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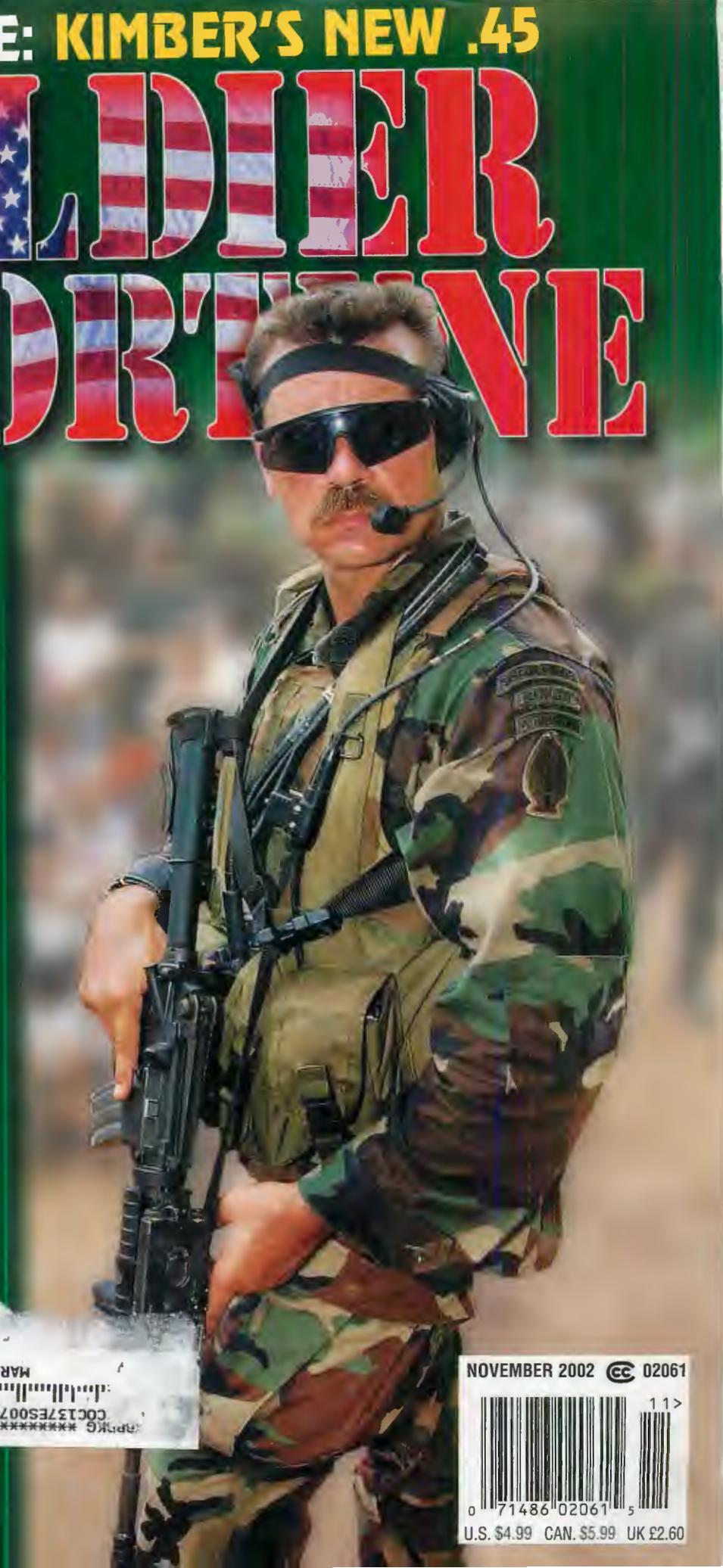
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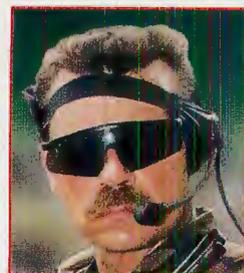


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Agence France Presse

On the Cover

U.S. Special Forces member provides security during an inauguration of a government bridge in the former stronghold of Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremists in Maluso Town, Basilan Island, Republic of the Philippines ...
See story on page 31

AMERICA AT WAR

AMERICAN SNIPER IN ISRAEL by David Stone
 Hamas and its suicide-bombing minions continue to rain bloodshed and havoc inside Israel, where the weather can be every bit as nasty as the terrorists. _____ **24**

"KILL THE ENEMY AND GET OUT!" by Rowan Scarborough
 Special Operations Forces are the new honeys of the media, the Bush Administration, and even *some* heavy brass in the Pentagon. For it is these operators who'll track down and eliminate al-Qaeda holdouts on the latter's personal turfs. _____ **31**

GOING IN, Part III by Lance Bacon
 The riveting conclusion to the Takhur Gahar Mountain battle. The good guys have "miles" to go before they're exfiltrated to friendly territory. _____ **36**

HUNTING SUICIDE BOMBERS, Part V by Samuel M. Katz
 Simply put, the job of Israel's elite Border Guard force, Lavi, is to isolate the bombers from civilians, no matter what the risk. _____ **40**

GETTING READY FOR WAR by Dale B. Cooper
 How should the anticipated upcoming air war versus Iraq be waged? Let Retired Colonel John A. Warden III, the former Gulf War air campaign's architect, tell you. _____ **44**

CANADIAN MEDIA DISCOVERS SOF by SOF Staff
 Rob Krott's notable coverage of the heroism and skill of Canadian snipers in Afghanistan attracts vehement public opinion, pro — and con. _____ **48**

FAST-MOVING FIREFIGHTS by Rob Krott
 Some of fiercest combat in Afghanistan was experienced by elements of the Australian SAS, a 150-man, second-to-none contingent, responsible for saving numerous lives among its coalition partners. _____ **62**



Samuel M. Katz



Courtesy Australian Ministry of Defense



Major Dick Culver, USMC (Ret.)

FEATURES

THE OUTRAGE OF AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN SLAVES by Dr. Martin Brass
 Lest we Americans get overly smug with regard to the burgeoning sex-slave-trafficking abounding in lesser-developed nations, we should take a penetrating look between *our* borders. _____ **58**

DON'T LIKE MOUSE GUNS? by Major Dick Culver, USMC (Ret.)
 Like to fire .50s at targets 600 yards down-range? Then show-up for a "Day at the Range" at Nevada's first-class Washoe County Range Facility. _____ **68**

SOF EXCLUSIVE! LAPD SWAT'S NEW KIMBER CUSTOM .45 by Gary Paul Johnston
 When the cops need help, they call SWAT. When SWAT personnel require a reliable back-up weapon — or primary handgun — they call on the new Kimber Custom II .45. _____ **76**

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Command Guidance

BY JOHN FARNAM

“He Who Hesitates Is Lost”

At this year's National Tactical Invitational match, we were able to view a captured al-Qaeda training video and hear comments from several people on the current situation regarding the “War on Terror.”

In the video, we saw al-Qaeda operatives training for terrorist “events.” The training site was somewhere in Afghanistan. What first struck me was the high degree abject brutality, even in these “role-playing” exercises. Role-players portraying hostages were heard to say, in English, “Please don't kill me.” There is little doubt in my mind that these operatives were being trained to hear hostages say that and other English-language phrases. That opinion was strengthened when we saw hostages being herded up to the roof of a building and then murdered (simulated) and their bodies thrown over the edge, one by one, in full view of crowds below and, of course, news-media helicopters which would presumably be hovering above.

Operations portrayed involved raids on buildings, kidnappings, and murders of individuals in their own homes. Sites included golf courses, which caused all of us to believe these people were training for operations in America and Western Europe where the game of golf is popular.

All of it appeared to involve detailed planning and sizable groups of heavily armed operatives. RPGs were routinely used to initiate the operation. As mentioned above, bestial brutality and an utter lack of concern over human suffering were the common threads in all the scenarios. In addition, most scenarios appeared to be suicidal in nature. There seemed to be no plan for the escape or extraction of terrorist operatives.

On the other side of the ledger, we had the opportunity to see the federal government's newly revised policy manual for local “first-responders” to terrorist events. The theme can be summarized in one sen-

tence: *Seal off the area and don't take any action until federal authorities arrive!* First-responders are discouraged from doing anything on their own, aside from establishing a perimeter, and they are also instructed to prevent anyone else from taking action.

In every “active-shooter” incident we've experienced in the USA, all the murdering was completed within the first 20 minutes. That statistic alone, at least in theory, makes SWAT teams irrelevant. They can't possibly get organized and get to the scene that fast. If first-responders fail to take immediate action on their own initiative, anything the SWAT team does, whenever it finally arrives, is unlikely to affect the final outcome in any significant way. A federal response team, arriving hours or even days later, is apt to be even more extraneous.

The message is clear. If you get caught in the middle of a terrorist “event,” you're on your own!

You better be armed and make your move at the first opportunity. If you are taken hostage by one of these groups, there is no doubt that you will be murdered outright, or ceremonially murdered later, and neither your gender nor your age will make any difference.

Rescue of individuals is NOT in the federal plan. Even after all the lip service paid to the heroic passengers of Flight 93, individual initiative is still being officially discouraged.

John Farnam has been a full-time small-arms instructor since 1977. He first “made his bones” as a Marine Corps platoon leader in 'Nam, where he had the misfortune to have received three Purple Hearts by his 51st day in combat. Farnam's latest book is, The Farnam Method of Defensive Hand Gunning; \$25; Order from Diane Nicholl, 303-443-9817. For class info, check www.defense-training.com. ✎

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flak



Canadian Kudos #1



I'm at work on a Canadian Base. I really liked your article about the PPCLI snipers. I have e-mailed it to my buddies. Seems like you guys (USA) appreciate our soldiers more than our Government does! Word is (grape vine), our guys had a hoot working with yours, right-on dudes! Have a good one.

Aaron

Canadian Kudos #2

As a former soldier with the 3 PPCLI, I would like to thank you for acknowledging the soldiering ability of Canadian troops. According to Hollywood, the only special forces worth mentioning are American.

The exception to this is a little-known movie, *The Devil's Brigade*.

Any way, just wanted to give you a quick thank you.

Cheers,
Mark Meincke, CEO
PSD Innovations, Inc.

Good neighbors are not just the ones who smile and wave over the fence. Really good neighbors will hop the fence and help you fight off a rabid dog.

Foreign Awards

I saw your article [regarding the U.S. Bronze Star for awarding to Canadians].

During the Korean Conflict, in a place called the Kapyon Valley, a company from the 2nd Batt PPCLI from Canada was left alone after the British and American units retreated. Outnumbered 10-1, this unit held off the Chinese and North Koreans, alone.

This was recognized by the President and others. The unit did receive for their efforts the Presidential Unit Citation — and still to now display it with pride!

Thank you,
G. Hall
Via E-mail

Warmongering, Right-Wing Rag

Congratulations SOF, you have finally hit an all time low. Portraying KM as a group of altruistic freedom fighters instead of the Muslim hating cult of bloodthirsty assassins that they are, is simply beyond belief. They are, in fact, no more than a den of psychopathic vipers who feel comfortable crawling out from under their rock as a result of the blind, irrational wave of anti-Islamic hatred that has swept through the United States and England since 11 Sept. 2002. Try to get this through your thick skulls; not all Muslims are terrorists and KM is not a 'fraternity' ... fighting for the forgotten' but a homicidal hunting club whose chosen game is anyone who calls God 'Allah'. They are 'Whores of War' in every sense of the word, and only a warmongering, right-wing rag like SOF would ever dare cast them in a heroic light.

M. Ali Mahmud
Via e-mail

Thanks for buying a copy of SOF. We wish death to all tyrants equally, because of the way they treat people — not because they acknowledge The Deity by a different name. Try and get that through your thick skull (and, we flat don't care if your thick skull is wrapped in a diaper or a Stetson). Check our record: For a decade, we were the only publication who cared enough for the [Muslim] Afghanis to send innumerable reporters to the war zone, and give total support to them in their fight against the Soviet invaders). Don't play your feeble race/ethnic card with us — what we do proves you wrong.

Support For Close-Air Support



This is in response to Col. Hackworth's August article on the values of artillery. To start off I'd like to shed a little light on the values of CAS (Close Air Support): first point, CAS was designed entirely around the idea of reducing fratricide, since aircraft are much more accurate at putting munitions on target with the aid of ground or FAC — I

would say that when young soldier's butts are on the line this is exactly the asset to use. The reports coming back from Operation Anaconda seem to support the importance of integrated CAS. The fact is, CAS was never meant to replace, but rather supplement, artillery, however there are quite a few situations where CAS is more effective than artillery, and not killing friendly soldiers in close contact with the enemy is

Due to space limitations, FLAK letters have to be kept short — but once in a great while, one long letter, written straight from the heart, encapsulates the opinions expressed by a great many readers who wrote in. Such is the following letter from Ernie Emerson, well-known to SOF readers for his top-quality tactical knives. It is reprinted in its entirety.



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To The Editor

Dear Sir,

Some things piss me off and then there are some things that really piss me off. Reading about the Saudi Sex Slave market has put me into condition Red. You put me in a room with any twelve of those puke-assed soft bellied princes that want to have sex with an 11 year old girl and I'll cut the balls off of every one of them. I am the father of an 18 year old, a 14 year old and a two year old and I am outraged that there are those in our Government aware of these predators and are conveniently ignoring the actions of these sick bastards.

Yeah, I know that we are addicted to their oil and yes I know that using their bases as a staging area for incursions into Iraq or Iran would benefit our capabilities and logistics for these operations, but at what price? Once you've sold your soul to the Devil you can't buy it back. We all know they are lying to us about their funding and backing of various terrorists groups. We all know that they run a vicious totalitarian government whose only self serving concern is to keep themselves (the Royal Family) in power, by any and every means. The story of these guys is like the plot of a bad science fiction movie. You really can't even believe that they are real. I don't care about political correctness; I care about moral and ethical correctness.

A friend of mine told me once that the main difference between our culture and the Arab, Middle Eastern or Muslim cultures was not religious or culturally based. It was simply because they had never had a Renaissance, or age of enlightenment, as the European culture did during the middle ages. As a result their cultures languish under the same mentalities that existed in the 1400's, only now they have airplanes, machine guns and Mercedes Benz. To hear that these holier-than-thou religious extremists call me a barbarian or infidel and then, just by calling a child a whore, can, in the eyes of their religion, justify having sex with a nine year old is bullshit.

There is right and there is wrong, and there are things that have nothing to do with cultural or religious beliefs. Wrong is wrong. The oppression of minorities, the oppression of women and the buying and selling of children is wrong by the standards of any educated and humane person on this earth, regardless of race culture or religion.

If we are going to continue to be the World's police force and send our children in harms way to protect vermin like them, then maybe we should start to demand conditions for such service. We are the strongest, most mighty Nation on this planet and we should start acting the part. Demand respect, stop the pandering and ass kissing and bring them to the table on our terms not theirs. In other words - If you want our help then you better start acting like the rest of the civilized world. If any of those SOB's ever has the balls to call me a barbarian, this infidel will kick their ass. You have my word on it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ernest R. Emerson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ernest" being the most prominent.

Ernest R. Emerson
President/Owner Emerson Knives Inc.

one of them. And please, pray not to confuse logistics with tactics. Contaminated fuel has little to do with how effective TAC-air is.

A1-C Papenfuss, 124th ASOS

Defending The Weak And Misused



As usual, your July issue covers all the most pressing and interesting events facing the USA during these most difficult days. I want to thank you for your article about "Sex Slavery: Out of Control" as this is a worldwide crime that gets bigger with the passing of each month. While it is not on the top of most lists Americans may make because they do not feel we are directly affected, the truth is that this is an evil thing that affects all who respect the rights of the weak and misused. Many thanks for such stories that one might not hear or see anywhere else.

Woody Hickson
Ft. Worth, Texas

For those who might think that sex slavery is "not our problem" the final segment in this series, in this issue, covers what's going on in the American Heartland, where the problem is even worse because as a nation we should know better. When you see a picture of somebody's baby girl on a milk carton, remember that.

Terror Attacks As A Way Of Life

I find David Stone's reports from Jerusalem riveting. This is a country under siege! Why is this not in every newspaper? Why is this not in a couple of newspapers? Why is this nowhere but SOF?

I hope when "our turn" comes, we can fight with half the dignity and honor the Israelis hold. The courage of the everyday citizen makes me proud.

When the first murder-bomber strikes in America, and they will, I hope we react with half their courage.

Woody Dyer
Sicklerville, New Jersey

There is a journalistic adage that when a dog bites a man, it's too commonplace to be news — only when a man bites a dog, is it newsworthy. In the Middle East, Israel has lived under siege since its reestablishment as a state in 1948. Terrorist attacks by bombers and snipers, on individuals or the Israeli public at large, are such an everyday affair that many media do not regard them as newsworthy. We do.

G.I. Lives Worth Less?!

I think the vast difference in compensation between the victims of 9-11 and those who die serving their country in uniform are profound, but no one is talking about it, as you don't criticize anything to do with 9-11. (continues)



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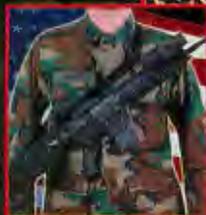
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BH02

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He's five pounds of trigger pressure away from melon salad. Blinded and disoriented, the suspect capitulates. Another non-lethal takedown, thanks to SureFire's "force option."

...here are the cons.



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I can't leave the numbers pass, as it says something disturbing about the entitlement mentality of this country: If you lost a family member in the 9-11 attack you are going to get an average of \$1,185,000. There is a guarantee of \$250,000, all the way up to \$4.7 million.

If you are a surviving member of a soldier killed in action you first receive a check for \$6,000 death benefit (1/2 is taxable). Next you get \$1,750 for burial costs. If you are a surviving spouse, you will get \$833 a month until you remarry. Then there's a monthly payment of \$211 for each child under 18 years.

Meanwhile, some people who are getting \$1 - \$4 million are complaining that it's not enough. Some of the victims of the Oklahoma bombing are starting an organization to get the same deal the 9-11 families are getting.

Some families of persons in the bombed embassies are now asking for compensation also.

You see where this is going?

It's just really sad.

Bob Steiner
Yoder, Colorado

has supplied a 10-man team with medical supplies and personal items because they were told by their CO to call in as many favors as they could because they weren't going to get extra supplies. There just isn't enough to go around.

The same unit was also sleeping in tents, using latrines and eating MREs when they couldn't get to chow in time while the prisoners got roofs over their heads in a nice tropical setting, three squares a day of THEIR ethnic food, flush toilets and time to pray and copies of their "bible."

Considering that before they were captured they were living in caves and underground, eating who knows what and sometimes were cold and hungry they're living "high on the hog" now.

Our men and women are treated like tools to be used and discarded while the liberal organizations whine about how the prisoners are treated. They need to get their priorities straight.

Suzanne Settle
XO, NorthStar Preparedness Network
www.preparednessnetwork.org

Prisoners First, G.I.s Second

I'd like everyone to know that all the hoohah we're hearing in the liberal press about the prisoners in Guantanamo Bay is BS! Maybe everyone in the U.S. should start worrying more about our men and women who are out there fighting and dying to protect us. NorthStar Preparedness Network

SOF Welcomes Letters To The Editor.

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Bulletin Board

Is This Any Way To Run A "War"?

Further to the story in the Sept. 2002 *SOF*, regarding errors of omission and commission by State Department and American Embassy personnel in Bogota, are these additional blunders in Bill Clinton's 1999 "Plan Colombia":

—More than \$2 million of U.S. Taxpayer money is "missing" from the Narcotics Assistance Section at the Embassy: A State Department investigation has been "in progress" since March, 2002 ...

—The fleet of U.S.-funded Black Hawks and Hueys are having trouble staying in the air due to poor maintenance and lack of spares, and this \$400 million program is foundering due to lack of pilots and mechanics. U.S. aviation experts call this the "real scandal of Plan Colombia ..."

—State has held-up the "critically needed" spray aircraft for the "catch-as-catch-can" aerial fumigation program (which has yet to show positive results), while six aircraft have been lost in the past year ...

—The lack of "follow-up" in getting crucially needed assistance such as ammo and navigational aids to our allies, is costing the lives of men who are fighting and dying every day ...

—The inability of State Department Foreign Service officers to properly schedule and supervise training deployments by our DEA and ATF trainers is hampering efforts to assist the Colombian National Police (who have had more than 5,000 cops killed in the line of duty in the past decade) ...

—Maj. "Doc" Norton

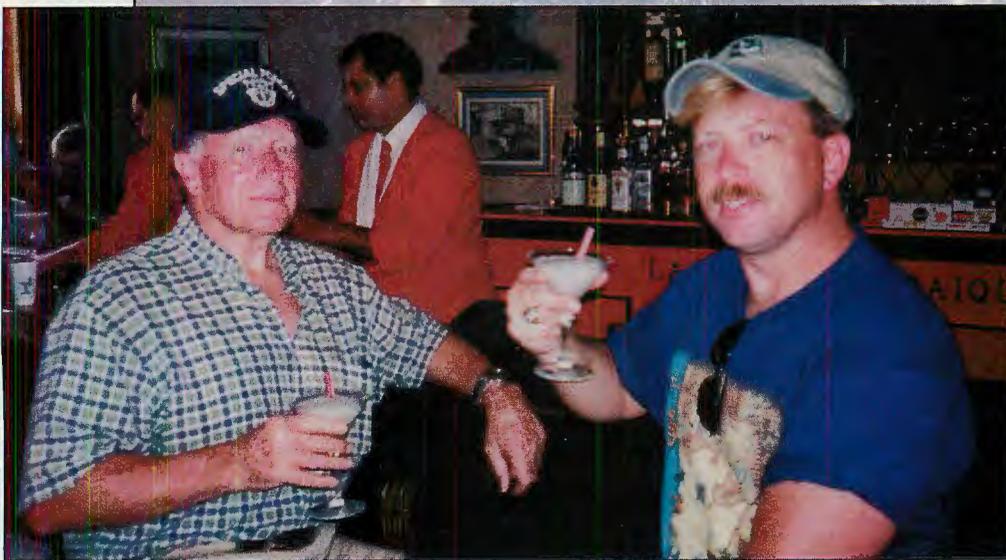
Invisible Tracer?

Now *there's* an oxymoron to win a bar bet with! What's next, you ask — training with blanks and suppressors? The specific requirement, however, is tracer that is not visible to the human eye — such as the eye of a target who might be inclined towards thoughts of counter-battery — but which *can* be seen by an operator through his own NVG or scope, and without suffering the bloom from conventional tracers. Such a round, capable of penetrating 15mm of armor plate or any Kevlar vest or helmet at 100 meters, is now being tested by the American SpecOps community as an armor-piercing tracer.

Developed several years ago, infrared "dim" tracer also features a powder loading selected to reduce muzzle flash. Only recently, however, has a NATO-compliant AP round been made available in 5.56 by the Swedish manufacturer Nammo (Nordic Ammunition Company). The Nammo round features a tungsten AP core and a steel jacket. Thus far, the round has only been issued by Swedish Special Forces, although the U.S. Government is Nammo's best customer for other types of ammunition.

Removing An Icon

Congressman Dan Burton (R-IN), Chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, and five original co-sponsors have introduced legislation to remove J. Edgar Hoover's name from the FBI Building in Washington, D.C., citing Hoover's



courtesy Rob Krott

SOF Senior Foreign Correspondents Mike Williams (left) and Rob Krott enjoy a cold daiquiri in Havana's El Floridita, the day after a water jump near Varadero Beach and Caya Blanco with Cuban paratroopers. Hardship pay? Don't even think about it ...



derogation of the rule of law during his life-long tenure as FBI Director.

"Several reasons played an important role in my decision to introduce this important piece of legislation," said Burton. "J. Edgar Hoover clearly abused his role as Director of the FBI. Symbolism matters in the United States, and it is wrong to honor a man who frequently manipulated the law to achieve his personal goals."

