Boy

Terrorist pilot Mohammad Atta, who is believed to be the pilot of the plane that flew into Tower One of the World Trade Center on 9-11, was no stranger in the terrorist arena.

He had already blown up a bus in Israel in 1986. The Israelis captured, tried and imprisoned him.

As part of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians in 1993, Israel had to agree to release so-called “political prisoners.” The Israelis declined to release any “with blood on their hands,” but then-President Clinton and his then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher “insisted” that all prisoners be released.

Although reported by many of the networks at the time of 9-11, this information was omitted from subsequent reports. It is worth remembering.

— S.M.K.

tions into deaths by gunfire of Border Police undercover units, 12 were closed and determined to be justifiable.

According to their standard operating procedures, the ideal undercover unit operation is one where none of the operators have to reach for their weapons. "We are a life-saving unit," claims a team leader of a Border Guard squad training on a live-fire obstacle course in central Israel, "what is costlier in human terms? A missile hitting a building in a counter-terrorist strike or a small group of professionals targeting for arrest a man known to have blood on his hands?" "It angers me that after all we've done, and all we've come up against, that people still think of us as a death squad," a veteran Ya'mas operator declared. "We end up having to shoot because we operate eye-to-eye with killers. We function in areas where terrorists feel safe and then try to apprehend people who have vowed to martyr themselves in a holy war against us. They don't surrender easily. They fight to the death. I don't think anyone in Israel — or the world for that matter — has a fucking clue what its like to fight a suicidal enemy."

The onset of peace, or coexistence,

was supposed to end the controversial history of the undercover squads. But the current bloodshed has made them busier than ever. On 29 September 1995, the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* published an article declaring the end to the undercover units, stating that "the units are thinning their ranks and will eventually be dismantled." Nothing, of course, could have been further from the truth. The undercover units were an integral element of Israel's war in the shadows against Hamas suicide-bombing cells that terrorized Israel from April 1994 to the fall of 1997.

Following the eruption of the *al-Aqsa* Intifadah in October 2000, the undercover squads became the cutting edge of Israeli special operations efforts to battle both the Fatah *Tanzim* and Hamas. Because "*Duvdevan*" was badly battered following a friendly-fire debacle in August 2000 where three operators were killed, the "Ya'mas" become the undercover unit at ground zero. The force responsible for the Jerusalem area soon found itself in the epicenter of desperate searches for suicide bombers, and hunting down the lieutenants who dispatched them to the streets of the city.

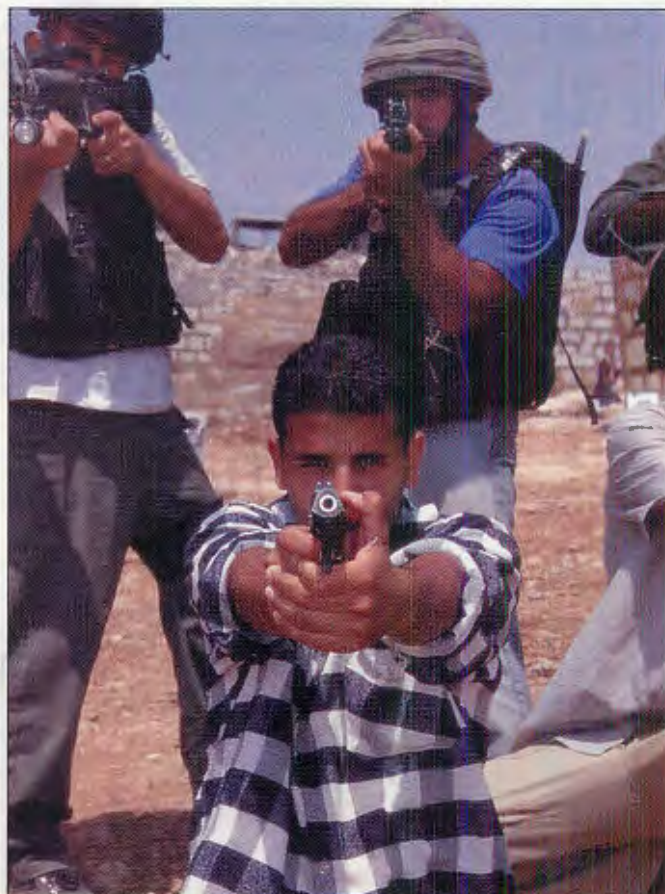
Initially, "Ya'mas" operations in Jerusalem following the Intifadah's eruption were routine — routine for an undercover unit, that is. When Fatah operatives infiltrated into Palestinian East Jerusalem to spark riots and large-scale protests, the undercover squads would send teams of operators to mingle in with the demonstrators and arrest the agitators. When mobs of Palestinian demonstrators took over the Temple Mount and hurled stones and Molotov cocktails at Jewish worshippers at the Wailing Wall, undercover cops passed themselves off as Palestinian worshippers and regained control over the sacred ground. And, when *Tanzim* gunmen attempted to send guerrilla squads into Jewish neighborhoods, the undercover squads assaulted the Arab villages in the east of the city and arrested the terrorists.

Next month, we follow these undercover operators while they train, target and take care of business.

Photojournalist Samuel M. Katz is the author of many books and articles on the Middle East, and a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕



Ya'mas operators often disguise as terrorists themselves, and float in same circles, to gain intelligence at ground level.



Dressed as Palestinian youths, Ya'mas operators pose for a group portrait.

BY ROWAN
SCARBOROUGH

It was the turning point in the war in southern Afghanistan. An Army Special Forces A-Team landed on a barren desert strip in early November, the helicopter landing zone ringed by sandaled Pashtun fighters and fierce camp fires. "I looked up and saw these heavily robed tribesmen just like you see on TV," says team leader Captain Jason Amerine, a West Point graduate who is now living out a boyhood fascination with special operations warfare.

"It was almost eerie, the sight. A very kind of primitive thing. The whole meeting was coordinated down to the mule train that carried out our rucksacks," he says, recalling the moment he stepped from the Black Hawk helicopter after a long, cold ride in the dead of night.

Practicing classic unconventional warfare, Capt. Amerine spent the first few days organizing a guerilla band of 300 who could drive south toward Kandahar. The Afghans had few weapons and he had little time. In the movie *Field of Dreams*, Kevin Costner's character was told that if he transformed a cornfield into a baseball diamond, the players of another era would come. In Afghanistan, Amerine was told, "If we brought the weapons the men would come." Within a few days, "The people just started rolling in. It was a little bit unnerving initially. Columns of people coming into town. You had all these tribal fighting forces and you sit there wondering which are friendly and which are not."

Amerine had only hours to equip his ragtag army. A word-of-mouth intelligence report reached his headquarters



(above) Soldiers from the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division march up a rocky ridge on 13 March 2002 as the vapor trail of a B-52 bomber passes overhead.

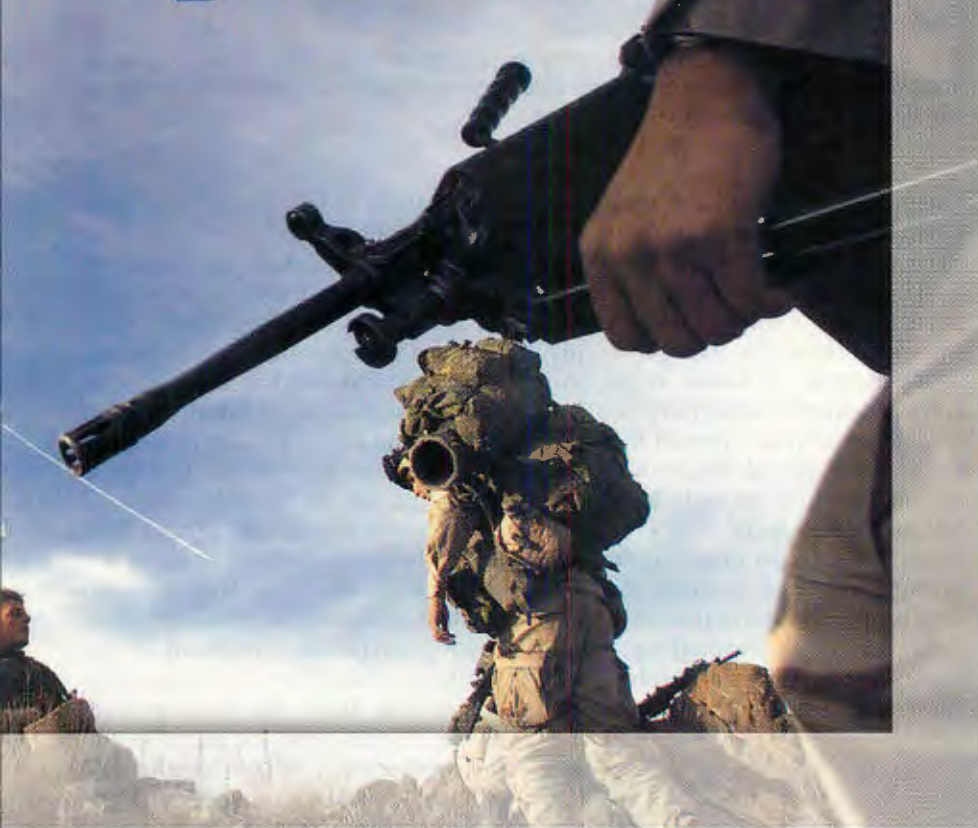
(left) 10th Mountain Division soldiers fire at an enemy position with their 120mm mortar 9 March 2002 near the villages of Sherkhankheyl, Marzak and Bobelkiel, in Afghanistan.

(far right) U.S. soldiers cover the body of an al-Qaida or Taliban fighter near an encampment hit on the "Whale" mountain, in the Shahikot Valley region of eastern Afghanistan, 17 March 2002, during Operation Anaconda in pursuit of al-Qaida and Taliban combatants.



Reuters/Pool/Joe Riedle

Afghanistan



Reuters/Jim Hollander

ating defeat to Karzai. Instead, they were rumbling into Capt. Amerine's trap.

The A-Team, code named "Texas One Two," arrived in Afghanistan with an array of firepower and communications gear. Satellite phones (SATCOM) allowed them to communicate with special operations headquarters in the region and with a special task force back in the states at U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Fla. But for this mission, he needed secure radios to tell American pilots what to bomb. The team owned a few of the Army's PRC-112 radios to talk to aviators. For communications between team members and other ground units, Special Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. gave each team one of two multi-band inter/intra-team radios (MBITR), a new light hand-held radio on which soldiers can send voice and digital messages.

Navy and Air Force pilots quickly spotted what Capt. Amerine's men saw and turned the mountain pass into a shooting gallery. Vehicle by vehicle, precision-guided munitions picked the convoy apart. AC-130 gunships shadowed the team, who came to affectionately compare its howitzers to "a warm blanket around you." What al-Qaida didn't die in the bombing died at the hands of Afghan warriors. "A guy describes on the ground what they look like and where they are and then you talk back and forth to confirm it," Capt. Amerine says, explaining the ground-to-air talkathon. "I was extremely conservative. If I had any doubt as to what the pilot was seeing, I would not authorize the strike."

Today, military planners consider the battle of Tarin Kot a major shift in fortunes. The U.S. killed over 300 enemy fighters over 18 hours. The Taliban never mustered another counter-offensive. "Texas One Two,"

at Tarin Kot that columns of Taliban militia were snaking their way toward the village. The A-Team leader had just kneeled down to eat the first feast of Ramadan, the month-long Muslim holiday. His dinner host: Pashtun tribal leader Hamid Karzai, who in a month would become the first leader of a new Afghanistan.

A M-4 carbine strapped to his shoulder, Amerine, his team and Afghans aboard pickup trucks, rushed to mountain posts overlooking the main route into Tarin Kot. Sure enough, as first light appeared, a convoy of Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida fighters appeared in the distance. They wanted to retake the town and deliver a humili-



AFP Photo/Joel Raedle

and other A-Teams and their personal tribe armies, pressed relentlessly toward Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace and its last stronghold. On 7 Dec., the city fell to anti-Taliban forces. Unfortunately, Capt. Amerine's team could not enjoy the liberation. Two days earlier, a B-52 dropped a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) squarely on the Green Berets' position. The wrong coordinates were radioed to the bombardier by a new SF headquarters unit that had just arrived. The blast killed three of Capt. Amerine's men and wounded the rest. For this team, Operational Detachment Alpha, or ODA-574, the war was over.

Not The Greatest ... Just Great

"When the history books are finally written, people will look at it in terms of being the ultimate Special Forces missions," he says today. "That's not to say they will rank it as the greatest mission of all time. We've been doing a lot of great things for a long time."

Indeed, Afghanistan marked the most extensive use of Green Berets, and other special operating forces, since the Vietnam War, when SF was deployed extensively in Laos to raid North Vietnamese troops and supply lines. Historians will likely view the Central Asian theater as Special Ops' finest hour. After the 11 September terrorists attacks, units deployed quickly to launching points in Uzbekistan and on the Navy carrier *U.S.S. Kitty Hawk*. Some units, such as Amerine's, stayed together for the battle. Other commandos were mixed-and-matched to fit the mission. An October raid on the home of Taliban



AFP Photo/Pool/Joe Raedle

U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division soldiers prepare to enter a building as they search for al-Qaida and Taliban members, 8 March 2002, near the villages of Sherkhankheyl, Marzak and Bobekiel, in Afghanistan.

leader Mullah Mohammed Omar featured Rangers, Green Berets and elite Delta Force soldiers. More recently, in the bloody battles of Gardez, reconnaissance-in-force teams, on MH-47 Chinook helicopters, brought in platoon-size units of Green Berets, Air Force air controllers and Navy SEALs.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has credited Special Ops with turning the tide of battle in early November, just when the war's critics back in Washington started to use words such as "quagmire" to describe the first month of battle. First inserted in the north, above the capital of Kabul, Green Beret A-Teams bonded with units of the Northern Alliance. The

ethnic Uzbeks and Tajiks had been fighting the Taliban since 1996. All they needed was American air power to advance. A-Teams found the targets and the march was on. Units did far more than just unconventional warfare.

Once Kabul and Kandahar fell, the mission shifted to the gritty job of locating and killing pockets of al-Qaida and hard-core Taliban, most of them hiding in the caves and tunnels of northeastern Afghanistan around Tora Bora, Khost and Gardez.

About the same time Amerine's team touched down north of Kandahar, another 5th Special Forces Group unit met the Northern Alliance north of Kabul. Like "Texas One Two," the northern team quickly bonded with the guerrillas and their commander, Atta Mohammed, and started locating targets. Some employed SOFLAM, the gizmo that directs a laser beam on a target so a 2,000-pound bomb can find the quarry.

After much of the fighting was over, the Pentagon allowed *Newsweek* reporter Donatella Lorch to hook-up with the A-Team, which told its story. "For the next two days, the men did not sleep as they made their way across the countryside," Lorch wrote of the first days in Afghanistan. "They were used to working through extreme fatigue and hunger. In training, they routinely performed complex tasks after days or weeks with little food or rest. They followed their guides through the night, down narrow icy trails and across steep drop-offs. Bobby, the team's communications sergeant, looked at the Afghans' skimpy clothing as a way of convincing



U.S. Navy/DOD

Navy SEALs look over Taliban and al-Qaida munitions "liberated" from Jaji Mountains caves.

himself that he wasn't freezing."