Burton has held a series of investigative hearings focusing on the internal procedures that existed when J. Edgar Hoover was head of the FBI. Through the course of the committee's investigation it became inescapable there had been a long list of injustices under Hoover's tenure, including using derogatory information to influence politicians, conducting illegal or unconstitutional surveillance of U.S. citizens, using the FBI's significant powers to disrupt the civil-rights movement, and using the FBI to benefit favored politicians. "When I started finding these things out, it was not only a real revelation to me, but it was also a huge disappointment," Burton noted. "I am very dismayed with the FBI's handling of the Joe Salvati case, adding to my disappointment with Hoover. There is no reason we should honor a man who threw everything out the window, including the lives of innocent men, in order to get what he wanted ... This legislation will help lift the veil of secrecy that has burdened the FBI for many decades ... When you start thinking about putting innocent people in jail, or maybe even giving them the death penalty as they were thinking about doing with Mr. Salvati and others, it makes me cringe because that isn't what this country is about. Anybody



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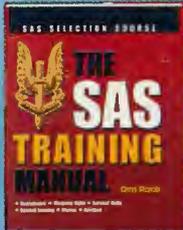
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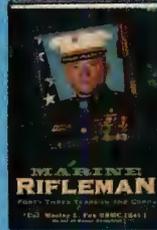
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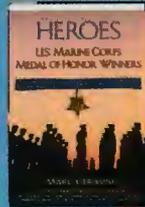
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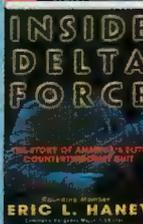
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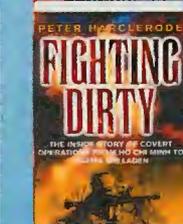
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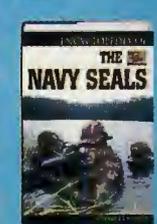
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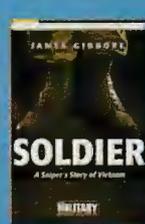
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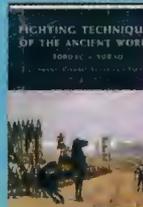
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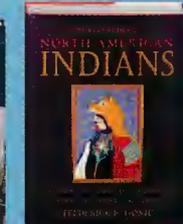
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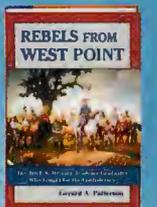
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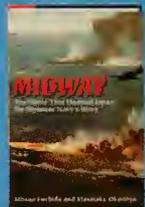
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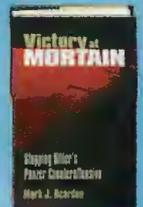
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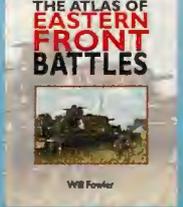
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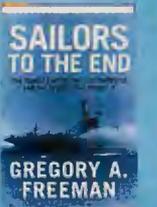
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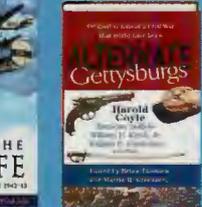
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who participated should be held accountable, including Mr. Hoover.”

USMC To Form SpecOps Force?

Despite its organizational disdain for elite units throughout its 227-year history, the Marine Corps may establish its own special operations force. The USMC will assign troops to the U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Fla., and Marine Corps officials say such assignments increase the odds of establishing a USMC SpecOps force.

During WWII the Marines fielded both Para-Marines and Marine Raider units, yet opposed the permanent formation of elite units within the Corps. Today there are about 800 Marines trained in special operations (Force Recon). The deployment of special operations forces such as Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, Special Forces, Delta Force, and USAF Para-Rescue in Afghanistan has emphasized the importance of special operations: This may prompt the Marine Corps to “get into the game” and form its own SpecOps command. —Rob Krott

Yeah, Velly Funny

Chinese Premier Zhu Ronji recently told an audience of Asian executives during the Bao business conference held on Hainan Island, that “Japan bought many huge buildings in New York, but luckily they didn’t buy the World Trade Center. If they had bought them, now the Japanese would be sadder than the Americans.” Oddly enough, Zhu’s remark, which came during a question-and-answer session with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, was greeted by a round of applause and laughter. Japan lost two citizens aboard one of the hijacked planes, and 24 are still missing from the ruins of the Trade Center.

At the time of the World Trade Center attacks, U.S. State Department guides were taking a group of Chinese and U.S. reporters on an official tour, and they were able to witness the attack live on television. According to several American reporters, when the second 767 struck the World Trade Center, the Chinese journalists broke into cheers and applause — some even exchanging “high-fives.” The guides from State quickly turned off the TV and hustled the Chinese journalists back to the PRC embassy. ✕



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Check out their line on the web at www.atigun-stocks.com or contact them by mail at Advanced Technology, Inc., Dept. SOF, 102 Fieldview Dr., Versailles, KY 40383; phone 859-873-9877; fax: 859-873-6229.

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American Sniper In Israel

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DAVID STONE

Jerusalem Diary

4 July: Happy Birthday, USA! Israel has its own fireworks this morning: A member of a reserve paratroop unit conducted his own test of the effectiveness of the body armor he was issued — he shot it with his M16. The 5.56-caliber bullets penetrated the ceramic plate. The press was informed. He is charged with “Conducting Unauthorized Tests” and perhaps “Destruction of IDF Property.”

Kevlar vests with ceramic inserts are used extensively by the IDF. I personally know individuals who survived hits from AK-47 rounds (7.62x39) that failed to penetrate the chest plate in their vests. Ceramic is lifesaving, if heavy and inflexible. But it does have limitations. First generation ceramic may shatter. Drop the bare plate from shoulder-height onto a stone floor and it may fracture, literally exploding into hundreds of flying shards. Thrown into the back of a command car or dropped on the ground next to your bunk and it can develop stress fractures, same as your feet get ... and equally hard to detect. It is a major (undisclosed until this morning) problem.

Lighter by a 1/3 is second-generation ceramic. So far only civilians and some SpecOps units are using it (made-in-Israel). It does not fracture. I destroyed an axe head and then chipped a sledgehammer head smashing a plate. Then we fired several armor-piercing AK-47 rounds (7.62x39) into the same plate (1-1/2-inch group). The bullets did not penetrate. Hell, they didn't even put enough of a bulge in the plate's backside to photograph. Tip: Try my “drop test” before you buy and if it breaks, don't.

10 July: Terrorists are operating in the area. Last night Route 443 just north of here was closed for a terrorist hunt in the area where a bomb was discovered this past weekend. The police chopper was overhead from first light 'till noon. A 13:30 radio news “brief” reported a terrorist(s) captured by MaGav undercover operators 10-minutes drive away. Hopefully, it will be quiet for a while, figuratively and literally.

Jerusalem's security companies have been hiring, upgrading personnel and equipment. Many guards now carry an Uzi. All bank and health clinic branches must have armed guards at the door. On a commercial strip of one northern-neighborhood Main Street, three guards stand within 50



Welcome to the Government Press Office Building. Security guard at downtown Jerusalem office, a veteran of the Border Police where she did her compulsory service with an undercover unit, carries a 9mm Browning Hi-Power, plus a pair of after-market high-capacity magazines.



Not a typical nurse/receptionist, security guard for health-care clinic in northern Jerusalem; carries a Sites-Spectre (above). Made in Italy, assembled in Switzerland, this is an excellent weapon for such details, as it fires from a closed bolt; "safety" is double-action trigger for first shot, like a Glock.

yards of each other, one armed with a full-auto 9mm Italian Sites-Spectre sub-machine gun.

11 July: The PLO snipers continue to practice "one shot one kill." Today we lost the Deputy Commander of an Elite Recon Unit. The unit was approaching the site of a just-uncovered tunnel used for smuggling arms from Egypt to the Gaza Strip. The moment the terrorists saw their tunnel discovered, the sniper set up. He waited for the responding unit, selected his target and fired a single shot to the head. More than 15 such tunnels have been uncovered and destroyed during the past few months. Egypt, with whom Israel has a peace treaty though you wouldn't know it, does nothing to stop or even interfere with the massive ongoing terrorist supply operation originating from its sovereign territory.

13 July: We are three weeks into Determined Path and three weeks without a significant terrorist attack. It is simply a lull, but clearly the result of a good offense. Curfews are now a way of life for the Palestinian population. The IDF has returned to all areas Israel turned over to the control of the Palestinian Authority. Every dusk to dawn, and occasionally during daylight

hours, military and border police units acting on Shabak-gathered intelligence, go hunting. There is no bag limit. Israel radio reports "the take" on its 07:00 newscast. Dozens of wanted terrorists are captured weekly and, on average, a suicide bomber a day is stopped.

17 July: Same tactics, execution, location and same Hamas terrorists, seven months after the last massacre. They know when the most-packed passenger bus passes. Two 20-kilo remote-detonated roadside bombs send the bus careening off the road. This time it, but not its roof, is armored. For several minutes the four butchers dressed in IDF uniforms fired full-auto, down into the passengers through the bus's top, and slipped grenades into the bus through bullet-proof windows, narrowly opened at their top. A jammed door kept the passengers inside the bus, a deathtrap from which they could not even return fire.

Everyone on the bus and in a vehicle following behind was wounded, eight were killed including three generations of one family. For the third time in three months a grandmother and her infant grandchild are among those murdered. Demonstrating they can learn from the previous experience, this time the terrorists ambush the IDF units pursuing them, killing a platoon commander and seriously wounding three soldiers. One terrorist is killed. The others make good their escape.

18 July: Today is Tisha Ba'ov. Tonight Arafat's Fatah carried out a dou-

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ble suicide-bombing. Standing about 12 yards apart in an area of outdoor cafes frequented by foreign workers, the two terrorists simultaneously detonated their bombs. They murdered five.

24 July: It is summer — Kestrel Weather Station time. Accurate knowledge of the temperature is crucial. It can increase 20 degrees (75 to 95F) between our first shot (0830) and last shot (1200). By 1400, temperature can be 100F — easily hotter depending on your location. A five-degree increase in temperature will elevate your point of



Two indispensable sniper tools at work in author's position above Western Wall: Kestrel 4000 Weather Tracker and Shepherd Magna-Pod. Daily temperature swings can have effect on bullet-impact elevation.

impact 1 MOA (1" at 100 yards). You'd need to know the temperature to know how high above your zero you are going to hit. Whether on duty at "The Wall" or at the range, we put out a Kestrel Wind/Temperature Meter so everyone can monitor the temperature. How big is a head? Today, a mid-afternoon 150-yard shot could easily hit 7-1/2 inches high all things being equal.

At least tonight's weather was normal zero, 75 degrees and windless. This morning was killed the commander of Hamas's Military Wing and 14 others, nine of them children — the consequence of dropping a 1,000-kilo "smart-bomb" and some very, very bad intel. As a result, my sniper duty tonight at a community-center-hosted block party turned especially tense and intense. Loud live entertainment made it impossible to hear communications. Glaring bright lights instantly killed night vision. Then came the alert, "There are brass hats on the way" personally delivered "in four eyes," the Hebrew idiom for face-to-face, by the Area Commander-in-Charge (always an unfun experience). Just wonderful! OK, take two extra-strength aspirin, crank down the Springfield-Armory scope's magnification to about 12X and turn on

the reticle illumination.

26 July: Middle East experts from Barry Rubin to Dennis Ross write of U.S. Intelligence connecting Iran, Syria, Hizbullah, al-Qaeda and Hamas. The *Karine-A*, *Calypso* and *Santorini*, arms ships Iran and Hizbullah sent to Yassar Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, are links in that chain. For nine months I have asked to trace the terrorists' arms and ammunition captured by Israeli back to their origin. For example, to whom were captured U.S. service weapons and Lake City ammo originally issued? Every request to the IDF Spokesman's Office for access to exam-



Sign to Jerusalem city center, which might not survive intact in American West, has author asking if this is most appropriate graphic, considering current troubles.

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ine and photograph the material was "Denied, Period!" except for what recently turned out to be a "photo-op" of an exhibit of selected weapons. Therein lies a story.

Richard Petluck, former head of the Ballistic Forensics Laboratory in Police National HQ, accompanied me on what we thought was an opportunity to examine weapons. Richard has years of professional, hands-on experience, identifying and tracing arms and munitions. His knowledge is encyclopedic. We viewed the exhibit. The base commander accompanied us. He was simply blown-away (sorry) by Richard's expertise. "How is our Exhibit?" he asked.

He was taken aback by my answer "This wasn't the in-depth examination encompassed in our request." But we were floored by his response. A group of American military officers was scheduled to be at the base 10 days hence, to do exactly what I had repeatedly requested to do. Richard and I received personal invitations to attend. Still, we needed to go through the spokesman's office. So I received in our host's-to-be own handwriting the appropriate inter-service contact information. I still have the note. I passed the information along to the spokesman's office, three separate times. I also confirmed "the event" through sources connected to the U.S. Embassy. All the while the spokesman's office kept telling me "No one knows what you are talking about." Same folks declined to tell me I'd learned something secret and not to disclose it. Our U.S. guests came and they went. I'm told I imagined the whole episode. Hopefully I don't look that stupid.

31 July: The past few days have seen a significant increase in completed terrorist attacks. In three ambush shootings seven have been killed. A suicide-bombing downtown yesterday resulted in only several wounded (other than the literally blown-to-bits bomber). Thank God they don't get a chance to practice.

This afternoon we were not as lucky. Just the other side of French Hill from here, the terrorists bombed the Mt. Scopus Campus of the Hebrew University killing seven and wounded more than 85. The terrorists deliberately targeted the "foreign students' cafeteria" detonating the cellular-phone-triggered bookbag-backpack bomb at the height of lunch hour. A majority of the wounded, and five of the seven killed, were Americans. They bring to 24 the number of Americans murdered since September 2000. ☒

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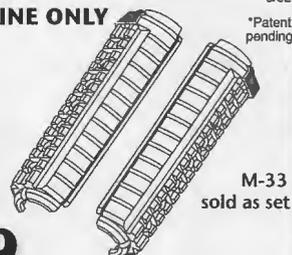
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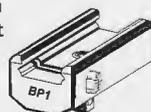
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TEXT & PHOTOS BY BILL BAGWELL

Knowledge Lost, Skills Forgotten

The right of self-defense is deeply rooted in most cultures. Indeed, it is one of the oldest rights set forth in English Common Law. The Second Amendment gives us the right — not privilege — to keep and bear arms in this country. This is all well and good, but what if you don't know *how* to properly defend yourself when the rules change and things start to turn ugly?

This was driven home to me when I attended a gun show over this past weekend. In years past, I attended this show on a regular basis, and have been an exhibitor there more than once. I haven't been to this show in a number of years, and what I saw as well as what I didn't see got me to thinking and planted the seed for this column.

What I saw were a lot of junk guns and a few knives, most of them pretty trashy. I also saw my Congressman, who is a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, working this gun show as he campaigns for a U.S. Senate seat. In years past, you could count on this particular show to be an event where you could see and buy some really fine firearms, both antique and modern, as well as see and handle some of the finest in both handmade and factory knives. But not this time. After about two



passes around the exhibit hall I concluded a couple of things: One was that it was very likely that the vast majority of the people present probably weren't very good shots. The other was that I was probably the only person in the room who had the slightest clue as to how to defend himself with a knife.

I went back to my Congressman's booth. This member of Congress is a Vietnam veteran, and a decorated fighter pilot.

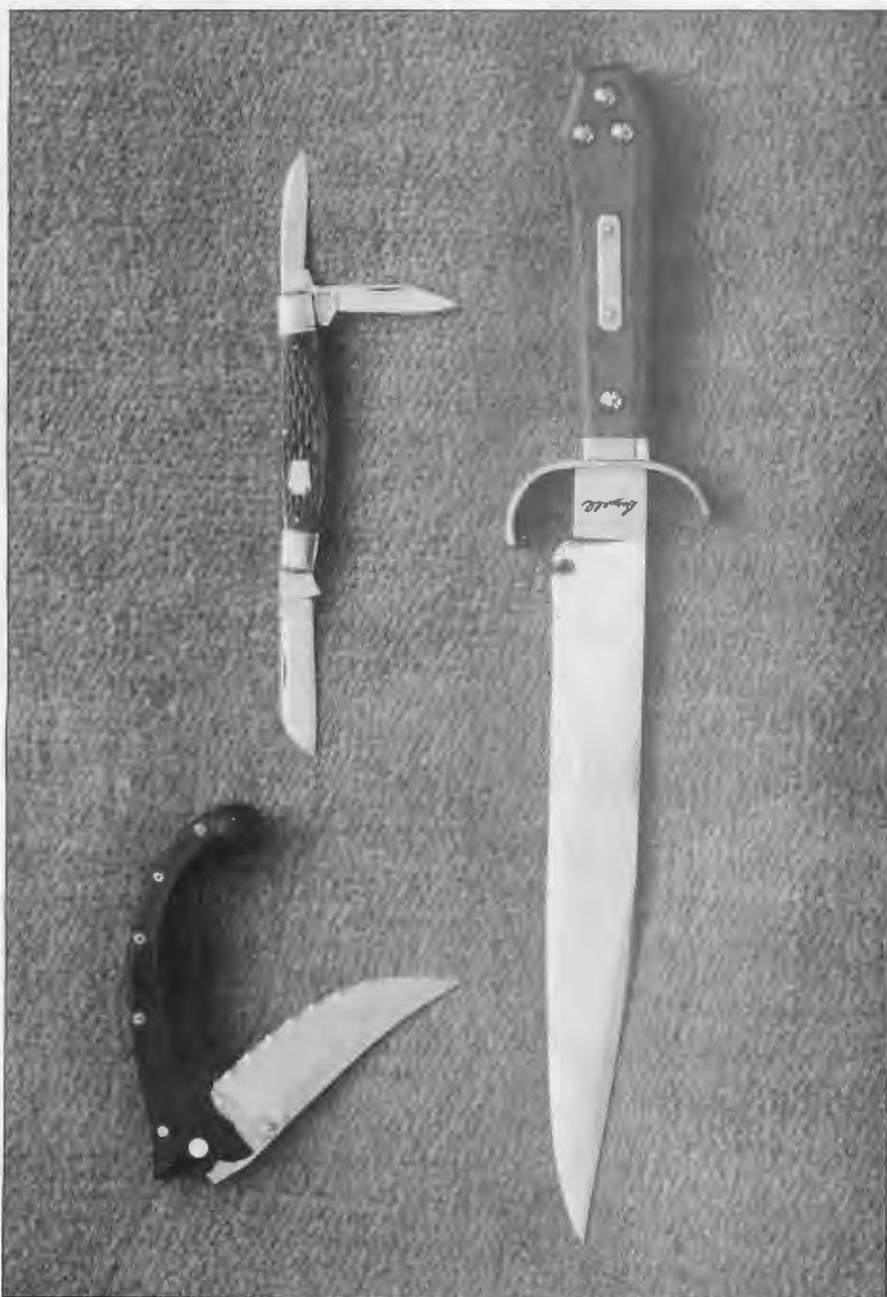
Before he was elected to Congress, he was a successful practicing physician. The Congressman showed some interest in the Bowie knife I was carrying and I asked him if he would like to examine it. He said that he certainly would, and I handed him the knife. In the course of the conversation over the next 20 minutes, I gave him a brief overview of the capabilities of the knife, and explained the mechanics of the backcut. As I briefed the Congressman, I watched his face to gauge his reaction to what I was telling him. As he is a perceptive man, he quickly realized that the backcut was unstoppable, and when that awareness hit, he immediately grasped that what I was telling him might someday save his life. Until that point, he had been completely unaware of the capabilities of a fighting Bowie Knife — yet he is intelligent, well-traveled, highly educated, and a combat veteran.

This illustrates the point that people today, even those with an above-average awareness of guns and knives, are not nearly as well-versed in their use as were their counterparts in 1850. Skill-at-arms was not a luxury then; it was more of a necessity. Not only can most men today not shoot well enough to successfully defend themselves or their family, they have completely forgotten that a good knife can offer a life-saving advantage.

Think about this: You have a weapon that is invisible, and totally silent when it is deployed. It is lethal when it strikes, and impossible to avoid. Few

people will ever see it, and those that do will have absolutely no idea as to the extent of its capabilities. In this regard, the Bowie Knife is almost like a *brand new* weapon. Those who would see it don't know how to deal with one when they are confronted with it.

The common perception is that "Oh, it's a big old knife, big deal." Most people think that in a fight, the Bowie knife is used to hack and chop your way out of the encounter if you can. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There is actually a sophisticated methodology developed for the proper deployment of the Bowie Knife in a combat mode that



(opposite) Author in casual T-shirt and jeans — but nonetheless discreetly carrying three defensive knives (above): 11-1/2" Hells Belle Bowie, folding three-blade Schatt & Morgan, and a serrated-blade Cold Steel Scimitar. These are carried, or within reach, 24/7.

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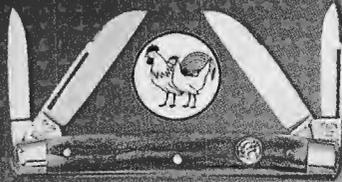
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**As Lynn Thompson
of Cold Steel
is fond of saying,
"proximity negates
skill." Get in close
and stay there long
enough, and you
will get cut – it's
that simple.**

To do this you have to strip away the veil of complacency and make the commitment to acquire the knowledge you need. You must also be sure that the knowledge and training you acquire is *correct*. There is a lot of knife training available, but the majority of it will get you killed rather than keep you safe. The training you need will stress long-range, not the in-close, small-knife methodology. As Lynn Thompson of Cold Steel is fond of saying, "proximity negates skill." Get in close and stay there long enough, and you will get cut — it's that simple.

We are each ultimately responsible for our own safety and well-being. This past weekend at a fairly large gun show I saw a lot of people who routinely put themselves in harm's way every time they go to the corner convenience store to fill their tank up with gas. They simply don't realize that what they don't know can get them killed. Neither do they realize that the knowledge and training to ensure their safety is so easily acquired. If you care about your own safety and the safety of your loved ones, complacency is not an option.

Find the training and take advantage of it. ☒

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“Kill The Enemy And Get Out!”

BY ROWAN SCARBOROUGH

Special operations forces played a major role in ousting the Taliban and sending al-Qaeda terrorists scampering out of Afghanistan. Now, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld wants SOF to do even more in the global war on terrorism, say senior Bush Administration officials.

Rumsfeld in July sent a classified memo to his top special operations general ordering him to devise a new war plan for more covert actions in the war on terrorism. Sources say Mr. Rumsfeld, an ex-Navy pilot who is not shy about his desire to kill the enemy, is impatient with pace of capturing or killing al-Qaeda operatives in the Afghanistan-Pakistan theater, and worldwide.



General Charles Holland, who heads U.S. Special Operations Command and oversees some 40,000 SOF troops, presented the first part of his battle plan in a classified briefing to Mr. Rumsfeld at the Pentagon on 2 August. The war roadmap is dubbed “the first 30 percent” because it will be put into action in thirds, starting as soon as possible.

The plan calls for a whole new clandestine war against terrorists, marking a major shift in the war. There will be more use of “black SOF” forces, such as Army Delta Force and Navy SEALs, who specialize in counter-terrorism. There is already much pressure on

these units to conduct successful operations.

In Afghanistan, they are part of Task Force 11, a special unit created to hunt down senior Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders. The Task Force is particularly active in southeastern Afghanistan, where former Taliban leader Mullah Omar is loose, and in western Pakistan, where Osama bin Laden is



Photo by Lefr Skocglors/ZUMA Press.