Newsweek told of the first time Mohammed watched an A-Team lase a target. As he looked in the viewfinder, a bomb exploded and Taliban bodies went flying. "We wanted to show him we could help him we could help him beyond boots and clothes," says one soldier. "From that point on, all Atta wanted was more laser."

A *U.S. News and World Report* reporter, Mark Mazzetti, was allowed to accompany a Navy SEAL team that raided terrorist's compounds in eastern Afghanistan. Mazzetti reported the team (part of Task Force K-BAR) found a maze of 70 caves, holding caches of weapons, tanks, communications equipment and even a terrorist classroom decorated with pictures of New York City. The reporter told of one 90-minute raid against a five-building complex in Paktia Province involving more than 100 Special Forces soldiers, the largest such raid since the Vietnam War.

The shift in mission culminated in the early-March battles of Gardez, where up to 1,000 al-Qaida and Taliban



AP Photo / Paul / Lou Perry

Canadian soldiers wait for word to move in the Shahikot Valley in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province 15 March 2002. Some 500 mainly Canadian infantry troops are taking part in Operation Harpoon. The operation marked the first time Canadian infantrymen have been sent into battle since the Korean War.

fighters were allowed by the U.S. to assemble before jet bombers and ground troops struck. For weeks beforehand, Army Special Forces at an airport near Khost secretly trained and equipped an Army of about 1,000 Afghans to block escapes routes and conduct some attacks.

All the commando teams did more with less. *The Washington Times* obtained a copy of a memo sent back to

the states by one Green Beret A-Team second-in command. It is a rare glimpse inside the 3,500-strong Special Forces community. The warrant officer wrote of training and equipment deficiencies, and a need for more language training.

"... No More 'Do More With Less' BS."

Said the memo: "Our guys need to be able to move. Need pre-stocked 'toolkit' of ground transport in every theater (and at home station for training) for Kosovos, the Afghanistsans, the whatever. Mix of hummvee platforms, ATVs, Toyota 4X4, whatever, with configurable armor, weapons, sensors, must be available fast. Cannot tell you how mobility has become critical factor in terrain you wouldn't think. Also need air transport independent of multi-million dollar helos and fixed wing.

"Our guys need to be able to communicate. We are using every bit of comms gear we have. Whoever thought that two, or even four, MBITRS per SF team

Continued on page 17



Reuters/Pool/Joe Randle

U.S. Army 10th Mountain soldiers take over a dwelling, 8 March 2002, near the villages of Sherkhankheyl, Marzak and Bobelkiel, Afghanistan. The villages were an al-Qaida and Taliban stronghold

which came under intense bombing and firefights as the coalition forces battled to root them out.



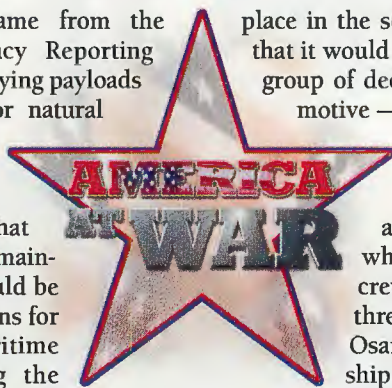
al-Qaida Goes Maritime

Is Terrorism From the Sea Next?

TEXT & PHOTOS BY AL J. VENTER

The warning was explicit and it came from the International Maritime Bureau's Piracy Reporting Center in London. It said that "ships carrying payloads of fuel, liquid petroleum gas (LPG) or natural petroleum gas (NPG) could be hijacked and used in terror operations similar to the September 11 attacks on America."

A BBC report at the same time declared that "a study by [a] global piracy watchdog, maintains that ships carrying [these cargoes] could be used by terrorists to undergo suicide missions for their cause." An International Maritime Organization (IMO) document detailing the threat under the heading "Insert Gas Systems" stated that with such cargoes, "a single spark can cause a disaster." Worse, it has been averred by several international authorities, that it is easier today to grab a ship than a passenger aircraft because there are so few security controls in



place in the sea lanes of the world. The report suggested that it would be a comparatively simple matter for a small group of dedicated terrorists — possibly with a suicide motive — to grab a ship and repaint the name, giving it a new identity for use in whatever purpose they chose.

Also at issue is also a growing concern among seafaring nations over the ease with which it is possible to obtain forged ship and crew documents. Implications relate to the threat that terrorists — like those involved with Osama bin Laden's *al-Qaida* — could hijack a ship and use it to destroy a large city.

One of the scenarios suggested by the *Weekly Piracy Report* (WPR) is for a single liquid petroleum gas or natural petroleum gas-carrier — like any one of scores plying between the oil-and-gas-producing countries of the world and their markets in the West — to be hijacked. Such a vessel

Ports along the West African coast — such as Bissau in Guinea-Bissau — have become launching pads for small-time pirates: They could end up in the big leagues if organizations such as al-Qaida become involved in their activities.

could then be diverted to a target port and blown-up.

Linked to the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the piracy report is published by its affiliate, Commercial Crime Services. The ICC's Annual Piracy Report for 2001 was released last February.

Since then, according to the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations Specialized Agency responsible for improving maritime safety, there have been fears voiced about the safety of ocean liners, and, in particular, cruise ships. One of these is that an international terror group — like al-Qaida — could possibly grab a large passenger ship and threaten to blow-up a liner, passengers and crew if their demands were not met.

Rear Admiral Robert North, Assistant Commandant of Maritime Safety for the United States Coast Guard, declared in an IMO publication headed *Larger Ships, New Safety Measures*, that “passenger cruise ship safety is the number one priority of the Coast Guard.” He added that his force was committed to working to ensure continuous passenger safety improvement.

The International Maritime Organization has been forthright about the implications of such an action. *Larger Ships, New Safety Challenges* suggested that the safety of large cruise liners like the 142,000-ton *Voyager of the Seas* was good. At the same time, it went on, “it cannot be denied that a number of incidents in recent years have indicated the vulnerability of these ships... .” The IMO pointed out that the Royal Caribbean's flagship has a capacity of 1,800 crew and more than 3,100 passengers, the population of a small town.

Another source told *Soldier Of Fortune* that if something like that happened, it would be difficult for Washington to bargain for the lives of a few hundred hardened terrorists held at Guantanamo Bay when there were almost 5,000 hostages at stake. Such a heist would almost certainly involve suicide bombers who would be willing to die for what they perceive as a holy cause. Further, once onboard and in control, it would be nearly impossible to retaliate. Placing a reaction team or any other force on an alerted hostage ship, possibly using fast boats or helicopters, would simply not work: They would be spotted coming for miles.

The Past Is Prologue

What is especially worrying to Washington and London is that there are precedents for this kind of terror. Palestinian terrorists carrying an array of weapons managed to smuggle themselves onboard the Italian liner the *Achille Lauro* in the Mediterranean in 1983, and held the ship hostage for several days. That action caused the IMO to adopt a UN General Assembly resolution “to prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships.”

Before that, on 22 January 1961, a group of 23 political dissidents headed by a radical Portuguese naval captain, Henrique Galvão, boarded the Portuguese passenger liner *Santa Maria* in Lisbon. Intent on toppling Lisbon's conservative government, they hijacked the ship while on its way from Europe to Luanda. Onboard were 600 tourists, including 42 Americans. Galvão and his conspirators made many demands. One of these was for the release of some of their African associates held in Angola and Mozambique by PIDE, the Portuguese secret police. Lisbon's prime fear at the time

was that it was the intention of the hijackers to reach Angola and declare a government-in-exile, which might be recognized by the international community. Portugal, then, was fighting three separate wars in Africa.

Though the ship sailed round in circles in the mid-Atlantic for two weeks, the drama continued to play out before the entire world, Portugal eventually asking the United States and Britain to help but both countries refused. They told Lisbon that they were “not maritime police.”

Running short of fuel and other essentials, Galvão eventually sailed the *Santa Maria* to Brazil where he and his gang were given political asylum. It's worth mentioning that if one were to look at today's potential for maritime terror, those who forget history sometimes repeat the same mistake.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the IMO Secretary-General William A. O'Neil disclosed that he was consulting on the need to review measures already adapted to combat acts of violence at sea. This includes a resolution put forward by O'Neil to review measures and procedures to prevent maritime acts of terrorism that threaten the security of passengers, crews and the safety of ships either at sea or alongside.

Illegals In Charge

One of the biggest immediate problems facing shipping — regarded by the International Maritime Organization as the most international of all the world's industries and one of the

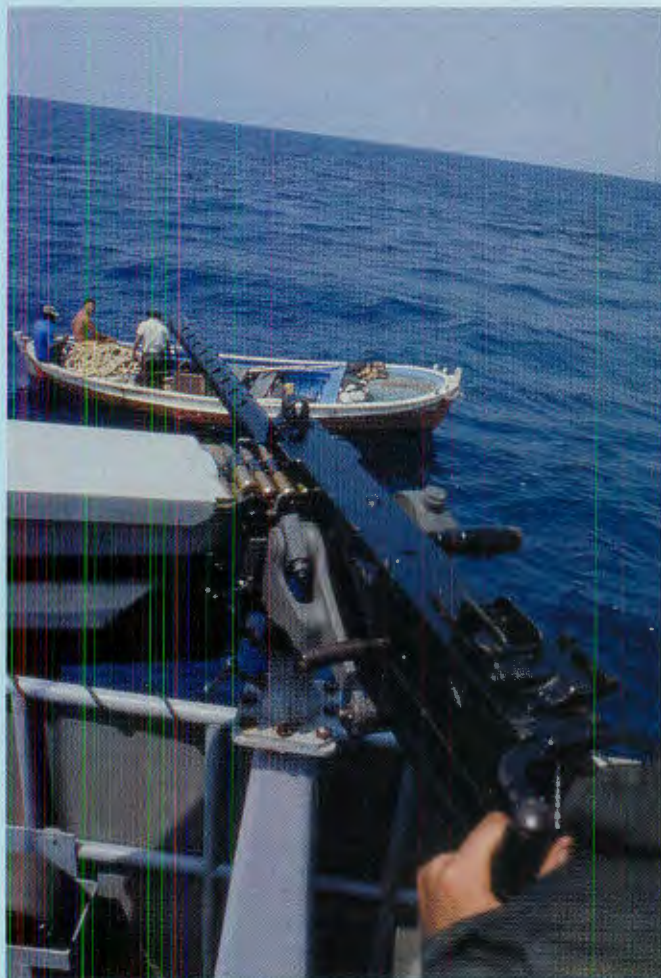


Arab dhows such as this out of Mogadishu Harbor are known to have been involved in dozens of acts of piracy in recent years — they also moved al-Qaida supporters to Pakistan and, more recently, again back to East Africa.

most dangerous — is the ease by which thousands of unqualified crew and masters are working illegally with false papers. There is barely a nation not affected. This alert followed a warning by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) after the release of statistics that showed that of 54 maritime administrations surveyed, more than 12,000 cases of forged certificates of competency were reported. These figures were released by the Seafarers' International Research Centre, Cardiff University, in Wales, and highlight the gravity of the situation.

"Around the world vessels are being operated by people whose abilities have not been vetted," said Captain Pottengal Mukundun, director of the IMB. What he didn't say was that the maritime status quo with regard to ship-borne terrorism and hijacking was tailor-made for international terrorism. Though it would take time, it was not impossible that by channeling funds through an Islamic financial institution to a select organization, it would be quite possible for a mastermind like bin Laden to build up a flotilla of perfectly legal merchant ships for use whenever the opportunity arose. Indeed, this has already happened.

The Lebanese-crewed merchantman *Karine A*, registered in the Pacific island of Tonga and carrying 50 tons of Iranian weapons for delivery to Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority, is a case in point. Though details of ownership have become progressively blurred as the investigation continued, what has emerged is that there is some sort of fuzzy tie-in between the purported registrars of the ship and one of bin Laden's multinational companies. After commandos from an Israeli Navy commando unit, *Shayetet 13*, swooped



An Israeli patrol checks one of the Lebanese fishing boats in the eastern Med.

down on the freighter on the night of 3 January in international waters, catching most of the crew asleep, it was discovered the man who coordinated the venture was a Lebanese national. His name is Hajj Bassem and he has a history of covert actions against Israel. More salient, he is a legman to arch-terrorist Imad Mughniyah, the same man that CIA operative Robert Baer fingered as being responsible for blowing up the U.S. Marine Corps barracks at the Beirut Airport in 1983. That suicide attack caused hundreds of American deaths. Baer has meticulously defined Mughniyah's links directly to Iran's super-secret *Pasdaran* security organization (See *SOF*, April 2002).

Though the Israelis are keeping the specifics to themselves, it transpires that Mughniyah has had a succession of meetings with Osama bin Laden in recent years, first in the Sudan, followed by several more at unspecified locations, and finally once or twice in Afghanistan. This Lebanese terrorist has been linked to other terrorist attacks in the region, including car-bomb blasts in Saudi Arabia and the attack on the *U.S.S. Cole* in Yemen. Now he is interested in matters maritime.

Interestingly, the *Karine A* incident fueled the perception within European intelligence circles that bin Laden might also have been involved in another marine incident when gunboats intercepted a small freighter in the English Channel late last year. Headed for a British port, intelligence indicated that there might be a weapon of mass destruction onboard.

Though this was subsequently disproved, the event marked a watershed in international maritime policy. Immediately afterwards, the United States and most of its allies issued rulings that demanded several days' advance notice of any ship wishing to enter their ports.

Sinbad As A Terrorist

The ship involved in the British caper had originally taken onboard a load of sugar at an Indian Ocean island. It had refueled at Djibouti on its way through the Mediterranean and from that point on, NATO planes and warships kept close tabs on her, culminating with the ship's seizure by the Royal Navy. The British Government — in explaining its motives — disclosed at the time that the West was aware that clandestine companies belonging to bin Laden and/or members of the bin Laden family had brought at least a dozen merchant ships in recent years. The ownership of the *Karine A*, while not directly implicating the Saudi national, exposed several notable terrorist links — one being the Iranian connection; the other, the involvement of a Lebanese fundamentalist group with ties to Mughniyah.

More worrying, it has since emerged that the freighter was headed for an Egyptian port where it would have transhipped the 83 giant barrels containing weapons — each 12 feet long and 4 feet wide — to smaller boats for dumping into the sea off Gaza. Had the operation been successful, the cache would ultimately have been recovered by Palestinian frogmen: The containers were watertight and designed to lie on the sea floor until they could be retrieved.

The question that now begs is what the Egyptian role in this venture might have been. All Egyptian ports fall under the control of the Egyptian military and 50 tons of weapons would not likely have escaped the attention of the authorities. Notably, no heads rolled in Cairo after circumstances surrounding the *Karine A* were made public — which is interesting since Egypt receives more than \$2 billion in U.S. military aid each year.

Some steps have been taken to rectify a situation that was regarded by some as a chronic security threat to the West.