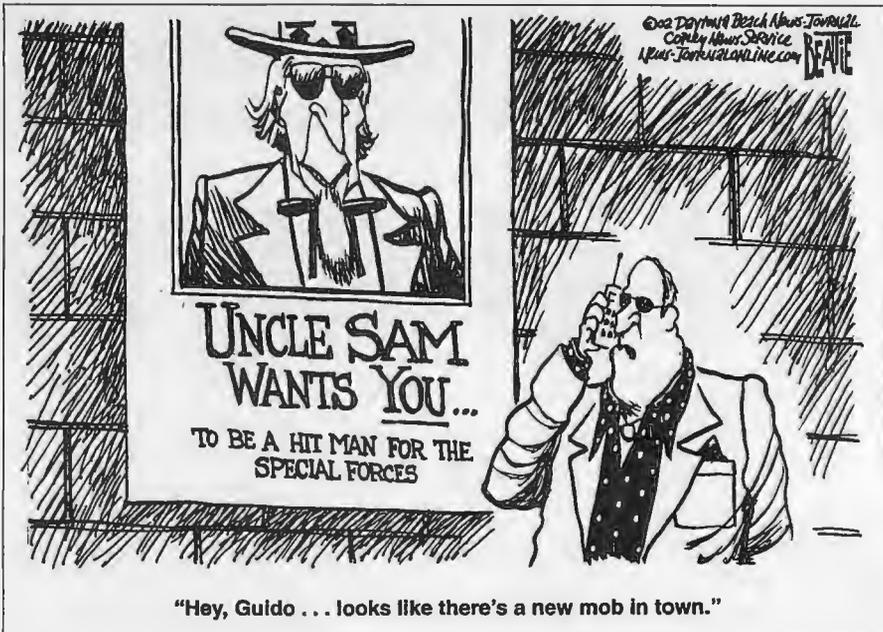
Special Forces operators will be integral parts of eliminations planned for al-Qaeda elements hiding worldwide

thought to be holed-up. The problem is, in recent months, coalition commandos have not had much luck finding their quarry. The hardcore Taliban fighters have gone back into the villages, where they can mingle with the peasants as they plot their next move and then go out at night to attack U.S. or Afghan forces. The al-Qaeda, bin Laden's terrorist operatives, have gone into Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

Mr. Rumsfeld wants a plan whereby Delta and SEAL warriors can launch covert operations against these targets. He wants units to be able to move in a matter of hours, not days, and have all the authority needed in place to infiltrate a country, kill the enemy and get out, say two administration sources.

"Our Special Forces have been key to this operation from day one," said Brigadier General John Rosa, the Pentagon's Deputy Director for Current Operations.

"Special Forces have very special missions and to sit and talk about planning in the future to use them, I think would be inappropriate," said a U.S. commando of the impending new war plan, "There are always new ways ... we learn from each op. We are only limited by our imagination. We will be operating with very little interference from above. I can't go into details, but there will be more emphasis on some of the low-profile skills that we are famous/infamous for."



"Hey, Guido . . . looks like there's a new mob in town."

Some in the administration view the new Rumsfeld war plan as a show of impatience with Gen. Tommy Franks, who, as head of U.S. Central Command, is running the war in Afghanistan-Pakistan. U.S. intelligence estimates there are any where from 500 to several thousand al-Qaeda in the region. Mr. Rumsfeld refers to them as "dead-enders;" terrorists who will continue to fight until captured or killed.

Victoria Clarke, Rumsfeld's spokesman, says her boss is happy with Gen. Franks. "The secretary has full and total confidence in Gen. Franks. He has done an extraordinary

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job of prosecuting what has been a very unconventional war, and the secretary's very confident that the performance will be terrific going forward."

Asked about Gen. Holland's first briefing on a new plan, Clarke said, "Without going into any details, we're always looking for ways to be more adaptive, to be more flexible, to be faster, to be more lethal, to go after what is a very unconventional enemy. So a lot of people, including Gen. Holland and Secretary Rumsfeld, the senior civilian and military leadership, will continue to try to produce exactly those sorts of plans."

On the topic of Mr. Rumsfeld's reported impatience with the rate of enemy kills or captures, Mrs. Clarke said, "It is not a secret to you all, to all of us, the secretary wants everyone to understand the sense of urgency about what we're doing here, that the threats out there are very, very real."

Despite the success thus far in Afghanistan, we have a long way to go. So he is always communicating to everyone and to the senior military and civilian leadership the sense of urgency with which they should address all these matters."

Sources say Gen. Holland is still tinkering with a final "30 percent"-plan before Mr. Rumsfeld gives approval and submits it to President Bush. The final product is likely to contain a series of new initiatives. Among them is a procedure to get Delta and SEALs teams inside countries and out as fast as possible. This will include a fast-track deployment system, State Department OK and some pre-arranged agreements with foreign nations where al-Qaeda followers live. The missions would take place outside traditional civilian law-enforcement restrictions. This will give covert warriors authority to "slit throats if necessary," as one officer put it.

The final plan is also expected to increase the power of U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. SoCom is, in military parlance, a "supporting command." That means it gives support in the form of troops and planning, to the warfighting commands, or "supported commands," such as Gen. Franks' Central Command. The Pentagon envisions giving SoCom the power to plan and execute some clandestine missions, requiring the traditional warfighting commands to support it. "If this plan is activated, it will mean a sea-change in the way the war is being

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fought," said a senior administration official. "Historians will look back at this period as the time the administration shifted strategy, became more daring and started to kill-off al-Qaeda one or two at a time."

General Holland, the man on whose shoulders the new war plan sits, is a 34-year Air Force veteran who in Vietnam flew AC-130 gunships, the same weapon used effectively in Afghanistan to support ground troops. (This writer has viewed gun-camera footage of an AC-130 patrolling the skies near Kandahar in early December, when Mullah Omar and his fighters fled the city and it fell to American and Afghan forces. The aircraft spots a fleeing vehicle carrying Taliban. It opens fire with one of its cannons, but can't hit the target. Still, the vehicle stops. Taliban soldiers pop out the back door and run for the hills. The AC-130 crew shifts to a machine gun, from which the Taliban cannot run fast enough.)

In his new role, Gen. Holland must deal with a whole lot more than providing troops and aircraft. He must mastermind a counter terrorism plan that is a match to a cunning enemy.

Right now, U.S. officials are calling the current fighting in Afghanistan a standoff. The enemy has not had a lot of success attacking the new government of Hamid Karzai. But Task Force 11 and other coalition units, under the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, have come up dry on a number on night operations. The problem: "We don't have good humint," said one administration official, referring to the espionage term for human spies. "Without good intelligence on where these guys are, you can't go after them."

Privately, Mr. Rumsfeld expresses impatience with the rate his troops are finding and eliminating terrorists. He realizes that if left alone, al-Qaeda will reorganize and launch more attacks. Publicly, he is a bit coy. "I am impatient," he says. "I probably will remain impatient. And if everything were being done absolutely perfectly, I probably would still be impatient. I am anxious to see that we can stop any conceivable terrorist attack that it's possible to stop. I'm anxious to capture or kill any terrorist we can find. I'm anxious to see that countries who are harboring them stop doing that."

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

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GOING IN

PART III

From "Razor"'s Edge To Dramatic Exfil

BY LANCE M. BACON

The survivors of "Razor 1" had spent five hours fighting off al-Qaeda aggressors atop Takhur Ghar Mountain. Three Rangers and one crewmember were killed by enemy fire moments after machine-gun-fire and rocket-propelled grenades brought the MH-47 Chinook down at roughly 0620 hours. Three other soldiers were seriously wounded, but in stable condition. Two Air Force pararescuemen and an Army medic tended to the litter patients while the remaining 11 Americans kept the guerrillas at bay.

A barrage of grenades as well as machine-gun and mortar-fire was being thrown their way, but the soldiers and airmen hadn't lost an inch of ground. But they had not been able to silence one formidable and dangerous position only 75 meters off the downed helicopter's two o'clock.

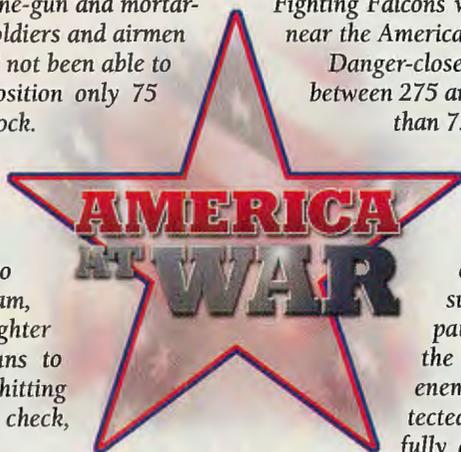
AC-130 gunships had pounded that bunker the night before, but the enemy forces had found refuge in the charred remains. Staff Sergeant Gabe Brown, the combat controller assigned to "Razor 1"'s combat search and rescue team, made a daring move. He brought in four fighter jets and used their air-to-air 20mm guns to destroy the bunker. Though rounds were hitting the target and keeping the enemy in check, machine-gun fire continued to blurt out.

Roughly two and a half hours into the battle, 10 Rangers who had been inserted by "Razor 2" made their way to "Razor 1"'s position. It was a much-needed reinforcement, but they weren't the only ones who showed up on scene. Brown saw four enemy troops moving approximately 800 meters to the south.

It wasn't long before the jets' 2,000 rounds ran dry. Brown met with Ranger platoon leader Captain Nathan Self and a risky, but seemingly necessary, decision was made: To destroy the enemy bunker, two F-15E Strike Eagles and two F-16 Fighting Falcons would drop 500-pound laser-guided bombs near the American position.

Danger-close with a 500-pound bomb was estimated between 275 and 300 meters. The helicopter was no more than 75 meters from the bunker, however, and no fewer than eight Rangers had taken position between the two.

Brown decided to walk the bombs in, starting at 400 meters. A slight ridge separated the helicopter from the bunker, and supplied just enough cover from the blast pattern. The 500-pounders likely damaged the bunker and may even have killed some enemy troops, but the same terrain that protected Razor 1 also prevented the bombs from fully destroying the enemy position. "It wasn't



very effective, unless they hit it directly," Brown said.

As he tried to determine how best to do that, Brown got some less-than-thrilling news. His fast-movers were told to vacate.

It had been a successful mission for Capt. Kirk "Panzer" Rieckhoff, who piloted one of the two F-15E Strike Eagles. The 1993 Air Force Academy grad was returning from a near-record 12.3 hour sortie and was "Winchester," meaning he had spent all bullets and all bombs — a badge of honor in the fighter community.

But smiles were elusive as he made the long flight back to an undisclosed base in the Middle East. "You realize, 'Holy shit, I'm leaving these dudes who are sitting on this mountaintop,'" Rieckhoff said. "It's freezing up there; they're being shot at and I'm in my nice, cushy cockpit flying home."

Reality's impact can be as powerful as any bomb, as was evident when Panzer grew silent and reflected on his words.

Major Chris "Junior" Short, the F-15E flight lead, moved quickly to cover for his wingman.

"We had a pretty good day in what we did, but it took somebody having a really, really bad day," he said. "You want to feel good that you did your job, and did as well as you could. The real frustration is that you couldn't do more. If we had more [munitions], we would have done more. I would have stayed there all day.



Lance M. Bacon

Staff Sgt. Gabe Brown (right) stands with fellow combat controller Technical Sgt. Jim Hotaling at Hurlbert Field, Fla. The Air Force special operators coordinated their efforts to bring air power against the enemy and inevitably extract the survivors of Razor 1 from atop Takhur Ghar Mountain.

"We don't know the fate of the kids on the ground. When we left I was still talking to the kid, but I come home and I turn on Fox News and I find out that seven kids died this day. You felt good about what you did, but there's a pit in your stomach because you don't know if it made a difference. I don't know what I missed, I don't know what I hit and I don't know if it mattered enough to save anybody's life that day. I put the bullets in the right place, yes sir. I hit what he told me to hit, but I don't know what it did in the long run. Was it enough to save one kid's life? I hope so, but I don't know."

Brown knows.

"Did they save a life? Yeah, they saved 26 of them," said Brown, who had nothing but high praise for the fast-movers. "They did it perfect, no doubt about it."

But at the time of the fighters' departure, Brown's only thoughts were on getting the team home. Now he had no close-air support. Though the bombing runs hadn't destroyed the bunker, they had

kept the enemy from advancing. And with three litter patients and a dwindling ammo supply, the survivors of Razor 1 would rather have avoided another enemy surge.

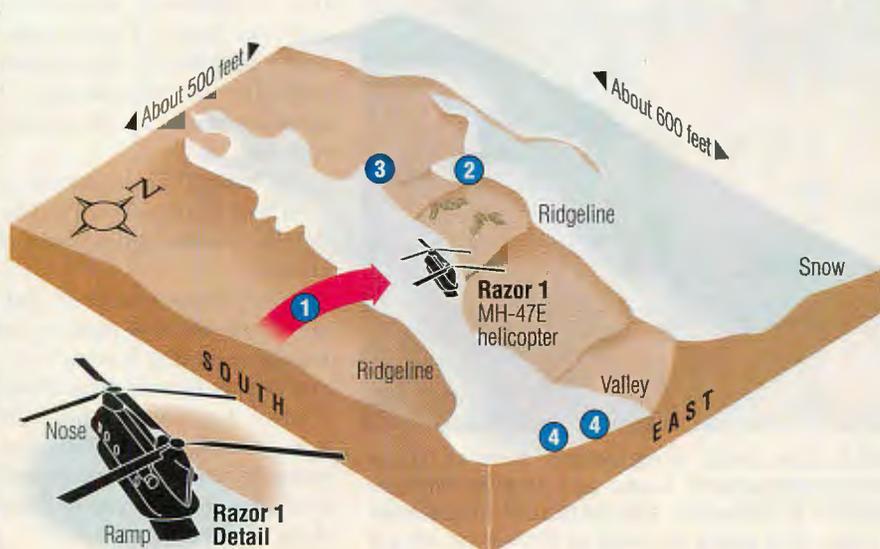
But that bunker would soon be silenced forever.

UAV May Have Hit Bunker

Four hours into the battle, soon after the F-16s got the order to return to base, the bunker was destroyed. Brown

THE BATTLEGROUND

A look at the crash site of Razor 1, an MH-47E Chinook helicopter, high atop Takhur Ghar Mountain on the southern end of Shah-e-Kot Valley, Afghanistan.



- 1 Estimated path of 10 Rangers from Razor 2, who joined the survivors of Razor 1.
- 2 Once the Al-Qaida bunker is silenced, Brown, the Ranger platoon leader and the ETAC reposition atop this hill.
- 3 The casualty collection point is moved from behind Razor 1 to make it easier to load casualties when a rescue helicopter arrives.
- 4 Al-Qaida fighters establish two bunkers and open fire from the east as Razor 1 survivors move the dead and wounded to the new casualty collection point. Senior Airman Jason Cunningham is hit while moving wounded out of harm's way. He later dies.

GRAPHIC BY NATHANIEL LEVINE

would say only that “other air assets” destroyed it. Though officials have confirmed that no foreign aircraft provided air support in this battle, a battle manager said the asset that destroyed the bunker “did not belong to the U.S. military.” The comment mirrored a February statement by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. Regarding a 4 Feb. airstrike on a Taliban vehicle convoy that killed seven, Rumsfeld said the attack “was from another element of the government.”

The Central Intelligence Agency reportedly used a Predator-fired Hellfire missile in that 4 Feb. attack. The Air Force last year also proved the UAV could successfully engage ground targets using Hellfire missiles. And such a vehicle had been over Roberts Ridge from the get-go. Commanders at Bagram used a Predator to watch the capture of Navy SEAL Neil Roberts, and monitor his whereabouts.

Neither the Agency nor the Defense Department would comment on whether a CIA-owned Predator made the kill. But the scenario was nothing new, according to Richard Clarke, who is President Bush’s adviser for cyberspace security but served as counterterrorism coordinator for the Clinton administration. Clarke told a congressional forum earlier this year that prior to the 11 Sept. attacks, while the United States was studying ways it might hit Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, a mud complex was built in an undisclosed U.S. desert. The complex simulated bin Laden’s headquarters — until sometime in early 2001. That’s when a Predator flew in and nailed the complex with a Hellfire missile.

Technical Sergeant Keary Miller, “Razor 1”’s combat search and rescue team leader, didn’t much care about what took out the bunker. The pararescueman only cared about moving his casualties to a flatter area to prepare for a hasty exit. He found such a place roughly 80 meters at helicopter’s 11 o’clock.

Brown then converged with the platoon leader and Air Force Staff Sgt. Kevin Vance, an Enlisted Terminal Attack Controller assigned to the Rangers, on the hilltop adjacent to

the destroyed bunker. From this new control point, Brown was able to contact “Mako 3-0,” the SEAL team that had come back to rescue — then recover — their fellow SEAL. The team had come under intense fire on the ridge prior to “Razor 1” and “Razor 2”’s arrival, and broke contact. They now were 1 kilometer east northeast of the downed helicopter.

While Miller helped a Ranger with an ankle wound caused by either a bullet or an RPG fragment take position in the bunker, the reinforced Ranger team quickly set up a perimeter security with positions scattered 360-degrees within 100 meters of the new control point. In the process, the Rangers discovered the bodies of Roberts and Technical Sgt. John Chapman, the combat controller who had inserted with the SEAL team.

Describing it as a “very delicate issue,” Air Force Special Operations Command officials would not discuss the recovery of Roberts’ or Chapman’s bodies except to say they were recovered at this time and placed with “Razor 1”’s casualties.

Defense officials have since confirmed that Chapman’s body was found in one of the enemy bunkers. Roberts’ body was found approximately 15 feet away at the base of a large rock.

A source familiar with the battle said Roberts held-off numerous attackers for a “considerable time.” The source said that when Roberts’ weapon, an M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, was recovered at the site, it was evident the light machine gun had jammed and “still had rounds” that were not fired. Blood patterns on Roberts’ weapon suggested he had been shot at close range, the source said.

The team was five to six hours into the battle by the time the bodies were recovered, and Brown didn’t seem to be the only one who knew the close-air had departed. As the skies above had grown silent, enemy reinforcements had grown in number.

“These troops had nowhere to go, and they were pretty heavily outnumbered,” said Lt. Col. James “Spanky” Dennis, commander of the 335th Fighter Squadron from which the F-15Es came. “A lot of times, it was just pockets of al-Qaeda, but I think this was a more-organized force that knew that helicopter had crashed, and they were gonna go get these guys.”

Bad Decision

Air Force Technical Sgt. Jim Hotaling was sitting 3 kilometers to southwest as part of a coalition Special Forces team. From his position, the combat controller watched dozens of guerillas move up the mountainside.

He had a B-52 on station.

It had 2,000-pound JDAMs.

The enemy didn’t have a chance.

“My job was to stop the bad-guy reinforcements from engaging the team that was up there, and disrupt their command-and-control for coordinating the fight,” Hotaling said. “You bring power to bear on the enemy and you kill as many as you can, and that’s what I did.”

The Stratofortress made two



Capt. Joe Locke is assigned to the Army’s XVIII Airborne Corps. In Afghanistan, as an air liaison officer, he coordinates airstrikes with Army infantry commanders. Locke, an F-16 pilot, who normally works out of an operations center, filled-in for an indisposed enlisted tactical air-controller for five days while accompanying a Canadian sniper team during the battle for Shah-e-Kot and got an on-the-ground look at infantry combat.

or three passes, taking out troop reinforcements and command and control facilities. Hotaling also wrote in his battle notes that he hit tanks on this day, though he is quick to point out that he never actually saw any such armor in the area.

"We received intelligence reports on possible locations, and I threw some [bombs] down in those areas, too," he said.

As Hotaling pummeled troops in the open, another group of guerillas took cover in two positions at the helicopter's 6 o'clock.

A 'Hero' Is Hit

Miller and his medical team had started to move the wounded to the new casualty collection point due west of "Razor 1". He wanted to move them quick, knowing the area was exposed to possible attack. Carrying the wounded up the snow-covered hill took a lot of time and energy from the already drained soldiers and airmen. The job was nearly complete, but at roughly 1230 hours time ran out.

"We got lit up pretty hard," Brown said of the forces that attacked from two new bunkers.

Senior Airman Jason Cunningham and an aircrew medic immediately were hit. Cunningham had been a pararescue man only eight months. He was treating a patient when a round entered just below his body armor. The bullet entered low from the right side and traveled across his pelvis, causing serious internal injuries.

A Ranger medic was the first to treat him while another soldier went to tell Miller.

"I asked 'how bad?'" he said. The long pause indicated Miller would not be able to continue his thought.

Brown also found Cunningham difficult to discuss. He instead swallowed hard and changed the topic.

As Cunningham and the aircrew medic were moved, Brown got on the horn and called on a heavy bomber to destroy the new bunkers. Brown again tried to walk bombs in, this time using a 2,000-pound Joint Direct Attack Munition, but the round fell too far south. He then turned to Navy fighter jets, F-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcats, which dropped six 500-pounders. Two bombs silenced the enemy position.

Though many air crews were ready to lend a hand as word of this battle spread, the plethora of air assets was nothing new to ground forces. The Defense Department won't say how many air strikes occurred during Operation Anaconda, but sources put the number between 150 and 175 strikes during the first 10 days. As one air liaison officer put it, U.S. forces didn't run out of airplanes, they ran out of airspace.

"Trying to get that many fighters and bombers coordinated to drop bombs on multiple targets in the small chunk of land we were working in is difficult," said Capt. Joe Locke, a member of the 18th Air Support Operations Group, 18th Airborne Corps. An F-16CJ pilot for seven years, Locke hooked up with the Coalition Task Force Mountain's air support operations center five days before Anaconda kicked-off.

At times, air power was stacked high — helicopter gun-



Lance M. Bacon

(From left) Maj. Chris "Junior" Short and Lt. Col. Jim "Meat" Fairchild, the weapons system officer, flew together as "Twister 5-1". On their wing was "Twister 5-2", flown by Capt. Kirk "Panzer" Rieckhoff. As the two F-15Es provided initial close-air support to the survivors of "Razor 1", Lt. Col. James "Spanky" Dennis, commander of the 335th Fighter Squadron, aided his pilots from an undisclosed control center.

ships and A-10 Thunderbolts flying low routes, AC-130 gunships flying slightly higher at night, fast-movers in the 10,000-foot range and heavy bombers above them.

And that was just fine with the Americans on Roberts Ridge. But they also were looking for another type of aircraft to enter the picture. Throughout the day, Rangers had requested Brown set up an exfiltration, or "exfil." The desire only increased with the latest round of casualties.

"I kept telling Controller that 'we lost another one, cold PZ, when are we getting exfiltrated?'" Vance wrote in his statement. "Controller said to hold on. After asking him three times, [platoon leader] expressed urgency at getting team out of there. I continued to tell Controller but he just kept telling me to hold on. After the third time, I handed the hand mike [sic] to the PL and asked him to tell Controller the same thing."

It was a tough time for everyone, including Brown.

"I told an airborne asset at one time 'people are dying, and all I can do is push this button and talk to you,'" he said. But there wasn't much else he could do. Besides coordinating extremely close airstrikes, Brown knew an exfil would be highly unlikely because the zone was still hot.

"Every time I'd go to key up the radio, they'd start returning fire heavily, and I can't call cold," he said. "But it's a good idea to do everything under the protection of nightfall. We were still taking sporadic fire. We had silenced the first bunker, then got hit again. We had silenced the second bunker, but who's to say it's over? I can only see what I see. There's much more out there."

Such as surface-to-air missiles. Sources familiar with battlefield intelligence reports said SAMs were in the region.

Miller, a pararescue jumper with more than 10 years in special tactics, didn't think it wise to risk another helicopter.

Continued on page 81

Hunting Suicide Bombers

PART V

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY
SAMUEL M. KATZ

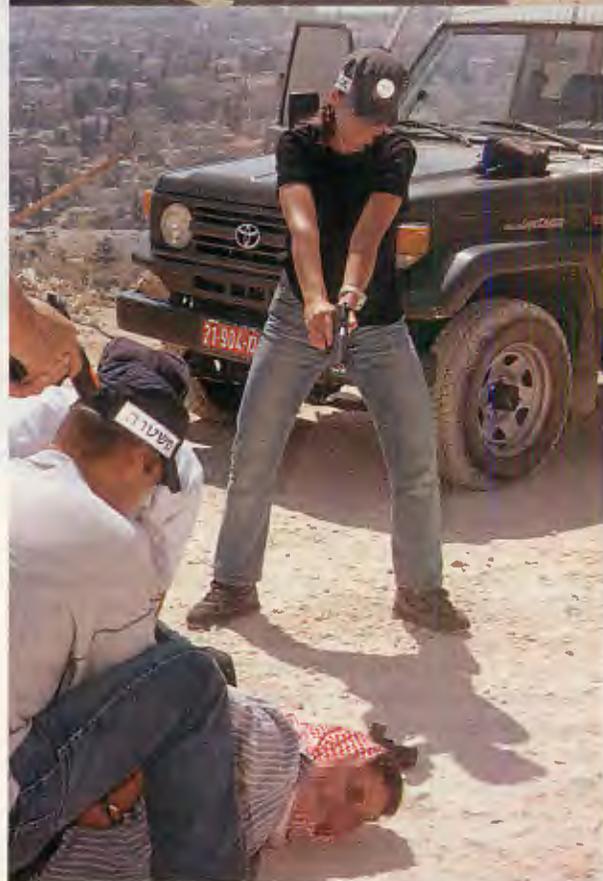
No Safe Ground For Citizens, No Quarter For Terrorists

Last month we were introduced to the Lavi, the elite Israeli Border Guard force assigned to police units whose specialty has evolved into the detection and prevention — and when all else fails, the investigation — of terrorist acts. We resume with an incident last September when intelligence alerted Lavi to an imminent threat.

At 0745 hours two uniformed Border Guard officers patrolling the area near the Sbarro bombsite came across an Orthodox Jew who just didn't look right. "His body language just wasn't right," a unit officer would later comment. "The officers responding just had that sixth sense that something was wrong." As one officer quickly moved peo-

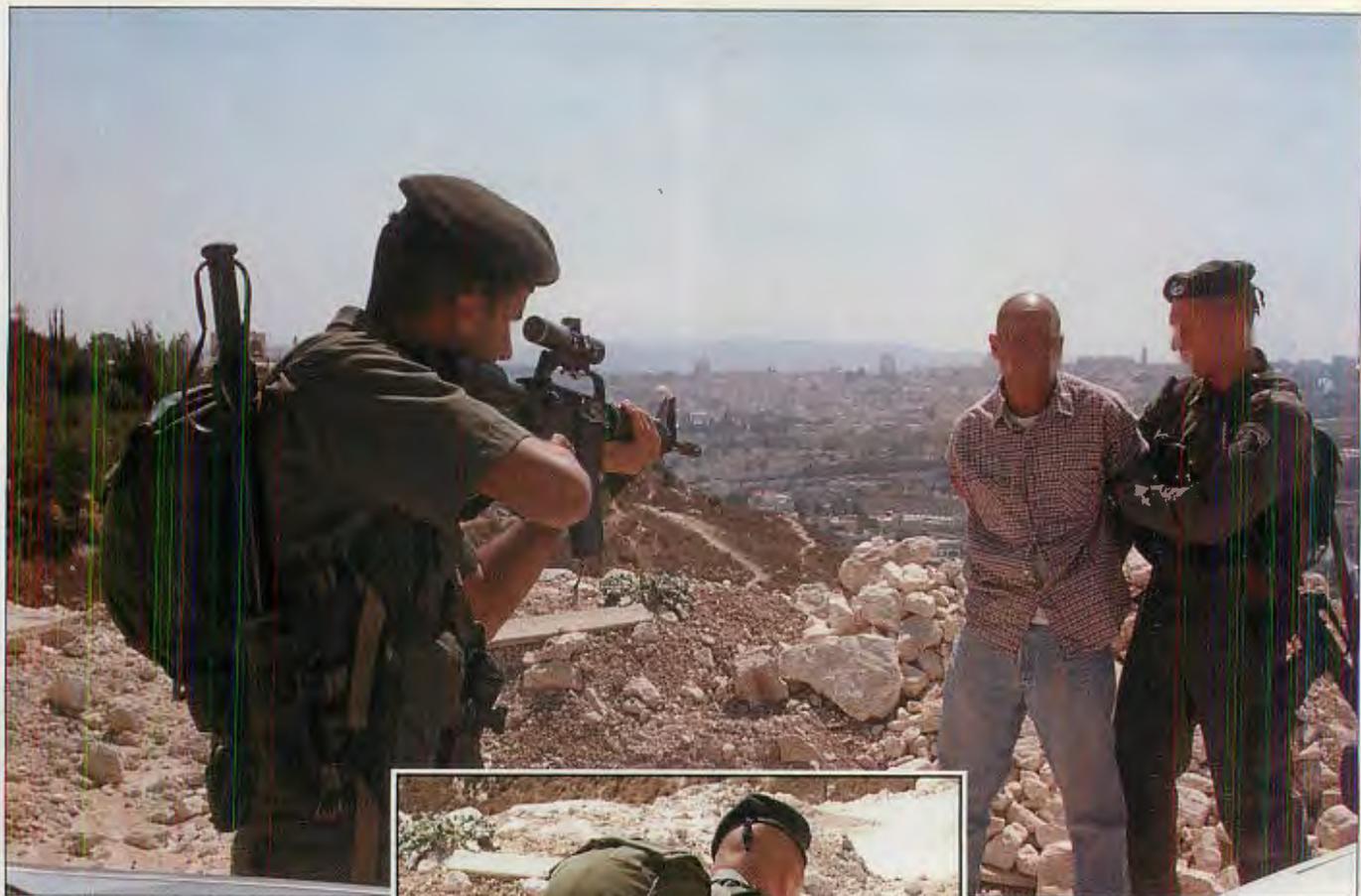
ple away from the suspicious individual, especially a group of children heading to the Lycee Francais School nearby, his partner approached the man. In a flash, the man in Orthodox garb detonated in a flash of blinding light and exploding flesh. A reporter for France Inter Radio working in Jerusalem was dropping his daughter off at school on Hanevi'im Street when the suicide bomber struck. "My car was seriously damaged, covered with chunks of human flesh from the suicide bomber. His head was blown into the yard of the school," he said.

Not all of the bombers blow themselves up so conveniently to Border Guard patrols. Sometimes Lavi has to go out and



In the hills along the approach to Jerusalem, a Lavi sniper (above) takes careful aim. (right) During a tactical car stop near the Mount of Olives, Lavi officers forcibly remove an occupant from a car and apprehend him.

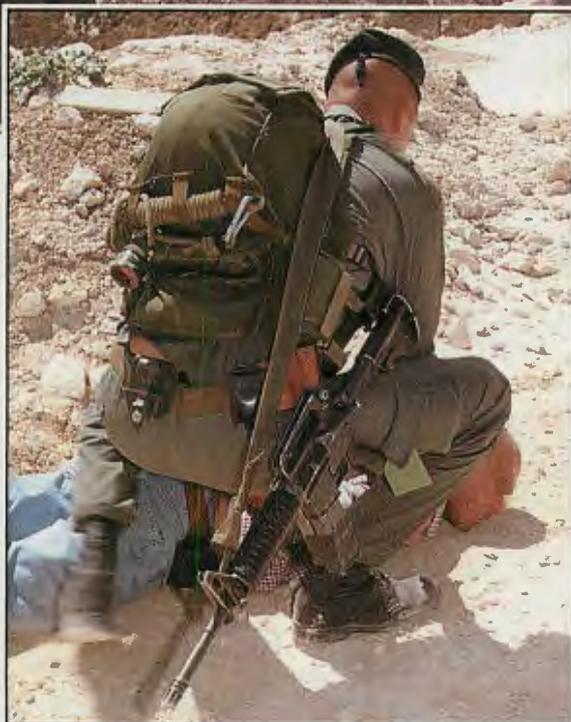
search for these human needles in a haystack. On one brutally hot afternoon M., juggling his pager and cellular phone, addressed a group of officers before they ventured out on a proactive patrol. "The bomber will not walk on the streets of Jerusalem wearing a Kefiyeh, holding a copy of the Koran and shouting *Allahu Akbar!* Respect their ingenuity and resolve. He, or she, will be dressed as one of you, or they will be



dressed as an Orthodox person, or as a soldier, or even a tourist. You are all police officers and you are all talented. Look at that one thing that sparks your interest and your concern. And remember, if you spot someone, our job is to isolate him from civilians and attempt to stop him from setting off his device even if that means getting in between the human bomb and the civilians. That's our job. You all know the requirements that allow you to use deadly force. If you are faced with a threat, put on your hats identifying you as police officers and stop the threat."

Fast Response Can Save Lives

The officers know that if they do identify a possible suicide bomber, their tactics must be decisive and immediate. "The bombs that these bastards now build are incredibly sophisticated," claims Sergeant R., one of Lavi's most experienced NCOs and a veteran of one of the Israel National Police's elite counterterrorist squads. "Some have special safety measures to make sure that the bombers don't pick their nose and accidentally blow themselves up before they can find a bus or a group of assembled civilians," R., continues, "and these devices, once readied and the safeties deactivated, can be initiated with the mere press of a button." Units that hunt down suicide bombers are reticent about disclosing tactics used to stop terrorists before they

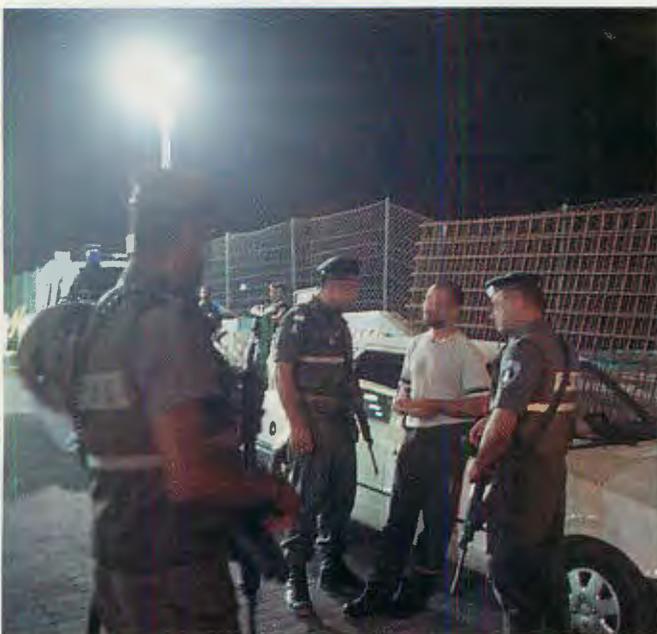


... in this sequence, the passenger is taken in-hand and effectively "grounded."

can blow themselves up, but these center on placing the officers in between the bombers and the civilians that he must evacuate. It is difficult work and one that requires enormous courage and skill. "Any one of us has the skills to storm a hijacked bus, rescue hostages from a two-story building, or attack a safehouse with a sniper-initiated assault," R. offers, "but being able to function while, on one hand trying to subdue or terminate a potential suicide bomber while at the same time trying like mad to evacuate people from the kill zone is a job that I doubt any other police officer — anywhere else in the world — can relate to."

The officers are burdened by the stress of their assignment in a way that few could understand.

They chain smoke and twitch when sitting. Their fingers have been stained a dull coat of brown courtesy of nicotine, and many have stopped eating regular meals. Normal sleep patterns have been haphazard since the eruption of the Intifadah. Normal sleep patterns have all but disappeared since the Sbarro suicide bombing. "How can I describe this assignment?" asks a young officer who'll be working the Russian Compound in uniform. "If I am successful, maybe nothing explodes and nobody gets killed. If I fail, then I will have to pick up the pieces of bodies and forever live with the haunting guilt that I could have prevented so much misery."



A terrorist suspect is grilled before being taken back to police headquarters, in the western part of the city, for more intensive interrogation. (below) Uniformed Lavi personnel deploy around the bombed-out shell of the Sbarro Pizzeria during a high-visibility patrol.



Prevention Starts With Intelligence

Much of the Lavi's field intelligence pinpointing the daunting reality that a bomber is on the loose comes, of course, from the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic counterespionage and counterterrorist security service, but much of it — especially in Jerusalem — comes from patrols mounted by the Border Guards' regular companies into the Arab neighborhoods of East Jerusalem. The patrols are difficult missions that require the Border policemen to venture to neighborhoods that, although part of Israel, openly sport graffiti praising Hamas and Fatah suicide bombers. These neighborhoods often

straddle the invisible no-man's land separating Israel from areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority and have become staging areas for suicide bombers about to be ferried into Israel's cities. The Border Guard patrols search for stolen cars (the favorite method for transporting a suicide bomber), weapons, and other fugitives wanted by the police or Shin Bet. Often, the Border Guard operations in these neighborhoods are met by armed resistance, but they are crucial in gathering intelligence on the terrorists and their plans. "The Palestinians look at us like an occupying force," claims R., a Circassian superintendent with more than five years of experience in East Jerusalem, "but this is part of Israel and I'll be damned if anyone won't obey the laws here. That goes double for anyone involved in terrorist acts. I've seen more than my share of suicide bombings and dead children killed by crazy bombers. If [being] there, working in a place like a-Sawiya, or any other place, helps to connect the dots and stop a father from burying his son, or a daughter from weeping over her mother's grave, then this, to me, is the most important job in all of Israel."

And Never Give Up

Dusk has hit Jerusalem with a veil of fear this June evening. President Bush has just delivered his vision of what the Palestinians need to do in order to receive firm American support for the creation of a state of their own, and both the Shin Bet and police know that the terrorists will express their opposition to the American president and his policies the only way they know how — by killing innocent civilians. The Shin Bet, Border Guard commanders have learned, believe that both Hamas and Fatah are attempting to secrete a group of bombers into the Israeli capital. For Lavi, and the other Border Guard special operations units in Jerusalem, day-to-day life in a city besieged by bloodshed will continue. For M., preparing the tactical plan for a SWAT-like operation by his unit against a possible weapons-smuggling ring in northeast Jerusalem near the lines with Ramallah, the exhaustion and adrenaline-draining day-to-day work takes its toll. "This is a war. Nothing Less! A war for the capital city and survival of this country," M. explains as he fastens his flak vest and inserts a 30-round magazine into his M16 rifle, "and I will not rest until we win this once and for all."

Author of many books and articles on the Middle East, and on terrorism/counterterrorism, Samuel M. Katz is a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕



Lavi personnel receive a briefing prior to deployment, where death might await.

GETTING READY FOR WAR



USAF Master Sergeant Rose Reynolds

Ratcheting-Up For Iraqi Takedown

BY DALE B. COOPER

President Bush and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld say they have no immediate plans to go to war against Iraq. However, there is a contradiction in what is being said at the highest levels of government, and what is actually happening.

U.S. weapons-makers have doubled their production rate of laser-guided and satellite-guided bombs, and boosted the output at one ammunition factory to its highest level in 15 years.

About 9,000 JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munitions) have been built in the first six months of this year, compared to 10,000 of the JDAMs that were built in all of last year.

JDAM has been the weapon of choice in Serbia and Afghanistan. Military planners love the satellite-guided weapon for

its pinpoint accuracy, and its relatively low cost of production.

Analysts estimate that more than half of the 10,000 JDAMs built last year were used in Afghanistan against al-Qaeda and Taliban targets, but that conflict would be a walk in the park compared to war with Iraq.

For that reason, the Air Force would like to have at least 40,000 of the JDAMs weapons in its quiver before it attacks Iraq.

One of Boeing's plants in St. Charles, Missouri can take a 1,000- or 2,000-pound "dumb" bomb, add a special tail fin kit, and turn it into JDAM for \$25,000.

Earlier this year, Boeing added a second shift at the plant to increase production of JDAMs from 1,000 to 1,500 per month. The company is currently boost-

Tomahawk cruise missile launched from U.S. nuclear submarine in the Red Sea on the opening night of Operation Desert Storm. (inset) An Air Force B-2 in flight.

ing production to reach a rate of 2,800 satellite-guided weapons per month by the middle of next year. At that rate, Boeing could stockpile 30,000 JDAMs in about a year.

The U.S. only had LGBs, or laser-guided bombs, when it attacked Iraq in 1991. By adding a third shift to its bomb-making factory in Tucson, Arizona, Raytheon Company will be able to complete its orders five months ahead of schedule. The U.S. has tens of thousands of laser-guided weapons, so their need it not as critical as satellite-guided weapons that allow air-

craft to hit multiple targets with pinpoint accuracy during one pass over the battlefield. Unlike LGBs, JDAMs are not affected by the weather.

Raytheon also makes Tomahawk missiles at Tucson. TLAM, as it's officially called, is another precision weapon that was used with great success against Iraq. It can be launched from surface or submerged ships in the Red Sea or the Northern Arabia Sea, and will be invaluable in the event of another war with Iraq. This time, the U.S. may not be able to count on land bases in Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia.

While Raytheon does not have a contract to build more Tomahawks, a spokeswoman says the company recently upgraded 644 of the older TLAMs six months ahead of schedule.

Praise The Lord And Pass The Ammo

Since it is feared that Saddam Hussein has used the past decade to stockpile chemical and biological weapons, the Pentagon is exploring new ways of attacking underground sites that could contain those weapons of mass destruction.

One of the ideas on the drawing table is to use deep-penetrating warhead containing sticky foam that would encapsulate the contaminants and not allow them to be used. Another idea involves using a weapon that would create a fire hot enough to consume the agents in their underground storage bunkers.

The Pentagon is also considering a bold move using intercontinental-range ballistic missiles. But there is a downside to putting non-nuclear conventional warheads on ICBMs. Launches would raise fears in Moscow that the United States was launching a first strike.

While details of delivering a crippling blow to Iraq are being worked out, the drums of war are beating louder. Almost weekly, the administration talks about changing the regime in Baghdad.

"When we say we're going to do something, we mean it," said Vice President Dick Cheney when he returned from an 11-nation tour of Saddam Hussein's neighbors.

After briefing his boss about his latest swing through the Mideast to rally Arab nations in supporting strong action against Iraq like he did when he was Secretary of Defense under Bush's father, Cheney said Arab nations are "uniformly concerned" about Saddam's failure to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

President Bush has said that Iraq will face severe consequences if it doesn't allow UN weapons inspectors to inspect suspected weapons sites. The inspectors

were booted out of Baghdad in December 1998, and haven't been back. Iraqi officials have called them "spies."

Iraq claims it has complied fully with demands of UN inspectors and wants sanctions imposed upon it after the Gulf war lifted completely. Only then, Baghdad says it will consider allowing inspectors back into Iraq.

The UN Security Council has promised to consider suspending sanctions for renewable 120-day periods if inspectors report Iraq has cooperated. But talks with Iraqi officials have hit a brick wall; particularly since UN rejection of an earlier Iraqi offer to permit inspections.

Déjà Vu For Col. John Warden

As the war on terrorism winds down in Afghanistan, the former Air Force officer who developed the highly successful air campaign during the Gulf War sees Iraq as the next target in America's war on terrorism.

When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Colonel John A. Warden III was taking a cruise in the Caribbean with his family. When he returned to Checkmate, the war strategy section of the Air Staff at the Pentagon, he swung into high gear. After the Vietnam war, the decorated fighter decided he wasn't going to participate in another losing operation like "Rolling Thunder," and he didn't. Within 48 hours, Warden and his colleagues put together the air campaign against Iraq.

Rather than focus on destroying the enemy's military, as the United States did during Rolling Thunder in North Vietnam, Warden, who wrote the book

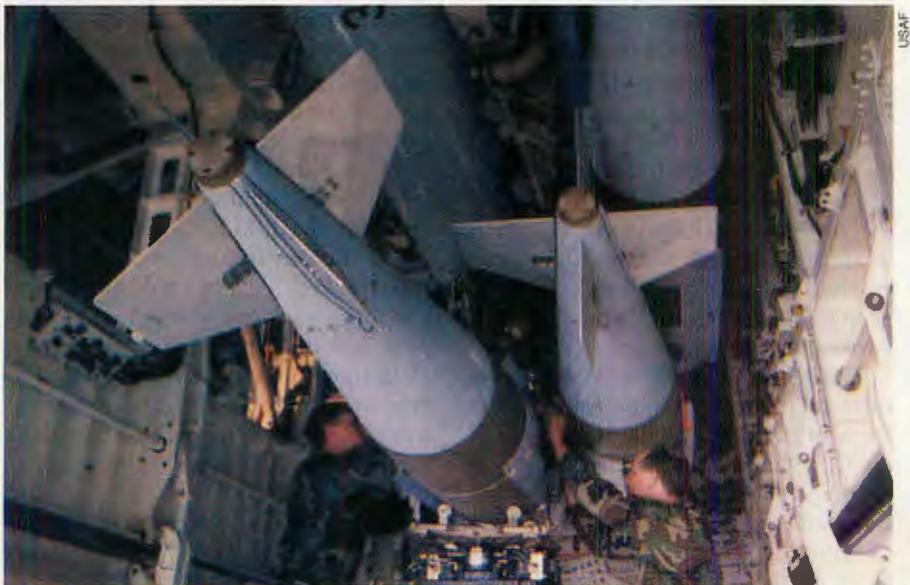
on air strategy while at the National War College in Washington, devised a winning strategy in Iraq called "Instant Thunder" which disabled selectively and simultaneously destroyed both military and civilian infrastructure targets.

General H. Norman Schwarzkopf has called Warden a "brilliant military strategist" for having developed the strategy that ultimately changed the face of American air warfare. His thesis on the "air campaign" has been translated into several foreign languages and it still taught today.

On the day Cheney returned from his tour of Arab nations, Warden, a retired Air Force colonel with 30 years in uniform, who has just written a book, *Winning In Fast Time*, about how strategy that won the Gulf War can help corporate executives win battles in the business world, described to *SOF* in great detail how the U.S. can drive Saddam from power in less than two weeks.

Publicly, Arab leaders, including those like Jordan's young king who lives on Baghdad's back doorstep, are telling the U.S. not to attack Iraq. But privately, Abdullah II is telling the U.S. his country will support efforts to bring down Saddam Hussein. Warden recalls this happened in the late summer and fall of 1990 when Saddam stunned the Arab world when his troops invaded Kuwait.

"When you ask somebody what they think, they tend to give you one set of answers, but when you get to the point when you say, 'OK, guys, we're going to go into Iraq, and you're either with us or against us,' then I think the majority of the people say, 'OK,'" said Warden. But the former Commandant of the Air



Weapons specialists at Whiteman AFB, Missouri uploading four of 16 JDAMs, Joint Direct Attack Munitions, in the belly of a B-2 Stealth bomber.

Command and Staff College who introduced strategy-oriented learning and computers as an essential part of student and faculty life, feels we are categorizing the coming conflict with Iraq in the wrong way.

Warden disagrees with some former military officers who are now analysts for the major networks. A couple of them who work for MSNBC and FOX are suggesting the U.S. go after military targets and not go back to Baghdad this time around.

"This is 180 degrees wrong," said Warden, as he began to discuss how Desert Storm, Part II should be fought.

"The problem in Iraq is not the people. The problem is the despotic person running the country, and a handful of greedy guys who surround him," said Warden, "The problem is not a classic military problem as it shouldn't have been in the first Gulf War. The focus should be on what you want after the war. A guy who is not rabid like Saddam."

Warden believes the coming campaign against Iraq should be designed to break down the security wall around Saddam.

"We did an awfully good job of that the last time, but we fell apart when it came to waging a strategic psychological war, and we also couldn't get beyond the fixation that we had to destroy the Iraqi Army," said Warden.