Israeli naval patrol boats are active throughout the region — but they're only a single element in an area that needs saturation security control.

For a start, the International Maritime Bureau stated in a recent report that a concerted effort was being made to police the source of the issue of fraudulent crew certificates. It warned that many of these crimes went undetected and of “the issue by the U.S. Coast Guard in Puerto Rico of nearly 500 suspicious certificates of competency.” It added that “fraudulent maritime documents are sought by criminal seafarers who do not want to be identified ... many of the phantom ships that set off to sea with a cargo and then disappear are sailed by crewmen with false passports and competency certificates.” In a recent case, said the IMB, a vessel located and seized off Southeast Asia, it emerged that all the senior officers had false passports. SOF’s London source has stated that this is exactly the kind of situation that might be manipulated by the international terrorist community.

The threat from international maritime terrorism has not gone unchallenged. One major initiative in recent years is of note: The International Safety Management Code recently entered into force and became applicable to oil and chemical tankers, passenger ships, bulk carriers, gas carriers and cargo high-speed craft of 500 gross tonnage and above. The law goes into effect on 1 July 2002.

Who Goes There?

Further, following meetings in February this year, there will soon be the mandatory fitting of Automatic Identification Systems on all ships of 500 tons or above, plying international routes. Eventually, using an electronic identifying system, any recognized maritime authority would be able to see at a glance whether a specific ship that is passing through its waters is legal. Ships’ manifests must be produced on demand to legitimize a cargo and ownership. Also, the world’s merchant-shipping community is going to be required to carry ships’ security plans (SSPs). Individual vessels will be required to designate a ship security officer (SSO), who will be specially trained to meet the new demands of the world order.

“Training requirements for the SSO would need to be developed as a matter of urgency,” the International

Maritime Organization stated in a recent paper. A further step was the immediate need for Port Vulnerability Assessments (PVA), which would highlight security shortcomings in all major ports of the world.

The next item on the agenda is to be the question of ownership. Required internationally will be full transparency of ownership. The IMO concedes that this is a difficult policy to enforce. However, despite objections from some countries — notably from some states in the Middle East — it will eventually become mandatory to place requisite identity, ownership and financial responsibilities on the owner of any vessel plying the shipping lanes of the world.

Unquestionably, the threat of international terrorism has placed the entire world at risk. Apart from chemical and biological threats, a recent report by Stanford’s Institute for International Studies disclosed that the world was “awash with nuclear weapons.”

It was the view of one commentator that nobody knew what could be targeted next time; or, for that matter, how.

SOF’s maritime source declared that the destination could well be Baltimore or New York. Apart from a tanker-load of liquid petroleum gas, he said a cargo might be anything from containers of sarin or VX nerve gas to a thousand tons of high explosives primed to explode the moment the ship pulls alongside the dock.

Although military technology can be applied to stop such a vessel, to blow-up a dangerously loaded vessel anywhere but the open sea would only be helping the terrorists set off any infernal devices. And no matter how impeccably documented a legitimate vessel may be, it is still vulnerable to hijacking and subsequent misuse as a weapon.

Makes you think, doesn’t it?

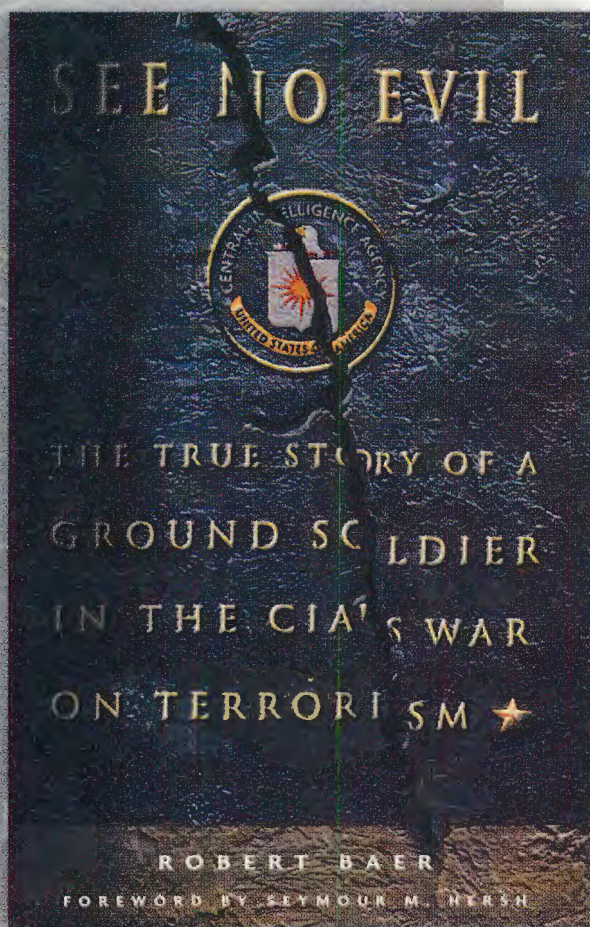
Al J. Venter is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕



CIA'S ULTIMATE BLUNDER: Outsourcing Intelligence

Spying Is A Filthy Business, Part II

BY AL J. VENTER



Speak to the American spy who orchestrated several major operations during the course of his professional career, and former Central Intelligence Agency operative Robert Baer comes across as quiet, affable and totally unflappable.

First impressions can be deceptive.

You only need to page through his latest book, *See No Evil* (Crown Publishers; New York; 2002), to get the drift. He refers to the Directorate of Operations, where he spent most of his adult life in “a professional criminal organization.” Coming from Baer — “old school” where espionage is concerned — the little epithet is actually a compliment where it relates to the machinations of America’s national intelligence-gathering apparatus. His utter disdain for the organization to which he devoted his life is palpable.

What comes through demonstrably is that the entire U.S. intelligence subculture is a shambles. He also has few words of praise for the majority of people who work there. In fact, Baer, in 2002, is candid about the fact that while he and his agent friends risked their lives gathering intelligence, all he could do was watch helplessly as the CIA consistently reduced to bare bones the single asset at which it had always excelled in the past: operations abroad.

“They failed to put in place people who

were familiar with the regions to which they were posted. And when they really got going and were producing results, they transferred them out of there because they said they were 'getting involved.' In spy trade parlance it's called 'falling in love.'

"Worse," he told *Soldier Of Fortune*, "Langley instead rewarded workers who knew how to play the political games of the Agency's suburban Washington headquarters. They did so at the expense of recruiting people on the ground who — like right now when the security of the nation is at risk — could be of inestimable worth in the intelligence that they might deliver."

What makes Baer's book compelling is that this author uses a multitude of personal anecdotes to illustrate his arguments: His own experiences as secret agent. It's quite a ride.

See *No Evil* covers his postings in the Levant (the Syria and Lebanon region), the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and Europe. The brief period that he spent at Langley hardly gets a look. In one of the most fascinating accounts about espionage to emerge for decades, he provides his reader with an unabashedly frank assessment of an agency that forgot that "service to country" must transcend domestic politics.

Very early on, he makes one of his more prescient comments: that if America is ever to emerge from this dreadful imbroglio, "it is going to have to come down to the point that we start listening to people again, no matter how unpleasant the message." The CIA, he says, "doesn't have a choice but to once again go out and start talking to people — people who can go where it can't, see what it can't and hear what it can't."

"That's the organization that I joined in 1976, not the one enamored of satellite technology and scared of its own shadow but [an] original crowd with guts to walk into wilderness and deal with what it finds there."

He goes on to warn his fellow Americans that until that happens, "I don't think any of us should feel safe again." He backs his argument with an anecdote from a time that he served amongst Kurds in Northern Iraq.

Betrayal By Tony Lake

It was January 1995, and a group of senior Iraqi Army officers were about to launch a coup against Saddam Hussein. In all probability, had the revolt gone ahead, they would probably have killed the despot. It was a mass plot that implicated tens of thousands



The American Embassy in Beirut, bombed on 18 April 1983.

of people and — with the shrug of the wrist — was finally laughed off in the final hours by Tony Lake, Clinton's security advisor. It was a betrayal made that much worse by the fact that he was betrayal's instrument.

And as a result, three years after scores of nations and more than half-a-million coalition forces had gone to war (against Iraq), "the CIA didn't have a single source in Iraq who could back up or refute what his agents had told him about the planned uprising." Because nothing appeared on satellite images at the Langley headquarters, Baer — their man on the spot in the Middle East — was compromised.

"Not only were there no human sources in country, the CIA didn't have any in the neighboring states either. There were none to speak of in Iran, Jordan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia." Yet, he adds, all those countries had their own men in the field reporting on Iraq and by all accounts were doing a pretty good job of it.

While the book provides a fascinating insight to the machinations of the CIA, you need to speak to the man to get chapter and verse. Judge for yourself:

- The system of gathering intelligence employed by the CIA in 2002, says Baer, is inefficient, unimaginative and, ultimately, self-destructive. "If I've

got a word for it, it's rotten. The place got itself gutted in the last decade or so ... there's no light on the horizon for any quick change either."

- Much of the work provided by the CIA to fuel government decisions or initiatives is outsourced to private contractors. This includes arcane disciplines such as covert actions, translations, disinformation, computer analyses and many others.

- In the old days there were sacrosanct in-house standards of accountability. You were familiarized with them during training. They became part of your life. You operated according to norms that had become an accepted part of contemporary spycraft. No longer, he reckons. The profit margin now dictates how far some of the private companies are prepared to go and risk is rarely a part of it.

- CIA staff, comfortable in their jobs in Washington, D.C., simply don't go out on a limb with anything controversial. In fact, risk-taking is no longer an option at Langley and there is good reason. Most staff there look towards the day when they can pack in their government job — many of them earning perhaps \$3,500 a month — and take up new positions with subcontracting firms with whom they've been working at \$400 a day. As Baer says, "work out the math on that one yourself. You still have the same security clearance and the only other thing that changes is the color of your badge."

- It is Baer's view that the CIA is today in far worse shape than anyone dares to fathom. It was systematically emasculated by political correctness, by petty Beltway wars, careerism and much more, he states. The White House and the National Security Agency (NSC) became cathedrals of commerce where the interests of big business outweighed protecting American citizens at home and abroad. Sobering is his chapter dealing with oil politics and how foreign interests lobbied, and manipulated, both Clinton and Washington's intelligence community.

- In this regard he tells the story about corruption within the NSC (page 217 *et al.*) and the power of big energy companies, especially big oil, to actually have their own people working within the intelligence apparatus and blatantly doing their bidding.

- Technology has become so pervasive at the CIA that there have been many cases of operators on the ground making reports back to Langley only to be told that they weren't to be believed.

"You didn't argue with headquarters," he said. Worse, it was considered bad form, even a sign of warped objectivity to do so. "As far as Washington was concerned, if the big eye in the sky didn't see it, it just did not happen."

He highlights numerous other shortcomings within the CIA, including the inability to obtain good, current information about foreign governments or insurgent organizations abroad. He makes the point that fundamentally, getting such info involves working with the people of these countries. Instead, he says, Langley today is composed largely of people who are not only afraid to make foreign contact, but many of them don't bother to learn languages either.

For instance, Baer's boss back in Washington (while he was trying to topple Saddam Hussein in northern Iraq) was somebody who he had worked with in the Iraqi Intelligence Group. In his entire career, says Baer, the man spent only one year overseas, in Vietnam, and that was a quarter-century ago. By the time that he left Langley, he had never set foot in the Middle East.

During the course of our interview, Baer made two other significant points. Both have serious implications for the Director of Intelligence, George Tenet, and a variety of meddling religious influences — including the Mormons — that had been allowed to infiltrate both the CIA and the Department of State in decades past.

Following the publication of his book, Baer says that the one issue that surfaces each time he is interviewed by the media, is why Tenet has been

allowed to stay on in what is arguably the most important job in the country after that of the President.

"Many critics reckon that he should be fired. But they forget that the system was very much in place when he took the job." He inherited these shortcomings when he took over at McLean from John Deutch, says the former DO operative.

"A Definite Lapse ..."

Here he refers to a 1995 Philippine plot where Islamic extremists linked to Osama bin Laden prepared to hijack almost a dozen commercial airliners and crash them into buildings, very much like what happened on 11 September. In fact, said General Robert Delfin, the Philippines intelligence chief, confidential documents that came to hand in Manila then, tell of a chillingly familiar plan. One of the names that emerged in documents seized at the time by Philippine security agents was that of Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind behind the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

All this information was turned over to the FBI — *in toto* — seven years ago and, frankly, raises questions about what kind of impact it might have had on subsequent disasters had it been properly processed. For a start, says Baer, identical procedures were followed, including the intention by the perpetrators for suicidal recruits to learn to fly.

As General Delfin commented recently, "I believe there was a definite lapse." More to the point, says Baer, any good analyst could have, *should have*, seen it coming, especially the bit

about being trained in modern aviation simulators.

On George Tenet, Baer is candid enough to bet that the DI is appalled at what is happening around him at Langley.

"But he is hamstrung. He is rendered powerless by a system that has been allowed — partly by Congress, partly by those who held the position before him and in part by an overwhelming government malaise — to become mindlessly bureaucratized."

Meddlesome Mormons

More serious is the accusation that the Mormon Church has hijacked some of the operational policies of the CIA — and, interestingly, the State Department. Baer's is not a lone voice. It says a great deal that his views are echoed by a former director of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Baer explains this anomaly: For generations the Mormon Church has been proselytizing its fundamental Christian beliefs, not only in the United States but abroad as well. In South Africa, for instance, I would constantly encounter Mormon devotees. They always worked in pairs, obtrusively pressing their sentiments and publications on others. It was the same in other parts of the world, behind the Iron Curtain, in particular. One of the prerequisites to become a Mormon missionary abroad — be it China, one of the Arab states or the Soviet Union — was that you had to be conversant with the language.

Consequently, within a comparatively short time after Hitler's war, there were substantial numbers of young Mormons returning home, not only fluent in the languages of some of the countries where Washington would have liked to cultivate a presence, but thoroughly familiar with their cultures as well.

It was natural that they would be recruited by government agencies. Certainly, at the time, they were a useful adjunct to policy.

What hadn't been factored in — specifically with the CIA — he reckons, was that these religious types brought their social and ethical baggage with them into the Company.

Said Baer: So you had some of them in the Directorate of Operations (DO) who, like me, were required to use guile, duplicity and sometimes downright deceit to achieve objectives. But these criteria, devious as they might be, went totally against everything for which they stood.

"Becky," whom he succeeded in



After losing two embassies, the State department finally built a fortress in Beirut. This photo is from 1987.

France in 1989, was apparently somebody like this. Instead of using "Jacques," one of the best informants in the business who had a handle on illegal arms ships out of Europe to just about everywhere, she decided instead to save his soul. As Baer told SOF, with her it was a hopeless combination of some weird New Age religion and espionage.

He points out that many of the Mormons who were recruited in the Seventies and Eighties are now in senior government positions. Though hardly a religious *Mafiosi*, they have the potential to pursue their own agendas, like who gets promoted and who doesn't. Looking at the consequences, says Baer, one can't help seeing the consequences of their having been able to manipulate policy to the detriment of the nation.