From an operations side, Warden believes the U.S. can do the same thing again with B-2 stealth bombers and unmanned reconnaissance aircraft like Global Hawk and Predator [see An "Aye" For An "Eye," Parts I & II, June and July 2002] that proved to be invaluable in Afghanistan in locating and destroying the enemy.

"But I wouldn't hit many military targets in Iraq this time," said Warden who would focus this time on the Iraqi leadership. "I would make it very clear to them that we're only interested in their regime."

Through leaflet drops with printed messages targeted to specific demographics, Warden would tell the Iraqi people what our end game was, and where they fit into the game plan.

Warden would tell them he wants them to return to the prosperity they knew in the early 1980s. He'd also tell the U.S. would help them rebuild their country. The bottom line? We're for Iraq and against Saddam.

Militarily, Warden would go after about a half-dozen internal groups like the secret police and Republican Guards, the guys who protected



USAF/Captain Jamie Damster

F-15E Strike Eagle hauling one of two 5,000-pound GBU-28 bunker-busters that were dropped on hard Serb target during Operation Allied Force.

Saddam during the Gulf war and didn't get dirty down in Kuwait.

Fade To Black

One of the first things that would disappear in a Warden bombing campaign would be communications; radio-television etc. Anything that Saddam could use to communicate internally with his support system, and guard against internal problems, because the next time around, Warden says Saddam is going to explode internally, not externally like he did during the Gulf war, and if he starts running around the country in his customized Blue Bird motor coach like he did during Desert Storm, Predator is going to see him and whack him with a couple of Hellfire missiles like it did to several Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders in Afghanistan. Saddam is going to have to burrow deep in a bunker and pray he doesn't get a Bunker Buster shoved up his butt.

During the Gulf war, the 19-foot-long, 4,700 pound GBU-28 was developed for the F-111. Thirty of the so-called "Bunker Busters" were delivered to Southwest Asia, but only two of the \$335,000 weapons were actually used. Two were used in testing.

In those tests, the GBU-28, which is now carried by F-15E Strike Eagles, was able to penetrate over 100 feet into the earth in one test, and 22 feet of concrete in the other test. Two of the bunker busters were used during Operation Allied Force, leaving about two dozen of the "super suppositories" in the Air Force arsenal.

Pulling The Power Plug

In addition to knocking out his communications links, Warden says Baghdad and major cities will also fade to black when Stealth fighters drop CBU-102 on outdoor transformer stations. Each bomb contains 202 submunitions inside what look like a standard cluster-bomb casing. Each of the bomblets is filled with 147 tiny spools of highly conductive aluminum fibres, enough to cover some 900 kilometers, the distance between Washington, D.C. and Montreal, Canada. The thread on each of the spools consists of about 30 filaments that are finer than human hair. When the bomblets break out of the cluster canister, it unwinds to a length of 150 meters. The result is something that looks like a spider's web draped over energized power lines; causing them to short out and shut down.

On 2 May 1999, an F-117 Nighthawk flown by Lieutenant Colonel Mace Carpenter, one of Warden's student at the Air Command and Staff College, dropped two of those weapons. A Stealth attack on five Transformer stations in Serbia caused an almost total collapse of the central power system. The whole point of pulling the plug was to drive the war home to the Yugoslav people by causing a lot of personal inconvenience; the same thing Warden wants to do the Iraqi people.

Why NATO waited until well into Operation Allied Force to do that in Serbia still baffles Warden.

"That was a false sense of war, because in modern warfare, you've got

to think of your enemy as a system, and if you can rapidly shut down the system, i.e., pulling the plug on his power grids; the cost to you is significantly lower than if you drags things out for weeks or months like we did in Serbia," said Warden.

Like they did in Desert Storm, Allied Force and Enduring Freedom, precision-guided weapons will play a major role in taking down the system that props up Saddam Hussein.

During Desert Storm, 8 percent of the 220,000 bombs and missiles used against Iraqi forces were precision-guided. During Allied Force 35 percent of the 35,000 weapons used were precision-guided. Through January 2002, more than half of the 18,000 bombs and missiles used were precision-guided. As soon as the U.S. restocks its arsenal with JDAMs, we'll be ready to attack Iraq.

If he were asked to develop another air campaign against Iraq, Warden would employ B-2s from Whiteman AFB, Missouri. Warden would also launch cruise missiles from B-52s and Tomahawk missiles from ships in the Northern Arabian sea in a surprise attack.

Unlike Desert Storm when the U.S.-led coalition marauded their air forces in neighboring Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states, Warden says we have advanced technologically to the point we don't need to base aircraft in the Persian Gulf in order to hammer Saddam Hussein like we hammered the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Paralysis Is The Name Of The Game

Each B-2 is capable of carrying 16 satellite-guided 2,000-pound bombs. Each F-117 can carry two of the laser-guided weapons. Each B-52 can carry up to 20 CALMs, Cruise Air-Launched Missiles. And a U.S. Navy battle group can carry hundreds of TLAMs, Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles.

If the Air Command was willing to commit its fleet of Spirit bombers to the battle, the B-2s alone could strike about 240 targets, one-fifth of the total targets hit [about 1,500] in Iraq during the entire Gulf War.

"We could go it alone if we had to," said Warden, but he believes Arab leaders who have publicly said, "No," to U.S. plans to attack Iraq, will jump on the bandwagon as they did in 1990, and provide the bases we need to stage airstrikes against Saddam's regime.

If the U.S. could slip a squadron of F-117 stealth fighters into Al Jabbar Air Base in Kuwait in what appeared to be a routine deployment to the desert Kingdom, you could potentially hit another 50 targets on Night One of the air campaign.

A flight of four B-52s launched from Barksdale AFB, in Louisiana, or from RAF Fairford, in England, where they were based during Allied Force could take down another 80 targets with cruise missiles, and a U.S. Navy battle group stationed in the Mediterranean or the Northern Arabian Sea could blanket another 150 targets with TLAMs. The total number of targets for the first night of the air war against Iraq would be about 500, the same number that was on the hit list in Germany during January 1943.

By comparison, Warden says there were only 200 targets in Iraq during the first night of the Gulf War in 1991. However, some of these 200 targets had multiple aim points, which accounted for roughly 1,000 strategic strikes.



courtesy William H. Arden

Photo of one of 202 submunitions in CBU-102 carbon-filament bomb that is dropped on power stations to temporarily short-out the grid. (below) Ground level shot of carbon filament bomb dropped on a Serb power station by Lt. Colonel Mace Carpenter during Operation Allied Force.



courtesy William H. Arden

Out On A Limb

If the U.S. were to pull out all of the stops during the next air campaign against Iraq by shutting down power grids, taking-down communications, and knocking-out key command and control nodes to the country's air-defense system, Warden thinks one could reasonably expect the war to be over in less than a week. But he says you've got to define "over."

Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan was over practically speaking in about 60 days, but pockets of resistance caused that campaign to drag on for at least six months.

"That was 60 days to destroy the Taliban regime and the ability of al-Qaeda to function as an organization. The rest of the time has been spent scarfing up the individuals, the foot soldiers who at a strategic level didn't count, because they weren't the guys who get on airplanes and fly into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon," Warden said.

The logic of modern war is precision attack on system centers of gravity and you do it in as little time as you can. The key to victory in Iraq is getting the population to rise up against Saddam Hussein. But it's going to take more than the Kurds in the north and the Shiites in the south. The Iraqi army is going to have to lead the rebellion.

Iraqi soldiers, including some high-ranking officers have been fleeing to Turkey in recent months, have told US intelligence officers that the tide in Iraq is turning against Saddam. They say some of his own trusted Republican Guard is ready to turn against him now that he is killing selected members of the guard and secret police as a warning to anyone who might be contemplating a coup.

When Vice President Cheney left Turkey, a country which has allowed the U.S. to use its airbase at Incirlik to enforce UN sanctions against Iraq since the Gulf war ended, the Turkish prime minister said Cheney told him the US has no plans to attack Iraq in the "foreseeable future." So what does "foreseeable" mean?

It probably doesn't mean this month [as we go to press] or for that matter the next six weeks, but Warden, who worked as a special assistant to Vice President Dan Quayle after the Gulf war, says beyond six weeks, probably accedes "foreseeable."

Continued on page 72

Canadian Media Discovers SOF

Journalists North Of The Border Sight In On Krott's Coverage of Canadian Snipers

BY SOF STAFF

When SOF published Part 1 of "Bolt-Actions Speak Louder Than Words: Canadian Snipers in Afghanistan" by Chief Foreign Correspondent Rob Krott in our August 2002 issue, we didn't expect the furor of publicity that we'd receive in Canada. It started with an article "Snipers Killed More Than 20 al-Qaeda, *Soldier Of Fortune*: Defence Officials Won't Confirm Death Count," by Michael Higgins in the *National Post* (sort of the *Canuck USA Today*) on 9 July. Higgins quoted Lieutenant Colonel Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.), *Soldier Of Fortune* editor and publisher: "The Canadians did a hell of a good job over there and we've got this from a number of sources. We felt we ought to give them, an 'atta boy.'" That same day there was an article by David Pugliese of the *Ottawa Citizen*: "Canada's Crack Snipers Get Top Marks, Magazine Says Canadians Deserve An 'Atta Boy' For Killing More Than 20 al-Qaida Fighters." Pugliese's article was picked up by several newspapers across Canada including the *National Post* ("Canadian Snipers Killed 20 al-Qaeda Fighters, Magazine Report: Defence Officials Won't Confirm Death Count"), the *Calgary Herald* ("U.S. Magazine Gives Canadian Snipers Top Marks") and made the front page of *The Edmonton Journal* (headline: "Canuck Snipers Win U.S. Praise: *Soldier of Fortune* Details Killing Of 20-Plus Enemy Fighters"). Pugliese interviewed SOF publisher/editor, LTC Robert K. Brown for the article. Pugliese wrote "Soldier of Fortune editor and publisher Robert Brown said this is the first time that Canadian soldiers have been featured on the cover of the Colorado-based magazine."

The following day Stephen Thorne of the *Canadian Press* penned an article "Canadian Snipers Tell Harrowing Tale Of Combat, Record Shots On Anaconda" which ran in several Canadian newspapers including: *The Leader-Post* of Regina,



Sask., ("Canadian Sniper Sets Macabre World Record: Had To Use U.S. Ammunition Because Those Bullets "fly farther, faster"); *The Edmonton Sun* ("Long Shot Paid Off: Canadian Sniper Credits U.S. Ammo For Record"); and *The Globe and Mail*, a leftist national paper with a discernible anti-Canadian military and anti-American bias, ("Canadian Ammo Falls Short, Says Top Sniper").

Thorne's article which quoted Krott's SOF article and referenced many details (such as Carlos Hathcock's long-shot record at Duc Pho South Vietnam in 1967) but without attribution concentrated on stirring up controversy. Thorne wrote, "A world-record shot by a Canadian sniper detachment could never have been made with the ammunition they were issued when they left Edmonton last winter, the triggerman said in a recent interview. The Canadian .50-calibre rounds have a maximum range of between 2,200 and 2,300 metres. The U.S. rounds, they discovered, 'fly farther, faster,' said Cpl. 'Bill', a 26-year-old native of Fogo Island, Nfld."

The assertion that U.S. ammo was better (at least at that particular elevation and in that environment on that day) was just the kind of negative anti-military controversy the Canadian media has seemed to thrive on since the Somalia scandal when Canadian paratroopers tortured and killed a prisoner. Thorne,

discussing the U.S. recommendation of Bronze Star medals for some of the snipers, also got a dig in at U.S. forces concerning the regrettable friendly fire deaths of four Canadian soldiers (SGT Marc Léger, CPL Ainsworth Dyer, PVT Richard Green, and PVT Nathan Smith), stating, "But more important to the Canadians are the gestures from their American brethren who, while nearly killing them several times over with friendly fire, owe many lives to their shooting skills."

After the Higgins, Pugliese, and Thorne articles were published, SOF and Krott were besieged with queries from the Canadian media. CBC TV Newfoundland host Debbie Cooper wanted to know about the two "Newfie" snipers and

whether their upbringing in the Newfoundland countryside contributed to their expertise as military snipers. Newspapers called for quotes and enlightenment. Krott gave four radio interviews and lambasted one radio talk show host, Al Stafford of Edmonton's 630 CHED when Stafford used the word "assassin" to describe the 3PPCLI snipers home-stationed in the nearby Edmonton Garrison. He told another talk radio host, "You can't send these guys into combat, ask them to do this job, and then *not* support them when they come home. What's wrong with Canada?" Still another questioned whether Canadian troops should, horrors! actually be involved in combat. Krott replied, "The purpose of an army is blow things up and kill people. If you (Canada) aren't prepared for that then I suggest you get rid of your military and let someone else protect you. Turn all your soldiers into cops or something ..." Krott, looking natty in a blue blazer and a maroon Indian Airborne Regiment tie, later appeared on CTV's *Canada AM* (a *Today Show* clone) where he was asked about the ammunition used and (referring to a line and a photo in Krott's article) quizzed on the lack of Canadian desert camouflage uniforms which had the snipers resorting to wearing surplus British uniform.

Given the controversial nature of the newspaper articles — they cited the long-range of one of the sniper "kills;" mentioned a "world record;" confirmed that Canadian soldiers had killed enemy combatants; implied that Canuck ammo wasn't up to the task; ... well, letters to the editor and follow-up editorials were to be expected. Scott Taylor, publisher and editor of *Esprit de Corps* magazine and aka "The Corporal the Generals Hate," wrote an article for *The Halifax Herald* (15 July) which stated: "This month's edition of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine made quite a splash in the Canadian media with its startling revelation that our snipers in Afghanistan actually killed people." After summarizing the article and quoting from it he went on to discuss the uniform issue.

The day after Pugliese's article ran, his own paper, the *Ottawa Citizen*, published probably the most laudatory of the newspaper editorials. "Good work" was the title: It summarized Pugliese's article, quoted Lt. Col. Brown, and continued with:

"It's good that our soldiers are praised, but why are Canadians getting the details from a foreign magazine rather than from their government? Does it really compromise security to say how many al-Qaeda or Taliban have been killed by snipers whose job it is to do just that? Fighting terrorism is imperative, and our military has played its part well. Don't hide that triumph from Canadians." Hooah!

Stephen Jones, Markham, Ontario, wrote *The Globe and Mail* an intelligent letter about Thorne's reportage of the ammo situation:

"The headline Canadian Ammo Falls Short, Says Top Sniper indicates yet another problem with our cash-strapped armed forces. Imagine my surprise that it linked to an article about the stellar reputation that Canadian snipers have with the American armed forces and the co-operation that exists between our two countries.

The headline is also misleading in implying anything is wrong with the Canadian ammunition. With a range of 2.3 kilometres, the ammunition is hardly substandard.

Too bad your headline falls short."

Then there were the socialist, whining cry-babies who seem to forget North America was attacked by Islamic fanatics (note: 26 Canadians died in the WTC bombing). Even before publication of SOF's article and the ensuing media blitz, there were editorials about the snipers in Canadian newspapers. One whiner, John Bell (so far left he hates the socialist Canadian government), wrote in his editorial, "Victims of Chretien's War:"

They pulled every diplomatic string so Canadian soldiers would be sent into harm's way, so that some of the 'glamour' of the war would rub off on their government. The same officials and media crowed when Canadian snipers got their first confirmed 'kills.' Somehow, the first enemies killed in battle by Canadians since the Korean War was supposed to be news worth celebrating. For thousands it was a horrifying slap in the face, ripping the mask off 'Canada the peacemaker'."

Calgary Herald



hell of a good job over there and we've got this from a number of sources," Brown said. "We felt we ought to give them an 'atta boy.'"

Brown said the magazine is read by about 250,000 people worldwide. Retired Canadian colonel Brian MacDonald said there appears to be a reluctance in the Canadian Forces to acknowledge the fact that the country's soldiers do kill the enemy from time to time. "The Defence department doesn't want to embarrass the government with the facts that..."

ular army unit. ... Confirmed kills? Is this a video game? ... our troops positioned on a hill, machine-guns in hand, with military helicopters gloriously hovering in the background. They look like action heroes straight out of a Hollywood movie. Further, when our troops comment on the battles, they show little human compassion. ... In school, we are taught that revenge solves nothing, yet Canada's soldiers avenge savagely ... What will be the effect on society if the Canadian media continues to recklessly glorify the violent acts of our troops?"

We have a gut feeling that Mr. Fazzari spent a lot of time in school getting beaten up for his lunch money and now spends his free time in coffeehouses stroking a goatee. While he decries violence we wonder if he would like to see the Canadian Navy torpedo Japanese whaling ships.

Many of the post-SOF sniper article letters were in the same "make love, not war" vein and many took exception to the idea of a sniper distance "record."

From *The Edmonton Sun*:

I wonder, when my son goes to the battlefield and if he is taken out by a sniper's bullet, will it be a new record? I fully understand an army mentality and thank God we have people who risk their lives and give their lives for my freedom

and comfort at home. What I am having a difficult time dealing with is, when has killing a fellow human being become a sporting activity? Do your duty soldiers and in doing remember this, the man's life you took to establish a new distant sniping record may have been a husband, a father and, at the very least, he was a son.

— Jim Langstaff

The Edmonton Sun editorial staff replied, "And he was also classified as an enemy combatant." To Mr. Langstaff and others of his ilk we'd like to say none of the snipers set out to establish a record. They engaged an enemy soldier as per their orders. The sniping "record" or "macabre world record" as Regina's *The Leader-Post* phrased it, was indicated in our article as a comparison to another sniping feat over 35-years ago. The bottom line is that people like them would

just rather not know the details while they remain in "comfort at home." Reading about it makes it all too personal and brings the war a little too close to that home, does it?

From the *Toronto Star*:

This was a cold, unfeeling article that involved the loss of a man's life. By the way, in light of all that accidental killing of civilians, are you sure this man was a terrorist? He, according to the article, was only carrying a bag. What was in it, his lunch? I suggest that articles like these are left to magazines like *Soldier of Fortune*, where those who delight in this sort of thing can go read them.

—Dwight Rankine, Toronto

... We're sure Mr. Rankin stopped reading the "cold, unfeeling article" as soon as he realized it dealt with "the loss of a man's life." And thanks for the endorsement.

... and another from the *Toronto Star*:

Recognizing that these things do go on in a war, there is still no reason to treat this tragedy in such a cavalier manner. Our soldiers have a proud record of peacekeeping that is tarnished by such sensational reporting. When all is said and done, these men have to live it. Let us hope the Armed Forces leadership will see fit to ensure they receive the appropriate counseling before they return home.

Of greater concern is that the Army's quest for publicity and approval would result in using specialized troops as pawns to attain its misguided objectives. The Army has not learned from the Vietnam experience, where we saw the action on the evening news; a situation that became the blackest moment in U. S. history.

— Garry Oman, Toronto

Cavalier? Neither *SOF* nor the reporters who piggy-backed our story in the Canadian media treated "this tragedy" in a "cavalier manner." It was reported factually and accurately. And just for the record, how is one terrorist

sumbitch getting blown out of his boots a tragedy? What do you call 9/11, Gary? While we have no idea what he means by "misguided objectives" (making the world safe from terrorists who crash jetliners into buildings full of people, maybe?) *SOF* would like to inform Mr. Oman that the Canadian Army had absolutely nothing to do with the article by *SOF*. Krott encountered neither a "quest for publicity" nor "approval." He received basic information on sniping equipment from the Sniper Cell at CFB Gagetown (Canada's Infantry School) and open source photos from the Canadian Department of National Defence website, but the operational details were provided unofficially by the snipers and informed officers deployed in Afghanistan. In actuality the Canadian Army refused to cooperate in providing any journalistic access to its soldiers. All interviews were arranged personally by Krott and conducted off Canadian Army property. So much for Mr. Oman's "quest for publicity" allegation.

From *The Globe and Mail*, letter entitled "War Is No Game":

In your article Canadian Ammo Falls Short, Says Top Sniper (July 10), this sentence struck me as particularly savage: 'The kill, one of more than 20 unofficially credited to Canadian snipers dur-

ing Operation Anaconda ... beat the 35-year-old record of 2,500 yards, or 2,250 metres, set by U.S. Marine Gunnery Sergeant Carlos Hathcock in Duc Pho, South Vietnam.'

I'm incredulous that records are even kept on such things. Is this an attempt by the military to create a fan following for war? I realize it is very hard to capture the attention of North Americans without resorting to statistics to provide a comparative guide of a soldier's worth. A human being was killed. Regardless of the nature of this alleged terrorist, a person's death should never be celebrated or used as the answer to a trivia question. Do executioners keep records as well? Perhaps we could have categories for loudest scream induced (LSI), longest distance blood traveled (LDBT), average time from switch to death (SDA), and, of course, kills (K).

I do not expect unbiased reporting from North American media in regard to this 'war,' as it remains clear that the majority of our population is not interested in reasons, only the resolution. But I do expect some respect for human life to the point that a man's death not be trivialized in such a manner.

—Jonathan Dick, Richmond, B.C.

Eww, "savagely." Perhaps you got your lunch money stolen along with the similarly effete Mr. Fazzari. To answer two of your nonsensical, insipid rhetorical questions: 1) Er, yes, Mr. Dick, executioners *do* keep records, but no one ever shoots back at them; 2) No, Mr. Dick, this is not a "military attempt to create a fan following for war." The Canadian military did not write or publish the article. *SOF* did and it believes there *should* be a fan following for this particular war, though. If

**WSJ.Com Opinion Journal
from The Wall Street Journal Editorial Page**

BY JAMES TARANTO
Tuesday, July 9, 2002 2:03 p.m. EDT

Two Cheers for Canada

"Canadian snipers are being credited with more than 20 kills in Afghanistan, including one from 2,400 metres away--almost a mile and a half," the National Post reports. "If validated, the kill would be the longest shot made by a military sniper in combat, according to the latest issue of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine." But the newspaper's article adds this:

Retired Canadian colonel Brian MacDonald said there appeared to be a reluctance in the Canadian Forces to acknowledge the fact that the country's soldiers do kill the enemy from time to time. "The Defence Department doesn't want to embarrass the government with the facts that deaths do take place," he added.

via Wall Street Journal.com

you're not for it, then why are you against it? Were you taking some BC-weed when you wrote this missive because the rest of your letter is incomprehensible bordering on ridiculous (what the hell is "switch to death"?). By the way, Dick, are there any skyscrapers in Richmond B.C.?

The day after his letter was published Dick took some heat from another *Globe and Mail* reader in the Letters to the Editor. Bryan Townsend, of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico wrote a letter, a brilliant response to Dick's ranting diatribe, which ran under the sub-heading "Armies sometimes kill."

Re War Is No Game (letter, July 11): It may seem humanitarian to deplore the taking of a human life, but it is the job of the soldiers to do that – and the greater the range, the better. Jonathan Dick abhors this way of thinking. To him, all death is equally evil.

But there are very obvious and necessary distinctions. Though it may horrify right-thinking Canadians, the job of our armed forces is to kill people when necessary. If we deplore this to the extent that we further lower the morale of our soldiers, then we probably do not deserve the protection they provide us.

Well done, Mr. Townsend, well done!

In the same 11 July Letters to the Editor column as Dick's letter was this from Paul Forman, Comox, B.C.:

Given that our troops are fighting a war on behalf of the United States, it seems more than appropriate that the Americans can at least supply the bullets.

What is it with these guys from B.C. – too close to San Francisco? Yeah, you keep shootin' 'em and we'll keep makin' 'em! Actually, Mr. Forman, it's widely believed that we're all in this fight together. Perhaps you didn't get the memo? In the immediate aftermath of 9-11 your neighbors generously provided safe harbor at Gander for our planes headed to New York, and your military immediately mustered to provide emergency assistance; from the First Special Service Force onward Yanks and Canadians have fought common enemies shoulder to shoulder. Do you harbor doubts that terrorists are your enemies as well? Have a better plan you'd care to share? David Lee, of Toronto seems to agree and responded to Forman's letter in the same column as Townsend's response to Dick:

Paul Forman (letter, July 11) says our soldiers "are fighting a war on behalf of the United States." He is correct, but his understanding is very limited. Our brave soldiers are fighting a war on behalf of Canada. They are fighting to assert Canadian's belief that no one – Canadian, American, Afghan or otherwise – should be the victim of acts of terrorism.