As he commented after being brought home to man a desk at Langley: "To my wonder, I was to see how committee hearings and press leaks can be almost as effective as suicide bombings in promoting narrow parochial cause ... It was like *The Odyssey*, I finally figured out. While we were off fighting Troy, the people back home were drinking and whoring.

They didn't give a damn what those of us on the front had gone through, and they sure as hell don't want to hear what we have to say now."

At one stage Robert Baer was actually accused in a "letter of declamation" of running a "murder for hire" cell within the CIA. The charge, which had a direct bearing on his role as an intelligence gatherer among the Kurds to unseat the Iraqi dictator, was obviously a set-up.

Though he was eventually cleared unequivocally by the FBI, the incident shed a new light on the breakdown of internal security processes within the CIA and the consequences are serious.

"Look at it this way: You can possibly imagine what that did to my career?" More serious was the outcome that the repercussions might have should someone from Langley eventually get Osama bin Laden in his sights.

Baer: "Of course, even if you can kill the bastard right there, nobody in the CIA is going to take the chance and act independently. In these uncertain political times, he could be charged with murder," he added, implying that by the time any kind of a decision came through, the quarry might have fled.

Robert Steele, a former clandestine case officer writing about this period on the web, disclosed that at its lowest level, Baer was pressured by DO management to undertake a psychological evaluation

to determine his fitness for duty.

"I know this technique of declaring officers unfit for duty based on psychological hatchet jobs. It was a common practice over the past two decades. It remains in place today for evaluating the entire management culture at the CIA," disclosed Steele.

Speaking professionally — one spy of another — he maintains that Baer's book "is the best, most detailed and most current accounting of the decrepit dysfunctionality of the clandestine service."

On what happened on 11 September last year, Baer is especially circumspect. In Chapter 13, he relates how he recruited people who were close to the Tajik Islamic chieftain Abdallah Nuri, one of the tribal leaders who operated out of Afghanistan. In high standing with his peers, Nuri had waged a relentless war against the Russians and their local allies. He also received a lot of money for his efforts from Saudi Arabia.

"Independently, we tracked large clandestine subsidies and weapons shipments from the World Islamic League in Saudi Arabia, an organization protected by the Saudi royal family. All of it was going to Nuri. Then, in 1996, that same Nuri brokered an alliance between Osama bin Laden and Iranian intelligence."

At that point Baer was replaced by another case officer, who — had he talked to the people with whom the author was already in touch — might

ultimately have changed history. Not meeting with agents (like those he had recruited) or using them as access to get to people who knew still more about bin Laden, ensured that in the end they wouldn't, he says.

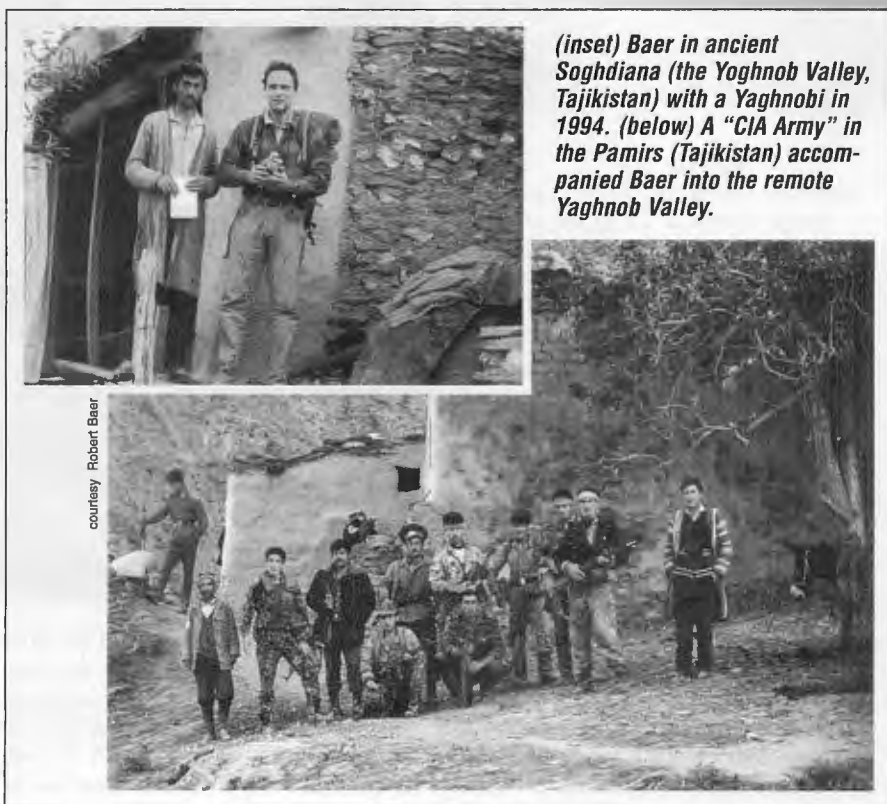
"The fact was, bin Laden took advantage of a constellation of factors to forge his network, and any number of groups or sources might have told us what he was up to."

America was already at war by the time that Baer finished his book. But he added a final chapter. In this regard he warns that "the enemy's recruits are like water. Arrest or kill hundreds of them and others will flow into their places. We can't kill them all, but we can establish the direction of their war by talking with them.

"We can figure this out by infiltrating people in the mosques who might tell us how bad things are and how many young people are devoted to taking their own lives. That's what we didn't have and what we're forfeiting all over the CIA and the intelligence community generally, in the pursuit of goals I still cannot fully understand ..."

Robert Baer: See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism; Crown Publishers; New York; 2002.

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



(inset) Baer in ancient Soghdiana (the Yoghnoob Valley, Tajikistan) with a Yaghnobi in 1994. (below) A "CIA Army" in the Pamirs (Tajikistan) accompanied Baer into the remote Yaghnob Valley.

"Aid And Comfort"

Jane Fonda in North Vietnam

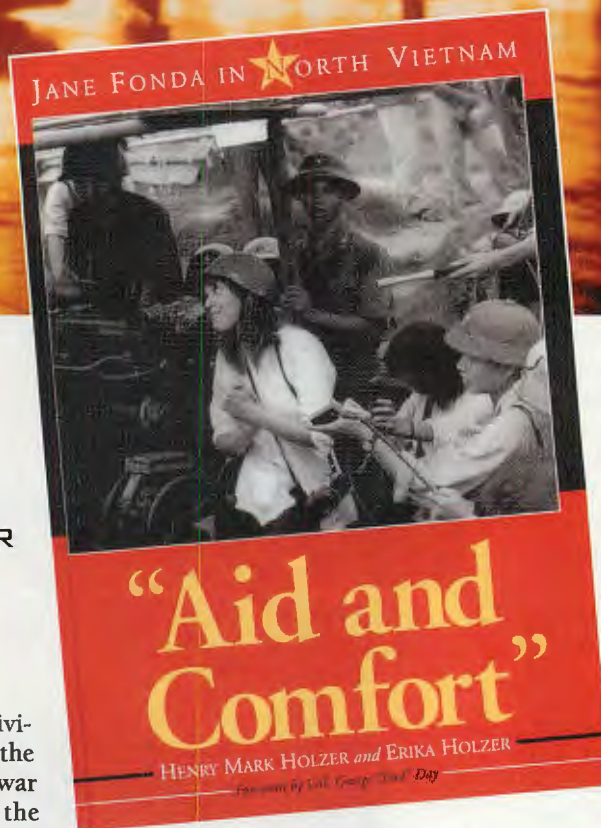
BOOK BY
HENRY MARK HOLZER
AND ERIKA HOLZER

REVIEWED BY
JAMES H. WARNER

PHOTOS COURTESY
JAMES H. WARNER

The Vietnam War was more divisive than any event since the Civil War. Although the war ended nearly 30 years ago, the wounds have not healed. For many us who are Vietnam veterans, Jane Fonda represents those divisions, a symbol of the movement that identified with the enemy we had been fighting.

Henry Mark Holzer, a retired professor from the Brooklyn Law School, has written about the events by which Jane



story of the prisoners of war, and the story of the law of treason. He does not adequately connect them.

The section on treason is a textbook on law, but does not read like one. I found it fascinating and this discussion alone is worth the price of the book. Professor Holzer traces the American law of treason, from its English Common Law ori-

Fonda became the poster girl of the radical Left. Since I was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, *Soldier Of Fortune* asked me to review the book. I recommend that you buy the book and read it. However, it does have some defects.

This is not an easy book to review. The thesis is that Jane Fonda was guilty of treason and should have been prosecuted. Professor Holzer makes this point by spinning three parallel tales at once: The story of Jane Fonda, the

gins in the statute of 25 Edward III, in which one of the definitions of treason included adhering to the enemies of the King, and giving such enemies "aid and comfort." He shows how this concept of treason developed in the English-speaking world, until the time of the Constitutional Convention. The Convention settled on the language that is now in the constitutional definition of the crime of treason, found at Article III, sect. 3:

Treason against the United States shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving the Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

An "element" of a crime is a necessary fact which the prosecution must prove in order to prove guilt. The courts have held that the crime of treason has four elements: (1) an intent to betray, (2) by means of an overt act, (3) testified to by two witnesses, (4) giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

Professor Holzer discusses several treason trials from World War II to illustrate how the courts have interpreted each of these elements. These cases included cases arising out of the capture of a team of German saboteurs who were put ashore from a U-boat in 1942, and a number of cases involving wartime propaganda broadcasts, such as "Tokyo Rose" and "Axis Sally." Amongst the relevant points of law established by these cases were that the overt act need not lead to a successful result; propaganda can be construed as giving "aid and comfort" to the enemy, and making a radio broadcast, an overt act. The intent to betray can be found from the totality of circumstances.

There is no doubt that Jane Fonda made propaganda broadcasts over Radio Hanoi. There is no doubt that what she broadcasted was propaganda. The whole world is witness to what she did in Hanoi. Therefore, the question is whether she had an *intent to betray*. For Prof. Holzer, the answer to this can be found in her biography.

As a young girl, Jane Fonda had a privileged, but deprived, life. Her parents were cold and distant. When she was still young, her mother committed suicide. She never had a warm relationship with her father. She grew up feeling unsatisfied and unworthy. After high school, she spent two years at Vassar. She dropped out, without a clear idea of what she would do next. She drifted into acting. In 1963 she moved to Paris. There she met her future husband, and noted director, Roger Vadim. Vadim and his friends, working on the insecure and suggestible Fonda — Prof. Holzer calls her an "empty vessel" — converted her to the radical cause. By 1968 she was ardently leftist. Leftism, for the first time in her life, gave her a sense of purpose and of belonging. It became a substitute family.

In 1969, she returned to California. She divorced Roger Vadim and became increasingly active in the anti-war movement. Here she met her next husband, radical Marxist Tom Hayden. By her marriage to Tom Hayden, Jane Fonda sealed her attachment to the radical Left, and embarked on the career of political activism that eventually led her to Hanoi.

Professor Holzer, to his credit, takes care to dispel a false-

hood concerning Jane Fonda's visit to Vietnam. There has been a story circulating on the Internet that Jane Fonda asked the Communists to punish certain prisoners of war whom she met and whom she thought to have "bad attitudes." The story is false. The Vietnam prisoners association, "Nam-Pows," has sought to discredit this story. Still, it continues to circulate.

Jane Fonda's Hanoi visit was pure propaganda. She made broadcasts to American troops over the "Voice of Vietnam," in which she encouraged U.S. troops to disobey orders. She posed for the infamous picture in the anti-aircraft gun. And she met with a group of POWs.

At this point, according to the law of treason as set forth by the courts, Jane Fonda's guilt is already proven. However, Prof. Holzer goes on to attempt to show the detrimental effect her visit had on the POWs, in order to buttress the case for prosecution. On this point, I think he fails.

Although Jane Fonda, sitting in the gun turret, became the symbol of the radical anti-war movement, it happened in 1972, near the end of the war. By the time of her visit, there was very little pressure on the prisoners. While it is true that her visit affected us, there were other Americans whose actions in support of the enemy had been far more harmful, over a longer period of time. To understand this, you have to know what life was like for us.

Professor Holzer tries to show, in the space provided, what it was like to



(left) James H. Warner, training in the F-4B Phantom, at Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, South Carolina, September 1966, and (below) as a newly minted Second Lieutenant in June 1966.



be in a Communist prison. He recounts the treatment that Communists had given to political prisoners, since first seizing power in Russia in 1917. He especially focuses on their cruelty. He tells of their practice of capturing mice and rats, breaking a leg so it could not run away, then dousing it with kerosene and lighting it on fire. As a part of their Marxist training the guards were taught not to show "bourgeois sentimentality," so they did not understand compassion. Instead, they would howl with laughter while the pathetic animal would scream in agony. They would use as little kerosene as possible, in order to prolong the rat's dying agony, and, of course, their own entertainment.

This is not something invented by anti-communist propagandists. It is true. I have seen this done myself. I am still sickened when I remember the screams of the burning rats. But the true horror, which hurt more than the frantic banshee screams of a burning rodent, was the fact that there was an active political philosophy which consciously promoted such evil, and that there were Americans who knowingly embraced this.

The Communists always told us that we did not have to stay as prisoners. If we would apologize, we would be released. If we did not, we would stay in prison. If we stayed, perhaps we would be tortured. In the summer of 1969, starting on 5



James H. Warner points to a .30 caliber bullet hole in the nose of an F-4 which was almost brought down by the single round from small arms, September 1967. (below) An F-4 Phantom over Vietnam.

May, I was tortured. I hoped that whatever they did to me for lying, that he would be punished for being deceived by me.

On 15 May I told him that I would not confess to the escape plan he was asking about; I would only confess to the "true means of escape." The "true means of escape" meant stealing an entrenching tool, chopping a hole in the ceiling, moving the heavy and noisy roofing tiles at night, then climbing over the wall. Rat believed me. I was put back in my cell, and I thought the ordeal was over.

May, I was tortured.

Enter "Louie The Rat"

The Communists thought that I was planning an escape and they wanted the details. The fact is, that we had discussed escape, but the details they wanted pertained to an escape plan which existed only in the imagination of our political commissar, whom we called "Louie the Rat." The escape plan which Louie thought he had discovered was so far removed from reality that I could not have devised a plausible lie to cover it. Because he would not believe that I did not plan the escape he imagined, I decided to try to get even with him. Since we knew that Rat was not very bright, I figured that I could make up a story that he would believe but his superiors would know was false.





After his release, James H. Warner (right) shakes hands with an Air Force Officer at Clark Air Base, Republic of Philippines, in 1973, prior to boarding a C-141 and flying to the States.



Warner receives his first Air Medal at Marine Corps Air Station, Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam, in April 1967.

On the morning of 19 May he returned. At first light I was taken to interrogation. For the first 24 hours he didn't even bother to question me. Finally, he told me that he would continue to "punish" me until I died if I did not tell him how we communicated with the "criminals" (they never acknowledged that we were prisoners of war) in another camp. This struck me like a bolt of lightning. I could invent a lie, which he would believe, about the escape. I could not invent a lie to cover this. Even if I could invent some fictitious means of communication, the Communists would go to other camps and interrogate men there to corroborate my story. Since we would never have matching stories, this would go on forever. Therefore, there was no purpose to be served by responding to him.

Incidentally, when I asked him what he meant by "communicating with another camp" he would only laugh. I learned later that on 10 May, five days before I told him the "true means of escape," two men had escaped from a camp 25 miles away. They chopped a hole in the ceiling with an entrenching tool, moved the heavy roofing tiles at night, and climbed over the wall. It is a lot funnier to read this now than it was at the time.

Rat interrogated me through the end of May. On the first of June he put me in a small concrete box, with a steel door, which sat in the tropical summer sun. He made me sit on a stool, day and night, and I was not allowed to sleep. There were various periods of sleep-deprivation, one period lasting three weeks. By July my buttocks were raw from sitting on the stool, day and night, since early June. After the Fourth of July he added leg irons, which were wired to the stool — the book has an illustration, drawn by former POW Mike McGrath, showing what the leg irons looked like. With the leg irons my feet were the size of footballs after five days, and every inch of my body was in pain, especially my feet. They kept me in leg irons for about 10 days, during which, again, I was not allowed to sleep. While in leg irons I developed

severe dysentery, and became dehydrated. Since I could not answer the questions Commissar was asking, it seemed likely that this would go on until I was dead. Another death, however, saved my life.

On 3 September, Ho Chi Minh died. During the mourning period, no one was tortured. After the funeral I expected the interrogation to resume, but it never did. We did not know it at the time, but the North Vietnamese had modified their policies after the death of Ho and there was to be no further heavy torture. I was kept in the box, but did not have to stay awake, and was free from the leg irons. It took me a long time to recover.

While I was healing, I reflected on the different collectivist political movements of the Twentieth Century. I wondered how many millions had been killed, as it lately seemed I was about to be, to advance a political philosophy which was a mixture of sadism, atheism, and medieval economic superstition? There is no honest intellectual argument which can support Marxism-Leninism, yet it was obviously embraced by many of my countrymen. This was the point when propaganda, generated by Americans, hurt the most. It made it seem as though this hideous system might actually conquer the world, if educated Americans could fall for it.

Not Fonda Clinton Either

I remember, in particular, being told about the activities of American students in London, who were preparing for something called the "Vietnam Moratorium." Although I do not recall ever hearing a name, I remember them talking about a Rhodes Scholar who was organizing the event. After the "Moratorium" I remember seeing a photograph of American "students" at the U.S. Embassy in London. They were dressed in skeleton costumes, and were carrying a coffin. Do you remember who the leader of those students was?

Continued on page 78

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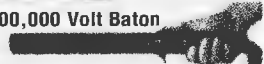
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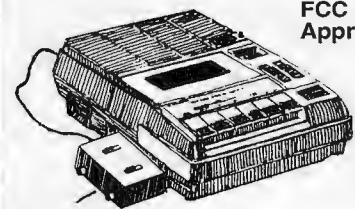
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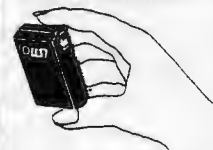
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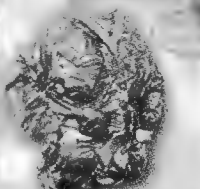
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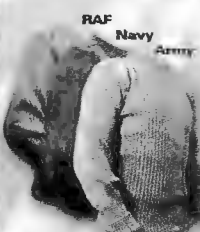
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An "Eye!" For An "Eye"

Continued from page 37

Global Hawk were soaring over Tora Bora, a massive cave complex in the White Mountains of eastern Afghanistan along the border with Pakistan, but Boone could not comment on whether the unmanned aerial vehicles saw any signs of Osama bin Laden. Boone did say Global Hawk has the capability to detect heat that comes from a vent tube in a cave. And the colder it got, the easier it became to detect sources of heat, such as campfires.

"When we deployed Global Hawk to Australia in early 2001 in its first real test, we could see the campfires of troops in the exercise from 30 miles

to fly a computer-generated course called a "blue line" to way points in the sky. There are no joy sticks. But controllers do have the ability to retask Global Hawk during a mission, and have done so in Afghanistan.

In addition to an air-vehicle operator, the Predator pilot is supported by up to three people who control the UAV's sensors. The Global Hawk is a fully autonomous system from take-off to landing and everything in between.

The 27-foot long, 1-ton Predator is equipped with a color TV camera in the nose that the pilot uses for flight control. Predator also has a variable aperture TV camera for daylight use, a variable aperture infrared camera for low-light/night-use, and a synthetic aperture radar for looking through

on take-off, Global Hawk is more than twice the size of Predator. The price tag is also commensurate with its size; about \$45 million. But the cost is going to soar even higher with the addition of signal intelligence, more power and payload, higher resolution cameras and more sophisticated radars like ones on the U-2.

The RQ-4A Global Hawk with a wingspan of 116 feet can fly to a target more than 1,400 miles away and loiter for 24 hours before it has to return to base for fuel.

Predator saw its first combat over Kosovo; flying 50 combat sorties. Four of the UAVs went down during Operation ALLIED FORCE. Three were lost during the past year over Iraq.

Contact was lost with one of the UAVs in September before Operation ENDURING FREEDOM began. Another was lost over Afghanistan in November 2001 and two were lost this year, both in one week. One went down over Pakistan; the other over Afghanistan in January. The Defense Department claims none was lost to hostile fire.

SOF was told that least two of the earlier crashes involved Predators that "iced-up" over Afghanistan.

Predators are equipped with an ice-mitigation system that bleeds glycol, or deicing fluid, over the wings and tail. However, Predators are like Cessna 150s; they can't take a lot of ice.

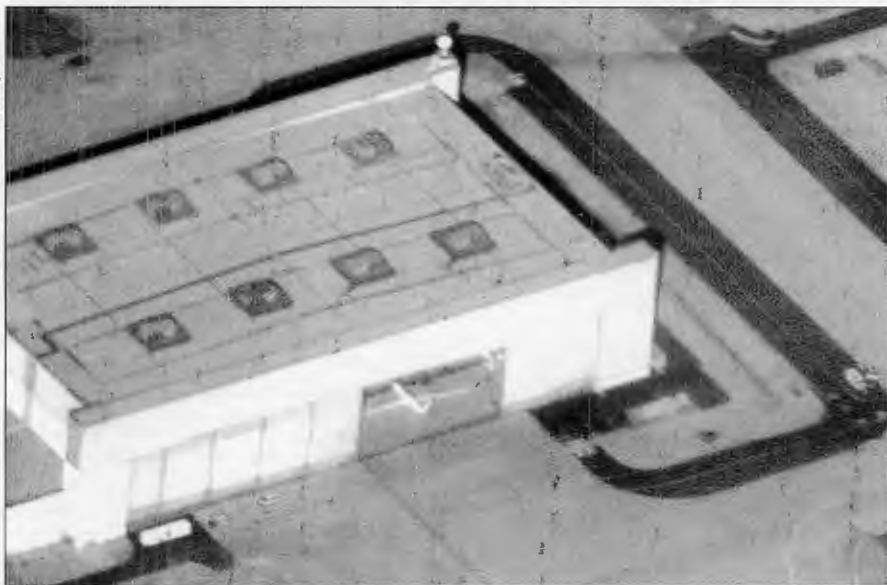
Although the operator or pilot may be sitting at a console hundreds of miles away from the airplane, he or she can see ice forming on the aircraft by simply looking out the heated nose of the aircraft and watching it form on the lens of the TV camera, or checking the wings and tail of the aircraft by rotating a targeting camera slung beneath the fuselage. The pilot can then command the deicing system to turn on.

Some Predators also have built-in sensors in the wings and tail that can turn on the deicing system automatically. Turbo-charged engines being installed on RQ-1B Predators will allow it to climb up through the clouds and avoid icy conditions in the future. But ice can be a killer, even when it's detected.

Next month we further examine and evaluate these unmanned aerial vehicles, and get a literal glimpse of a nightmarish firefight in which a U.S. Navy SEAL is KIA.

Dale B. Cooper is a longtime contributor to SOF. ✕

Herb Rupp, Grumman



Optical imagery from Global Hawk of another Global Hawk in a hangar at Edwards AFB, California. Image is from an altitude of 60,000-feet-plus, at a slant range of 33 km.

away," said Boone.

"Unmanned" is a bit of a misnomer, because there is a person involved in the flight of these UAVs; they just doesn't happen to be inside the aircraft.

The RQ-1 Predator is controlled by an air-vehicle operator, or pilot as they prefer to be called, who sits in front of a console in a ground-control station.

On the left of the console is the flap control, the propeller control and the throttle control which has switches and buttons to control not only engine power, but also the landing gear. In the center of the console is a keyboard with a track ball that controls a cursor that pulls down menu options and adjusts waypoints on a moving map display.

The RQ-4A Global Hawk is controlled by a pilot who uses a keyboard

smoke, clouds or haze. Together, the cameras provide full-motion video and still-frame radar images for battlefield commanders.

RQ-1A is powered by a four-cylinder engine that produces about 81 horsepower, enough power to cruise around 84 mph. Pilots who fly them refer to the A-model as a "glider with a snowmobile engine."

The RQ-1B is powered by a turbo-charged four-cylinder engine that produces about 105 horsepower. It can cruise up to 140 miles per hour.

With a wingspan of almost 49 feet, Predator can fly about 500 miles from its forward staging area, and loiter at 25,000 feet over a target for about 40 hours. With its video camera, Predator can identify targets 4 to 5 miles away.

Tipping the scales at about 5 tons

SpecOps In Afghanistan

Continued from page 47

was good enough, well, in my opinion, well forget it. Just anger here. Need one MBITR per man. Need as many good, multi-waveband long-range radios per team as we can get. Need simpler and lighter. Need less power usage. Need more capability to send video. [We] need the operators, and I mean the LTC and COL. Operators, to weigh in on this. No more 'do more with less' BS."

"Communicate also means language. Must get better at this. My own opinion is that we are doing this wrong. I submit that means four or five guys on each team who are near fluent in a variety of languages of value in their [area of responsibility], not 12 guys who can order coffee in one language."

The warrant officer's memo made no mention of planning deficiencies. But there were intelligence gaps that led to

command launched the war's first combined air-ground assault. But the intelligence for some landing zones was poor at best. A number of Chinook-born teams encountered stiff resistance from the moment the choppers touched down. Seven commandoes died in the course of three hours on March 2. A Navy SEAL fell from his MH-47 Chinook when a grenade hit the aircraft and the pilot abruptly pulled out. Al-Qaida fighters dragged the sailor away and executed him. Three hours later, a rescue team of 35 personnel went in to try to rescue the SEAL. They too were met by unexpected fire. Six were killed.

Other infiltrating units from the 10th Mountain and 101st Airborne



(above) U.S. Navy SEAL provides cover for his teammates advancing on suspected location of al-Qaida and Taliban. (top) SEAL on recon operation. Photos: PHI (AW) Tim Turner, USW FLTCOMBATCAMPAC/FLTCOMBATCAMGRUPAC.

a few botched missions. The most publicized was the January raid on two compounds north of Kandahar at a hamlet called Hazar Qadem. Central Command relied largely on intelligence from a local warlord, who contended the sites were filled with Taliban fighters trying to regroup. A large team of Green Berets and Delta Force stormed the buildings at night. Some inhabitants fired back. A ferocious gun battle ensued. The Americans killed 16 and took 27 prisoners. But the invaders had made a terrible mistake. The compounds, in fact, served as headquarters for anti-Taliban fighters collecting guns from nearby villagers. None of the dead or detainees was a Taliban.

At Gardez, Central Command switched tactics. Instead of bombing caves first, as it did at Tora Bora, the

Divisions met surprising resistance. "I don't think we knew what we were getting into this time, but I think we're beginning to adjust," said Sgt. Maj. Mark Nielsen, during the battle.

A less serious intelligence gap marred the U.S.'s first ground assault of the war. In mid-October, a Ranger parachute team infiltrated Mullah Omar's private airstrip south of Kandahar. While the Rangers acted as a diversion, another unit made up of Green Berets and Delta Force warriors arrived via Black Hawk helicopters at Omar's personal compound. Their objective was to nab or kill the man himself. Intelligence reports said he had entered the spacious, gated complex that night. But either the report was wrong or Omar had slipped out undetected. But the compound was not empty. More

than 20 Taliban fighters greeted the Americans, more than pre-briefings had indicated. A firefight broke out as both sides exchanged rounds and tossed grenades. When it ended, the entire enemy unit lies dead. The U.S. team suffered a few shrapnel wounds, but nothing serious. Recovered documents proved to be relatively worthless. The team collected some guns and ammo, blew them up and quickly departed. In terms of catching Omar, the mission failed. But it did show Omar and bin Laden that the U.S. military, in the war's first month, could enter Afghanistan when and where it wished.

Capt. Amerine said his team put plenty of emphasis on planning. Days after bin Laden's terrorists struck on 11 September, his Green Berets left Kazakhstan, where, ironically, they had been training some of the same troops who, as part of the old Soviet army, fought in Afghanistan in the 1980s. They reassembled back at Fort Campbell, Ky., home to the 5th Special Forces Group. There, the team began briefings and planned for the night they would ride into south Afghanistan. Amerine learned as much as he could about Karzai, a soft-spoken man of peace who had lived in exile during the Taliban's brutal, six-year rule.

A-Teams come in twos: two demolition experts, two medics, two weapons specialists, two intelligence men, two radiomen, so the group can split in half if conditions dictate. The twosomes stayed sequestered at Campbell for several weeks, blocking out any information from the outside world so they could focus on how to transform peasants into fighters. "We might as well be considered deployed at this point," Amerine recalls. "There's a good reason for that. It's to keep us from being contaminated from information on the outside." In late September, "Texas One Two" returned to the Central Asian region, via a helicopter ride from the Navy carrier *Kitty Hawk*.

Amerine got to know Karzai well in their brief month together. For that reason, he expresses some optimism about the country's future. "It was too early at that point to look in the crystal ball and say this guy is going to be ruling Afghanistan in a couple of months," he says. "My personal assessment was he was somebody who would be a unifying factor in whatever government they did put together."

Rowan Scarborough is a military reporter for The Washington Times. ✕

THE BLADE IN WAR

TEXT & PHOTOS BY
BILL BAGWELL

Much has been made of late of the oft-repeated quote “don’t bring a knife to a gunfight.” While it is indisputable that firearms possess certain advantages over edged weapons under some circumstances, the assumption that the rifle or pistol is superior in every case overlooks some rather compelling historical and tactical evidence. Were blades not deadly, projectile weapons would not have been developed to avoid getting close to the man who held one.

During the era of single-shot, muzzle-loading rifles and pistols, reach and distance were the only advantage firearms had over edged weapons, at least in single combat. Once a rifle was discharged, the rifleman was in serious jeopardy until he reloaded, and men on the frontier carried one or more pistols — again single-shots — as well as a knife, for close-in encounters or those occasions where there was more than one adversary to deal with.