Response to the story in the U.S. media was Pro-Canadian sniper (you guys can always immigrate and join the U.S. Army if those wimps from B.C. don't want you back). On Friday, 12 July John Hawkins of the *Right Wing News* — now there's a medial outlet we could learn to like — wrote, under the headline "Atta Boy, Eh?":

A frightened al-Qaeda terrorist moves from tree to tree, his

*throat dry and body caked with nervous sweat. His breath is shallow and he has almost given up hope that he'll make it back over the Pakistani border alive. He looks out across the hills and sees nothing that seems out of the ordinary. But somewhere out there, watching and waiting, are the dreaded ... Canadian snipers ... Canadian snipers are being credited with more than 20 kills in Afghanistan, including one from 2,400 metres away — almost a mile and a half. If validated, the kill would be the longest shot made by a military sniper in combat, according to the latest issue of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine ... Robert Brown, *Soldier of Fortune* editor and publisher, said, "The Canadians did a hell of a good job over there and we've got this from a number of sources. We felt we ought to give them, an 'atta boy.' "*

Not only a good scenario but he also signed off with: "Hey all you Canucks out there, RWN salutes you! Way to kick ass!" The snipers and SOF's article even made *The Wall Street Journal* editorial page (on 9 July, in response to the *National*

Edmonton Sun

Post article) in an article "Two Cheers for Canada," by James Taranto (*WSJ.Com* Opinion Journal provided web links to both the article and to www.sofmag.com).

"Canadian snipers are being credited with more than 20 kills in Afghanistan, including one from 2,400 meters away — almost a mile and a half," the *National Post* reports. "If validated, the kill would be the longest shot made by a military sniper in combat, according to the latest issue of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine." But the newspaper's article adds this: "Retired Canadian colonel Brian MacDonald said there appeared to be a reluctance in the Canadian Forces to acknowledge the fact that the country's soldiers do kill the enemy from time to time. 'The Defence Department doesn't want to embarrass the government with the facts that deaths do take place,' he added."

SOF would like to apologize for all the controversy (heh, heh) and, of course, for embarrassing the government with the facts that deaths do take place in war. ☒

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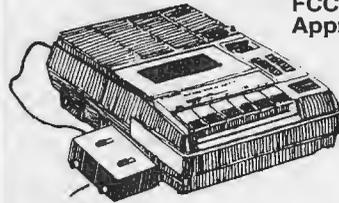
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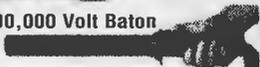
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THE OUTRAGE OF AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN SLAVES

Women, Children Kidnapped And Trafficked For Sex

BY DR. MARTIN BRASS

This is the final installment in a series that has barely touched upon an unfolding tragedy: the trafficking of humans for sex, which claims millions of victims annually and has accelerated the global spread of AIDS.

In my work and research and throughout this series, I have received many impassioned comments that range from: Mind your own business: I can do whatever I want outside of the United States if it is legal; to, it is hard to become worked up by what happens in the Third World when U.S. parents sexually abuse and offer their own children; to, anyone who abuses children and the helpless in such a manner should go to prison for life. Although I was for the most part exposed to such atrocities in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, and Europe, my research has revealed an appalling epidemic within the United States, and disturbing accounts of trafficking and abuse by U.S. citizens outside of the United States.

Nowhere are the intrigues, deceptions, cruelties, and brutality of sexual bondage more pronounced than they are in the United States and by U.S. expats offshore. Traffickers into the United States include government officials, diplomats, peacekeepers, crime bosses, members of Russian, Asian, and Latin gangs, and warped individuals who import and purchase personal slaves. Wealthy foreign princes, charlatan businessmen, migrant workers, tourists and locals create the demand in the United States.

Sexual-trafficking is one thread woven in a web of assassinations, murder, extortion, racketeering, money-laundering, bribery of public officials, drugs and gambling, according to State Department Analyst Amy Richard.

Sex-trafficking poses a national-security threat to the United States. "Trafficking is a lucrative source of income for organized crime, often less risky than drug smuggling" former chief of the CIA James Woolsey told *Insight*. "Organized crime assumes a stronger role which in turn corrupts law enforcement and the rule of law ... thus creating a national-security threat to the United States."

U.S. citizens are among the most numerous sex tourists in

Central America, Southeast Asia and South Asia, according to Congressional figures. Their promiscuity contributes to the globalization of AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and increases the risk to unsuspecting spouses, lovers and children in the U.S. Traffickers have been known to purchase HIV-positive boys and girls both inside and outside of the United States — because they are cheaper and had nothing to live for.

The sex slave trade has reached massive proportions. "The number of African slaves transported here was between 5 million and 6 million. There is no doubt that world trafficking [in sex slaves] now is around that number," said one activist.

Greed, Power, Lust = Unbridled Cruelty

The motives are greed, power and lust. Predictions are that revenues from human trafficking could soon exceed revenues from drug-trafficking. Sexual bondage becomes a vicious cycle. U.S. sex slaves must reimburse an exploiter as much as \$40,000 to \$60,000 to pay off expenses of smuggling and accommodations. Once the debt is paid, the slave may be sold again. Individual traffickers have reportedly raked in more than \$2 million in two years.

The official figure of 50,000 trafficked annually into the U.S. is low in what is an underground activity according to Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) found more than 250 trafficking brothels nationally fronted by strip clubs, peep-and-touch shows, and massage parlors.

U.S. runaways and unsuspecting children are targets, both for export, as well as for trafficking internally. The National Center for Missing & Exploited children reports that pimps haunt shopping malls, arcades, bus stations and other teen hangouts. Children are "snatched" from in front of their house, coming from school or at a store while with a parent. Pimps place ads for secretaries, dancers, models or escort services and often date the girls until they have them under their control. For example, as the nongovernment organization "Sauduction" reports, avaricious Saudi princes control their child-sex ring from their Beverly Hills palaces. To conceal their activities, the obscenely wealthy princes rent

motels to conduct orgies with children procured for them, buying protection with U.S. and foreign bodyguards.

A group of American-Canadian pimps, the West Coast Players, and other gangs traffic Canadian teenagers to the United States, and U.S. girls to Canada through the porous borders. U.S. motorcycle gangs are heavily involved in pimping runaways, moving minors around the country, passing them off from one pimp or brothel to the next.

Strawberry Fields, Where Children Should Frolic

San Diego detective Rick Castro showed the organization San Diego Channel Unit 10 investigators what he called a "sex camp" above a strawberry field that included local runaway teenagers, or those who see a fast buck in hooking.

"That area up there is where I was standing... all the girls would be huddled up here in this area and the customers would be ... in line," Castro said. Migrant men come to meet females — some as young as 12-years-old — to have sex. One girl might have sex with 10 men in an hour, making about \$20 each time, according to Castro. Most of the money goes to the pimp. "They service any-

where from 200 to 300 men, starting at about 6:30 to 7 in the morning, and done by 2:30 p.m.," Castro said.

Authorities that raided on of a dozen such camps in San Diego found 16 girls and 23 "Johns."

NAFTA Sexual Slavery

"I was enslaved for several months, other women were enslaved for up to a year," Inez, a Mexican who wore a disguise to protect her family against traffickers told a Congressional committee.

"We worked six days a week and 12-hour days," she said. "We mostly had to serve 32 to 35 clients a day. Weekends were even worse." BBC reports that some of the victims' traffickers were prosecuted after a raid, but others escaped and returned to Mexico.

"They have even threatened to bring our younger sisters to the United States and force them to work in brothels as well," the girl said.

"I would never, ever have done this work. No one I know would have done this work," one girl from Veracruz, Mexico testified to a Senate committee. "I had never had sex before,

A Guide to the War On Sex Slavery

Recently, there has been increased awareness and effort by organizations and human rights groups, who have offered opportunities to become knowledgeable, and to aid in efforts to stop the use of humans for sex-trafficking. The following is a list of web sites and brief descriptions of the organizations' work. Find a group with whom you are comfortable, and ask them how you can help:

Anti-slavery International

Information on modern slavery, child labor laws, trafficking, campaigns, news and resources: <http://www.anti-slavery.org/>.

Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS)

Subsite of the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice website, CEOS contains information about child pornography, child predators, and traffickers of women and children including information on how to report child pornography on the Internet; investigating and prosecuting exploitation of children; safety tips for parents and children; international aspects of child exploitation; and more: <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ceos/>.

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

The Coalition works internationally to combat sexual exploitation in all its forms, especially prostitution and trafficking in women: <http://www.catwin-international.org/>.

Don't! Buy! Thai!

An activist organization protesting child sexual exploitation in Thailand, by encouraging the boycotting of Thai products:

<http://www.night-flight.com/dbt/>.

End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking International (ECPAT)

ECPAT International is a coalition of agencies and individuals dedicating their work to the issues of child pornography and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes:

<http://www.ecpat.net/eng/index.asp>.

Gabriela Network

Organization is a U.S.-based women's solidarity organization working with GABRIELA, Philippines. They organize around issues such as the global traffic of women, world trade and the sex industry, the mail-order bride industry, first world and third world perspectives on the women's movement, and gender relations in the Asian-American community: <http://www.gabnet.org/>.

Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

Member organization coordinating, organizing and facilitating work on issues related to trafficking in persons, and women's labor migration: <http://www.inet.co.th/org/gaatw/menuframe.html>.

Protection Project

A research project based at the Johns

Hopkins University School for Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the project is to gather and disseminate information regarding the national and international legislation on human trafficking, including trafficking of women and children:

<http://67.97.249.5/right.htm>.

StreetKID's Page

Streetkids Resource Page tells how to subscribe to the e-mail listserv "streetkid-l" and lists agencies that support the interests of street children, many of whom are used in prostitution: <http://www.innomade.nett/crsf/>.

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) is an alliance of nonprofit service providers, grassroots advocacy groups and activists dedicated to providing human services and human rights advocacy to victims of modern-day slavery: <http://www.trafficked-women.org/main.html>.

For further information, check out these websites:

www.hrw.org/background/wrd

www.monmouth.com

www.igc.org/igc/wn

www.globalmarch.org

www.refugees.org/world/articles/slavery

www.csmonitor.com

www.saltdal.vgs.no

www.miramedinstitute.org

www.ecpat.net

and I never imagined selling my body," The girl was shifted around from trailer to trailer as part of a ring run by Rogerio Cadena of Veracruz. The victims of the Cadena ring dreaded going home for fear for their lives, or fear they will be trafficked again.

Mexican traffickers, or "coyotes" force Mexican girls as young as 14 to the United States. One coyote, according to Richard, held the girls for 11 days in the hills before crossing the U.S. border on foot. Honduran Coyotes bring their daughters across four borders to the United States where they can work and send money home. The *Herald Tribune* reports an FBI sting that targeted a string of bars and residences in Texas that succeeded in rescuing 70 women, 41 of whom were Honduran women and girls.

"There are now enormous movements at the border that we never saw before," Mirta Kennedy, of the Honduran-based Center for Women's Studies told the *Herald*.

Throw-Away Slaves, Purchased In India

For more than two decades, Lakireddy Bali Reddy, Berkley's richest landlord, built a real-estate and restaurant empire. Diana Russell, a Berkley resident, sickened and outraged at the discovery that children were being held as sex slaves in her neighborhood, describes Reddy's demise: Three girls were found unconscious from carbon monoxide poisoning in the apartment Reddy held them captive. Reddy and his employees dragged two of the lifeless girls' bodies into his truck attempting to get rid of the evidence. One girl who had escaped poisoning screamed as she was being forced into the truck, alerting a passerby who called 911. Police rescued the two girls and arrested the slave master.

"If it can happen here, it can happen anywhere" Jayashri Srikantiah, attorney for Reddy's victims. "If it had not been for the tragic death of one of these girls in November 1999, Reddy might still be operating today."

Reddy "had been sexually molesting [raping] the girls for the past four years." Prosecutors said. The older girl said that that "Reddy had sex with both of the [younger] girls frequently in front of her".

Ruddy was sentenced to eight years in prison and ordered to pay \$2 million in restitution to his victims.

Prostituting Legitimate Agencies

Travel agencies, consulates and embassies sometimes are used as fronts to submit visa applications for sex slaves. Fake employment documents are submitted from various companies. Corrupt law enforcement officials and INS agents accept bribes from local brothels, and tip brothel owners off to impending raids.

One German, Ludwig Janak, in cahoots with Thai operators, trafficked Asian women from Thailand to the United States. Janak used his company, Bavarian Thai International Manpower Company to submit visa applications that were dropped off in a consular in-box. The U.S. Embassy in Seoul uncovered a trafficking ring that had used travel agency referral program to obtain visas for 91 fraudulent applicants.

A Texan offered the trafficker \$3,000 to provide a Thai girl with a federal I-94 form, giving her legal status in the United States. In the United States, the girl worked off a \$40,000 debt to the trafficker, and then turned trafficker herself.

The hooker-turned-pimp returned to Thailand to recruit others. This time the middleman that supplied her with I-94 forms was a U.S. INS undercover agent. She was arrested and sentenced to two years in a California prison.

More than half of the girls trafficked to the U.S. come from Asia, mostly through Chinese, Vietnamese and other Asian gangs.

The FBI indicted 13 members of one Asian smuggling ring for trafficking up to 1,000 Asians between ages 13 and 25 to the U.S. One brothel was described as a "prison compound" with barbed wire, fences, chained dogs and gang-member-guards.

Brothel owners are forced to pay protection money to Asian street gangs or are hired to watch the women until their debt is paid-off, or to shift the girls around to avoid law enforcement. Asian traffickers forbid women from making prostitution out calls accept to Asian clients, says Richard. Operators of the Hong Kong Spa in D.C. were arrested for purchasing underage immigrant Asian girls as young as 13-years-old. The NGO Little Tokyo Service Center reports that in California a Hmong gang kidnapped, raped and forced into prostitution Hmong girls ages 13 to 15 years.

Multi-state prostitution rings, trafficking women and girls from Malaysia, China and Thailand were broken up in Las Vegas and Atlanta. One Chinese woman was alleged to have masterminded a scheme that operated from Hong Kong to the United States, with the women trafficked from New York to Los Angeles, Boston, Las Vegas, San Francisco, Atlanta and Minneapolis.

Russian Gangs: Real Crime, False Proposals

At least 30 Russian Organized Criminal syndicates with strong ties to organized crime groups in Russia and Ukraine operate in the United States.

Gang members terrorize the girls by threatening them with retaliation by the highly organized Russian mafia "brotherhood". In a Chicago case, for example, a Russian American bragged about his Chechnya organized crime ties and threatened Latvian women, intimidating one by telling her he would cut her face, and escorting her to a mafia hang-out for dinner so she would know that gang members could identify her. One defiant Russian girl that tried to escape was beaten so severely she ended up in the hospital, where she was threatened by another Russian gangster. Another was murdered gruesomely in Maryland, allegedly for holding back her earnings from her pimp.

"Bogus marriage agencies are a favorite ruse with sex-traffickers presenting false papers, assumed identities and phony marriage partners who "invite" the women abroad. Girls are told they have fiancés waiting, only to be forced into the sex industry as soon as they are over the border," Miramed Institute, that fights trafficking in the former Soviet Union said.

Global Survival Network documents how mail-order bride businesses are used as fronts to recruit and traffic Russian women to the United States, where fiancée visas are easily obtained. Some 200 U.S. mail-order-bride companies coordinating with eight or more of their Russian branches arrange between 2,000 and 5,000 marriages in the United States each year. A \$1,850 membership fee buys photos and videos of women and minors. For additional money, the U.S. customer can join a Russian tour, where numerous women may show up for the "mixer" party for a group of only a dozen men. Traffickers pick from groups of thousands of girls hoping for western marriages and better futures, as their next victims.

An estimated 50,000 Filipina mail-order brides are in the United States. The organization Deepthought says that many of these women end up as servants and sex partners, some of

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PMII KLEIN RETICLE AT 4X



Fast-Moving Firefights

Aussie SAS Makes Chasing al-Qaeda
A Full Contact Sport

BY ROB KROTT

PHOTOS COURTESY AUSTRALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE



*To an Aussie, the terrain might
remind him of Alice Springs.*

... Australia's Special Forces have performed their duties with ... skill, ingenuity and tenacity...

— Defense Minister Robert Hill

Australian SAS soldiers experienced heavy combat in Operation Anaconda and secured the southern flank of the battle area to prevent opposition forces from escaping. Nearly 100 SAS (Special Air Service regiment) operators, some two-thirds of Australia's 150 SAS troops deployed in Afghanistan, were involved in Operation Anaconda. During Operation Anaconda, Australian Defense spokesman Brigadier Paul Retter said, Australian SAS soldiers were providing "close observation of the enemy defensive positions" and developing "cut-offs to prevent the enemy forces from being withdrawn." Australian Commander of Special Operations, Brigadier Duncan Lewis, commented on the SAS in action: "Our soldiers have performed very well ... nowhere has this been more evident than in Op Anaconda."

Australian forces were tasked by Major General Frank Hagenbeck, commander of the 10th Mountain Division, to secure and form a southern screening position within the battle area — to provide close observation of the enemy defensive position — and to develop cut-offs to prevent enemy forces from withdrawing through the Australian area of responsibility. According to Brigadier Lewis: "Our troops were on the ground, operating in advance of the main U.S. and Afghan force. In very hazardous conditions, our soldiers, organized into small patrols, took up special observation points and established their cutoff positions along the likely enemy escape routes from the area."

Australian SAS soldiers were instrumental in detecting attempts by Taliban and al-Qaeda elements to regroup, resulting in their engagement by coalition forces. The training, skills, and state-of-the-art equipment of the Australian SAS made them ideally suited to this work — and highly val-

ued by the U.S. military and its coalition partners.

On the first day of Operation Anaconda, two SAS soldiers, attached to a U.S. Army infantry company of the 10th Mountain Division for air-support liaison duties, were pinned down for 18 hours by enemy fire in the failed offensive in the Shah-i-Kot Valley. During this action 30 American infantrymen were wounded. Since January, SAS patrols had conducted reconnaissance and surveillance patrols throughout the area around Objective Remington. During one of these patrols, the SAS observed a large al-Qaeda force in the valley. Based on this intelligence it was thought that Objective Remington contained an al-Qaeda/Taliban force of between 100 and 250 fighters located in two villages in the Shah-i-Kot Valley.

Why They Call Them "Diggers"

In another example of how the intelligence planning for Operation Anaconda was elementally flawed, a couple of hours before SAS Warrant Officer Clint P., 45, of Perth, and another SAS soldier and 80 U.S. infantrymen were inserted at the southern end of the valley to act as a blocking force, they were told enemy numbers might be higher than expected. The estimated number of enemy forces jumped from 100 to 500, but even that estimate was too low. Some estimates put the true figure at 1,000 hard-core al-Qaeda fighters, dug in on the high mountain ridges and prepared for martyrdom. "The general said 'you will have a busy time,'" WO Clint P. told the *Australian News Limited* during an interview at SAS headquarters in Perth. WO P. said that he knew he was in trouble soon after their helicopter landed in the Shah-i-Kot Valley, at 0645 on 2 March, the first-day assault that launched

Wars are seldom fought in good weather, but the SASR — as is the custom among SpecOps professionals — came prepared for any contingency.



Operation Anaconda. "We hadn't moved 100 meters from the choppers when we started taking fire. There was no cover and 82 people were looking for some. We didn't understand what was out there."

The tactical plan was to set up blocking positions in the valley by helicopter assault, while Northern Alliance forces supported by U.S. and allied special forces entered the valley from the north. By the time the infantry companies providing the blocking forces unloaded their helicopters, the Afghan force at the other end of the valley had fled. "Two hours after the event we heard they had packed their bongos and gone home," WO P said. According to the SAS Warrant Officer, the enemy anticipated the helicopter landings and evacuated the caves above the landing zone (LZ) where WO P's unit landed.

The enemy was dug in on the eastern ridge of the valley and immediately brought the Americans and their SAS liaisons under fire with mortars and heavy machine guns. Fortunately, no one was hit during the initial exchange of fire on the LZ because of the angle of fire. The two SAS sol-

diers hit the ground for cover and began digging in.

As mortar rounds exploded nearby, WO P frantically used his bare hands to dig a hole in the moist clay. SAS Signaler (radio operator/communications specialist) Jock W. used his knife to dig in as their position came under intense heavy machine gun and small arms fire. Recounting the experience, WO P said, "I will always carry an entrenching tool in future." The desperate situation worsened when the SAS soldiers noticed a force of about two-dozen Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters on the opposite or western ridgeline of the valley. "We killed some of them but then started taking fire from that side as well." A senior SAS officer recalled, "I was lying on my back in my hole looking up and the tracer fire was criss-crossing..."

Air strikes were called in to suppress the enemy fire, but Apache attack helicopters were forced to break off their air-support mission after taking heavy fire from enemy machine guns, and rocket-propelled grenade launchers used in a ground-to-air-missile role. B-52 bombers were called in for additional air support and dropped their loads over the al-



Soviet Lessons, Learned?

Afghan and Soviet forces landed a large force by helicopter in a similar operation during the Afghan War in the 1980s, and were wiped out. *The Bear Trap* (1992), by Brigadier Mohammad Yousaf and Major Mark Adkin (free online at www.afghanbooks.com/beartrap/english), details the operation and the landing zone. Either U.S. intelligence hadn't read the book or they didn't believe al-Qaeda fighters would use the same tactics as the mujahideen had used to devastate the Soviets. On that mission, 10 helicopters were supposed to deposit a battalion of troops in a valley to attack enemy positions. "They [Soviet/Afghan forces] miscalculated badly in selecting a landing zone on a flat, open plateau ... within range of high ground held by mujahideen. Three helicopters crashed while the others disgorged their troops under intense cross-fire from both mujahideen positions ... In the open ground the commandos were badly cut up and demoralized. By nightfall there was nothing left of this battalion, all were either killed or captured." — R.K.

Qaeda positions. The accuracy of the airstrikes coordinated by the SAS was a considerable achievement given the very poor weather conditions. "I was lying in my hole watching a B-52 fly over at 20,000 feet with its bomb doors open and hearing [on the radio] the pilot say 'bombs gone.' I remember hoping he had got it right and I had more than 17 seconds to live." But the bombardment had minimal effect on the enemy. "Before the dust had settled they were out shooting at us again. They were even waving at us. It was a little disappointing."

With his bare hands, WO P. dug a hole big enough for three men. By the end of the afternoon the dry creek bed where the unit was sheltering was completely dug out to protect a large and growing number of American wounded, hunkered down in the cramped holes. "If a mortar had landed in there it would have been carnage." At one point a U.S. Army sergeant, a veteran of the 1993 *Black Hawk Down* debacle in Somalia, joined WO P. in his hole. "This is fucked-up. It's worse than Mogadishu," said the American sergeant. The SAS warrant officer said after the first hour it became a desperate fight for their survival. Late in the afternoon the

enemy concentrated all available fires against their positions. "It went on for 20 to 25 minutes."

It was nearing dusk when AC-130 Spectre gunships (modified Hercules transport armed with a 105mm field gun, 40mm cannon, and 25mm Gatling guns firing 1,800 rounds per minute) appeared overhead and like the cavalry of old, saved the day with a steady stream of fire that suppressed the enemy positions' fire. The Spectre air support allowed Black Hawk helicopters to land under the cover of darkness and evacuate the wounded at 2000 that night, and extract the two SAS soldiers and the rest of the U.S. infantrymen four hours later. Both WO Clint P. and Signaler Jock W. believe that, if the company had stayed until the next morning, and had not been evacuated at midnight, the entire force would have been wiped out the next day.