Sam Colt changed that state of affairs in 1836 when he invented the Patterson Colt revolver which gave a man five consecutive shots from the same firearm without reloading. Now a man could engage multiple adversaries. Repeating firearms gave not only a reach and distance advantage over edged weapons, but for the first time in history a single combatant began to have the capability of engaging multiple adversaries with a reasonable chance of living to tell about it.

Be that as it may, it is my contention that the majority of the world’s deadliest men lived and fought prior to the era in which repeating firearms became a fact of warfare. Lynn Montross, in his excellent third edition of *War Through the Ages*, first published in 1944 by Harper and Row, provides some interesting casualty figures from a number of battle

engagements that occurred between the Carthaginians and the Romans.

In the autumn of 218 B.C., Hannibal crossed the Alps. About two months later, his army of 20,000 foot- and 6,000 horse-soldiers engaged the Roman general Sempronius who commanded a force of about 40,000 at Trebia. The battle was fought during a snow-storm, and the Romans were routed. Out of a Roman force of 40,000, only about 10,000 were able to cut their way out of the trap and escape with their lives. Hannibal’s losses are not given, but they must have numbered a thousand or more, given the hard fight produced by the Romans with sword and javelin. A few months later, a Roman army of 30,000 sought revenge at Lake Trasimene. Led by the general Flaminius, the Romans were again slaughtered by the Carthaginians, and 24,000 of the main force were killed. A cavalry force of 6,000 was sent to rescue the hapless remnant of the Roman army, and it, too, was cut to pieces with a loss of an additional 4,000 men.

These casualties are the result of only two battles and a cavalry skirmish of the Carthaginian Wars, and resulted in the loss of 58,000 men of the Roman Army. This is a greater number of casualties inflicted by the blade than this country took in nine years in Vietnam.

70,000 Lost In One Battle

To give broader scope to the casualty figures inflicted by edged weapons during this period, consider that at the Battle of Cannae, according to Montross, a Roman army of 85,000 was reduced to some 15,000 dazed fugitives. Hannibal’s army also took casualties in this battle that are shocking by today’s standards of combat, losing 6,000 men in a battle that saw his slain enemies outnumber his whole army. The last gasp of the Roman Empire saw the defeat of the Emperor Valens at Adrianople in 378. The Emperor himself was killed along with 40,000 of his army, ending six centuries of Empire ruled by sword and javelin. Hannibal was not without trying moments of his own as well. At his defeat at Zama, the Romans finally exacted some measure of revenge when their army of 36,000 men under Scipio virtually annihilated the Carthaginian force of 45,000. Hannibal himself barely escaped with his life, living the rest of his days as a hunted outcast in Asia Minor. At the age of 70, he took his own life to avoid being betrayed and handed over to the Romans.

There are other and equally grim casualty figures that have been generated by edged weapons combat in other theaters and in other historical time frames. Genghis Khan and his armies are thought to have generated more than 18 million victims in China alone. To quote from the Mongol war creed: “The vanquished can never be friends of the victors; the death of the former is necessary therefore for the safety of the latter.” These are hard words that hard men lived by in hard times, and

The fighting knife reached a zenith with the traditional Bowie. This 12” Damascus blade contains more than 50,000 pieces, forged into one in an ancient bladesmith’s art.



they provide a lesson if we will only observe it. That lesson is that combat with edged weapons breeds and develops the deadliest, most resolute fighter the world has ever known.

The reason for this developed combat efficiency is simple. Every combat engagement with an edged weapon, be it knife, or sword, or whatever, is intensely personal, and to survive one must actually deliver death to the opponent with one's own hand and through the expenditure of one's own muscular effort. It takes true *will* and *resolve* to accomplish this, as well as a fearlessness and indifference to injury and death. These qualities were very highly developed in the men at arms in the days of true blade cultures. This warrior mindset, generated by the use of the blade itself, was coupled with intense training and remarkable physical conditioning. Quoting a passage from *War Through the Ages* that describes a knight from the period of the Crusades is revealing today:

"As a physical specimen, the men-at-arms must have been incredibly tough, wiry, resistant to disease. The medieval lord in his castle tolerated filth and hardship which left weaklings small chance of survival; and the metabolism of the age is indicated by the fact that Europe imported spices in order to stomach dangerously tainted foods. That the knight was not usually a large man we know from suits of armor in modern museums. It may also be concluded that he had muscles of steel, since he wielded a lance and broadsword that would exhaust a heavier man of today. He was, in short, a sheer fighting animal bred by a relentless process of selection."

The death of the conquistador Francisco Pizarro serves to further illustrate this point. Due to the execution of a rival, Diego de Almagro, Pizarro was targeted for assassination.

The assailants decided to kill Pizarro on Sunday, 26 June 1541, as he walked home from church. Learning of the plan, Pizarro did not attend Mass that day and stayed home. The assailants, 10 in number, went instead to Pizarro's residence to commit the murder. In the fight that followed, the old conquistador, fighting for his life in his own home at the age of 70, killed three of them with his sword before he himself was run through. Pizarro, a product of a blade culture, was a dangerous, deadly, and resolute foe, more than a match on even terms with men half his age who sought to kill him.

The fact that Pizarro killed three of his assassins before dying brings up another interesting point. These men — and there were uncounted thousands more like them — were

products of blade cultures across the ages and across the geographical regions of the world. They were true killers of men in the purest sense. There are numerous accounts of individual feats of arms whereby a combatant would kill from three to 10 or more opponents in a single deadly encounter with edged weapons. Paul Kirchner in his book *The Deadliest Men*, available from Paladin Press, cites the example of the noted Viking warrior/poet Egil Skallagrimsson. Egil was on a raid in Frisland, and in the ensuing battle became separated from his men and surrounded by the enemy. In fighting his way to safety, Skallagrimsson single-handedly killed 11 of them. In an ambush and battle with a group of Varmlanders on another occasion, Egil and his men killed 25 of the enemy with Egil killing eight in one skirmish and 11 in another. Egil Skallagrimsson died of natural causes in the autumn of the year 990. He was 80 years old, having survived scores, perhaps even hundreds, of deadly encounters during longer than six decades of deadly combat.

The Original Claymore

Robert the Bruce was born 11 July 1274. From childhood he was trained for war and mastered the weapons of the titled gentry. It was well he did, for the stormy and violent environment of the Scottish fight for independence from England generated particularly hard conditions of combat and retribution that have spawned hatreds that endure to this day. In an era of skilled and adept fighting men on both sides, the exploits at arms of Robert the Bruce were such that he became a legend in his own time. One such instance involved an engagement in Robert's own earldom, Carrick, between Robert and about 60 of his followers and the Macdowalls of Galloway. The Macdowalls had a force about 200 strong and were attempting to ford a steep-banked river under the cover of darkness when they were discovered by Robert. According to Robert's 14th century biographer, John Barbour, Robert and then his followers mounted a successful defense of the river crossing. After the engagement, Robert's men found him sitting and resting. "They found lying in that place 14 slain by his hand" as well.

When you consider that throughout the ages men such as Pizarro, Egil Skallagrimsson, Robert the Bruce, and countless others both known and unknown, participated in scores of individual battles and skirmishes in their lifetimes, you begin to realize that many of these individuals killed hundreds of men in individual combat. The fact is lost today that this was not an unusual occurrence in the warrior societies that were the result of blade cultures throughout the world.

Firearms have changed the complexion of warfare. It is no longer necessary to be within arms reach of your opponent to kill him, and warfare has as a result become depersonalized to a very great extent. This has resulted in the near-disappearance of the driving emotion that perpetuated blood feuds that raged for generations and made some cultures such as the Vikings "battle glad" and "strife eager," if their chroniclers are to be believed.

The ability to strike at your enemy by squeezing the trigger of a rifle or pushing the button that fires a missile requires little or none of the raw emotion that fueled combat in earlier centuries. The fact that much of today's warfare is carried out with superior weapons from a distance on what is largely an impersonal basis, may have in fact resulted in reduced casualties in modern times. Certainly no general today could subject his command to losses of the magnitude of those suffered by armies of the blade cultures. ✘



Author instructs Special Forces troops at Ft. Bragg in advanced blade techniques. Many of these men are now serving in Afghanistan.

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MARKSMEN



USMC Scout Sniper School Carries A Proud Tradition Into Its Third Century

TEXT & PHOTOS
BY ODIN CROWE

(above) The few, the proud — the hard to find in the bush. 1st Marine Division Scout Sniper trainee at Camp Pendleton, California flashes a grin. Roughly half the trainees make it through the no-compromise course.

Winter. His watch indicated that he had only two-and-a-half more hours before he would miss his window of opportunity. Two-and-a-half hours wasn't very much time to cover 400 yards of open, sparsely vegetated, slightly rolling terrain in order to take out an enemy officer. He took a deep breath and let the oxygen fill his lungs. As he slowly exhaled, his silhouette sank into the *wadi* that lay to his right. He crawled at first, and then became part of the earth within the *wadi*, picking out bushes and micro terrain in which to conceal his form from the enemy that lurked to his direct front.

An hour later, the snaking form reached his final position. He estimated the range to his target, and then double-checked the data math-



(clockwise from top) First phase of the course is marksmanship: If a student can't reach out and touch someone, he is not a candidate for being a Scout Sniper. Student fires M40A1 at the 400-yard KD range during week four of the course, while his spotter calls the shots through M49 spotting scope. Students in ghillie suits draw blank ammo prior to stalking exercises during the second phase. Standard USMC sniper rifle is the M40A1, built on a Remington 700 action, with the revised M40A3 now entering the pipeline. (inset) Busted! Instructor is guided to sniper spotted from high ground by other cadre. The rule here is simple: Don't get spotted.



ematically as he had been taught to do. He dialed the information onto his scope, and rechecked his firing solution (math) as he settled into a familiar, stable prone position using his ass pack as a rest. Another deep breath, let it out ... relax ... aim ... squeeze the trigger ... focus on the target ... nothing moving ... and *crack!*

The sound of a single .308 thundered through the air. The bolt immediately was thrown to the rear ejecting the spent brass and then slid forward to chamber a new round. The young Marine acquired and killed another target without so much as blinking.

The two instructors, for the better part of an afternoon, had been sitting on top of a five-ton truck with binoculars looking for any sign of any of the numerous students on the stalk site. This was the first successful "kill" of the day. Finally, one of the students had applied what they, the instructors, had been hammering into their brains for the last

Lejeune graduates 48%, and, finally, Camp Pendleton tops the list with a successful completion rate of 53%.

The current class starts first phase with 28 students. After the second and third phases, students who failed the course on their first attempt are allowed to drop into the course where they left off, upon the instructor's approval. Thus, in total, there were 38 students vying to graduate.

From All Walks

In the past, most scout snipers were from the rural areas of the country, most of them raised hunting. But today it is not uncommon to find students in the ranks who grew up in New York City or another urban area. This class was comprised only of Marines of the 1st Marine Division, from Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms respectively. However, it is not uncommon for SEALs, Green Berets, Air Force SpecOps, or law-enforcement sharpshooters to attend the school. Once in a while, a foreign allied nation will send a soldier through the course. The students attending the school are referred to as Pigs. Upon completion of Scout/Sniper school they rate the 8541 MOS, and from that day forward are known as Hogs — Hunters of Gunmen.

The course is organized into three phases, each of which concentrates upon separate crafts of the scout-snipers trade. The first phase centers upon academics and marksmanship. Day and night land navigation courses are also covered within this portion of the course. Exams are given during this phase on all academics taught, as well as marksmanship, land navigation, and cleaning and maintenance of the USMC sniper rifle, the M40A1.

Students fire their weapons every day for five to six weeks on the known- and unknown-distance courses, firing approximately 120 rounds each day. Every day that they train with their weapons, they commit the information

learned into their data books, so the students can keep accurate records of zeros and figures such as comeups (which compensate for the bullet drop) at each yard line from the 100- to the 1,000-yard markers in 25-yard increments. This data learned will become invaluable to the individual student in the days and weeks to come.

The second phase, stalking, teaches the Marines how to get into their final firing positions for that all-important shot. Camouflage, concealment, tactical movement, economy of motion and limiting target indicators are just a few of the subjects that the students must master in order to pass this phase. There is one practice stalk and 10 graded stalks ranging in distance from 400 yards to 700 yards. Students are graded on their successful shot, from a predetermined distance by the instructors. The students can be spotted by two instructors (who are also acting as simulated targets), who are watching the entire stalk site through binoculars and spotting scopes, for anything that will give the students away. If one of the instructors spots what he believes to be a student, he radios to one of the "walkers," a fellow instructor, who he then guides to the alleged student. If the student is compromised, he fails the stalk, lowering his overall average with the 10 graded stalks. In order to pass the stalking phase,



Compromised, chagrined trainee is escorted back by instructor, to the delight of his derisive comrades.

three weeks. The young Marine stood up with a smirk upon his face, picked up his rifle, his Eagle drag bag, and equipment, threw his Special Operations Equipment ghillie suit veil over his head and began to run off towards the direction of his classmates by the five-ton truck.

"You Can't Hurt 'Em If You Don't Hit 'Em"

Lt. Gen Louis B. "Chesty" Puller

Marine Corps Scout/Sniper School was established at Camp Pendleton, Calif. in the fall of 1966 in order to turn Marines into snipers for the war in Vietnam. The Marine Corps has two other schools still in existence today: One at 2nd Marine Division, Camp LeJeune, N.C., which was established in the spring of 1979, and one at Quantico, Va., which also hosts the advanced course, established in June of 1977.

The Quantico school is considered the lead course, establishing the majority of the doctrine and procedures that the other two schools teach to young Marines. The majority of the MOS 8541, Scout/Snipers, are turned out by the two large division schools, each holding four classes a year. The division schools vary between eight and 10 weeks in length. Quantico averages a 38% graduation rate, while Camp

the student must maintain an 80% average throughout the duration of the second phase.

Upon successful completion of stalking, the students enter the eighth week of the course, to which some refer as Commando Week. During this week, the Marines are subjected to a series of missions that will prepare them for the final phase of their training. The students are entering a week with an extremely high operational tempo, plus some controlled food-and-sleep-deprivation to simulate the stress of combat. The students are put under duress and are expected to perform just as they would in a hostile environment such as Afghanistan.

The final event is the FTX, or Missions week. It is during this week that everything the student has strived to master comes together, such as land navigation, target identification, stalking, construction of hide sites and range estimation, just to name a few. The missions range from stalking an enemy officer, to infiltrating a built-up area, locating a target, watching and calculating his movement, taking a shot, and finally the successful retrograde out of the town, and back to friendly lines — without being compromised.

The final week of Scout/Sniper school focuses upon employment of the handgun, calling in artillery fire and close air support, and finally graduation. The current class started with 38 Pigs and graduated 11 Hogs. Of the 11 that graduated, one of the instructors stated, "Everyone that passed did a great job."