Six hours after this battle a U.S. MH-47 Chinook helicopter was shot down in the vicinity of Battle Position GINGER and Australian SAS soldiers were involved in the relief effort of a platoon-sized element of U.S. infantry and special operations soldiers pinned down by enemy fire, in



Great terrain for a classic armor battle. Unfortunately, this enemy has no armor, and is dug into mountainous fairs, but the SASR and other Allies came prepared to take the battle to the Taliban/al-Qaeda enemy wherever they were. (inset) Aussie SAS and U.S. SpecOps reconnoiter before coalition operation in southern Afghanistan.



an engagement that killed six U.S. personnel.

A Navy SEAL, Neil Roberts, had fallen out of a Chinook as it took fire. The SpecOps troops rushing to his rescue, and U.S. Army Rangers from a second MH-47 (which was shot down) flown in to assist, were pinned down by heavy enemy fires.

A group of Australian SAS located in an observation post overlooking the site of the downed aircraft and the stranded U.S. soldiers was the only friendly force in the area — members of this patrol were able to view al-Qaeda fighters massing for an assault on the downed U.S. helicopter. This Australian SAS patrol accurately coordinated multiple air strikes to prevent the al-Qaeda fighters from overrunning the survivors. According to Brigadier Lewis, the Australian contribution has been acknowledged by U.S. commanders as crucial to the survival of the American soldiers.

SAS Sergeant Matthew Boulliaut received the Australian Distinguished Service Cross for his role in this action. According to Brigadier Ken Gillespie, “The citation was for leadership in action. The recipient of that award displayed outstanding leadership, not only in Operation Anaconda where ... the Australian troops [were] particularly effective in the delivery of aerial support and fire to protect U.S. troops. And the patrol was directly responsible for that... the hardships that he and his team endured at altitude, the hardships of the weather, the enemy threat at the time, and their outright professionalism and effectiveness are the basis of that award.”

In response to queries about follow-on SAS operations after Operation Anaconda, Brigadier Retter replied, “Our

forces continue to provide special reconnaissance and direct action support to U.S. ground forces. They will continue to provide this type of support while coalition and Afghani forces maneuver to further exploit the successes of [Operation Anaconda].”

Bravo One Ambushed

One of these “special reconnaissance and direct action support” missions would result in one of the Australian SAS Regiment’s most harrowing engagements in Afghanistan. “Bravo One,” an SAS patrol, was ambushed by Taliban forces on 16 May, while participating in a British-led operation, Operation Condor, in eastern Afghanistan. The four SAS soldiers were conducting a reconnaissance patrol into a suspected Taliban stronghold about 50 kilometers north of the eastern Afghan city of Khost, in Paktia Province. Bravo One was observing some enemy positions when it was compromised and came under fire from small arms, heavy machine-guns, and rocket-propelled grenades from hostile forces in prepared defensive positions. According to Australian Defense spokesman Brigadier Mike Hannan, “They were firing heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades ... They had come across well prepared, dug in defensive positions. It was five hours of sustained fire.”

Pinned down by an estimated 90 enemy Taliban fighters, Bravo One radioed for help from a second Australian SAS patrol of five operators, armed with heavy machine guns in heavily modified Land Rovers. Outnumbered 20-to-one, the

Who Dares Wins, Down Under

History of the Regiment

In the 1940s, Australian soldiers served in a SpecOps capacity in the Allied Intelligence Bureau (AIB), but it wasn’t until 25 July 1957, that the Australian Army formed a “Special Forces” unit. Major W. Gook was put in charge of the 1st Special Air Service Company (Royal Australian Regiment). Unit strength was only 180 men. On 20 August 1964, the SAS became a full Regiment, modeled after the British SAS and consisting of three “Sabre” Squadrons, a Training Squadron, and a Headquarters. The 1 Squadron SASR was first deployed to Brunei in 1965 and was also deployed to Borneo where it was tasked with stopping communist Indonesian troops from taking over Borneo.

Three Squadron was the first squadron to be deployed to Vietnam, and SAS soldiers served there until 1971. In 1991, a small team of Australian SAS soldiers returned to Cambodia as part of a UN team. SASR Soldiers have also served as observers throughout the world from India to

Lebanon to Sinai. Though not condoned by the Australian Government, some SASR soldiers served in the Rhodesian SAS during the mid 1970s. The SASR is rumored to have taken part in the 1991 Gulf War. It is known that several members were “attached” to 22 SAS. J Troop, 3 Squadron participated in Operation Iguana in Somalia, 1994. A Mobile Patrol killed two Somalis, the first “official” kill since Vietnam.

In 1994 and 1995 the SASR was sent to Rwanda. In 1998, 110 members of the SASR and the NZ SAS were deployed to the Middle East in response to Iraqi aggression: any operations they may have conducted are still classified. On 12 June 1996 1 Squadron was preparing for a counter-terrorism exercise, and during the flight their two Black Hawk helicopters collided, killing 15 SAS soldiers.

Most recently the SASR was deployed to East Timor 1999.

Selection

Selection for the SASR was held previously on the Stirling Ranges, but

selection is now held in the Polkoben Ranges and run from Singleton. The course hosts members of the Army trying to join either the Commandos or the SASR. After three weeks, candidates who are fit for the Commandos will leave the class behind for their own training, while SASR Candidates still have another three weeks of Selection left. Following selection are 12 months of continuous training. The failure of only one course results in being RTU’d (Returned To Unit). Courses include: Basic Parachute Training, Escape and Evasion Training and TQ, Patrol Course, Diving and Boat Handling, Communications, Jungle Training, Explosives and Weapons Training, Language Training, Vehicle Training (Land Rovers, Motorcycles, etc.), and Counter-terrorist Training.

Counter-Terrorism Units

Number 1 Squadron picked up the counter-terrorist (CT) task in the late 70s until 1978, when it was decided to create a full time CT unit. The new “sub-unit” Tactical Assault

four lightly equipped Australian SAS men of Bravo One exchanged fire with a large, well-armed enemy force for about five hours in one of the most dramatic small-unit actions in the Afghan War.

About 40 minutes after Bravo One was fired upon, the second SAS patrol in its armed Land Rovers found itself heavily engaged in a sustained firefight before they could reach Bravo One. They engaged Taliban fighters in a firefight about 7 clicks away from Bravo One's position. "The Australians exchanged fire over a period of several hours while attempting to disengage," Brigadier Hannan told journalists after the firefight. "The hostile fire from prepared defensive positions was directed onto them from all directions while a number of hostile groups attempted to close with and kill the (SAS)." The Taliban aggressively advanced on both of the Australian units' hasty defensive positions in an attempt to overrun them in close-quarters battle.

To link up with the other SAS patrol, Bravo One moved on foot several kilometers through the rugged mountain terrain while under sustained fire from Taliban fighters. The fierce firefights continued into the night. The SAS patrols eventually broke contact and withdrew under pressure without taking casualties. British Royal Marines of the nearly 1,000 deployed on the operation arrived to relieve the SAS as U.S. Apache attack helicopters and AC-130 Spectre gunships provided air support, killing at least 10 Taliban/al-Qaeda fighters. According to Brigadier Hannan, "The very effective close-air support was certainly instrumental in assisting the

two groups to fight through the hostile forces and withdraw from this very dangerous situation." Weapons and ammunition caches were found in subsequent searches of the area. Operation Condor concluded on May 24.

Let's Not Overlook New Zealand!

The New Zealand Government did not officially acknowledge the presence of its SAS troops in Afghanistan until March, after the New Zealand SAS (NZ SAS) operations were mentioned on a White-House web site. Prime Minister Helen Clark told the Returned Services Association annual conference that the NZ SAS unit was serving with distinction in Afghanistan: "The troops seek no public recognition for what they do, but I can tell you that they are doing difficult and dangerous work and are very highly thought of." The U.S. Defense Department has highlighted the secrecy surrounding the New Zealand SAS when it listed international contributions to the "war on terrorism." When the Pentagon published the first of its monthly reports of what our various coalition allies are doing in the war against terrorism, it stated that New Zealand SAS troops "work alongside the forces of other nations in Afghanistan. They fill an important role, as part of the international effort, to stabilize the area." It noted that: "New Zealand has a policy of neither confirming nor denying the specific location, mission or techniques of the New Zealand SAS troops." The U.S. Defense Department has not

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Group (TAG), is formed from members of the SASR. Initially, each group was broken down by Land (Gauntlet Teams) or Water (Nulla Teams). Each year they are called a new number, i.e., Gauntlet 1, 2, and 3. In 1980 a maritime CT unit, the Offshore Installations Group (OAG), capable of action on the Bass Strait oil rigs, was formed. A small group from the Australian Navy's Clearance Divers unit transferred to the SASR/TAG to build the OAG. The divers completed SASR Selection and

parachute qualification. OAG was later changed to OAT (Offshore Assault Team). They are responsible for countering any waterborne terrorist activities. They learn to assault ships, oil rigs, small boats, and other potential targets. Only SASR soldiers may volunteer for TAG/OAT. After two years on a regular Sabre Squadron, as SAS operator may volunteer for TAG/OAT. If accepted he will have to undergo further training. All TAG/OAT operators are HALO- and HAHO-qualified.



Agility in tactics, mobility in deployment are important to SpecOps, and the SASR deployed with their own all-terrain transport, such as this modified Land Rover, ATVs and dirt bikes.

Weapons And Equipment

The SASR individual weapon of choice is the American M4 Carbine, replacing the M16A1 of the Borneo/Vietnam era. The standard Australian-issue 5.56mm Steyr AUG aka F88 Austeyr is rarely used. The M4 can be fitted with an M203 40mm grenade launcher. The SASR also favors the F89 GPMG 5.56mm (a product-improved version of the U.S. Army M249 Squad Automatic Weapon). The latest model of the F89 (M249 SAW) GPMG now in service is known as the F89A1-LSW. It can feed from a linked-belt, 30-round magazine, or a 200-round drum. The M60 7.62mm GPMG is also in wide use. The SASR employs the H&K family of submachine guns and assault rifles (MP-5- and G-3-series of weapons). These weapons are mainly used by the TAG and OAG members in their CT role, although they may be found in general use by SASR operators. The SASR uses a 6x6 extended-wheelbase Land Rover 110 as their primary vehicle. This one-of-a-kind Land Rover can be fitted with a variety of .50 Browning HMGs, Mk19 40mm grenade launchers, M60s, or FN MAG-58 machine guns.

— R.K.



Don't Like Mouse Guns? The .50 May Be Your Cup of Tea!

TEXT & PHOTOS BY MAJOR DICK CULVER, USMC (RET)

At the recent NRA convention in Reno, I was intrigued when SOF publisher Bob Brown asked me to cover the .50 shoot scheduled on Sunday morning at the Washoe County, Nev., Range Facility located in the desert about 27 miles from Reno. With nothing but mountains for a backstop, it seemed to be the perfect location for serious, long-range shooting.

Target carriers had been set up at 600 yards, and the range flag indicated a wind of some 30-40 mph. The firing line was festooned with various .50 rifles, mostly on shooting bench-

es. While there were some commercial rifles on the firing line, proud owners had built many of the individual pieces. Some rifles had stocks that were works of art, and some even recoiled on a rail system. One of the things that immediately caught my eye was the sheer size of these behemoths — some of these cannons were candidates for a set of wheels and a trailer hitch. One feature common to the entire gamut of rifles on display was the presence of impressive muzzle brakes on the business end.

This .50 “Day at the Range” was sponsored by the Fifty



(above) John Burt, one of many makers represented at the shoot, at the bench with a McMillan Tactical .50, a rifle that recently made an excellent showing in the hands of Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

(opposite) Gender? Age? Not a consideration! Fifty-Caliber shooters come in all shapes and sizes, witness this nine-year-old pixie rocking-and-rolling with a semi-auto Ma Deuce.

(right) Although off-the-shelf rifles were well represented by shooters and makers, so were custom rifles. John Yenason's .50 is a McMillan action resting in a K&P Clamshell stock, with a Jewel Trigger and a Night Force 12x42 scope, weighing in at 49 3/4 pounds.

(below) Patrick Downs, 10-years-old and an NRA Life Member, hunkers down behind an ArmaLite AR-50 for the first time. His reaction: "Boy, that's powerful ... and I hit the target every time!"





(above) Author's wife, Gloria, test drives an ArmaLite AR-50. Her reaction: "I want one!"

(right) Author checks out ArmaLite AR-50 with supervision of factory rep Charlie Topp, observing that if you don't mind pulling your socks up between rounds, .50 shooting may be just your cup of tea.



Caliber Shooter's Association and the Palomino Valley Gun Club, of Reno. The rifles' owners hovered over the individuals trying out each rifle, with helpful suggestions and pointers. Like any other shooting discipline, .50 marksmanship is a specialty with its own considerations.

One of the first things that became obvious was that the guys and gals involved in this shooting discipline were serious students of the art of long-range bench-rest shooting. As I mentioned above, the wind was whipping across the range in a spirited manner, and at least one individual had attached a very professional-looking anemometer to his shooting bench to measure the wind velocity. While most of the competition is held at 1,000 yards, the shooting distance had been shortened to 600 yards for this exercise to provide a maximum amount of encouragement to the new shooters. Success always breeds success, and it certainly seemed to work in this instance. Everyone was having a great time.

Fifty-caliber shooting is neither gender- nor age-specific. One little nine-year-old girl was shooting the (semi-automat-

ic) Ma Deuce and enjoying herself immensely! A 10-year-old boy (an NRA Life Member) was especially impressed with the power of the rifles and was hitting his target. His observation? "Boy, that's powerful... and I hit the target every time!"

Anti-Gunners' Hostility Towards The .50

In order to understand the "quasi-panic" anti-gunners are in over the .50 rifles, you must realize that their ultimate cause — the Second Amendment notwithstanding — is the removal of *all* weapons from civilian hands, without regards



Manufacturers and reps show-off their wares (left to right) Tim Baro, of TNW, and semi-auto Ma Deuce; .50 pioneer Ronnie Barrett and his Model 82A1; Charlie Topp and Monica Sipp with an ArmaLite AR-50; Rock McMillan and the McMillan .50 Tactical.



Author shoots Barrett M82A1 while Chris Barrett coaches. Rifles come with 10-round magazine, carrying handle, detachable bipod with adjustable legs, iron sights with an optical sight mount, and an environ-proof carrying case.

to legitimate rationale. They want us disarmed. Period.

The demonization of a .50 rifle is simply the anti-gun community's logical extension of attempting to outlaw sniper rifles (rifles with scopes) of any kind. The reason that the .50 is so vulnerable is that, relatively speaking, the .50 folks are a small minority in the shooting community and thus lack the political punch of the average hunter. Going after a harmless but fun-loving minority engenders much less hatred and discontent than going after the average deer hunter. As far as the "antis" are concerned, this is a marvelous opportunity, as it allows the demonization of sniper rifles in a .50 suit, and will thus pave the way for the removal of all scoped rifles in the future. It's a small, but obvious, step and don't forget — they both use optical sights! Scoped rifles? Who needs to hit anything so far away, they pose.

Senator Diane Feinstein (Dem. [of course], Calif. [naturally]), is still pushing for getting .50 BMG caliber rifles placed under the National Firearms Act, essentially placing them in the same category as fully automatic weapons and destructive devices. A quote from Feinstein's introduction of her proposed legislation follows:

"... the Military Sniper Weapon Regulation Act ... will reclassify powerful .50 military sniper rifles under the National Firearms Act, thus making it much more difficult for terrorists, doomsday cults, and criminals to obtain these guns for illegitimate use ..."

Where are these criminal supermen hiding? These rifles go from a light-weight of 28 pounds to a high of more than 80 lbs. (and heavier) for some of the bench-rest models. The guy who uses such a piece of ordnance to "knock over" a 7-11 would be big enough to take anything he wanted with his bare hands.

You may rest assured that, as Benjamin Franklin succinctly noted, we must hang together or we will surely hang separately. Allowing the gals and guys who shoot and enjoy the mighty .50 to be used as sacrificial lambs to temporarily take the heat off those of us who shoot small-bore (.45 caliber and down) would be the worst sort of cowardice. Having watched these folks shooting the "big bores" I can understand the attraction .50s have for those devoted to

their care and feeding. Expensive, but fun!

The .50 shoot was an outstanding success — simply a great effort by the lads and lasses who enjoy pulling their socks up after every shot. I now know where the fad of wearing your baseball cap backwards came from. The mighty .50 is powerful, accurate, fun and addicting! My wife, Gloria's, comment as soon as she had put the first round down-range was, "I want one!" Oooooops ...

Dick Culver, a former Marine major in Vietnam, and his wife, Gloria, are proprietors of Culver's Shooting Page, at www.jouster.com.

The Fifty-Caliber Fraternity

The growing number of *Afiftyanados* — those guys, gals and properly supervised kids who follow this sport — plus those who would like to — will find the following points of contact of interest:

- * The .50 Shooter's Association Home Page: <http://www.fcsa.org>
- * ArmaLite AR-50 Page: <http://www.armalite.com/sales/catalog/rifles/ar50.htm>
- * Barrett Firearms Homepage: <http://www.barrettrifles.com>
- * EDM Arms (the Windrunner): <http://www.edmarms.com>
- * Grizzly Big Boar: <http://www.largrizzly.com>
- * Serbu BFG-50A Semi-Automatic .50 Rifle: <http://www.serbu.com/index.html>
- * State Arms Gun Co. Inc.: <http://www.statearms.com/products.htm>
- * TNW Inc.: <http://www.tnwfirearms.com>
- * Watson's Weapons: <http://www.watsonswweapons.com>

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Warden believes Saddam Hussein is in the crosshairs, and Bush is just waiting for the right time to pull the trigger.

"When the most powerful man in the world condemns somebody as an axis of evil, I don't think you have much choice," said Warden who isn't worried about civilian casualties. If we do it right, he expects them to be very low.

"I don't know how many people Saddam knocks-off every year, but I think the numbers are pretty high, and I think Saddam has knocked-off a heck of a lot more people than we have hurt or killed during the Gulf War, and if you look at this thing on a ledger basis, the sooner Saddam is out of power, the better life is gonna be for the average Iraqi and their neighbors," Warden said.

As an author and lecturer, Warden is frequently asked if there was something Saddam Hussein could have done to avoid being isolated like the piranha that he is. And his answer is, "Yes."

"In April 1990, he should have sent some well-trusted guy walking down Madison Avenue with a check for a half-

billion bucks for anybody who could convince the American people that the Kuwaitis are nasty and that the Iraqis are nice," said Warden.

There is ample evidence that Saddam was correct when he claimed the Kuwaitis were slant-drilling for oil along their common border. But instead of mounting a public relations campaign, Saddam decided to mount a military campaign. The fear of losing Kuwaiti oil and perhaps oil reserves in Saudi Arabia caused the U.S. and its allies to act immediately to stop Saddam's aggression.

If the U.S. attacks Iraq in the coming months, John Warden believes it is imperative that America's quick-reaction strike force, the 82nd Airborne Division, be dropped into Kuwait to prevent Iraqi troops from — again — torching the oil fields.

An airborne drop could occur within hours after the first bombs fall on Iraq, and before any units in southern Iraq could react.

U.S. Special Forces would also be dropped behind enemy lines before the balloon goes up. They would provide additional eyes and ears for military planners by calling in airstrikes and intel-gathering. The British Army is

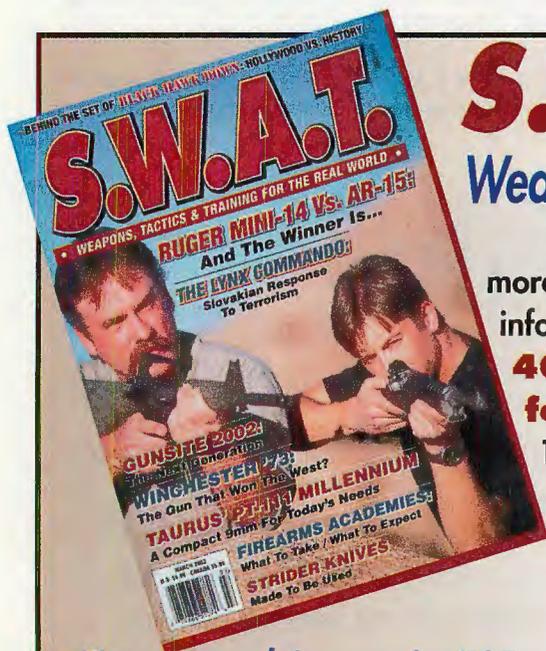
reportedly training a regiment of saboteurs to blow-up bridges and bottle up Iraqi units.

Despite what some might say about Saddam's ability to produce weapons of mass destruction, Warden doesn't believe Saddam Hussein has the means of delivering those weapons on a massive scale. And, contrary to what some may say, he does not believe Saddam has any nuclear capability.

"But given enough time, he will come up with something," said Warden. And for that reason, he agrees with President Bush who says that now is the time to do something about the potential threat Saddam Hussein poses not only to his neighbors, but also to the world.

[Editor's note: As we go to press, Iraqi opposition leaders, both inside and outside of Iraq, have told Bush Administration officials that Saddam no longer has the support of his people who, the oppositions leadrare ready, willing and able to rise up against him. When that occurs, they are certain that Saddam and his regime will fold like a tent in a desert windstorm.]

Dale B. Cooper is a longtime SOF contributor. ✕



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Fast-Moving Firefighters

Continued from page 67

attached a similar note to any of the other countries listed as deploying special operations forces (SOF) in Afghanistan. But no specific detail is given for any nation's SOF operations, e.g., it states that Australian SOF troops are performing the "full spectrum of SOF missions" in Afghanistan.

SAS Deployments

The first contingent of 150 SAS soldiers deployed to Afghanistan in November last year, and the second rotation deployed in March. Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill recently confirmed that a third group of Special Air Service Regiment soldiers (some of whom have already served one four-month tour) would deploy to Afghanistan in July 2002, and the 150 SAS soldiers now in Afghanistan will return home in August 2002. Hill said that work performed by Australian special forces was vital to destroying terrorist networks in Afghanistan and providing the stable foundation needed for the country's transition to peace and that, "Operations on the ground are becoming more complex and difficult. While the coalition has been able to destroy many Taliban and al-Qaeda strongholds, fighters sympathetic to terrorists remain. Our intelligence and encounters in Afghanistan suggest they are well equipped and hostile to coalition forces. The types of operations that Australian special forces conduct in Afghanistan change with the threat environment and the overall focus of coalition operations ... Australia's preparedness to have its special forces continuing in this role despite the increasingly difficult situation on the ground underlines our commitment to see through the war against terrorism."

Australia was one of the first countries to offer military support to the United States following the 11 September attacks, and suffered one of the first casualties (in February, Sergeant Andrew Russell of the Australian SAS died in a land-mine blast). In addition to 150 SAS soldiers, Australia has committed a further 1,400 armed forces personnel to the international coalition against terrorism. The Australian contribution includes F/A-18 fighter aircraft, several navy frigates, a transport ship, long-range maritime patrol aircraft and refueling aircraft.

— SOF Chief Foreign Correspondent
Rob Krott

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Forgotten Slaves

Continued from page 60

them becoming slaves in their own homes, some are tortured and killed and some are used as prostitutes or for pornography.

And The Pimps Walk With Millions

Few pimps are prosecuted and in the rare case that one is convicted, the sentences for such obscene actions are a mockery.

A man who had forced Russian and Ukrainian women to work as prostitutes at his massage parlor in Bethesda, Maryland was merely fined after a plea bargain stipulated that he could not run a future business in Montgomery County.

Los Angeles traffickers who kidnapped a Chinese woman, raped and forced her into prostitution, and burned her with cigarettes, received two to four years.