No Compromise With Excellence

The instructors cut the students no slack: They want to equip them with all the tools needed for when they return to their platoons and are eventually deployed to a combat zone. However, they also want to see the students succeed. It is not uncommon for an instructor to spend his own time helping the struggling students, passing on tricks of the trade and lessons learned from their past experiences. Standards for completion of the school are set in stone and cannot be budged. In one instructor's words, "If we don't stick to our standards then when these Marines go to combat, they won't be prepared and will come back dead."

The course has not been ramped-up in any manner as a result of the war in Afghanistan. The school is designed to equip the sniper with a foundation of knowledge so that he may operate in any clime and place. The curriculum assumes that a Marine is always training and preparing for war. The students know that the skills they are learning today will save the lives of their fellow service men and women later.

Upon completion of the course the students can attend the SOTG (Special Operations Training Group) Urban package, as well as myriad other schools, to further enhance their knowledge of the sniping profession.

The M40A1 and M40A3

The Marine Corps' current-issue sniper rifle is the M40A1, a system that is built on a Remington 700 action with a McMillan stock and a 24-inch stainless steel barrel chambered in .308. It is capable of minute-of-angle accuracy. The choice of optics is the Unertl fixed 10-power scope. The

company is now out of business, but U.S. Optics has taken over the Marine Corps contract to repair the scopes and supply scopes when they need to be retro-fitted. The weapon system has a maximum effective range of 1,000 yards with a muzzle velocity of 2,600 feet per second. The weapon weighs in at 14.5 pounds, loaded.

The Marine Corps' precision weapon's shack, located in Quantico, is in the process of fielding the replacement weapon for the outdated M40A1. The M40A3 is already entering the pipeline, and has been seeing action in Afghanistan for the last few months. The A3, like its predecessor, is built on a Remington action. The stock is the newest from McMillan, the A4. The top of the rifle is equipped with a MilSpec Picatinny rail that can take a variety of sights and optics.

A DD Ross floorplate adds stability and increased accuracy due to its inherent stiffness. Like the A1, the M40A3 is fit-



USMC Scout Sniper trainer Sgt. John Spurling tries out Accuracy International's AW sniper system at Camp Pendleton, and judged it good to go. When shooting in civilian matches, many Scout Sniper instructors use the AI AW.

ted with a Unertl 10-power scope, this time with Badger Ordnance rings. The weight of the weapon has gone up to 19 pounds, but is more ergonomic and interchangeable to mission-essential gear than that of its forerunner. The M40A3 is built and maintained by special armorers, MOS 2111, located in Quantico. This keeps all maintenance of the weapon system in-house and allows the Marines to adapt to any problems or dilemmas that may arise. I fired the weapon a little over a year ago, and it is obvious that the Marine Corps has put a lot of time and thought into their sniper rifle.

The Scout Sniper course we visited was loaned an Accuracy International (AI) AW (Arctic Warfare) rifle for evaluation. All the students used their M40A1s in all the graded events, but were later allowed to check-out the AI. "The students were skeptical of the AI for the first 10 rounds, then once they got used to it, they loved it," noted Sergeant Spurling, the marksmanship instructor for the course.

A review of this excellent rifle will appear in the next issue of SOF.

Odin Crowe is a former Marine NCO, now in the Army Special Forces Reserve. ✕



the March 2002 issue of *SOF* we examined the Close-Quarter Battle (CQB) component of the Enhanced Carbine program conducted by the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). The USSOCOM includes the U.S. Navy SEALs, U.S. Army Special Forces, and Airborne Rangers, all of which now have elements in Afghanistan.

Officially called the Special Operations Peculiar Modification Program (SOPMOD), the Enhanced Carbine project encompasses an extensive list of requirements for the main battle rifle (MBR) of the future. These requirements are listed in what is called the SOPMOD Upgrade Block II. Let's review them.

The SOPMOD Upgrade Block II

Consisting of modifications and improvements to the M4A3 carbine, the SOPMOD was meant to ensure enhanced reliability, accuracy, zero retention, ergonomics/man machine interface, a reduced cyclic rate and an increased service life of 15,000 rounds. A summary system description includes the following requirements:

1. Enhanced Carbine (the basic weapon).
2. Special-Purpose Receiver (SPR), a .223 sniper component (now a complete rifle).
3. Over The Breech Receiver (OTBR), a wet/underwater capability (a pistol caliber component).
4. Close-Quarter Battle Receiver (CQBR), a short-barreled version.
5. Enhanced Shotgun Module (ESM) for door breaching/less than lethal applications.
6. Enhanced Combat Optical Sight (ECOS), a multi-purpose illuminated reticle sight.
7. Image Intensifier Module (IIM), a night vision device (NVD) capable of being used with the ECOS.
8. Thermal Image Module (TIM).
9. Digital Daylight Image Video Module.
10. Rangefinder Module (RM).
11. Integrated Pointer-Illuminator Module (IPIM), an improved laser capable of visible and IR operation.
12. Heat Source Detection Module (HSDM).
13. Battery Recharger/Blasting Machine (BRBM).
14. Laser Protection/Protection from Optical Augmentation (LPPOA), a hi-tech filter system.



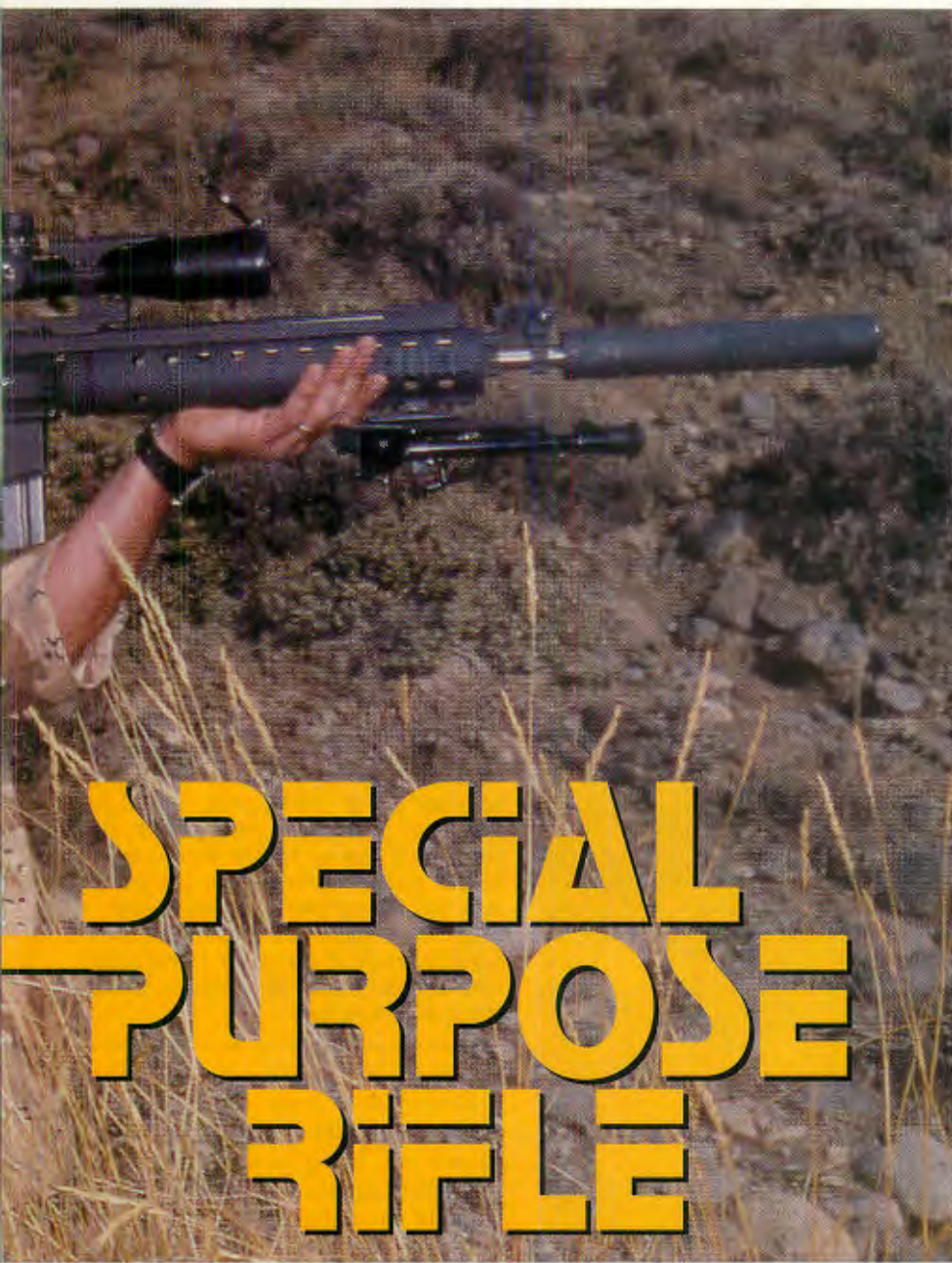
SOCOM's New

15. Muzzle Brake/Suppressor. The OPS, Inc. suppressor and others are now in user evaluation.
16. Sustained-Fire Assembly (SFA), a belt-fed LMG upper for the M4 lower receiver group.
17. Chamber Bore Sight (CBS).
18. Enhanced Bayonet/Field Knife (EBFK), a new utility knife to attach to the barrel.
19. Shot Counter (SC).
20. Improved 5.56mm Ammunition.
21. Enhanced Grenade Launcher Module (GLM).
22. Integrated Carbine (IC), a long-range future alternative to the OICW.
23. Sensor Fusion Module (SFM), a sensor fusion imaging/aiming capability.
24. Improved 40mm Grenade and Other Enhanced Indirect Fire Munitions (EIFM).

The previous article dealt with component No. 4, the Close-Quarter Battle Receiver, a short-barreled upper receiver component to convert the standard Enhanced Carbine into a weapon more suited for building- (and cave-) clearing. However, of equal interest is component No. 2.

The Special-Purpose Rifle

Originally conceived as the Special-Purpose Receiver (SPR), this rifle was a multi-purpose precision assault-rifle conversion for the Enhanced Carbine created by the Special Forces Group with prototype support from the USAMU Match Shop. However, it soon became the Special Purpose Rifle when SOCOM procured a large number of surplus M16A1 rifles, the lower receivers from which were used to



SPECIAL PURPOSE RIFLE

build the SPR as a complete rifle. Built on an Armalite M4A1 flattop upper receiver, the SPR uses a heavy 416 stainless-steel match 1-in-8" twist barrel by Douglas, Krieger or Schneider.

Affixed to the flattop upper receiver by a special barrel nut, the barrel is machined to accept a folding front sight using a torsion spring to automatically spring up into position when released, and it returns upright even if knocked down, an airborne requirement. Two trigger systems are under review by operators: one, the single-stage match full-auto model from Accuracy Speaks, and the other, the two-stage match full-auto trigger from Knight's Armament.

Mounted on the SPR is a PRI tubular carbon-fiber handguard. Leaving the barrel totally free-floating, the handguard is reinforced by a special extend-

SpecOps' New Sniper Rifle Goes to Afghanistan!

TEXT & PHOTOS BY GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

ed-length Swan sleeve with an A.R.M.S. M1913 MilStd rail. Anchored to the flattop receiver, the rigid sleeve reinforces the handguard. The SPR uses the ERGO Grip by Falcon Industries. As with the basic Enhanced Carbine, the SPR uses SOCOM's OPS, Inc. sound suppressor along with PRI's M84 charging handle, which is used to provide easy access with a scope mounted, and

In the hands of our Special Forces, SOCOM's new Special-Purpose Rifle (SPR) is now on duty in Afghanistan. Reports are that SpecOps. Snipers have made many precision long-range kills with the SPR using Black Hills 77 gr. Match .223 ammunition.

to deflect gas back-blast away from the shooter's eyes.

In 2000, some 150 SPRs were produced with the main components being painted desert tan color using baked-on Cal-Guard. Due to delayed delivery time of the operator-selected C-More Systems 1.75-7.5X fully illuminated mil-dot reticle lightweight SPR scope, the first generation SPR was issued with a special M3LR Leupold telescopic sight. Of 3.5-10X36mm, this 30mm scope also has an illuminated Mil-Dot reticle. The SPR was issued with proprietary 5.56x45mm ammunition developed for the SF by the AMU. Loaded with 77-grain Sierra Match King bullets by Black Hills Ammunition Company, of Rapid City, South Dakota, this round has reportedly made pinpoint hits on the enemy in Afghanistan out to 600+ yards.

The SPR-A (Alternate)

As with all other new weapons in the military, the SPR is an evolutionary rifle, and in the aftermath of the attack on America, an additional quantity of these rifles was hurriedly requested by SOCOM. Called the SPR-A, this second run of experimental SPRs use Douglas premium match grade barrels and the C-More optic. The first of these rifles incorporated KAC's Free-Floating RAS, but it was found difficult to handle without heat shields. A third version of the SPR

may use a longer A.R.M.S. S.I.R. system.

The SPR's primary night sight is the PVS-17 with PRI Hi-Lo mount, and its primary tactical light is the Sure Fire M9625406. Although the SPR is highly accurate, the lethality of the 5.56x45mm in Afghanistan has been disappointing. To increase effectiveness, a new 6.5mm cartridge is being tested as a possible candidate for the SPR.

As this was going to press, we learned of a new USMC M16 sniper rifle. Called the Special Marksman Rifle (SMR), it is lighter than the SPR and uses a 1-in-7", 20-inch Krieger barrel, a new gas block, bayonet lug, and a KAC RAS. The scope is believed to be from U.S. Optics.

The OPS Suppressor

The SPR was also designed to use a sound suppressor made by OPS, Inc., of California, especially for SOCOM. Known for its unique ability to preserve the rifle's standard accuracy, the OPS Suppressor has been adopted by several branches of the military as well as foreign governments. Using a highly technical system of sound reduction, the OPS Suppressor delivers outstanding accuracy with maximum reduction in sound. Being made of a proprietary material is just one of the reasons for the performance of this suppressor.

So efficient is the OPS suppressor that residual gasses pass through the receiver when a round is extracted. Reports are that when firing the SPR with the suppressor at night, residual fire emanates from not only the ejection port, but also the magazine well and even the magazine, much like the HEL-M4 suppressor used with the M16 during the Vietnam War. To help deflect these gasses away from the sniper's face, the M84 charging handle from Precision Reflex is used in place of the issue handle. Roughly 50% larger than the issue handle, the M84 helps deflect escaping gasses, and also has an extra large cocking piece, making it far easier to pull the handle with gloves.



(top) Here the SPR's components are shown disassembled. Its 416 stainless steel heavy barrel is capable of pinpoint accuracy out to 1,000 yards. (inset) In addition to its extended cocking piece, the larger M84 cocking handle (below) helps deflect residual gasses from the sound suppressor away from the shooter's face. (left) The sample 1st generation SPR proved capable of well under 1 MOA accuracy at 100 yards, like Knight's SR-15 Match Rifle seen here.



In addition to its issue scope, the SPR is fully compatible with current Night Vision Devices (NVD) such as this AN-PVS18 Monocular being used with an Aimpoint Comp M red dot sight.

During 2000, some 150 SPRs were produced with the main components of all but one being painted desert tan color. Although the SPR could be had in virtually any color, SOCOM seems to have predicted what color would soon be needed. This special paint is from Cal-Guard, of California, and is baked on after being sprayed.

From all accounts, there are only two or three SPR components outside SOCOM, and I was lucky enough to test two of them. One of these was painted desert tan, and the other, a brand new SPR, remained unpainted. Having no opportunity to fully test the first (painted) unit, I shot it informally and witnessed it being fired at relatively close range. Of prime interest was the OPS Suppressor mounted on the gun. This suppressor proved very effective, reducing the report of the .223 to that of a .22 short rimfire cartridge.

Remaining in unfired condition, the second SPR was also equipped with the OPS Suppressor, and except for its stainless steel Douglas barrel, it was a standard MilSpec black color. It was



with this rifle that the accuracy tests would be done. However, this test rifle was without a scope, so I mounted my Bausch & Lomb 10X40mm Police Tactical scope on the A.R.M.S. rail using A.R.M.S. 30mm rings.

All recorded shooting was done at 100 yards using several types of .223 ammunition, with bullets from 52 grains to 77 grains. From the brand new barrel, initial groups measured from 1 inch to slightly over, but the groups quickly shrank to sub-minute. After some 40 rounds and a couple of cleanings, the SPR was producing three-shot groups of about 0.5 MOA using both Hornady 75 gr. TAP and Black Hills 77 gr. .223 ammunition. SOCOM is now issuing Black Hills .223

with its 77 gr. Sierra Match King bullet for the SPR, and reports are that the rifles are shooting 0.25 MOA.

The SPR Scope

When America was attacked on 11 September the SPR was without a scope, and Leupold had virtually none in inventory that would fill SOCOM's needs. However, within two weeks of SOCOM's urgent request, Leupold built 110 special scopes and delivered them. Being totally unique, this Leupold scope is a 2.5-8X36mm. It is equipped with an illuminated MilDot reticle and is mounted on the SPR's rail in A.R.M.S. 30mm Throwlever rings. All 110 SPRs are reportedly now being used in Afghanistan, and word has it

Barry Dueck, of OPS, Inc., fires a suppressed SPR in desert tan. The report from the OPS suppressor is about equal to a .22 Short rimfire cartridge.

that U.S. Special Forces snipers have made regular hits on the enemy at extreme ranges with these rifles.

As with all other components of the Enhanced Carbine, the SPR is fully compatible with night vision devices (NVD) including the Army's new Litton AN-PVS17 and the equally new AN-PVS18 Monocular used in conjunction with the Aimpoint Comp M2 red dot sight. These and other NVDs are available from Excalibur Electro Optics and others.

Second Generation SPR

Being an evolutionary rifle by necessity, the SPR is undergoing a product improvement stage along with some simplification in a second run of 100 rifles. In addition to using only Douglas Premium Match Grade barrels, these rifles will incorporate Knight Armament Company's Free-Floating Rail Adapter System (RAS). Made of aircraft alloy, this handguard has four Picatinny-style rails running its full length. The RAS is screwed into a cap on the barrel nut. These rails can be used to mount a sling, bipod, sight systems, & etc. A Harris bipod will be issued with each SPR.

In addition to KAC's gas block, its folding front sight will be standard equipment on this rail and KAC's folding rear sight will be used on the flattop receiver. There is no information on just which scope the second-generation SPR will use, but the rifle should be ready for issue as you read this. Even further into the future, a third generation SPR is being considered. Although some aspects of this version are rumored, details on this "final" SPR will have to wait. ✕

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It was William Jefferson Clinton.

The actions of Clinton, although I did not know his name at the time, hurt more than anything that Jane Fonda did. If he was not prosecuted, there is no reason for her to be prosecuted, whose crime was less. Technically, Prof. Holzer is right. She was guilty of treason. But so was Clinton, and his treason hurt me infinitely more.

However, here is where I part company with Prof. Holzer. He recalls the evasions of the Justice Department that did not want to prosecute the most visible symbol of the treason of the anti-war movement, and shows why he thinks they were wrong to avoid prosecuting. I say that prosecution would have been a monumental error. Fonda had the sympathy of a large segment of the public. A trial would have been turned into a circus, generating more sympathy for the other side. It would have been dangerous to strengthen them at that point. America was too vulnerable. It could have caused irreparable harm to our constitutional system.

It is prudent to avoid battle when

the probability of victory is low, the probability of heavy losses high, and victory, if achieved, would not be strategically decisive. Therefore, I disagree with Prof. Holzer on whether we should have prosecuted Jane Fonda, or any of the other radicals of the Vietnam War. Further, I believe that when Vietnam is seen in perspective, prosecution of the radicals will be seen as unnecessary.

In the struggle in Vietnam, the Communist movement around the world mobilized every possible resource. The military, financial, and social assets of fellow travelers were called upon. They penetrated every institution in the civilized world, including college faculties, churches, even the United States Congress, to gain a victory. And when their "victory" came, they were exhausted.

In 480 B.C., a handful of Spartans, under King Leonidas, resisted the Persians at Thermopylae long enough for the rest of Greece to prepare. The Spartans suffered a tactical defeat at Thermopylae, but, as a result of their efforts to hold the line, the Persian dream of world empire was forever defeated. So it was with Vietnam. We held the line for 15 years, giving the

rest of the world the time to gain in economic and moral strength. In the end, fewer than 15 years after the Communist "victory" in Vietnam, the Communist dream of world domination, like the Persian dream before, was crushed and discredited.

For Jane Fonda, for Bill Clinton, and the rest of the anti-American radicals, the dream to which they voluntarily gave their allegiance is gone, and their efforts to undermine the character of American society were all in vain. They embraced a philosophy, Marxism, which was a blend of self-loathing, sadism, and medieval economic superstition. Their philosophy is so discredited that today they deny it. This is their punishment; that the cause — for which they betrayed their country and which gave meaning to their lives — is defeated.

James H. Warner was designated a Naval Flight officer and commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1966. He flew nearly 200 missions in Vietnam until being shot down over North Vietnam in October 1967. He spent five-and-one-half years as a prisoner of war. He is a patent lawyer and sometime contributor to Soldier Of Fortune. ✕

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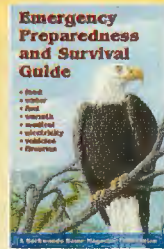
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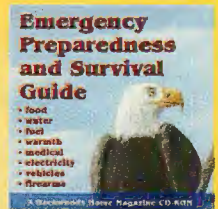
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SOF Proving Ground

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Leather or Milt Sparks Holsters. Jeff still wears a 1911 in one of these rigs every day (and yes, Jeff's 1911 is still loaded with 230-grain FMJ .45 ACP). However, many of Gunsite's instructors prefer the Kydex holster and magazine pouch made by Tim Wegner, of Blade-Tech Industries, and, like Davis' and Sparks' holsters, Blad-Tech's rigs are sold at Gunsite's Pro Shop. These rigs come with the Gunsite Raven logo, as does the special Mariner knife made for Gunsite by Cold Steel. I've still got my original 20-year-old Davis Yaqui Slide along with a Blade-Tech Kydex rig, and I find each an excellent choice as is Milt Sparks' brand new rig patterned after Bruce Nelson's Yaqui Slide-type holster.

As an investment-quality pistol, the Jeff Cooper 80th Commemorative 1911 is certainly high on the list. Each pistol comes with a presentation walnut case bearing Cooper's logo, laser-engraved on the lid. You'd better hurry if you want one of these pistols, but if you miss out, you can still get a similar gun in the new Gunsite Service Pistol (GSP). For information, contact Gunsite Academy, Inc., Dept. SOF, 2900 W. Gunsite Road, Paulden, AZ 86334-4301; phone: 928-636-4565. ☒

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Honor Among Soldiers

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I was, at first, an object of some curiosity. Sooner or later a break would be called and everyone would flop down in the shade, drink some water, break out a C-Ration or a cigarette. The GI next to me would ask: What you doing out here? I would explain that I was a reporter. "You mean you are a civilian? You don't HAVE to be here?" Yes. "Man, they must pay you loads of money to do this." And I would explain that, no, unfortunately I worked for UPI, the cheapest news agency in the world. "Then you are just plain crazy, man." Once I was pigeonholed, all was all right. The grunts understood "crazy" like no one else I ever met. The welcome was warm, friendly and open. I was probably the only civilian they would ever see in the field; I was a sign that someone, anyone, outside the Big Green Machine cared how they lived and how they died.

It didn't take very long before I truly did come to care. They were, in my view, the best of their entire generation. When their number came up in the draft they didn't run and hide in Canada. They didn't turn up for their physical wearing pantyhose or full of this chemical or that drug which they hoped would fail them. Like their fathers before them they raised their right hand and took the oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. It is not their fault that the war they were sent to fight was not one that the political leadership in Washington had any intention of winning. It is not their fault that 58,200 of them died, their lives squandered because Lyndon Johnson and, later, Richard Nixon could not figure out some decent way to cut our losses and leave the Vietnamese to sort the matter out among themselves.

As I have grown older, and so have they, and first the book and now the movie have come to pass I am often asked: Doesn't this close the loop for you? Doesn't this mean you can rest easier? The answer is no, I can't. To my dying day I WILL remember and honor those who died, some in my arms. I WILL remember and honor those who lived and came home carrying memories and scars that only their brothers can share and understand.

They were the best you had, America, and you turned your back on them. ✖

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Sound Off

BY COL. DAVID H. HACKWORTH (RET.)

Another Untold Story

Special Forces Sergeant 1st Class Nathan Chapman was shot in the back by a terrorist in Afghanistan [several weeks ago] — and killed.

Ranger Sgt. Casey Joyce was shot in the back by an insurgent in Somalia in 1993 — and killed.

Both of these deaths probably could have been prevented had the grunts been wearing decent flak jackets. Joyce was wearing the Army's best at the time, the Ranger vest, but he'd removed the armor plates at the back to lighten the load.

Chapman, like most of our Special Forces operators on dangerous missions, wasn't wearing any vest at all — these warriors say they're too heavy, too cumbersome.

Retired Special Forces Colonel Dave Hunt, who ran black ops in bad places like Cambodia, Iraq and Bosnia, says, "The stuff we had slowed you down and cut your endurance."

Body armor dates back to the 13th century, when metal plates were worn under chain mail. But by the 14th century, the knights were decked out in so much armor — from head to foot — that their horses could barely trot.

If a horse went down, that knight was as immobilized as a turtle on its back — easy slicing for a swordsman. Because of the lack of mobility and the subsequent introduction of gunpowder, the savvy knights eventually did what many of our defenders are doing today — gave body armor a pass.

Even though metallurgical skills and weaponry improved a thousandfold from the days of the Knights of the Round Table to World War II — where the U.S. Army took 823,483 casualties (80 percent infantry) — our grunts still went into battle much like the Johnnies and Rebs in our Civil War, totally unprotected. The same was true in the early part of the Korean War — where the Army took 109,958 casualties (84 percent infantry). By the end of that conflict, flak jackets were available, but they were heavy, made for warriors sitting behind a weapon, not for grunts slipping through the bush. While these jackets were greatly improved during the Vietnam War — where the Army took 230,398 casualties (80 percent infantry) — they were shunned by most grunts in the field because of weight, unwieldiness and the fact that they became sweatsuits in tropical conditions.

Today's technology can produce a lightweight jacket that will stop most bullets. The concealed body armor currently



worn by George W. Bush, the Secret Service and many law-enforcement folks does the trick.

Sure, the President should have the best vest that money can buy, but I have a hard time understanding why guys and gals in the Secret Service get priority over our grunts, especially our Special Warfare operators.

Compare the casualty stats and ask yourself who needs the jackets more.

The Army has been spending serious money and too many years in search of the right flak jacket when it's already on the shelf. With just a fraction of the dough spent on research and development since

Casey Joyce died, our Special Ops guys could already have been wearing the finest body armor available. If he'd been wearing one of those Secret Service specials, Nathan Chapman would probably be with his wife and kids in Tacoma, Wash., recovering from minor bruising instead of 6 feet under. It costs a minimum of \$1 million to train a Special Forces operator. *Newsweek* spent \$700 to buy a high-quality, lightweight vest for my trip to Somalia — without having a nickel invested in my education.

After 56 years around conflicts, I've seen generals up front where the dying occurs no more than a dozen times. You can bet your old boots that if they were the ones hanging out in Death Valley, the Army would have the lightest, most up-to-date body armor going.

If the members of Congress would allocate just 1 percent of the energy they spent trying to zap Clinton over Monica or they're about to spend going after Bush over Enron and put it toward looking after our boys in the trenches, you better believe decent body armor would be made in every state in the union. And, for a change, the porkers would be doing something patriotic. Just ask widows Chapman, Joyce and scores [of] more women in black.

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

Send mail to P.O. Box 11179, Greenwich, CT 06831.

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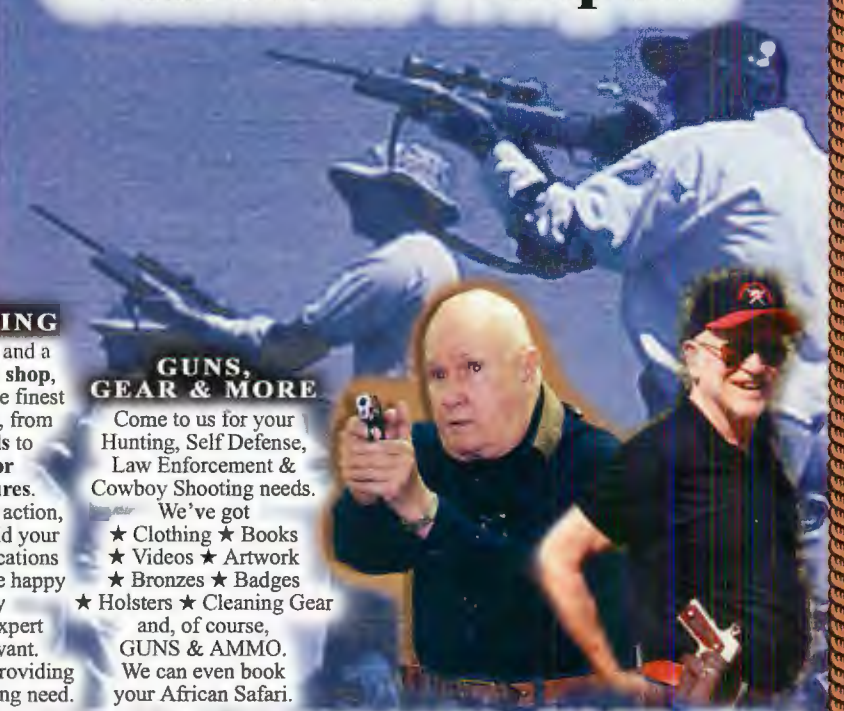
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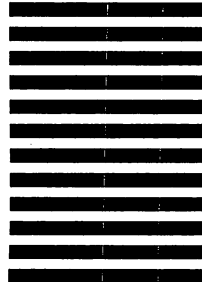
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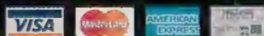
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