In a case where Asian women were held in a compound with metal bars on the windows and electronic monitoring and forced to submit to sex with as many as 400 "johns", the traffickers received between four and nine years.

Janis Gordon, assistant U.S. attorney for the Organized Crime Strike Force in Atlanta busted an Asian smuggling and prostitution ring where children as young as age 13 had been trafficked as sex slaves to Atlanta. "Because all my witnesses were gone, I was not able to prove coercion," Gordon tells *Insight*. "The INS wouldn't let me hold them here, so the maximum sentence any of the traffickers got was 33 months."

The INS regulations that require that victims be deported frustrate attempts to bring justice. "Jockeys" escort slaves over as their "wives" to circumvent INS regulations. Rented children throw off suspicions of girls that are trafficked in by "jockeys" as their phony spouses. The *National News* tells the story of a jockey smuggling in a sex slave from Thailand. The traffickers had rented a boy for \$250, drugged him, bundled him onto a plane destined to the United States. The INS deported the couple without fully investigating, missing an opportunity to crack a trafficking ring. The rented child's mother, a drug addict that was sold into sexual slavery when she was 12, was married to a man suspected of running a trafficking ring.

"This is big business for the traffick-

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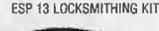
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ers who don't get caught," says Gordon. "After examining one brothel's records, I was able to show that it grossed \$1.5 million over a two-year period. The girls were shuttled around the country to other brothels, forced to work in dire conditions, only allowed to run errands if accompanied by armed guards."

If brothels are busted and women arrested, "their captors bond them out and soon move them to another part of the country," Assistant U.S. Attorney General Mike Gennaco of Los Angeles told the *National Catholic Reporter*.

Armed guards and razor-wire are unusual, Gennaco said. "In most of the cases we're seeing, people are not being held by barbed-wire or physical confinement, but essentially in prisons without walls. People use isolation techniques and psychological pressure to keep victims in a situation where one might think they'd be able to get up and leave if they wanted." Their captors "censor and/or limit communications between the victims and the outside world ... Threats "of legal process sometimes carries greater sway over the 'worker' than threats or even acts of physical abuse."

The girls are treated as criminals or

as accomplices in what is largely considered a "victimless" crime. U.S. Attorneys Tammy Spertus and Caroline Wittcoff, who handled the case of a woman held captive for five years by a Los Angeles Indian restaurant owner told NCR the difficulties in taking a slavery case to trial.

"She was terrified," said Wittcoff. "We got information from her family in Bangladesh that they had been threatened. We spent a lot of time with her trying to reassure her that everything was OK." The emotional, veiled girl found it difficult to look at the defendant in court when asked to identify him.

Under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, the penalty for trafficking children less than 14-years-old and for killing or attempting to kill the victim is life. For those trafficking children ages 14 to 18, the penalty is minimum 20 years. The trafficking act offers a nonimmigrant visa for those willing to testify, are younger than 15, or can prove they would be in danger if deported. The new act is only a beginning.

—Dr. Martin Brass is an international lawyer, and a frequent contributor to SOF. ✕



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TEXT & PHOTOS
BY
GARY PAUL
JOHNSTON

As his partner covers with his Kimber pistol from the prone position, this officer steps out with his M16.



Although its forward slide-retraction grooves are standard, the 30 LPI checkered front strap was done to the LAPD SWAT team's specifications.



Following the first Watts Riot in 1965, along with the escalation of drugs, violence and organized crime in Los Angeles and across the country, the LAPD created a special unit to deal more efficiently with crucial incidents. In 1967, the first element of this unit was in place. Called the Special Weapons And Tactics Team, it formed the acronym that has influenced law enforcement around the world — SWAT!

Operating out of the LAPD's specialized Metropolitan Division, today's LAPD SWAT team has continued to define the cutting edge of this ever-changing science of resolving crisis incidents and saving lives. That is why the LAPD SWAT team remains the most respected group of its kind in the world.

Some years back there was a bumper sticker that read, "When people are in trouble they call the police. When the police are in trouble they call SWAT!" As LAPD SWAT's Lieutenant Mike Albanese says, "We're the last ones to call. There's nobody else. The buck stops here."

Beginning as a group of volunteers within the Los Angeles Police Department, the SWAT team was made up of officers who furnished much of their own equipment, including their own weapons. Wanting something better than the



In tight situations where a long gun is hard to maneuver, the pistol is often the weapon of choice. To make it easier, this LAPD Kimber Custom II pistol is equipped with the SureFire Classic 610R Tactical Light.

.38 Special revolvers that were standard-issue, SWAT requested, and was given permission, to carry .45 ACP caliber Model 1911 pistols.

Well-known for its excellent handling and reliability, the Model 1911 is just as respected as the .45 ACP cartridge it fires. Long a legend for its fight-stopping ability, this pistol was the sixth .45 ACP pistol design Colt sold the U.S. Army, and so near perfection was this iteration that since its adoption nearly a century ago, subsequent improvements have never been made to its basic design. The cartridge and pistol were standard-issue for three-quarters of a century, through the Vietnam War. Still as popular as ever, this combination is now replacing the 9mm pistol with many U.S. Special Forces Operators in Afghanistan.

With the LAPD's budget strings



Each LAPD SWAT Officer was issued two Kimber pistols, one with a SureFire Classic 610R Tactical Pistol Light seen here. The LAPD SWAT team has used one of the finest tactical gun lights in the world, the SureFire 610R, for 20 years. (inset) Another special requirement of LAPD SWAT team night sights, and all pistols were equipped with MeproLite Night Sights.

being tight, the department was unable to purchase 1911 pistols, and SWAT got permission to issue such sidearms from Property Division. Selected from pistols that had been confiscated, or turned in, these guns were augmented by 1911s some officers bought themselves. Throughout the 35-year history of SWAT, the LAPD has never purchased the .45 ACP Model 1911 — or any pistols — until now.

During its 35-year history, SWAT's 1911 pistols have all but worn out. Even with regular repair and replacement when available, there has been the problem of total uniformity with 1911-type pistols of various makes, vintages and finishes, and with a variety of sights and other parts. This problem resulted in the decision to purchase new pistols in early 2002.

Five Contenders

In its search for a new 1911, the LAPD established several performance criteria. At the top of the performance list is reliability. The pistol must work every time, all the time. It must also be



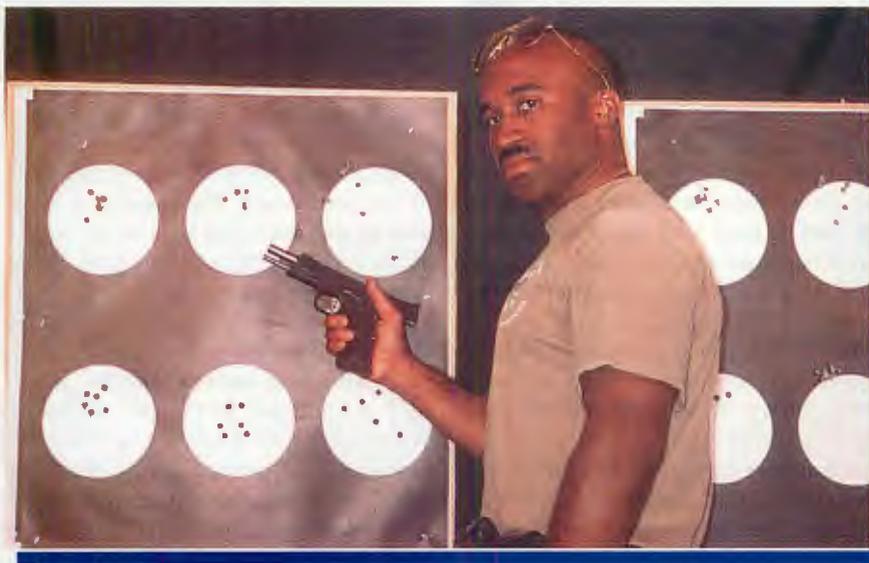
“combat-accurate.” While the definition of this term varies, in my opinion, any pistol that works every time, and can break 4 inches with five shots at 25 yards is combat-accurate. Then there is stopping power, and the .45 ACP cartridge pretty much takes care of that by itself. Other considerations include safety, sights, trigger, and ergonomics in general.

Selecting what it considered the best of the best, The LAPD SWAT team selected five major manufacturers of the 1911 to test. As one would expect, the testing was rigorous with every aspect of the pistols tested and evaluated one against the other. One by one, the guns were eliminated until the Kimber was the only one left; and it won big.

However, the Kimber 1911 model

tested by LAPD SWAT was not one of the top-of-the-line Kimber Custom Shop Target .45s, but was none other than Kimber's entry-level 1911, the Kimber Custom II. A “plain Jane” 1911 by Kimber's standards, the Kimber Custom II still comes with plenty of special features. These include fixed combat sights (dovetailed front sight), rounded (no-bite) speed hammer, stainless-steel, throated barrel; polished feed-ramp, lowered/flared ejection port, 4-pound trigger, extended thumb safety, “beaver-tail” grip safety, beveled magazine well, and black checkered-rubber grips. The Custom II is probably the most .45 ACP 1911 for the money to date.

Included on this and all Kimber pistols is the Mark II Firing-Pin Safety System. Operating via the grip safety,



SWAT cop Dave Christian with target he designed for LAPD. His groups were fired off-hand from 5 yards to 25 yards.

the Mark II is independent of the trigger and cannot affect trigger pull. When the grip safety is depressed, the firing-pin safety is deactivated. When the pistol is not gripped, the firing-pin safety is applied automatically.

The LAPD SWAT Team specified two additional options on its pistol: These were Kimber's tritium Meprilite Night Sights, and 30-lines-per-inch (LPI) checkering on the front strap. The right side of the slide would be roll-marked "LAPD SWAT" along with a

KIMBER CUSTOM II	
SPECIFICATIONS	
Caliber:	.45 ACP
Velocity:	850 fps
Operation:	Short-recoil, single-action, semi-automatic
Barrel Length:	5"
Overall Length:	8-1/4"
Weight:	38 oz.
Feed Device:	7-shot box magazine
Safety:	Positive thumb safety, grip safety, and firing-pin safety
Sights:	(front) Combat blade (rear) "U"-notch drift adjustable for W/E; Meprilite inserts optional
Grips:	Black, checkered rubber
Finish:	Matte black

special serial number range beginning with KLA114. This stands for Kimber, Los Angeles and the LAPD SWAT's call numbers.

While sidearms are the primary defensive weapons for officers on patrol, they are secondary on tactical SWAT callouts, where shoulder-fired arms generally take over. This is true any time a police officer responds to a probable deadly force incident, where the shotgun or patrol carbine is the weapon of choice. However, if a carbine, submachine gun, or shotgun should fail during a SWAT crisis resolution, the pistol must be instantly available at the officer's side to take over. In this sense it's a backup weapon — but this isn't its only function.

Because of the myriad circumstances they face, SWAT officers must be able to adapt and overcome. If extremely tight quarters preclude the

use of a long gun, an officer may sling this weapon, and use his pistol. This may occur when opening a door, or when searching nooks and crannies of buildings and houses. Here, a weapon-mounted light is vital, so each of the LAPD's 80 SWAT officers were issued two Kimber Custom II .45 ACP pistols.

Accessories By SureFire And Safariland

Originally designed for the 1911 by John Matthews, President of SureFire, and LAPD SWAT Armorer, Bob Weber, now with Safariland International, the SureFire Classic 610R

Tactical Pistol Light has been used by LAPD SWAT for more than 20 years. This 6-volt light provides 60 lumens of blinding brightness to identify a target, and will often subdue a suspect without having to fire a shot.

Mounted on a special, longer slide stop, this light is locked by a setscrew. In addition to an on/off switch, squeezing the grip during a normal hold activates the 610R. Rugged and robust, the Classic 610R is the tactical handgun light of choice for professionals who use the Model 1911 pistol.

Since mounting the Classic 610R requires several minutes of installation, one of the LAPD SWAT Kimber Custom II pistols is a dedicated light gun. Although it is available to the SWAT officer during "normal" patrol, his uni-



Unique on this special Kimber are special markings of LAPD SWAT on the slide, and its serial number prefix, "K" for Kimber, "LA" for Los Angeles, and "114" are SWAT's call numbers.

Continued on page 80

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LA SWAT's Kimber .45

Continued from page 79

form pistol is the Kimber Custom II without a light, and the officer carries a hand-held SureFire Tactical Light in a case on his duty belt. This unattached light can be used with the pistol in any number of combat techniques, such as the Mike Harries technique that is preferred by LAPD SWAT.

The two Kimber Custom II pistols require two high-grade holsters, and that's where Safariland comes in. Issued to SWAT for general patrol is Safariland's excellent Model 6004 Level II Retention Light Mount holster that is also available for use with Safariland's superb new Levitation System. Housing the lighted Kimber Custom II is Safariland's equally fine Model 6004 Tactical rig. Molded of the same tough synthetic, this holster has a matte pebble-grain finish and is designed with an enlarged section made to precisely fit the SureFire Classic 610R Tactical Light mounted on the gun.

In July 2002, I covered the issuing of the Kimber Custom II to the LAPD SWAT team at its headquarters at Metro Division, after which it was off to the range. There I had a chance to become acquainted with a number of the men who do the LAPD's toughest job. Although there are no finer police officers anywhere on the face of the earth, and while they display total confidence, I found them all to be humble, honest, and humorous — perfect gentlemen!

During five hours of intensive shooting on the huge indoor range at the LAPD's new Davis Center, many thousands of rounds of .45 ACP Winchester factory 230-grain full metal jacket (FMJ) and Law Enforcement (only) 230-grain Ranger SXT were fired through the Kimber Custom II pistols. The SWAT Team uses only factory .45 ACP ammunition for both practice and duty, with Winchester 230 FMJ for practice and Winchester SXT Jacketed Hollowpoint (JHP) carried on patrol.

As smoke and empty brass filled the air, impressive groups appeared on targets from 5- to 25 yards as the men moved from one firing line to the next and back again. None of these LAPD SWAT Kimber Custom II pistols was given any special treatment before being issued, nor had they seen the inside of the Kimber Custom Shop. Other than their special markings, night sights, and checkering, all were standard Kimber Custom II models just like the one I

own. After being test fired with 65 rounds each and targeted from fixtures, they were shipped to LAPD SWAT.

Shots Fired For SOF

Upon returning home, I received a sample LAPD SWAT Kimber Custom II to test for myself. The pistol was identical to the one I had seen in the hands of the LAPD SWAT operators. Shooting it brought no surprises. The pistol performed just like the other Kimbers I own, and have tested over the years.

In shooting various brands of .45 ACP ammunition in the gun, including Winchester SXT Ranger, I had no malfunctions, and accuracy was excellent, although it shot 2.5 inches high at 25 yards. Installing the SureFire Tactical Light made target identification instant and its MeproLite night sights made hits a cinch in low-light scenarios, similar to those the LAPD SWAT team often has to deal with. With the adoption of the Kimber Custom II, the LAPD SWAT team finally has a brand-new, top-grade 1911-type .45 ACP caliber pistol that is not only uniform, but also is markedly safer than previously carried. And they deserve it!

The bad news is that these specially marked Kimbers are restricted to the LAPD only. However, whether you're a collector, a professional, or one who wants a pistol that is the choice of this elite group of men, you can purchase a standard Kimber Custom II for yourself. For information contact Kimber, Dept. SOF, 1 Lawton St., Yonkers, NY 10705; phone: 888-243-4522.

Note: All action photos were staged for photographic purposes to illustrate the Kimber Custom II LAPD SWAT pistol, and may not necessarily conform to standard LAPD SWAT operating procedure. ☒

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"Worse thing you want to happen is to lose another 40 guys coming to get you," he said. "We go into shitty situations, and nothing says you're coming out in an hour."

Because he now had only himself and "Razor 2"'s Ranger medic to treat five litter patients, Miller said he was "out of the loop" on the exfil. As for the patients during this ordeal, they "were great."

"There was no 'why?' No 'why not?' They all were alert and professional," Miller said.

He provided morphine to some of the patients, and ripped out what remained of the helicopter's insulation to wrap it around the wounded.

"Hypothermia is a big factor, especially when it's already so cold and you've got so much blood loss," he said.

With his patients cared for, Miller simply waited for darkness and exfil.

"It was urgent to get out of the situation, but I did feel comfortable waiting for nightfall to come to have that protection," Brown said. "I was comfortable and I understood."

It turned out to be a good call. No other members of "Razor 1" or "Razor 2" were killed or received serious wounds as they waited for darkness.

But death would visit these men once more. Jason Cunningham, the 26-year-old pararescueman, died during the wait. No one can say for certain whether Cunningham would have survived had the exfiltration come after the last two bunkers were destroyed. But one source familiar with the combatants said this: "If it was up to Jason, he'd never allow a bird to come get him if it put them at risk. Never would have."

Miller didn't have to tell Brown that their team member had died. Brown could see it on his face as the senior pararescueman walked toward him, his hands on his hips and shaking his head.

Not a word was spoken. Miller still has a hard time finding words to describe Cunningham's death.

Heading Home

As the sun dipped below the mighty mountains, the long-awaited word came: An exfil was under way.

Two Chinooks would arrive roughly 45 minutes after darkness fell. The team quickly decided who would go on which bird. Miller would accompany the wounded on the first helicopter. Most of the rest of the team would accompany the dead on the second.

The darkening evening sky brought hope and anticipation. It also brought more enemy forces.

Brown used "other air assets" to keep the enemy at bay. The Defense Department has confirmed these assets to be AC-130 gunships, which have infrared sensors that allow it to identify targets at night.

The area was quiet by the time the first Chinook arrived. Both helicopters came and went without incident.

But even as the first helicopter lifted off, Miller's thoughts were on the rest of the team.

"The mission's not over until the last person is home," he said.

At Bagram, Miller accompanied his patients to the field surgical team and waited.

"The first thing I did was ..." he said, pausing for several moments "... debrief [Cunningham's] own guys who came from his own unit."

Again, Miller found himself unable to discuss the death of his junior pararescueman.

Brown climbed aboard the second helicopter. Both were in and out in fewer than 15 minutes. The second helicopter stopped to pick up the remaining Mako 3-0 team, though the location of this exfil is not clear.

One of Brown's first thoughts once his helicopter came out of harm's way was Hotaling, his "brother controller."

"The enemy would have overcome us from the south without him. Whether he has admitted that, he

knows its true," Brown said.

Though he "felt great" those guys got out of there, the battle now became very busy, and very personal for Jim Hotaling. He had troops-in-contact at two locations. Many more would materialize in coming hours.

"The fight was on," he said, noting that he would go into a third day before he had a chance to sleep.

Soon after the exfil lifted-off, Hotaling learned the name of one man killed on Roberts Ridge. Not once did Hotaling refer to that man as "Chapman," "sergeant" or even "John." He joyfully called him "Chappy;" he affectionately called him "a friend;" he humbly called him "a real class-act."

Hotaling and Chapman had been stationed together five and a half years, but hadn't seen each other for the past five years — not until they ran into each other in Bagram only two weeks before Anaconda kicked off.

Hotaling laughed as he recalled the many good times spent with Chapman. The joy faded when he spoke of his friend's death.

"Chappy was always on my mind," he said, his eyes fixed on the floor. "When I was engaging the enemy, a lot of that was for him. A lot of that was 'here's for you.'"

He had plenty of opportunity — his team remained out there 14 days, pounding a variety of targets. Plenty of opportunity, but not plenty of food. His team was supposed to be out only five days, and took the appropriate amount of food. Hotaling, who also is a Washington state trooper, jokingly explained how he traded his donuts for snow cones.

"We poured MRE beverage powder mix onto the snow ... supper!" he said with a deep laugh.

When Hotaling returned to Bagram at the end of his Special Forces snow-cone extravaganza, he looked forward to finding Brown. But his fellow controller was nowhere to be found. To Hotaling's surprise, Brown already had been sent Stateside.

"I literally ran off the helo looking for him," Hotaling said, raising his hands in mock despair.

"Man, I'm sorry," said Brown, who seemed to be unaware of Hotaling's search.

"Ah, don't be," Hotaling replied. "I'd a been home too, if I could." ❧



Lt. Col. James "Spanky" Dennis, commander of the 335th "Chiefs". Short's F-15E two-ship is from his squadron.



Sound Off

BY COL. DAVID H. HACKWORTH, USA (RET.)

An Open Letter to Members of Congress

Dear Honorable Congresspersons:

One of your vital tasks is to ensure that our warriors who hang it all out on the killing field are equipped with the right stuff.

I don't see that happening anytime soon unless you get enough straight skinny to counteract lobbyist propaganda and other military-industrial-congressional-complex spin. So to help provide more fair and balanced input, I plan to occasionally pass along some of the most commonly recurring bitches that come my way weekly in e-mails, letters, phone calls, etc., from our warriors.

Let's begin with the M-9, the 9mm Beretta pistol — which our combat troops say is the first item that should be tossed into the junk pile!

"They're constantly breaking," reports a warrior from Afghanistan. "To make matters worse, the 9mm round is like firing paint balls. I had to pump four rounds into an al-Qaeda who was coming at me before he dropped. We're dealing with fanatical crazies out here who won't quit until they die for Allah."

The Beretta can only be used bone-dry. Even then it jams repeatedly if sand or grit gets into moving parts. Its ball round has proven to be worse than the .38 Colt pistol slug used by the U.S. Army in the Philippines until it was retired almost a century ago in favor of the .45 ACP M-1911 pistol — fielded to stop the Moros, who ironically were also Islamic fanatics.

Now Special Forces and Light Infantry soldiers in Afghanistan want to bring back the century-old .45, and some elite Marine units already have. A Special Forces sergeant says, "The large-caliber, slow-moving .45 bullet puts the bad guys on the ground. Lighter stuff like the Beretta's 9-mm. will, too — eventually — but on the battlefield you almost always have to double tap, and in close combat a gunfighter hasn't the time or the ammo to lose firing two rounds."

Rangers, Marines and most Special Ops troops are some of the other elite warriors in the U.S. military who carry personal firearms in combat while the brass look the other way. Quite a few choose to pack two purchased handguns.

But the only Rangers who use the Beretta — even as backup — are those who can't afford to buy their own firearms,



and they and the rest of these elite fighters unanimously agree that they "can't trust this fragile, unreliable sidearm."

Almost all the Rangers engaged in hand-to-hand combat during Op Anaconda packed their own personal sidearms. "When I ran out of ammo with my rifle, I pulled my pistol," a Ranger sergeant says. "It saved my life. I hit a number of enemy 30-40 yards away who went down immediately from my .45 rounds. With a Beretta, I wouldn't have made it because of the far-too-light 9mm bullet, play in the action and its limited range."

In another fight, a Ranger fired several torso shots with a .45 pistol before his foe fell. "When we looked at the corpses, we found their mouths full of khat," he says. "It was like these guys were pumped up on PCP. With the Beretta, I'd have had to fire all 15 rounds and then thrown the pistol at this wild-eyed dude."

We went into Vietnam with a bad weapon, the M-16 rifle, which was responsible for killing thousands of our soldiers. It was a jammer, and if you have a jammed rifle in a firefight, you're dead. The M-16 was such a loser that some jungle-smart grunts refused to carry it and packed captured Soviet AK-47s instead.

What the M-16 was to Vietnam, the Beretta is to Afghanistan. And a soldier with no confidence in his weapon isn't the most motivated fighter in Death Valley.

"We're frustrated here that no one in Washington seems to have the slightest concern for our survival," writes a sergeant from Afghanistan. "It's a damn good thing that we have air superiority and so far haven't had many heavy fights."

Perhaps you congressional folks can figure out how to recycle some of the bucks we'll save from the Pentagon-zapped Crusader and get our combat troops a decent sidearm. This would surely relieve some of that frustration and, just by the way, keep our warriors alive.

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